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(SNP075) Loula Judd, interviewed by Nancy Smith

Loula B. Judd

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Interview with Mrs. Judd - Big Meadows

Part II

March 11, 1976

Nancy Smith

I: Today is March 11, 1976. My name is Nancy Smith. Today I am interviewing Mrs. Judd. This will be the second part of this interview. We are in her house in Middletown.

MJ: Now this Joe Cave here, (Mrs. Judd was looking at a list of names I had given her from the first interview) was just an old man that we knew. We liked him cause he could tell you really some old tales, back in slave time.

I: Oh really.

MJ: Oh yes. We loved him. He used to come to our house after I was married. (Mrs. Judd was married several years after her family had left Big Meadows.) He'd spend the night with us and he'd set and tell us all these stories about the slaves you know.

I: I wonder how he knew about them.

MJ: Well he lived in their time, in slave time. He was about 100 then. He used to stop at our house. That's been about 50 years.

I: He lived out at Pine Grove?

MJ: He lived down in Pine Grove, uh huh.

I: And there was a store down there?

MJ: There was two stores down there, but then the one we went to was the nearest one. We stopped there always.

I: When you would go down there, was there a road you would follow?

MJ: Oh yes, well just a path down through the mountain. A little path to follow, that's all. You had to keep your eyes open if you kept in it, in the summer time when the bushes was high. But in winter time, why it was easier to follow. Well that's where Pine Grove is. But I don't know why we brought that up about Joe Cave. But he was a great old fellow. Real interesting to talk to. He was wonderful. I liked to talk to him. He'd come over home. I believe though the reason I told you though was about a flower bush I had out in the yard. A big huge big bush, Weigelia was what it was and it was just loaded with bloom there one time and he said "Now what kind of a blossom do you call that?" "Uncle Joe," I said, "that's a Weigelia." "Oh, he said, Wild Jesus. What a name for a blossom, Wild Jesus!" I'll never forget that.

And then another time he came down, a long time after that, it still had blooms on it. It bloomed all summer when it started. He came down there again and he said, "You told me what kind of a blossom this was one time, but do you know I've forgot it. What did you say this was?" I said "Weigelia", and I said it as plain as I could. I thought he'd catch it you know! Oh that's right, that's right, Wild Jesus. I should have known it."

I: Was he related to the Caves in Dark Hollow?

MJ: They were different Caves. Well I won't say, I wouldn't say that. I really don't know that. He could be related to those Caves. Because there were three different groups of them lived down there in Dark Hollow. There was Ashby Cave, Tom Cave and Newman Cave.**

I: And all three different?

MJ: Uh huh. And they married each other. They all married around and around. I don't know one of them didn't marrywell, Dade Thomas was one of them. She was a Cave. She married John Thomas. But now I...the rest of them, as far as I know, they all married...more Caves. Now John Weakley, he married one of the Caves.* Now the Glore Field, not Glory, they raised stock on that, G-L-O-R-E. They're people that raised stock on that place out there. That was the Glores from down there, in Madison, down around Syria, down there. The Glores lived down there. The Glore Field was a big area, but they called it the Glore Field because the Glores always pastured it. And it was Glore Field. And that...you know where the Red Gate is?...well, we never went the road when we went to Skyland. We left the road there, slanted along, that was all in fields, clear to Skyland. Nothing but pasture fields. Nothing but pasture fields. And the most beautiful ferns you have ever seen, all through those fields. There's a turfs stood up that high. Oh my, you wouldn't believe it. But we always...we'd leave there, that would cut off miles you know, going out to Skyland. And go through the Glore Field. That was the Glore Field, right there.

I: Let's see. Ben's Field. (I was checking the spelling of names from the first interview. Mrs. Judd and I were going over a list I had made up.)

MJ: Ben's Field. That's right down from Big Meadows. Just right down the hill. You just turned.....That's where the families all lived, right around there you know. Of course Frank Weakley, he lived right there. I showed you where he lived, up there didn't I?

I: Yeah, I think we'll have to draw a map...

*He married Tom Cave's sister.

