

8-9-1978

## (SNP045) Irene Eppard interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Sharon G. Marston

Irene V. Eppard

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### Recommended Citation

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM  
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

NARRATOR: Mrs. Roy (Irene) Eppard  
INTERVIEWER: Mrs. Dorothy Smith  
PLACE: *Thoro fare Mtn .*  
DATE: August 9, 1978

TRANSCRIBED BY:

Sharon G. Marston

COMPLETED DATE:

September 27, 1981

D.S.: We are interviewing Mrs. Roy Eppard who was born...uh, what is your first name.

I.E.: Irene.

D.S.: Irene Breeden.

I.E.: That's right.

D.S.: Now you...where did you live? In the park.

I.E.: Uh, we lived right at the foot of the south..uh, what they all called *Shorofan*

D.S.: Oh, *Shorofan* Mountain.

I.E.: Uhhuh, we lived right at the foot.

D.S.: On the East side or West side?

I.E.: East side.

D.S.: On the east side. Then you were in Green County?

I.E.: Oh no we were on this side of the Blue Ridge.

D.S.: You were on this side of the Blue Ridge.

I.E.: Yes.

D.S.: Then you were in Rockingham County?

I.E.: We were in Rockingham County...Yea.

D.S.: Uh, how many were in your family?

I.E.: There were nine children...eight girls and one boy.

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

I.E.: Doc Breeden.

D.S.: Doc Breeden. There are a lot of Breeden's from up there. Were they..did they all mainly live in the same area.

I.E.: There were right many Breeden's that lived in there. But uh, I believe that we were about the only...no there was another Breeden..that the Park taken his place. But the Park surrounded a lot of them back in there, but it taken our homeplace.. and you go up on 625..go over the hill..you will come into the park and we lived right over the mountain...right down at the foot of this hill. And...*within*

*two*  
~~Creek~~ Creeks,

D.S.: Oh, how beautiful...you had two creeks on...

I.E.: Uhhuh..

D.S.: Then you were sure of plenty of water weren't you?

I.E.: Yea.

D.S.: Did you have your own springhouse?

I.E.: Yea, we had about the best spring that was in the park. It was uh..well it was so clear and well it was right at our house...the porch run out and then it went right into a spring and we had to dip it up. And we had the most...well we had about the best water around there.

D.S.: What sort of a house did you have? Was it a clappard house or log house?

I.E.: Log house.

D.S.: A log house.

I.E.: It was four rooms log and then there were four rooms built...two rooms and a half...what do you call it uh..not an upstairs but just a half..yea just a half two rooms and then that was built on to it so we had six rooms all together.

D.S.: Oh my thatwas....well you had to with nine children.

I.E.: Yea, and then my grandmother lived with us...there were 12 of us in the family.

D.S.: Oh boy..yea. Yea. Did you all sit down to eat at the same time?

I.E.: Yes mam.

D.S.: You must have had a huge table didn't you?

I.E.: We had a large table and each one of us had our own place that we'd each sit and uh had these long benches..one each side of the table and then one sat at each end of the table. And uh, we wasn't crowded until we growed older...as we grew older then...

D.S.: You took up more room.

I.E.: We still all had room at the table and all ate at the same time.

D.S.: Uhhuh. How about company..did you have many people drop in for meals?

I.E.: Oh, did we have people. The people would come from over the mountain <sup>from</sup> in Green County over to **the** store..they would stop by to get a drink of water.

D.S.: What store?



I.E.: Fred Meadows' store.

D.S.: Where was that?

I.E.: That was...well right up from where we lived and then there was another store on over on this side. *of therefore* it's burned down but it was Marvin Eppard's store.

D.S.: Oh, kin to you?

I.E.: Yes. And Fred Meadows was my uncle too and uh he sold that out to Fred Meadows. And the store over on our side was closed. And they would stop there and come in and uh, we'd have a big pot of beans cooked, and potatoes and cornbread and they would stop by and they would all eat with us before they went back on their journey back across the mountain.

D.S.: Did they walk mainly or did they come by..bring a mule or horse?

I.E.: Walk and a horse. Sometimes they would..some of them be walking and sometimes they would bring horses..well most of the time they would have a horse but uh they would walk and load the horse with there supplies to go back and walk.

D.S.: Uhhuh, sure. How about your family. Did you have any horses or mules?

