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(SNP001) Arlene Carr Abel interviewed by  
Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Sharon G.  
Marston

Arlene Carr Abel

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM  
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

NARRATOR: Mrs. Arlene Carr Abel  
INTERVIEWER: Mrs. Dorothy Smith  
PLACE: Sugar Hollow  
DATE: October 2, 1979

TRANSCRIBED BY:  
Sharon G. Marston  
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D.S.: This is Dorothy Smith interviewing Mrs. Arlene Abel who had lived in Sugar Hollow. Where exactly is Sugar Hollow?

A.A.: It's <sup>at</sup> ~~on~~ the head of Nolan's <sup>River</sup> ...not exactly the head but it's on Nolan's ~~River~~ ...uh Nolan's River forks.uh at the ... south fork...uh the north fork comes out on the drive to go to Black Rock Springs. And the south fork it comes over to go maybe to *Biddles*

A.A.:  
D.S.: Okey. <sup>^</sup> I'm sure you all have BlackRock Springs on your map.

D.S.: Yes, we do. Uh, do you know anything about the Black Rock Spring Hotel.

A.A.: I remember it..being <sup>one</sup> ~~there~~ and my father used to play the violin and when he was a young man he and a Mr. Blackwell used to ride horses across the mountain to play music at Black Rock Springs.

D.S.: Great. Yea. Now what was your maiden name.

A.A.: Carr.. C A R R.

D.S.: And your father was...

A.A.: Tom

D.S.: Tom Carr.

A.A.: Uhhuh.

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

A.A.:Just three girls.

D.S.: Three girls..that wasn't a large family, was it.

A.A.: No.

D.S.:Were there usually large families in that area?

A.A.: It was in the area before my generation. But in my generation it

....

D.S.: Uh, roughly how far apart were the houses? Were they close or..  
in Sugar Hollow

A.A.: Oh, uh a half mile..something like that. Mostly..there were some way on back in the park now. If you...where the park was <sup>^</sup> ~~was~~ .. see we didn't live <sup>where</sup> ~~in~~ the park <sup>look</sup> ~~see~~. But uh, it was..after you come over the mountain from uh Black Rock Springs. Well you came to a little place you called

Wayside and it was a little church there and uh, in the summertime my Aunt went back there and taught school. That was all the school that we had..was in the summertime and it was three or four families lived back there. A Via and a Harris and I don't remember anymore. <sup>names</sup> And then a Blackwell. But you see..that was most too far for me to travel for me when I was a child. So I didn't know anything bout that..particularly.

D.S.: Roughly how far..how deep is Sugar Hollow.

A.A.: Well that is four miles or maybe five miles from where I lived. Uhhuh, but then you come on down to where I lived it's uh Charlottesville city dam up there. The south fork and the north fork both flow into the city dam. And then the river comes on down and comes through White Hall..... and goes on down...

D.S.: Alright.

A.A.: But I lived down here on Nolan's River. And uh, my grandfather I own my grandfather's place up there now..I have about 140 acres there and my grandfather had an orchard and  he tanned hides.

D.S.: Alright, now. In other words did the people in Sugar Hollow peel bark?

A.A.: Yes, my daddy did. And of course my granddaddy did too. That is the way they tanned their hides.

D.S.: <sup>With the</sup> Was ~~it~~ chestnut oak.

A.A.: Uhhuh. And my father..and his father was a tanner and they had..I can remember breaking the bark myself . We had a great big iron thing that you rubbed the bark after it was dry *with a horse hooked to it* and the horse went around and around and around and turned this mill.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Great. Uh..

A.A.: And then they got out timber..most everybody up there had a small orchard...had orchard and timber..

And they had a one room schoolhouse.

D.S.: Oh, you did. Was that far away from home.

A.A.: No, about a mile.

D.S.: About a mile.Were there many..roughly how many children were in that school.

A.A.: Oh, about fifteen or twenty..

D.S.: 15 or 20.

A.A.: That's my father..

D.S.: Oh, he's a good looking man. Oh, boy, he could have been in the movies anytime. Oh, great. This tannery then relied on the people, I imagine, more than Sugar Hollow..there were other people..

A.A.: Oh, yes...you see in that time there was a lot of horses and people farmed <sup>with</sup> the horses.. and they came there and my father made harness.. and uh he made shoes <sup>once in awhile</sup> for ~~them~~. And my grandfather..I <sup>have</sup> had a set that he had made..

D.S.: Really..

A.A.: And nobody can wear them but me...His foot was so small.

D.S.: Isn't that something? Um, roughly what would you say..aside from peeling bark were the means of support for the people who lived around...

A.A.: Well that one man had a sawmill. And there was a man named Long..that had a sawmill on the uh..south fork.

D.S.: Was this a movable sawmill that..

A.A.: Uhhuh. And my father worked there before he was married. And there is an old colored man that..I really don't know how old he is..that worked there too. And everytime I see him, he always says something about my father...you know...about when *my father was* 100 years old...and so

I know this old darkie is really old. He doesn't know how old he is.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh..Uh, how close to the ... Charlottesville - Waynesboro area are we talking about?

A.A.: Uh, we always said it was about 18 miles <sup>from our house</sup> to Charlottesville. but now the people that lived above the dam on the south fork and the north fork too..most of them went to Waynesboro... <sup>instead of</sup> coming down the holbw. That's the reason I didn't ever see them much. They didn't <sup>come</sup> ~~go~~ to school down there. They went across the mountain.