**Mrs. Judd later told me there were many other Caves and mentioned Gerd, Click, Frank and Fred.

MJ: Standing there at the building (the Visitors Center) from the front, you look right down there where he lived. I could take you right down there where the house set. And then there was another house set right out, just a short distance from that. And both of them, course there was a huge big spring at both places, the best water, just run so clear, and there was different families lived in that house, the other one. But the old Frank Weakley place, there was never, I never knew anybody but them to live in that house in my time.

I: One thing, on the other side of the tape, when I ran out of tape last time, you had just started to tell the story of Betsy Hurt going down to the store and...

MJ: Yeah. Yes, she was my great grandmother. She went down to Syria, to the store. And there were a lot of men out there on the porch and they had a bet up, a \$10 bet. They asked who could raise that barrel of molasses up off that floor, lift it up. She walked up on the porch. She said what's going on here? They said, well we've got a bet up to see who can raise this barrel of molasses off the floor. She said, well get out of the way. Get out of the way, she said, can't you lift it? "Well we haven't done it yet". And they said "oh go on, Aunt Betsy, you can't lift that. Well, she said "Just get out of my way". So, they stepped aside and she reached down, kept her back straight you know, just straight, she was a big woman, and she just reached down and lifted it right off of the floor. She said "Does that prove it?" It's almost unbelievable. She did it. And she set it down and she said "Now where's the \$10?" Well, they said. She said, "No 'well' to it. You said you had the bet up and you couldn't do it, where's the \$10?" So they had to give it to her. It was fair. She lifted the barrel of molasses and they give her the \$10.

I: Sounds like she was kind of a...

MJ: Oh she was a stout, very stout woman. Pure bred Indian.

I: I was wondering, do you remember any of the stories say like Joe Cave told about the slaves?

MJ: Yes, I do remember some. He told us about Bidler's, Brubankers, Spitlers, and all them up between , along between Luray and Stanley. They all owned slaves down in there you know. I don't remember if he said he was with his mother or father, but I think he must have been with his parents. Anyway he said that they were coming from down in there somewhere and they were selling slaves at Bidlers that day. And they had...the men that were there buying these slaves were from North Carolina.

When they had these...had gotten, had bought what they wanted. They were walking you see, and he said they lined these slaves up in front of them. Each one had their number of slaves they had bought. Lined them up in front, men and women. Some of those women had little tiny babies. And they didn't want the babies, they didn't want those babies. They wanted the women and the men, they didn't want to bother with them babies. So he said that they caught up with them, making them go just as fast as they could walk you know, just marched them off, and they had those whips you know, they'd reach-out and hit one and make them step up. And so he said that they got on up there -they walked fast so they could keep up with them so they could see what they'd really do. And he said that this one man got off his horse and this woman was crying -she was just a person who couldn't walk too fast maybe. Maybe she was sick, it's hard to tell. And he took this baby out of her arms and took it by the feet and slammed its brains out against a tree and threw it over in the brush pile. He said he'd never forget that sight as long as he lived. They didn't want the babies. Now can you blame the colored people for anything they do today? When you think of that.....Yes sir. And they had their own flesh and blood, they sold their own flesh and blood on those auction blocks. Because those men had babies by those colored women, those slaves, and then they didn't want them, those little babies. Sell their own flesh and blood.

I: How about up in the mountains, did you all ever have stories about ghosts or things like that?

MJ: Oh yes. I used to pray I didn't even have ears. My grandmother, my grandparents used to set and tell ghost stories at night. I was scared to death to go to bed. And even after I went to bed I was scared. I'd just burn up under the cover, afraid to take the cover off my head. It was terrible.

I: Was there any particular ghost or did they have the story of a ghost that was at a special place up there?