I.E.: Yea, we always had two horses.

D.S.; Add what were they used for. They were used to farm with and to drag logs and well a lot for transportation. ~~Come~~ into town to get our groceries. Go to the mill. My father had a big old wagon and he would load it down on Saturday morning...him and mother...some of us children sometimes would ride along and come into Elkton <sup>to</sup> buy the supplies you know...

D.S.: Oh, you would come into Elkton...now when you bought the supplies..when your father bought them...had he built up credit at the store or would he pay cash?

I.E.: He'd pay cash. He always paid cash.

D.S.: Now how would he get the cash?

I.E.: Well we had a few chickens...we had cattle and uh..had cows..and we would

churn the butter and the chickens give us eggs and uh..we would take these eggs and sell them. Them eggs and butter we would sell...we would buy our groceries.

D.S.: Where would you sell them, at the same store?

I.E.: Same store, yea. And we would always come back with a little extra money..we wouldn't have spent all the money. There was money brought back.

D.S.: Yea. The reason I was asking that is..the majority of stores along in the mountains..the people would take their produce in and they were given credit and then they would build up credit to buy the things that they..... wanted. But you did it differently.

I.E.: No we always paid for ours. Always had eggs and take them in and uh then we'd always spend that and then what was left over then, the money was brought back. The only credit that we ever ... got credit at the store for...we would go pick huckleberries and come in...and what they call a due bill...they would give us that you know for our huckleberries. And then we would come back to the store and spend that.

D.S.: How much did you get do you recall?

I.E.: Well we would hardly ever get too much..maybe 25 or 30 cents or something like that.

D.S.: For how much?

I.E.: For a gallon of huckleberries.

D.S.: And that was a lot of work to pick all those.

I.E.: It was. Uh, but well..it was a lot of work but at that time that money went as far as \$5 does right now.

D.S.: Did you set fires so that you would have the huckleberries.

I.E.: No, there uh there was a lot of times there was fires set out, but uh, we never did..WE never did.

D.S.: But I know a lot of people did do it.

I.E.: Yea, the mountains would burn for the huckleberries to grow.

D.S.: Yea. And it did make it so you were sure of having huckleberries. Right. You mentioned the store..how far away was that from your home?

I.E.: That one store was uh, oh maybe a quarter of a mile.

D.S.: A quarter of a mile. That wasn't far.

I.E.: It wasn't very far. No.

D.S.: How about the mill. What would you take to the mill?

I.E.: We would uh..corn. We raised our own corn and we'd shell that and then we'd take that to the mill and have the miller to grind it and bring it back for bread. And uh...

D.S.: Did you raise grain too.

I.E.: We raised some grain but not..we didn't raise too much grain. We raised some. A lot of time we would buy our flour see if we didn't raise it. But there was lots of times we didn't do it..in them days they'd have the old cradles and <sup>look</sup> put them you know..have no convenience whatsoever..everything was hard work.

D.S.: Sure.

I.E.: But uh ~~then they would put some in~~ <sup>the neighbors would come</sup> and uh..maybe be .. maybe a half dozen men helping each other. They went from place to place to help each other. And uh, well that was the way with anything that we wanted..we did. Uh, we worked together and after we moved out of the park it was just so odd because we had been used to people helping each other and you didn't get help when you moved out.

D.S.: Yea. There was a <sup>beauty in the</sup> ~~not only in~~ the way the people helped each other in work, but when somebody was ill or any time. When you took your corn to the mill..did you get..did you give the miller 10% or did you pay him to do it. Uh,

I.E.: he always..I don't know just how much he would get out of it, but he would get a little bit out of it.

D.S.: 10% was pretty generally what...

I.E.: Well I'spect it was, I don't remember...just what it was, but I do know he would get just a little of the corn you know..I don't remember Dad ever paying him,

but he might have.

D.S.: Yea. Uh, you mentioned cows, how many did you have?

I.E.: We always kept about three cows.

D.S.: Three!

I.E.: Uhhuh. We always had about three cows.

D.S.: Wow, that kept you busy making butter...

I.E.: Well we had one of these big old up and down churns and we'd make a lot of times five and six pounds of it at a time.

D.S.: Yea. Cottage cheese. Did you make that too.