D.S.: Was it very steep

A.A.: Well uh, right in Sugar Hollow it isn't. Uh, of course that the place that my grandfather owned..that I own now well they'd have cows up there..it's uh..some real pretty green fields.. <sup>The mountain</sup> And then right behind it of course when you start up it's real steep. And that still goes under the name of Carr's Ridge.

D.S.: It does? Carr's Ridge. Was the ground rocky?

A.A.: Uhhuh. Oh yes. and the river is rocky and the river will go down til it looks like a little stream..Practically dry up a lot of times...in the summertime but then it can get really rough you know.

D.S.: Yea. Particularly like the rains we've had lately..

A.A.: Ah, yes, ah, yes...that river can get dangerous you know. Uhhuh.

D.S.: Yes. So uh were the people able to do much farming..

A.A.: Not too much..they did some...but not much..the ground is so rocky. They usually make enough feed for a cow or two and the horses. Something like that.

D.S.: And how about themselves?

A.A.: That's all they tried to make.

D.S.: They bought then all their vegetables?

A.A.: Oh no. no They all had gardens. It was good gardening..Mountain land you see, if you clean up a little of your ground and make some potatoes

and things....and soil...easy...

D.S.: Yes. Right. And the cabbage.

A.A.: Uhhuh. Oh yea, Oh yea. Everybody had good gardens and in the fall they'd all..peel a lot of apples and uh make a big kettle of apple-butter. I *made* a gallon or so. And of course you had a churn..churn your own butter. And ~~the~~ have big stone jars and had a spring box and everybody had a little spring...You didn't have... the place I have now never has had running water in it. Had a nice safe spring..has a nice little spring running by it. Have to take you up there sometime..It's a beautiful little place.

D.S.: Oh, I'm sure...two questions.Their vegetables..how did they keep them over the winter?

A.A.: They canned them..and..they canned some..the way that you put in an open kettle you know and then they put kills in the garden for cabbage potatoes, and turnips..

D.S.: In a trench..

A.A.: uhhuh..pour dirt over top of it.

D.S.: Uhhuh. That seemed to be pretty universal.

A.A.: Uhhuh. and then they had what they called cellars then..~~they~~ <sup>that</sup> they put the apples in...

D.S.: When..have you ever tried down here to bury your cabbages?

A.A.: No.

D.S.: I was wondering if it worked?

A.A.: We never have had cared too much for cabbage.

D.S.: Oh, turnips and potatoes..did you ever try to bury them.

A.A.: Yea, I've tried to bury some turnips a ~~couple of times~~ <sup>several times</sup>.

D.S.: Did it work.

A.A.: Yea, it did very well.

D.S.: Somebody told me it didn't. Okey..your applebutter boiling...was this

~~was this~~ sort of a party time.

A.A.: Oh yea, always somebody else came in and helped you know. And then the corn shuckings..that would be a party..

D.S.: Uhhuh...neighbors sort of get together..

A.A.: Uhhuh, and uh, the fellow that found a red ear would get a drink of whiskey. Ah, ha..and you would fix a big supper for them when they got through. And I can remember my father..my grandfather never hunted.. my father liked to coon hunt. And I can remember him saying..they were going to have a corn shucking and and he would say Tom you can take those dogs and go out and get us coon so we can cook them for the corn shucking. So he got up in the middle of the night...cause the coon *walked* at that time. *He'd walk and walking* and sat down and went to sleep. He <sup>wake</sup>~~waked~~ up just about the time daylight began...to come, and he thought Lord he couldn't go back home and tell his daddy he didn't have any cause his daddy didn't want him to hunt anyway. Said he was wasting his time. So uh, he got up and started home and his dog stopped and they ran two nice big coons up a tree and he got them both. So they had their coons for their *party*

D.S.:

With the applebutter boiling..did couples take turns stirring..

A.A.: Well I don't remember but people uh..you'd have to take turns..you know you cooked it all day..and part of the night it depended on...you'd peel maybe a barrel of apples to start out with and then you'd keep adding.

D.S.: Uhhuh. So nobody had this business of if you touched the paddle to the side of the kettle you got a kiss?

A.A.: No, I don't remember any of that. That might have happened before my time...

D.S.: You missed the fun...

A.A.: Uhhuh, uhhuh.

D.S.: Okey. uh, while we are talking about fun time..did they play music, very often..

A.A.: Oh yes, uhhuh. Uh, my father .. I can't remember..many times that he would come in from work..instead of taking a nap <sup>after lunch</sup> he would say ya'll get your instruments and come over here..and we'd have a little music.

D.S.: What did you play?

A.A.: Well uh..I played the violin some..and I played the guitar some. And my sister had an autoharp and my older sister played the organ but uh.. after my father died..my mother gave me the violin and guitar. She said I was the only one ever been able to play..plus didn't any of us have any lessons.

D.S.: No, it was by sight...by ear I mean..

A.A.: And by ear..yea, right. Whatever sounds right..

D.S.: What tunes would you play?

A.A.: Well we would play..

~~old~~ Joe Clark

D.S.: Jo what..

A.A.: Old Joe Clark

D.S.: Clock?

A.A.: Clark

D.S.: Clark...how does that go.

A.A.: (singing 486-494)

D.S.: Oh great..that would be a good dance tune.