MJ: Well a lot of it was true stories really. Of course they used to tell different things that theyA lot of that stuff I've forgotten now. But I remember one time...there used to be real true stories when there was a lot of wild animals up there in the mountains. My grandmother and great grandmother, they had been down, with a couple of the other girls, to get groceries and they were in the night getting back up through the mountain. They always carried a pine torch in case it was night before they got home, they'd have that pine torch and they'd light it. Each one would carry a pine torch. Keep that fire going and keep the animals from bothering them at night. When they come down

there, below the Butterhill Spring, I don't know if you know where that's at or not, down below where Uncle Wes lived as you go over a steep hill down there, there's a low place there by the Thoroughfare, where the Thoroughfare loop comes around there. There's a spring that used to be, it's dry now, they say it's been dry for years, and it was never known to be dry. Butterhill Spring. And everyone always going on home from down below, they always stopped there and rested, and drank water. I've done that many a time myself. They came up this time...there's two ways to come up, you could come up and around the Thoroughfare Road from down Meadows Hollow, or else you could come straight up Richard Hollow and come up by what they called the old Labe place,* down straight up through there, which was nearer really but it was not as good a road to travel. So they were coming up right above the old Labe place and some animal came bounding right out of the brush, blowing and blowing, and their eyes were shining. And they said "Keep your torch a-going, keep it waving, don't let it falter, if you do he'll get a-holt of us". So they kept that torch waving to keep him away. They said he just couldn't stand not a getting hold of one of them. But they'd hold that old torch there and keep it burning. Pine burns like oil you know. And they kept that burning. That's all that saved their lives.

I: What did they think it was?

MJ: They said it was a wolf. Or a panther. Well really they thought it was a panther. That's what they really thought it was, but somebody said it could have been a wolf. But I think really, I do think there was panthers up in there then.

I: Like mountain lions?

MJ: Panther or wolves. There was lots of wolves up in there. But that's been a long, long time. That's when my grandmother was real young.

I: What were some of the animals, either when you were living there, or your mother or grandmother or great grandmother talked about, that were around that area?

MJ: Well at that time, around in my time, once in a while you would hear...there were plenty of bears up there. Of course there were bears then, but they never bothered anything, unless there was a sow out that had pigs. Out there in The Laurel, my there were a lot of pigs out there. As far as vicious animals, I really don't think there was too many then in my time. Course there was bobcats, things like that. I imagine there's plenty of bobcats up there yet, cause there was in my day. I saw one. My brother and

*Mrs. Judd later told me that Labe Breeden and family lived there.

I went to milk the cow one evening, and it was coming up a storm. And we went up by my uncle's. We went about a mile up the mountain to the pasture field to milk the cow. So we went up there to milk and just as we got over the fence I saw this terrible looking thing sitting over on a log. They cut out trees and made fences around the fields you know. That's why they made fences to keep the cows out. And so my brother said, he's a slow talker, he said "That ain't no groundhog". I said "I know it's not a groundhog". His teeth was shining you know. Blowed up real in the back, a horrible looking thing. So the cow was right on the same side of the field, only up above this thing. We were scared to death almost. So I said well let's go up here, through the middle and then we can cut across and bring the cow down. Yes, he said, "but spose that thing jumps on us when we come down by there?" I said "Well we'll have to do something cause this storm is coming up and it's terrible. It just looks awful." And so we started up through there. And he said "Let's throw a little rock at it and maybe it'll jump off the fence and go on out through". And so we got a little rock, both of us got a little rock, what one done the other would do, you know, so we both threw a little rock. And boy, he was ready to take us on right there. He wouldn't budge an inch. So we went on up through the field. To the cow. I tried to get her to stand still so I could milk her up there, but she was used to coming down to the fence, down there, to be milked. And down she came. So I didn't stay too long. I didn't milk her too dry I'll tell you. But we got that milk and before we got home, such a storm you never seen. My milk bucket was half water til I got home. But oh that thing. It was a bobcat. Uncle Emmet had tried and tried and tried to trap that thing, but he couldn't catch it to save his soul. He was the shrewdest thing you ever saw. So we went up and told Uncle Emmet we had seen his bobcat. We're sure that's what it was, cause after he raised up you could see that bobbed tail you know. Real short tail. And I knew then it was a bobcat. So then he just put an effort, real special effort to get over in there and set the traps. Finally got him. He's a dangerous thing. They'll kill calves you know, anything, jump on them and kill them.

I: Did the men trap very often or hunt animals very often?