I.E.: Well no we never did make that. We never did care a whole lot for it but it was a lot of people who did make it. My grandmother she has made lots of it. And they ate a lot of it but our family didn't care that much for it. And we didn't make too much ~~of it~~ *cottage cheese*

D.S.: Yea. And of course you sold the butter.

I.E.: Yea, we sold the butter...we eat what we wanted you know, and then we would always sell the rest.

D.S.: Did you raise any hogs?

I.E.: Well we always had hogs enough to butcher. Raise..always have two and sometimes three hogs.

D.S.: Then you didn't sell any?

I.E.: Uh, no we didn't sell any of the meat..well I say we didn't sell any of the meat ... we would sell the hams....most of the time we would sell the hams in the fall to pay taxes <sup>or whatever</sup> or whatever come up that we would need it. If we did need to sell them. If we didn't need to sell them, then we had the meat to eat. Course we always had plenty to eat the year round anyway.

D.S.: Sure. Did you eat beef?

I.E.: We didn't eat too much beef no. Not at that time.

D.S.: So it was mainly fish...course you had your fish. And chickens and hogs and

any wild meat.

I.E.: Yea, yea..that's right..and...of yea we eat wild rabbit, squirrel and that's about the only wild meat that we ate. But there was a lot of them that eat coon and possum and things like that. Uh, we never did.

D.S.: Uhhuh. You know they say they were good...

I.E.: Yea, they allsaid it was really good...groundhog and...

D.S.: Yea. How about apples. Did you have any apple orchards?

I.E.: Uh, yea we had plenty of apples..we always made our...we'd make as much as three kettles of applebutter each year and that would run us from one year to the next. And uh, we would dry apples...make cider out of some...we'd always make cider and then we'd put that in our applebutter.

D.S.: You didn't make any moonshine?

I.E.: Oh, no. We never made no moonshine.

D.S.: Uhhuh. There was good money in that.

I.E.: Daddy...yea, there was good money in that. That's what they'd say but my daddy, never did fool with that.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Tell about the applebutter boiling.

I.E.: Well, the apples..we would have an apple cutting and ask the neighbors in and uh, maybe it would be ten or twelve come in and help cut these apples. And then we would get up about five o'clock the next morning and we'd put two kettles on at one time and we would boil that applebutter just about all day long.

D.S.: Not into the night time?

I.E.: No, we hardly ever..we would hardly ever boil it into the night.

D.S.: You missed all the fun.

I.E.: Well we have had applebutter boilings and it would go sometime into the night, but my dad never did do that. We always put it on and just as soon as he could get the apples cooked up he would put his sugar in and then cook that *in there* *and would cook it* about a half hour or an hour but he would always cook *his sugar* sugar for about two or three hours..that would make it nice and red.

D.S.: Did you have the custom of a fellow on one side and the girl on the other...

I.E.: Yea.

D.S.: And if you touched the paddles you got a kiss.

I.E.: Yea, we had that too.

D.S.: Did the people since it cooked all day did the people bring food and you have a lot to eat.

I.E.: No, always eat their dinner before they came or lunch and uh...well if it was all day, we would fix lunch for them.

D.S.: Yea. How about music and dancing during that. Did you do any of that.

I.E.: We never did do no dancing..now we would have music..maybe go and listen to records and then we had one teacher, he was with us uh...the third Sunday we have a reunion at the Hensley Church *that's the church for him* and he was talking about what big times we used to have...we had an old organ in our home and another family had an organ and we would get together and sing at night, and he was talking about what a wonderful time we had. But we never did go out for dancing...or anything like that.

D.S.: Oh, that's too bad, because that was a lot of fun...dances and so on. Uh when they played music did anyone play banjos and fiddles...

I.E.: Uh yes sometimes they would but mostly when we was out, we would just play the organ and sing, but back in my mother's days I've heard her talk about them having dances and playing this string music. But I don't remember you know to much about that.

D.S.: Yea. Speaking of your mother..did your grandmother ever say that she used to spin her own yarn?

I.E.: Yes, my grandmother had a spinning wheel...I don't remember too much about that other than I knew there was one in our home.

D.S.: Uhhuh. And apparently they used to raise sheep...Did you raise any sheep?

I.E.: Yea we raised sheep. We had sheep and uh, we would sheer these sheep and take

*pluck*  
~~fluff~~  
this wool and ~~fluff~~ it you know and pick it and wash it and dry it up you know  
and then put it in the *comforts*.