A.A.: Oh yea, that's a right good dance tune. And then Going Across the Mountain. And you know I have anephew <sup>that my parents raised</sup> that lives in Charlottesville still comes out here to get out the fiddle and the guitar to play those old songs together you know. We still enjoy them.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Great.

A.A.: And once in a while some of these ~~new~~ people that live in Sugar

Hollow now will want us to come up and play those old songs and they *get*  
*up and* dance you know..Golden Slippers.

D.S.: Oh yea, Two Cent Gal. Two Cent Gal..did you play that?

A.A.: No, I don't think we did.

D.S.: Alright you had these dance tunes..did people dance.

A.A.: Oh, yea people danced.

D.S.: Where in the ~~home~~ or in the barn?

A.A.: In the home.

D.S.: In the home.

A.A.: Uhhuh. Move everything out of the room and have a party..

D.S.: And you'd dance and of course everybody gets thirsty. What would you serve?

A.A.: Oh, they served cheese and crackers and pickels and coffee.

D.S.: No moonshine..

A.A.: Ah, no. they never..they might have that outside somewhere but they'd never bring that in, huhuh. Oh no, you'd never see that. No.

D.S.: Okey.

A.A.: You could tell some...I remember being at a dance one time where the man that was calling figures he got a right smart tipsy and they were promonading and they finally had to stop because he kept leaning against the wall and he kept calling "keep on a going". "Just keep on a going".. No, no, no, indeed..there was a church up there and everbody went to church and of course you knew some of them had that whiskey but huhuh, they never brought it in. Oh, no..they never..

D.S.: Okey..Uh, actually making the moonshine was a way of life..it was a way of earning aliving.

A.A.: Oh yes..some of the lower class of people did that for a living. And of course we knew it. But..no you wouldn't report them..that was their business; you didn't tend to other people's business..oh no..no..I can

remember...see we used to have wild bees that were in the moutain.<sup>S,</sup>  
And I can remember my father found a bee tree and uh..well I think  
he always tried to amake a boy out of me..because he didn't have any  
boys so I'm the boy of the family and uh one night he and I set  
out <sup>to just a</sup> ~~at~~ the bee tree and uh we went on by this little school house  
and we hit a branch..and *we went a little further and I said* "daddy I smell  
something on this branch smells like apples or cider or something.."  
he said yes I smell it too. And we went on and first thing you know  
we <sup>came to</sup> ~~were into~~ a still. And it was ~~still~~ warm. It was the only still  
I ever saw. And I wanted to look it over so bad..oh, I can remember  
it looked like a little black stove with a lot of coils and things  
and cans and my daddy kept saying..he always called me sister..sister  
you cannot stay here..come on. If they'd catch us here they would say  
it was our still..come on. So we went on and cut the tree. And then  
we came on back the other way..We got some honey and when we hit the  
road...well it's a girl scout camp there now but this *Pearson* man  
lived there .. he's dead and gone .. I don't know .. I haven't heard  
from him in years. But he and his wife were sitting on the porch and  
uh, the man said <sup>Mr.</sup> Tommy did you see anything up that hollow. And uh  
Daddy <sup>of course knew what he</sup> ~~punched me when~~ <sup>meant</sup> .. daddy was a fire wardon. He said you  
better rake your leaves away from that thing <sup>Don't you go</sup> ~~before~~ you set the moun-  
tain on fire. And ~~tht~~'s all he said.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Very good. You mind your own business and everybody...right.

A.A.: Uhhuh. He diin't particularly mind...he figured we had found it and  
of course then he was certain we had found it...but he didn't have any  
idea it would go any further.. see that was daddy's business. He was  
a fire wardon. And you keep the leaves away from it.

D.S.: Speaking of fire wardons? There were quite a number..I have heard..

of fires started on purpose in the mountains..to assure a crop of huckleberries. Do you recall anything like that? You do.

A.A.: Uhhuh, Uhhuh, Uhhuh. Oh yea. Oh yea...a lot of fires were set..it was very few fires that have ever been on this side of the mountain since...I'm sure they set them. And if you've ever seen a forest fire..it's a dangerous thing..I'm telling you right now.

D.S.: It sure is. Right. Were any of them what they call spite fires? You know people sort of had a little feud with each other...

A.A.: Well I really can't remember if there were. The worse fire that I can remember..it was one way on back there .. uh just before you go over the mountain to Black Rock Springs..and it had been burning a right good while and daddy took a bunch of men back there to see if they couldn't get that fire out and uh, practically everybody in the hollow. And uh, it was a saw mill across the mountain from us on the other side...of course the hollow runs like this... we sit here and the sawmill  on  that side of the mountain and ~~a~~ *I saw a little* smoke come up through just about lunchtime and it just began to...I knew the sawmill *big... the men* but first thing you know it was a great, *1* looked back down the hollow and saw all that smoke, well everyone of them left that fire ~~and~~ and came on back to fight the fire at home. It burned that whole ridge. And it just sounded like a train going. People came from everywhere *to look at it* ... that was way back back there in those dry years...

D.S.: Oh yes, during that drought.

A.A.: '30's something like that. It was so hot anyway. It was just some awful fires. But uh...

D.S.: Were many houses up there log houses so that in case fire came along,

they were gone.

A.A.: Yea, the people would get scared..I remember..set the house on fire.. some people would move out it would get so close..but I don't remember

D.S.: Alright, speaking of those houses were they mostly log?