MJ: Well not too much. They didn't trap too much. They'd have, sometimes in the winter time, rabbit traps. And catch rabbits to eat. But them days they bought rabbits. There was a bounty on rabbits you know. You could sell rabbits, foxes, or anything if just catch them. And of course they used to catch skunks. But they skinned them. They would skin them and stretch the hide on a board until it was dry. You had to dry them. But they used to catch a lot of rabbits and eat them. But then after there got to be a good price lots of them would catch them just to sell them. They would take them down to Syria where they would be packed down in barrels.

MJ: In the winter time; they wouldn't the other time. They were shipped to the cities to eat.

I: How about snakes? Were there many snakes up there then?

MJ: Well...there was not too many. Oh now there was places-places where there was lots of snakes. But...well I don't know if ..lot of people see two or three snakes and call that a lot of snakes. But for me I was raised up in that snake country and they never bothered me at all. I mean I never gave it a thought. We used to go out and pick huckleberries and we'd maybe see a couple of rattle snakes. Maybe we'd see a couple of copperheads. Used to be so many of those old house mocassins up in there.

I: Oh really?

MJ: Oh yeah. They'd be there at the Broyles place. We built our house there. And...where we lived...right below the house we cleaned off...we had a corn field down there. And we piled rocks...oh huge piles of rocks in there. My mother and father was down there one day pulling corn and my Daddy said "Momma watch out now. There's a copperhead...there's a house mocassin" and he said "Where there's one there's more." So he said "You be careful". So he killed that... oh huge great big thing. They're just as dangerous as a copperhead. But you don't see too many of them any more. Wonder what ever happened to them. Before they got through round that rock pile; digging round there, they killed seven. Seven of those great big old house mocassins. They were gray.

I: This is the Broyles place that was down by the Marine Camp?

MJ: No..well yeah. Yeah that's there at the Broyle place, but the Broyle's place was just out...big field there, nothing but a huge big pasture field. Part of it was on orchard, but it was pastured all the time. And that's where the Broyle's place is. We lived right...just over the fence from there. Course it was all.....It was called that down at the Broyles place, but where we lived was just betwixt and between. Just about a quarter of a mile from the Hoover Camp where we lived. Straight out through there. But we seen lots of snakes. Ever seen a hoop snake? Used to be lots of those back up in there. Yeah.

I: What are they?

MJ: Well they roll up like a hoop. They've got a horn in the end of their tail. It's just a real solid horn sticks up on the end of their tail. They roll up like a hoop and they bellow like a calf. You can't tell them from a calf bellow to save your soul. If you can see them when they

start to roll, you can easy dodge them. Cause they set there ...you know. When they're coming at you, if you jump out of the way, they'll go on you see. But if they hit you that's it.

I: You mean they'll kill you?

MJ: Kill you instantly. That's the most poisonous snake. Used to be terrible. When we lived up there, there was a man and woman lived, well in that area in there. This man was out in the woods working and this hoop snake came down through the woods and struck him right in the heel. He had on boots. And he struck the heel of that boot with that horn. Why he never give it a thought. It didn't go all the way through, he didn't think, you know. And it wasn't long until he ...his foot and leg began to swell terrible. Well of course he didn't wear those boots just certain times...out where it was necessary you know. So he died. This terrible...This leg just swelled up and bursted you know. He just died in no time. They never thought anything about that boot. So this woman, a long time after that, I don't know how long, she remarried. And her second husband wore those boots. Here he turns up with the same thing. So that...it was still in there. That started her to thinking. And she went and got this boot and either cut it down ...so they could really see...and that horn had broke off in that heel, that hard rubber. Those days it was good rubber, wasn't like it is now. Synthetic stuff. But it had gone through that heel of that boot just enough that it just touched his heel enough to scrape it a little bit you know. He never noticed it. But that's what it was..Killed both of them.

I: Did you ever see them yourself when you were out and around?

MJ: No I never seen one, but there used to be one right above our house there. We were always on the lookout for it. But I never seen one. I always wanted to see one. Mr. Grandstaff came over to our place one time. We lived up there years after that. And he said "Why I had a scare a while ago." He said "It's been a long time since I heard a hoop snake. But I heard one. It's over there. It's been there all the time." But he said "I don't know where it's been". I heard it beller."