D.S.: Oh, you used it for yourself..

I.E.: Yea, we used it ourselves. Yea, we raised sheep.

D.S.: Then you must have had quilting parties. Did you?

I.E.: Yea, we had...well not too many, but we had some.

D.S.: They were ~~awful~~ *always* nice.

I.E.: Yea. they were a lot of fun.

D.S.: Yea. Sure. How bout when it came time to string the beans. Uh, did you make  
a party out of that.

I.E.: Well we always had help...all we had to do was let people know we was going to  
do it, and there would be people to come.

D.S.: And shucking corn.

I.E.: Yea. Oh yea, we've had a lot of corn shucking parties.

D.S.: Uhhuh. What would you do at those?

I.E.: Uh, well they would just sit there and shuck it and maybe some of them at the  
house would fix a few sandwiches and uh that's really about all I that I know.

D.S.: *It was* ...talking....and enjoying each other...right.

I.E.: You enjoyed it and hay making or anything..they all jumped in and it just seemed  
like the togetherness was what they were interested in.

D.S.: Did your grandmother ever tell you or was it ever handed down in your family  
where you came from. How you all ended up on the mountains.

I.E.: No, uh that's what I've been most interested in in late years..I don't really..  
I didn't even know who my great great grandfather was. But I have inquired  
around and I don't even still know where he lived. Cause my father he didn't  
ever seem to know to much about his grandfather. But my grandfather died a  
year before I was born, but I do remember my grandmother;she was living with us.

D.S.: What was her maiden name?

I.E.: Uh, she was a Hensley.

D.S.: She was a Hensley. Uhhuh.

I.E.: Yea. Amanda Hensley.

D.S.: Yea. You know it seems so strange to me. You would think that of a winter's evening when there wasn't much to do that everybody would sit around and talk and in doing this talking one of the elders would say, now I want you to know that your family came here from so and so and you know. But I haven't found any that knew.

I.E.: No, and that was never ~~taught~~ <sup>talked</sup>. No .. just in the last little while that' we've found out a little bit more about that in research <sup>you know some of the ladies was working</sup> we have one lady out the road here that is working now on the re<sub>s</sub>earch of the history...

D.S.: Well what have you found out? Could you pass it along to us.

I.E.: Well, I don't know anything much..she has got a book out on the Meadows...cause my mother was a Meadows.

D.S.: Your mother was a Meadows.

I.E.: Yea, my mother was a Meadows.

D.S.: They came from Naked Creek mostly didn't they.

I.E.: Really...I think they...we...they lived back this way more. Now there are a lot of Meadows' back on Naked Creek, but our Meadows were from this other side. <sup>right up where</sup> ...straight up...did you come by the store out here...

D.S.: Yes.

I.E.: Well straight over the hill. That's where we lived. And uh, there was a lot of Meadows. My grandfather had twelve children..so that was a big bunch of Meadows <sup>is</sup> there.

D.S.: Yes...that's starting a whole army isn't it. Uh, how did your father garden?

I.E.: He used the horses to plow.

D.S.: Would he rotate crops or would he open up new ground? When it came..uh, after a while.

I.E.: Uh, most of the time he would open up new ground after a while but uh, mostly



our ground was *all in* cultivation. Uh, we would have to say cut the locust's or something off before he did. And uh, there was only one bro.. one boy in my family and he was the seventh child so I was almost the boy... of the family because I was the oldest. And uh, I had a lot of the harder ..harder work to do..uh, me and my older sister.

D.S.: Uh, it was rocky. This we know..but the plow was able to get through.

I.E.: Oh yes, uhhuh. Where we lived the ground wasn't too rocky...not where we lived.

D.S.:Really.

I.E.: No.

D.S.: How much *land* ground did your father have?

I.E.: It seems to me like it might have been seventy some acres, I think.

D.S.: Umm..that was a good place.. Yea. And with two streams and no doubt woods...

I.E.: Yea, we had a wooded area.

D.S.: Did you cut down the trees and sell the logs...we cut some <sup>I.E.</sup> but uh, there's a lot standing there now...great big pine trees and he cut some before the park taken it, but now they are just standing there. And uh..a good boundry of good timber.

D.S.: Did you take the bark..sell the bark?