A.A.: Yes. Uh well uh I think those old ones up in the park were practically all log and the house that my mother and father lived in and some of it is log. And the house that I have <sup>up there</sup> now..my grandfather's..I am pretty sure that some of that is log. But it was remodeled and..in about 1890 something like that and the old part to that house has windows  way up almost to the ceiling. *Just little windows*  
*way up high* You'd have to get on a step ladder to peak out the windows. So I'm sure that part back there is log.

D.S.: Yea, the school that you went to was uh...

A.A.: The first one was a little one room and it was weatherboarded..it wasn't log.

D.S.: Now did your aunt teach there?

A.A.: No, huhuh. It seems like to me that maybe Miss Mamie Carter was the teacher there. I didn't go to that school but a little while but I remember the first day I went to school, the weather was warm and there were no screens, the windows were up. And some of the boys were great big. And uh, one of them threw something out the window. *and couldn't reach it so he* sent me out to pick it up. And then the teacher wanted to know what I was doing outside. So that's the most I remember about that little schoolhouse. But then the people in the community got together and hauled sand and and built a block school house. And it is still there but of course the uh...somebody lives there..it hasn't been a school for a long time and they taught from the first to the seventh grade.

D.S.: Uhhuh, all the subjects?

A.A.: Yea. Uhhuh.

D.S.: Alright, very good. So the education for the people in that area was good?

A.A.: Oh yea, oh yea. And then after I got through there *see, I went to White Hall* and uh, I went there through the eighth grade. And then I went to Crozet to finish up.

D.S.: How did you get there?

A.A.: How did I get to school? Well, I walked to Sugar Hollow. And when I started in White Hall..... I drove in a little cart..a little two wheel cart. *with a horse* And then when I went to Crozet..my sister was <sup>gone</sup> then, I rode a horse to *White Hall* ~~her home~~, and then on bus..a school bus picked us up *at White Hall above* there. And then took us to Crozet. But of course Crozet school was..is an elementary school now.

D.S.: Yea. In the winter you still did this?

A.A.: Yes I did. I can remember having a coat that had a fur collar. And right many days my breath would freeze on it. I had a stable that the store keeper let me keep my horse in, <sup>White</sup> at Hall Yea, it was a hard way to get an education but it was the....and now the school bus goes up there of course. But then it didn't. Yea, people had a hard way of getting out to school.

D.S.: Now your mother must have..with your father doing the tanning and your grandfather the tanning and all the rest of the work, your mother had to be responsible for the garden.

A.A.: Oh yea. A whole lot of it. Uhhuh. And putting up things. And then packing apples was a big job. With the women as well as the men...in the fall.

D.S.: Packing them?

A.A.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: To ship where?

A.A.: Well they would bring them to Crozet and my daddy would haul barrels of

apples on a wagon .. a covered wagon .. now he would haul and the women folk would sort them out and put them in the barrel and then at night the men folk would put a head on the barrel..you see putting the head was a right big job. And then you had to <sup>cover</sup> ~~cover~~ your barrels before you got ready..that had to be ready before you started out on *Trip* . And then in later years of course they got some of those baskets. But when I was a child they were all put in barrels. And it would go on for months it looked like. Apples..and they'd move a table from one place to another you know and pickers would come pour them on the table and you had to sort them out for size ..you'd have little leather things cut so they would go through and have to go in another barrel you know.

D.S.: Now did people from further up the hollow come down to help act as pickers or...

A.A.: Most..those people from above the dam we didn't never..but everybody around there would work in apples. Just about everybody had some apples to work in...if they didn't they would come and. *help*.

D.S.: Then you really did have large orchards didn't you.

A.A.: Yea. oh yea. Uhhuh..my grandfather had a lot of orchards but everybody had some and my father had right much. And then an inspector would come there every year and go through the apples too.

D.S.: What for?

A.A.: They had to pass inspection..there would be a number 1 and a number 2 apple. The number 1 apple you would get more for them. Huh.

D.S.: Huh..what kind of apples were they?

A.A.: Well mostly Winesaps and *Pippins* . They were your biggest crop.

D.S.: Yea. Did you have mylums?

A.A.: Well yea, you had some, but you ate those more or less. Those that you

sold you know were..most of them that were sold were Winesaps..well Granddad had some Stahman's. And there are some stahman trees up there now that didn't have anything on them this year. They had, uh, a big crop last year. I don't know why. And then I had some early apples above the house..<sup>two</sup> ~~on the~~ trees up there. But they <sup>bears get</sup> ~~are better~~ than most of the ones are now.

D.S.: Yea, they love them and so do the deer. Uh, speaking of the wild animals did you see any bear before the park took over.

A.A.: Oh no..Huhuh, I didn't see any bear..well we saw signs of bear..my husband was a <sup>^</sup> fox hunter and uh..the deer came around here maybe in '40 something. But in '47 *we had some* the deer were *up there* and uh, they turned the fox loose that morning.. a big to do and wanted to...they had all gathered together to turn the fox loose you know.. so the fox went on and some of them wanted to go on and see if they could find another fox..but my husband had promised me that after that one was turned loose we would go up there and see if we could run that deer and see it you know and so we did. We *did, we had a good old dog so we* saw his tail..<sup>but he</sup> went on above the dam and so we went on up there *thinking about* the dogs, *went over a hill and there was a* ~~at~~ turkey...and I shot and killed one.....