I: That's something.

MJ: Uh huh. Just sounds like a calf you know. When he does that he's ready to start for you. So he said "Believe me I run til I was out of breath." He said "I heard it and I knew what it was." Cause he'd heard it before. So _____ .

I: Was there thought to be a lot of those snakes...?

MJ: No there wasn't many of them. Not very many of them. You know

the rattlesnakes used to kill out the other snakes a lot. But now I don't know. Now they're mixing. Did you know that?

I: Rattlesnakes and copperheads?

MJ: Copperheads, well always has...associated, you know. They've always associated together. ⁴If you find a rattlesnake and a den, you'll find copperheads. If you find a copperhead den there's going to be rattlesnakes. Now over on the other side of the mountain...toward the Rag Mountain. Old Rag Mountain? Well...now we used to live over there. There used to be what you call.....Well you know where the White Oak Falls is, way down, back down, we used to go...You could come up Old Rag Mountain, come across there to the White Oak Falls. But it was a long walk. But it could be done. It was done then. My Daddy used to go up there, up to the White Oak Falls and fish. Lot of trout fishing. Used to be a lot of them. So he used to go up there and fish. So he decided one day, it was rainy, and a good time to trout fish, so he went up there to trout fish. He decided he'd go, instead of going over to the Nicholas's, he'd take a short cut up and cross to the falls. Wouldn't be as much hard walking. So he said he walked up pretty close to _____ right below the falls. And he thought well I'll cross here and be sure and not miss the _____. Well he started across. He said he just walked out on this flat rock and just when he walked out on this flat rock he heard this rattle. One warning the others you know. He said he just looked right down, right plumb at his feet and there lay the biggest rattlesnake. And he said now why ...but he guessed where that one rattled they all showed up. He said he didn't know whether to just stand there or jump which way. He said every where he looked there was rattlesnakes and copperheads. And he said they were just singing. You know really sounding. And he said he just thought well I'll back the way I come. But he jumped over one...there was one just when he jumped off the rock. He jumped over it and as far as he could jump. It went the other way. But he said never in all his life ever saw any like that. He'd gone up in there dozens of times to fish. Why that was a real rattlesnake den. Yeah terrible. Thousands of them. Well up there at Mary's Rock. You know where that is. Well when they came through...that's on the opposite side from here, going towards Big Meadows. When the contractors were in there excavating and making that highway through there, they were starting to go through that Mary's Rock Tunnel. And there was a rattlesnake and a copperhead den in there. But that was nothing but just solid rock in there. Guess you couldn't find a spoonful of dirt hardly. It was nothing but that. But they were in there by the thousands. It was so terrible when they'd go in there with that big machinery you know, he said that they were so thick it made the men so sick. The poison, the hissing, with everything they could get at they were throwing that poison out. It made the men so sick they had to take some to the hospital. They were just that sick. They couldn't stand the smell of it. It was

terrible. One day - that same day they got into them - they killed eighty six rattlesnakes. And I forget, with the machinery they just rooted them up. They counted eighty six but they didn't know how many they killed. Eighty six rattlesnakes and I forget how many copperheads they said they killed that day. Just that one time. Lot of the men was afraid to ever go back there. But they went back then and finally got through there. But it was an awful mess. It's a wonder that now you don't see more rattlesnakes.

I: They don't seem to be real common.