I.E.: Yea. we sold bark and sold *pin* timber. I don't know just what the *pin* timber was...but we cut it in lengths and something they called extract..we used to sell that. I don't remember just what it was all used for. But uh, I remember very well getting out and helping pull this saw and sawing it. But them was good old days...I mean we worked hard, but that work then was not as hard as what it is now.

D.S.: Yea. Right. Did you ever take time to look around and say it's beautiful here.

I.E.: It was..really beautiful...I mean the hills...our ground was hilly...go up a hill and *get up on top* and stand and look over the valley. It

was really nice. You can't see hardly where the place is at now..it's growed up. I would love to just see the place back like it was one time.

D.S.: Yea. What did your father plant?

I.E.: Mostly corn. and oats.

D.S.: Turnips and cabbages?

I.E.: Oh yea..in the garden..uh, we had cabbage, tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes and onions and most anything you plant in a garden we had...

D.S.: You bought the seed or did the neighbors trade seeds?

I.E.: Well the neighbors traded seed and we would all save our own seed and plant it from year to year. I don't think you can do too much of that now..they don't yield too good. But we used to plant our own potatoes from year to year..never buy potatoes. We would plant our own potatoes. We'd make a *beautiful* crop of potatoes. Then in the fall what potatoes we didn't need, we would sell them.

D.S.: Oh, you didn't save them over the winter?

I.E.: Well , we'd save what we needed. We'd take out what we needed and then we would sell the rest.

D.S.: Now, how did you keep them over the winter?

I.E.: Uh, dug a hole in the ground...

D.S.: Right. Didn't that keep them beautifully.

I.E.: Yea. And they were so *crisp* when you would open them up in the spring of the year. They was really nice.

D.S.: Yea. Yea. Just as fresh as when you put them in.

I.E.: That's right.

D.S.: This is surprising that pæople don't do that now a days.

I.E.: And cabbage..we did the same way with cabbage..I don't know. *if* you could do it now, but I guess maybe you could.

D.S. Sure you could. Were the cabbages big?

I.E.:Yea. Oh, we'd make huge cabbages. And uh, we bury them..just dig a trench and

bury these cabbages.

D.S.: I heard they were the biggest and sweetest cabbages that ever grew.

I.E.: Yea. They was. They were really big cabbage heads.

D.S.: I've also heard that it was the first place to cure hams. Because of the cool nights and the warm days. Do you think that's true.

I.E.: Well I think so because we never did have a bit of trouble with our meat.

D.S.: How did you cure it?

I.E.: Uh, we just put a little salt on it and let it stay so long and then we would put a little pepper and a little borax on it and hang it up and in them days all you had to do was hang it up and it kept from year to year, but now you have to put it in bags to keep bugs from getting it.

D.S.: There weren't the bugs then...

I.E.: There were no bugs...no bean beetles or anything to eat the beans up..you could grow most anything.

D.S.: How about school. Where was your school, that you went to?

I.E.: Our school was just about a half a mile from where we lived and uh, we walked to school.

D.S.: You were lucky..only a half a mile.

I.E.: It was about a half a mile. Where our school was...

D.S.: Was it a one room school?

I.E.: One room school uhhuh. The school is still standing.

D.S.: Is it.

I.E.: Still there.

D.S.: Uh, did you go through seventh grade or...

I.E.: Seven..uhhuh.

D.S.: Seventh. How many months out of the year?

I.E.: Nine.

D.S.: Nine months.

I.E.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: Nine months.

I.E.: Nine months out of the year. You are going to have to *stay for awhile.*

D.S.: I can turn this off.....*Do you recall* what they taught in school.

I.E.: Well we would have uh, reading and 'rithmetic and spelling and geography and history. *& English* We ~~would~~..and grammer I believe.

D.S.: That was a very well rounded school wasn't it?

I.E.: Yea, uh, they would have just certain time for each subject and well our teacher the other day said sometimes *he had to* ~~you would~~ wonder how *he* you got through. But uh..now that's all the education that I ever got was in this one room school.

D.S.: Well, it was a good one.

I.E.: And my sisters...I only had one sister graduate..and that's after we moved out of the park. I had another sister and a brother could have graduated but they wasn't interested. But uh, I had two sisters...I know there is two of them... went through the *seventh* ~~third~~ grade twice.