I was so proud of that turkey..never know what a thrill you get out of killing your first turkey. Great big turkey. Well after that I

*turkey caller* and decided I would see what I could do with that turkey.business..loved turkeys.. *I joined a club in 52* *(there still were no bear)* still was no better..and uh that year I found a great big bunch of turkeys. And I *went every* season you know and every time I could find them. *I went up first* *time of season* my husband didn't want to go..he wanted to go <sup>somehow</sup> ~~up on~~ *else* but anyway I went by myself. And every time I would go up

there and call those turkeys..they would answer me. And I called and called and I didn't get an answer. And finally *I shot a little bear* I found out they were all down there in a brush pile. I figured somebody had gotten into them up on top so I flushed up a bunch of turkeys and I called one there. And that was the first turkey .....,I ever called. *Back* . then in all the years then I have hunted *None of course yours* not suppose to kill anything but *during* the season so I stopped for a good while \_\_\_\_\_ but this year we will. And I have collected all those years. Every one of them are precious to me

D.S.: My goodness..surely..

A.A.: Yea...I used to could tell you where I got every one of them but uh..uhhuh..and my turkey caller. I figure that is why I have gotten them. Because *I learned to talk their language,*

if you don't talk their language they don't fool with you,you see. And now we are getting turkeys down here. But uh..the first ~~time~~ *day* a friend of ours was coming in a jeep and uh, this bear was coming up the road. The sun was shining on her...well my first thoughts were could it be a *bear* and uh my husband..*was along* and just about that time I said A Bear!! And the thing jumped out of the road and was gone. We were so tickled over seeing a bear..

D.S.: Yea, uhhuh. They are a nuisance yea..

A.A.: But now my boys hunt bear. *She have hunt dogs* and my husband throoughly enjoyed that. And I don't know how you all feel about this hunting business but uh, we feel that if you hunt right it helps your game. Out of season <sup>if they need feed</sup>..we have always bought feed and fed them. snow on the ground for a long time <sup>1</sup> and my husband and our children never took anything that is not lawful *to take* but just like I said long ago...if I see somebody take something that's

not lawful...they know I don't do it..but I've never said anything.  
Because I just feel like it's..I can't make an enemy out of them.

*I've tried my luck in* some of these things..  
*stuffing some of these things*

D.S.: Uhhuh, yea. Speaking of the wild animals how did you keep them out  
of your garden..the coons and squirrel and rabbits..

A.A.: Well mostly dogs and today we have down here on the bottom my son has  
a garden down there but he doesn't have...he takes one of his dogs  
down there and ties it and has to go down there and feed it everyday.

*That keeps them out of the garden!*

D.S.: Sure, right. Okey, now did your mother know any of the herbs..that  
were used...

A.A.: Well, of course everybody knew the Indian turnip...

D.S.: Huh?

A.A.: Ever hear of the Indian turnip.?

D.S.: No. so see there is one person that doesn't know about it..

What's an indian turnip?

A.A.: It's a little bulb that will just burn you up..

D.S.: A bug..

A.A.: A little bulb.

D.S.: Oh, a bulb..

A.A.: Uhhuh..it's a little bulb that looks kind of like a turnip or something..  
that grows in the mountains.

D.S.: What do you use it for..

A.A.: I don't know what you use it for but if you just take a bite of it..  
you don't get rid of it all day..it just sets you on fire..

D.S.: Colds maybe..cough..

A.A.: Yea, I imagine it something and then ginseng .. that was suppose to be  
used. and mint..to make mint tea. If you had a stomach ache.

D.S.: Oh for a stomach ache. Uhhuh, uh, what would you get if you had a cold?

A.A.: ~~.....they gave epsom salt and~~ castor oil. I..they gave me epsom salt  
in coffee..And today I don't want no coffee....epsom salt in it...

D.S.: Oh, no. Did you ever get any of those onion plasters..

A.A.: No, they used mustard plasters.

D.S.: Not onion..

A.A.: No, no onion.

D.S.: Did you raise enough corn so that you could take it to a mill <sup>to</sup> be ground  
into cornmill..

A.A.: We had a corn mill up there.

D.S.: You had a corn mill..your own corn mill.

A.A.: No, the neighbor that lived next door <sup>to</sup>...John *Byer* ran a corn  
mill..he had big blocks made out of and a big wheel and  
water ran off it and he ground the mill.

D.S.: Did you pay him to do it...

A.A.: You'd either pay or he would take so much of your corn.

D.S.: Yea. How about flour..did you have to buy your flour..

A.A.: Yes uhhuh. <sup>D.S.</sup> where was your nearest store?

A.A.: White Hall

D.S.: Which was how far away.

A.A.: About three miles.

D.S.: Uhhuh, did you use the horse and wagon to get there or carry it..

A.A.: I usually had to go on the wagon or a buggy

D.S.: Would you take things like eggs and chickens?

A.A.: Uhhuh, uhhuh. Oh yea..barter some eggs and chickens .. trade for things.

D.S.: Did he give you credit or cash.

A.A.: Uh, no, most of the time he would give you a due bill.

D.S.: Ah ha..lock you into the place.

A.A.: You'd come back..if you had more than what you wanted to spend..And I

can remember we'd go to Charlottesville....least once a year....  
but we'd get up before day and you'd drive your buggy to Crozet..leave  
it in the livery stable and get on the train...that was a big day you  
know. <sup>and go to town.</sup> That would most of the time be in the fall to get your winter  
clothes and things..And you'd come back and it would be dark...by the  
time you'd drive back home.