end side!
MJ: No, I just don't understand what happened to them. I just don't. Why you could walk out there any time and see a rattle snake and not think anything about it. Just get something and kill him. Throw a big rock on his head or take a big stick and beat him to death. So I don't know what's become of the snakes, I really don't. Ethel and I used to go up there when she was able to walk (this would be in recent years). We used to enjoy traiping through the mountains up there you know. And we started up to Ben's Old Field from down in the Hoover Camp down there. We started up to Ben's Field. We decided we were going to walk up there - take the old road up from the Marine Camp through up to Ben's Field - a lot nearer. So just as we left the road, (we found where the old road came down. You could tell. You can follow those old roads. And we started up this old road, just a short distance from the Rapidan-road comes up the Rapidan. And I said "Well I'm going to get myself a stick to walk with." I said I'd rather have one to kind of help me if I slip or something. But it's hard to get anything. It's all about as rotten. But they had chopped some little saplings along in there for something, cleared along the road you know. And there was a maple, a little maple there. Oh the maple was about that big. It made a dandy straight stick to walk with. A good one to kill a snake with you know. So I stooped down to pick this up to get my foot on and break it off and Ethel said "Lulu look right in front of you, but don't move." I just looked and there he laid. Huge big black rattler. And I said "Well I see. " I couldn't get that stick broke off there to save my soul. And right where we were at, that's a strange thing, we couldn't find one rock. Cept one little flat rock was about that long, and about that wide. And I picked that up. I said "If I could just get one crack right on top of his head I think I could fix him enough that I could kill him." And I just walked close enough; they can jump their length you know. They'll coil up and they can jump their length. You'd better judge their length, or you're done for. So he was coiled and that tail...but do you know he never rattled? I never saw one in my life that didn't rattle. And I said to Bealie one time, my cousin, Bealie I said "We saw a rattlesnake and he didn't rattle. Didn't hear a sound out of him." He said "Well he meant business."

"Right then he was ready to strike you." So whenever they don't rattle, you'd better move because they're ready to get you, right then. But I never did see one like it; he wouldn't rattle to let you know. But he didn't. He was a huge one; great big one. But we went on up through the woods a piece and found a stick where I could break it off. I said "Well we going up here without anything, we'd better go back. If we had something, a hoe or something with us, to protect ourself we'd be alright." But we didn't have a thing with us. We had the hoe in the car way down below where the chain is across the road. About a mile down the road, so we wouldn't go back after it.

I: Were there wild turkeys around?

MJ: Well there was never many wild turkeys up there. Very few. But there used to be a lot of pheasants and grouse, you know, things like that. But there was very, very few turkeys. Very few. You seldom ever seen no wild turkey.

I: How about, was there a school up there?

MJ: Yes, that house you're living in.

I: Did many of the kids go to it?

MJ: Well those that was close enough went. Yeah. But the teacher, they never could get a teacher that would stay up there. They didn't like it up there on the mountain you see. They wouldn't stick to it. They'd go up there, maybe teach a month or so and they was homesick. They wanted to go home. So that's the way that went. And my brother, funniest thing, the teacher that they had up there, she was from down below Criglersville somewhere. She came up there. And of course my brother, if I do say, he was a right smart little fellow. She couldn't tell him a thing. Everything she told him, he knew it. And she said one day "You know what I'm going to do? I'm going to just give you the work and let you, see how you do." She said "You tell me things I don't know." So after that she'd set and read a book and let him teach the school. So that's the way the school went. So it wasn't too long until she pulled out of there. She didn't like it up there on the mountain.

I: Most of the teachers didn't stay too long.

MJ: You know where that school set at, before where it's at? It was right, well you know I told you where John Weakley lived, well my uncle lived right below his house and the house where my Uncle Emmet and Aunt Ardenia lived and had all their children, raised their children there, but they had moved out before the Park took over to Cumberland, Maryland, where some of their children settled. They had a son who was an engineer on the Western Maryland and they had daughters that had married and moved out so they moved out. My Uncle George moved into that house, George Buracker, my uncle by, was half-uncle, but I loved him dearly. You always loved Uncle George. He lived there then when the school was there.

And it was his son that caught the groundhog for President Hoover. His son Ray.

I: I remember that story, let's see. Do you remember how that story goes? I remember it's in that Camp Hoover book.

MJ: Yes, I've never read that book but I know the story of it. He, well President Hoover was so nice to those people. I mean he was really a nice man when it come to a human being. He was. Everybody up there liked him. But I don't know how he got on to this groundhog thing. I knew then, but I done forgotten. But anyway he caught this groundhog for President Hoover and took it to him. That's why they got a picture of him.

I: Did you every see Hoover yourself?