D.S.: I have heard from Carl Shifflet...maybe you know him...

I.E.: Carl Shifflet...

D.S.: Yea. He lives outside Elkton...he told me that the schools emphacized arithmetic in the Elkton area.

I.E.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: They did.

I.E.: Uhhuh. Yea. Arithmetic was my main subject...because I mean I loved arithmetic.. more so than any other subject .. I thought more of arithmetic. And I... and then my father he only went to the third grade. And uh, he was very good in arithmetic. Back in them days I don't think they went to school...maybe five to seven months and I think he and mother both..they told me that they only went to third and fourth grade. But uh, daddy...his arithmetic was better than any of us children.

D.S.: That was one thing, that I think was very very unusual...was that the schools

around here did emphasize that. Church. How far away was your church?

I.E.: The church was right there next to the school.

D.S.: You had things too easy.

I.E.: Everything was nice. Our church..the school was on the hill, and our church was right beside the road.

D.S.: Uh, services were held every Sunday?

I.E.: Every Sunday. Sunday School...uh every...well every Sunday morning..every Sunday..Sunday morning and *back then* they had services that uh Sunday School at 10:00...I won't say whether it was second and third Sunday's..second and fourth Sundays and fourth and second Sunday's in the afternoon at 2:00. But uh now...uh we still run the church...the church is still standing and we still have services every Sunday at 10:00. And Worship at 11:00.

D.S.: How Nice. Uh, what were the weddings like? Were they very simple?

I.E.: The weddings were simple..we didn't...never had weddings in the church until lately.

D.S.: Now Mr. Eppard and you knew each other from the time that you *were little*  
Uh, how did he court you?

I.E.: Well he..I would walk...the way we met would be at Revival. And then they would walk us home. You know..the girls and boys walk home. And uh, he would come.. he would walk over to my house to see me...but we always courted at home, in the parlor. We never you know...

D.S.: Were you chaperoned?

I.E.: Yea, we was never allowed to go you know out alone. We was always had to be somebody with us. And there was always four of us girls about the same age and when we went, we all four went together.

D.S.: Did you..uh, what was your wedding like?

I.E.: Well we just had a simple wedding and we went to the parsonage and got married. Just a simple wedding.

D.S.: And then did you have a big dinner when you got home.

I.E.: Yea, mother had a dinner for me. At that time I was working in Elkton and uh, I come home in the afternoon. Uh after we was married mother had dinner ready for us. And uh, that was mostly the custom then to have uh...they didn't have big weddings then like they have now..receptions and all that. Just the family.

D.S.: This is not a very happy subject. But I'd like it clarified. How were the funerals?

I.E.: The funerals were just...well more like they are now at that time.

D.S.: They didn't keep the bodies in the home.

I.E.: Uh, no..uh, we never did now. Nothing unless it was a baby. Sometimes they would keep the baby in the home. But uh, back in my days...I mean when I can remember much about...uh Mr. Brill..Mr. <sup>Pop Brill</sup> Carl would take them over to his house. And keep them. But I have heard my mother say they would sometimes take them to the church. And let them lie in church overnight.

D.S.: Did they..uh, when it came time for the funeral, I mean you know the burial, did everybody stay right there until the body was buried. Completely covered.

I.E.: Yea. And sang over the body. Uh, they don't do that anymore.

D.S.: Uh, no. That was such a nice respectful way...I wish they still did it.

I.E.: Yea, I remember one of my uncles that lived back in the park and he wanted them to sing over his body as he left the house until they got to the cemetery. But he wasn't buried where he wanted to be buried. He wanted to be buried there on the homeplace, but he was brought down and buried over here at the Hensley church. But uh, the best I can remember they did sing from the church to the cemetery. Which is just a little way from the church.

D.S.: Yea. Uh, did they use markers or just put rocks up and ~~right~~ write on the rock?

I.E.: A lot of them had rocks and they would write on them. And then there are lots over therein the cemeterey that you don't even know who they were or where they were buried. You know they were buried in that cemetery but just where you don't know.

D.S.: That's right. Uh, how about doctors. You were so close to Elkton you probably had no trouble getting doctors did you?

I.E.: Well not too much. They would have to ride horseback. They would uh, come so far and my daddy would meet them. Um, a lot of times, that is if they had to come in car...because the road did get terribly bad, in the wintertime.