D.S.: You raised hogs..

A.A.: Oh yes, oh yes. That was your cured meat..and that was all the fresh  
meat you got except your chickens...unless you ate wild meat because  
we'd always get squirrel and rabbit and uh..

D.S.: Fish?

A.A.: Oh, yes. Always fish.

D.S.: Did you do any fishing..

A.A.: Oh, yes. Uhhuh. I still fish. Course I learned how to fish and uh..

*said he* when the river would get low *& I always get a fish for my husband*  
would <sup>'nt</sup> stick his hand under-neath that rock for nothing. I told him you  
had to learn that when you were a child. But you see the game commission  
stocks the reservoir with that and so forth with trout.

and I didn't feel like I could  
go this spring without my husband, but my nephew came up and one grand-  
daughter and I said she made my day because I saw her catch a trout. And  
she was the most tickeldest thing I..she was just all over that bank and  
all over that fish and she didn't know I was watching her you know..She  
thought *somehow it* get back...a nice big one...and finally when she got  
it *out and realized it wouldn't get away* she looked all around and  
she saw me. And she said grandma I can't get the hook out of its mouth..  
what am I going to do. I said Amy you got a knife in that satchel I  
gave you..reach in there and get that knife and get that hook out your-  
self. So she finally did.

D.S.: Well your pigs..did you allow them to run loose or...

A.A.: Oh, no no. We always kept ours up but there was one old lady that lived up on the mountain that turned their's loose and they fattened themselves off of acorns.....but... It was hard to get them up you know.

D.S.: Sure.

A.A.: We always fed them right many apples, and corn and

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you ever hear of feeding grapes to pigs?

A.A.: No, but I suppose it would do just as well as apples..Uhhuh.

D.S.: Yea, kind of surprised me when I heard that.

A.A.: I would think so. Oh yea, everybody would have hogs and in the fall kill them. And uh..see there was no deep freeze then..every once in a while somebody would kill a cow. And they would through peddling that cow *and you'd buy a piece of meat from him.*

D.S.: Uhhuh, right. So you had your wild animals that you would eat and yet your grandfather objected to your father hunting and yet it was really almost like a necessity in a way wasn't it.

A.A.: It no more than killing your own chickens and hogs and...

D.S.: Sure, right.

A.A.: ....well they said my great-grandfather hunted all the time and my grandfather *thought* a lot of people think you waste your time...well I

D.S.: What was your grandfather's name?

A.A.: My grandfather was Bernard Carr and my great-grandfather was *O.B.e Carr*

D.S.: Do you know how long the Carr's have lived in that area?

A.A.: I don't know..but I know the history.. the Carr's  
were ~~some~~ of the first people to settle there.

D.S.: Uhhuh. One of the things we are trying to track is where people came from.

A.A.: And my mother's father was <sup>a</sup>Brown. If you know anything about Brown's Cove..was suppose to have been settled by the Browns.

It's <sup>a lot</sup> about the Brown's when they first settled in Brown's Cove..

and her father was killed in the Civil War. She can remember him coming home one time and bringing a little doll and then she remembered hearing the guns going off in the valley and then her father never come home anymore. He got killed and left her mother with one son and a house full of girls. And all the slaves were separated.

D.S.: Oh boy..alright then the family history goes back a long ways.

A.A.: Yes, uhhuh.

A.A.: For the Brown's and the Carr's.

D.S.: Okey, oh, there are so many details I want you tell, I don't know which to start with first. When you were a little girl what toys did you have?

A.A.: What.

D.S.: Toys.

A.A.: I had a little lamp . A little red lamp that I still have. It <sup>would</sup> burned..It had a chimney..but I broke the chimney and I had a pig skin doll..with a china head..black hair..and I broke that by putting it in a little wagon running around the house and it fell on a rock <sup>and broke</sup> and a doll house. We would usually get some toys at Christmas and then we'd get oranges <sup>and candy</sup> and fruit..raisens...but the children now have so much..they wouldn't think that would be anything anymore. But then we did..that was a big thing at Christmas. Was that fruit and candy and stuff.

D.S.: Did you do the Kris Kringlers?

A.A.: Do what..

D.S.: Kris Kringlers? No you didn't.....that's only one areas that was done. Tell you about it when we are through here. Fun. Did you shoot

off firecrackers?

A.A.: Oh yea, yea. We had some firecrackers..not too many though. We had more sparklers..you could get sparklers at Christmas.

D.S.: At Christmas?

A.A.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: Yea. Roman Candles.<sup>7</sup>

A.A.: Yea, sometimes roman candles.

D.S.: Did you hang your stocking on the mantel piece?

A.A.: No, I always set a shoe box and my older sister .. I shouldn't tell this on her..but she used to always go out and get the wash tub.. and course my shoe box would be running over and she wouldn't have very much in her's because her's was so big... she said it looked like I could have gotten a little more.

D.S.: Well now this with Black Rock Hotel. People would come there from Charlottesville wouldn't they?

A.A.: Yes uhhuh. Nobody from Sugar Hollow would go up there...except...I don't know of anybody that would go except my father and Mr. Blackwell, to play.

D.S.: Um, trains didn't go there so how did people get up there?