MJ: Oh yes, uh huh. One time we were coming across Chapman's Mountain down there. Do you know where Chapman's Mountain is? That's on down the road where you come from over in Syria. Or from Criglersville rather. Where Hoover Road goes up across, down Chapman Mountain, down into the Rapidan and then up into the Camp. Well we were going up Chapman's Mountain and we met President Hoover right on that road. They were going out, going to Washington that evening. And we were going up and they were going down. And if we didn't have a time trying to get off the road for that procession to go by. And of course I don't know how many cars were on the road you know. Course staff with him and everything. But we really liked that, we got to see him then, great for us.

I: And you think that the people did like him? Was a good person...?

MJ: Oh yes, yes. He was. I really think he was. I think have learned since that President Hoover was allot better man than he got credit for being. He really was. I think when a country get's into something, a state of affairs, like they are now, it isn't, not one man that does that.

I: Yeah, it's more than just one.

MJ: Oh yes. It takes a lot of manuevering around and a lot of dirty crooked work to put the government on the rocks. And that has already been done. And that wasn't done by one man. By any means. Not by one man, huh uh.

I: Do you remember the winters while you were growing up? Were they quite a bit different than they are now?

MJ: Oh yes. The winters were altogether different then. Yes they were. We had winter. When winter came, we had winter, up there. I'll tell you we had winter. I seen a snow one time in April,

MJ: That was the most beautiful. That was the most beautifulI'll never forget those scenes. Never, you never see that no more. But now we were up there this winter, my grandson was down here from Ohio. And we went up and there was a lot of ice then and oh it was beautiful. Just, just beautiful. I think things like that are equally as beautiful as the summertime. I really do.

I: I do too.

MJ: Oh yes. I like that as well as I do the other. I don't remember that I enjoyed anything more than I did that day. It was just so pretty. But I've seen it like that there at the Cresent Rock. It was right straight back. That draft would keep it drawing right through there until it would actually freeze from one tree to the other. Just completely closed up there.

I: Now this isn't by the tunnel? You mean that...

MJ: No that's up at the Cresent Rock, the other side of the road.

I: Yeah I know where that is.

MJ: Did you ever walk out on that?

I: On Cresent Rock? No, just driven by there.

MJ: Oh my goodness girl, you've missed a lot. Don't you ever go by there without you stopping and look down over there. That's really something. But that's why that, why that did that. It's like that all the time. Course then the trees were close together then. It was just nothing but trees across there. And there used to be so many of those blue spruce up there. Through there it was just full of them. Nobody ever knew where they came from, how they got there. They never knew. They were there since I can remember anything. But there's still a lot of them right back there from the road, back through there. A lot of people have gone in there and taken them out. People used to take out so many. But of course they're not allowed to do that now. If I found a nice little one up there I wouldn't be above _____ up and take it. No, I really wouldn't. Cause after all that's my home. It really is. And I'd just like to have a little one if I found a nice one. I'll never forget one time, Ethel and I was up there. My cousin, and we like to go back through the mountains. Just places we'd know about but but hadn't been. So that day we decided we would.....It was foggy, just as foggy as it could get. Terrible. We wanted to go back up through there to that top, right, you know _____. Just to see what it looked like back in there. So we went up through there and of course parked the car right down along side the road. We had been up

in there, wandered around. Looking and admiring this and admiring that. After while we heard somebody whistle, whistle real shrill, shrill whistle. I said "Uh oh, somebody is hunting us." I knew it was a ranger. I said "I bet the ranger thinks we are lost." And I said "He sees that car sitting down there and he thinks somebody is lost." So he kept whistling. We just a moseying around. After a while he blowed the horn. Blowed and blowed. We didn't say a thing. Started to mosey on down toward the road. After a while he blowed that whistle again, real shrill you know. So we started to come on back around the bluff, like we was going to come in back to the road. Well he was coming up through there. I guess he thought maybe we'd wandered up through there. Well he got almost to us, right on us before he saw us. He said "Are you lost?" I said "No, I think you are." He said "You had me scared to death. I thought somebody was lost up in here." I said "No I'm not lost. Not at all. I was here long before you were."