A.A.: I don't know. I didn't never go there until after I was grown..I went there one time. But then later on my husband and I tried to go there but I never could..never could find it. But when I went there the buildings were still there but they were beginning to fall apart. And uh, the springs..*that I was most interested in seemed to have a lot of iron in them* and then they had uh..I don't know what they called it but uh, big balls, bowling alley or something in one building. And it seemed to be sort of a hotel with a lot of room...

D.S.: Yes, the pictures of it looked as though it was. Right. So you had

*A.A. not particularly*

fun at Christmas. Did you celebrate Thanksgiving?. Fourth of July?

A.A.: Oh, well we usually always went on a picnic or something on the 4th, of July. You see .. my .. some kin folk would usually come up on the 4th of July and would walk up to...my grandmother was a Ballard and she was raised up there on the side of the mountain and her brothers and sisters liked to come up there and walk back up there. As long as they were able to go.

D.S.: Yes. Right. So it was sort of like a family gathering.

A.A.: ....a family gathering on the 4th of July.

D.S.: Yes, how did you meet your husband? Did he court you a long while?

A.A.: Oh, uh..the first time I saw him..I came down to ~~this~~<sup>his</sup> house...see he lived right over the hill here and we ~~invited~~<sup>were</sup> ~~him~~ down for lunch. And after..we went to church up at White Hall .

and uh, they both came over there too..and we were invited over there for lunch and I can remember he had on knee britches. Uhhuh, and then of course we went to school together so uh.. at Crozet..We just kind of came on along...

Very nice

D.S.: Uhhuh. were the weddings simple?

A.A.: Well most people just went on and got married. Didn't ~~have~~<sup>have elaborate</sup> weddings..

D.S.: Uhhuh, right. It's silly the way they do it now...spending so much money on it and...

A.A.: I know it....both of our sons..see we have two boys..both had big weddings of course, but no..my husband and I decided to get married we just went on to town and got married.

D.S.: Before you went to church in White Hall where was the church you went to in the mountain.

A.A.: Oh, it was about a mile from our house. And it was a non-denominational church and anybody could preach <sup>there</sup> if they wanted to. It had an organ and I can remember my father sitting up there playing the organ.

D.S.: He was very musical wasn't he?

A.A.: Wasn't any....

D.S.: Did this come through the family?

A.A.: He loved music...no I don't know of anybody else *played*.

D.S.: Was there much money made in having a tannery?

A.A.: Well no, no, it wasn't much but it was a living then.

D.S.: Well it was more than the majority of the people had. So you were a little better off than most.

A.A.: *Had great big uats* <sup>big</sup>...that you put your hides in...clear water <sup>VATS</sup> ~~bats~~ and a lime <sup>VATS</sup> ~~bats~~ to put the hides in to protect the hair oil... all that to take off, and then you had the <sup>VATS</sup> ~~bats~~ that you put your bark in....when you straighten the hide out and flatten it down and then put your bark over top of it, and just keep on until you fill that bat up...and water and you let that sit there                      sometimes when it was cold...before you ever                      you'd have to look at a couple of pieces to see that it was tanned through before you'd take it out of there..that was the last step and then after you take it out you put linseed oil on it and <sup>WORK</sup> ~~wash~~ it until you got it nice and soft. And if you wanted to make it black you kept an iron pot and put iron things in there *and water* and you'd take that black and                      with a brush                      on there.!

Black leather..some people prefer black. And he would tan, if they'd bring them up <sup>deer</sup> ~~here~~ hides..he would either tan them and they would get it all or he would cut it in to and keep half of it and give them half of it.

D.S.: I see, yea.

A.A.: And then in later years, he had a few deer hides and a few bear hides to tan before he died. But the uh, bear hides were hard to get the grease

out. There was a lot of grease in them. Hard to get it out. And the deer hides he could tan them alright with the hair off but the hair would not stick. It would come out. But now sheep didn't. He tanned some nice sheep hides.....a lady up at Crozet called me one time not long ago and she said...we went camping before the park came along up in Sugar Hollow up on the south fork....<sup>I think the</sup> park had burned...an old house up there. *She hunted around* until she found it six years ago. And uh, she had arthritis or something like that..but..there was 18 or 20 of us and she said she got a pole and she cut everybody's initials on that pole *that was in that camping* and uh, she says I want you to see it. And then she sat down there on the phone and began to call..now who is this.. who is this..who could that be..this and that and finally she came to AC and I said that's Arlene Carr..she said I was looking for Arlene Abel.. and then she brought it not long ago and I left *out there*.

D.S.: Uh, you mentioned sheep. Did many people raise sheep around?

A.A.: Uh, yes there was a Mr. Alexander from across the mountain that had a farm up there that he *fenced* them in. Had right many sheep. But then he had a lot of trouble with them..dogs got into them you know. And I remember he had a big trial over it downtown..Cause some people wouldn't kill the dog..I can remember when my grandfather had a shepherd dog..we all though a lot of. And one day it disappeared and everybody wondered where in the world that dog went and come to find out *someone had put heavy thing on him & sunk him in a tanning vat.* and everybody wanted to know why he did it. He said the dog had been killing sheep. We said how do you know he was the one..he said I opened his mouth and he had fur all in between his teeth. We cannot keep anything like that and so it is best that we put him away..and I suppose it was.

D.S.: Yea, once they..start...

A.A.: Once they start, they never stop so..he said everybody had been hollaring

that we can't kill this dog but it was best to let him go.

← Yea, when you get a dog that does something like that..get rid of him if you can.

D.S.: Yea, oh boy..so people did have sheep. *this way.*

A.A.: Oh yea, oh yea.

D.S.: Did they do any weaving?

A.A.: Oh, uh..it was some people down the road..McAllister's there that had a loom that they made carpet...you've seen this carpet..people would take their old clothes and tear up in strips..oh, just about like that.. and roll them up in a ball....fold the ends together...take those big balls there and ~~take~~ *roll* them down to weave your carpet.

D.S.: Uhhuh, yea, but they didn't use the sheep wool to..

A.A.: Oh, no, uhhuh..huhuh..that was before my time.

D.S.: I wonder if they did.

A.A.: I would think they did.

D.S.: You never saw anybody do it yourself?

A.A.: Huhuh, huhuh,

D.S.: You never saw any spinning wheels..

A.A.: No, oh no. I never saw anybody spin....when I was a child..no.

D.S.:Hey, how about doctors. Were you ever sick very often?

A.A.: Well, uh, we had a doctor at **White Hall** and uh, as far back as I can remember <sup>*we had a doctor*</sup> there until...I don't know.. maybe '55 or '60..something like that <sup>*It was after my*</sup> oldest son was born ... he died

Dr. Roberts and his daughter still lives in White Hall..and then we had country doctors and they'd come to your house.

D.S.: Right. How about dentists..

A.A.: Well there was a dentist at Crozet.

D.S.: You did go to the dentist?

A.A.: Uhhuh, you'd have to go to Crozet or Charlottesville...to the dentist.

D.S.: Oh, you were very well off my dear. You don't realize how spoiled you are. I wonder about the people further up the mountain...if they ever used a dentist.

A.A.: Well, I wonder too...I don't know what they did...

D.S.: Umm..you wouldn't know any of those names...or if any of them are still around would you?

A.A.: Well there was a *Joe* Wood that lived up this south fork hollow. And he had a son Lurtie Wood . And he lived between Crimora <sup>or New Hope</sup> and New Hope...the last I heard of him.I don't know if he's still living or not.

D.S.:

A.A.: Uhhhh. There used to be a post office or Waynesboro or something now.

D.S.: C R I M...

A.A.: C R I M O R A maybe.

D.S.: He might be able to..

A.A.: Lurtie Wood..now I don't know if he is still living or not..but he owned a place in Sugar Hollow...his father's place .. my husband and I tried to buy one time and we went up there to see him and he wasn't too far from New Hope.

D.S.: Okey, is there any other name that you can think of?

A.A.: No, I really don't know..all those people on the north fork *seemed to have. The White Hall Club* owned some land way back..... on that north fork but uh, it's way back almost to the drive. And a Crome..C R O M I maybe...this Crome seemed to have married a Wood. We knew some people.. over here...

but then some Via's lived backthere. A friend of ours bought that place..now who he bought it from I don't know. They always called it the *Mina* Via place.

D.S.: V I A ..

A.A.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: Well there are a lot of Via's..be hard to track down one.

A.A.:It's a graveyard on that place and uh..some of them are V I A and some of them are V I A R. But all of those people *practically up there* in that grave yard..most of them are just children and they have stone ....the oldest person you could find was bout 52 or 3 years old. But now what they all died with I don't know. But most of them are just children..very young. So they evidently gdidn't go out to the doctor.

D.S.: Yea,so many didn't...use a doctor or a dentist. No. Oh dear, you have told so many wonderful things.

A.A.: And there was an old lady..a Miss McMuffin that lived on that mountain and uh she seemed to be the doctor for most of them. If you'd get sick she'd come..

D.S.: Oh, yea.

A.A.: I can remember .. I always had a lot of trouble with this eyes. Well I'm Practically blind in that eye. But uh, when I was a child that eye would hurt. *Some day I had to* keep it shut. And one day daddy went up to Miss Nancy about my eye.. *she gave him a seed and* she said tell her mother to put a cloth over it and keep it damp and put it on that eye and she did

D.S.: You don't know what that seed was?

A.A.: No, she never would tell...any of her secrets. But when somebody would get sick all across that mountain she would go and she just seemed to be the best doctor around.

D.S.: Yes. Sure. Well the knowledge of herbs was very very good..

A.A.: Uhhuh, uhhuh.

D.S.: And now a days they are finding out that these herbs did really work.

A.A.: Uhhuh, Yes I know.

D.S.: Now they are trying to do research on them, to find out about them, but the people who did it are gone. Oh dear, let's see. I think we've covered about everything....that I usually talk about. Um, you say that up there in the top of the mountain they just used head stones..you know stones for funerals..when a person died...

A.A.: No, not....back there on graveyard hill we called it there were *soap stones*. never could understand how they got those stones in there.

D.S.: Really.

A.A.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: With the names engraved on them.

A.A.: Uhhuh, see it would be practically flat..if you come <sup>after you would get up on</sup> .drive...if you'd come on in there and there was a road that came around across the mountain..if you'd look down on the other side you'd be looking down on Brown's Cove. If you'd look back this a way you be looking at the Sugar Hollow side. And when we first started going back there, there were a lot *stones* and in later years there has not been so many. And somebody said that they had found *some of the stones that people had made a* <sup>mountain</sup> *walk out of them.* Think of somebody doing a trick like that!

D.S.: .....listen, you don't know what you have done.

A.A.: Well I hope I have helped you some.

D.S.: Oh, it has been just simply wonderful....