D.S.: Sure. Yea.

I.E.: And...but they rode horseback...we didn't have too much problem.

D.S.: Yea. Did you...how did they get in touch with the doctor?

I.E.: We had a telephone.

D.S.: Oh, you had a telephone.

I.E.: Yea. One telephone...usually one telephone in the community. And we had a telephone for a long time until the store went in and then it was put in the store. And each one would come and use it...they would pay so much. And that's the way they paid for the telephone.

D.S.: Good, yea. When that store came in uh, did you start using that instead of coming into Elkton?

I.E.: Well we used that unless...well I say dry goods or shoes or something like that we had to have or something that he didn't handle. That we would have to go into Elkton.

D.S.: Did your mother make your clothes?

I.E.: Uh, made a lot of them. Yea. Made a lot of them.

D.S.: Yea. They made good clothes. They really did. Uh do you recall what was principal diseases that people had.

I.E.: Well uh, diptheria um..we had that in our home and scarlet fever in our home once. But uh most of it was typhoid fever. And I would say that was the main one uh, disease .. was the typhoid fever. Uh, not in my time but my daddy and grandmother both had it at one time. And then my husband...there was about four of them that had it at one time. He and his mother was put in Charlottesville

Hospital and then there was a sister and a brother was at home and cared for at home. And I would say that was the biggest..the main disease back in that community.

D.S.: Yea. Did your mother have a good knowledge of herbs?

I.E.: Yea.

D.S.: Ah ha! Good. What herbs did she use and for what?

I.E.: Well what we used mostly was..oh, you mean for...

D.S.: Diseases or colds...

I.E.: Well she used calamus tea.

D.S.: Calamus Tea. For what.

I.E.: That would be for colic..for babies, and well right off..see you caught me when I can't get..can't think too much.

D.S.: Uh, did they use sassafrass tea for colds?

I.E.: Well they used sassafrass tea...a lot for just drinking.

D.S.: Uh, if you had a cold what did your mother do?

I.E.: Well she usually fixed us up uh lard and turpentine and uh...made up a mixture. And uh, would grease our chest with it.

D.S.: I get it.

I.E.: And uh, camphore...make up camphore..and go to somebody that made up moonshine, and get maybe a pint of moonshine and go to drug store and you could get a camphore <sup>block</sup> rock or whatever you put it in and that's what they used for stomach ache.

D.S.: Camphore...for stomach ache.

I.E.: Yea, that's what they used. For stomach ache. You had to rub it...I mean you couldn't take it, you had to rub it on the outside.

D.S.: Oh!

I.E.: You couldn't take it but you would rub it on the outside.

D.S.: Alright. Now how about kerosene and sugar for cough. Have you heard of that?



I.E.: Yea. Used that. Yea.

D.S.: Did your mother make onion and cornmeal plasters?

I.E.: They made mustard plasters. Mustard plasters.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

I.E.: And for a very deep cold I know they used that. But our family was a very healthy family.

D.S.: Well I think most of the people in the mountains were healthy ~~ly~~ weren't they?

I.E.: Yea. Most of our family was healthy. We had no problem with .. we'd maybe have a cold through the winter and that would be it. I had...one of my sisters had scarlet fever but other than just minor diseases...whooping cough or whatever.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh.

I.E.: So we was very fortunate. Health wise.

D.S.: You were. Yes. Well you never thought anything of walking a mile.

I.E.: No..uh in them days we would *in them days we would hoe* corn you know..that's the way we would plant our corn. We would plant it in rows. My daddy would go along with the horse and plow, and us kids or maybe the neighbors would come in and we'd go along and hoe it..hoe the weeds, out and pull it. We would work all day and it wasn't anything for us to walk maybe two miles to church that night. A group would get together..boys and girls and we could have a wonderful time. And then come back..the next morning we wasn't a bit tired. Go ahead and work it again.

D.S.: Sure.

I.E.: I think one time we walked clear to the furnace from back there. Clear to the furnace to Revival. Yea, but mostly when in *my* ~~our~~ days..church was our main pleasure.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Now I wanted to ask you about Christmas. How was Christmas celebrated? Did you do the Kris Kringlers?

I.E.: Yea, we would go out a lot of times and Kris Kringler. Go different places..that was a lot of fun. Yea, we'd put on old clothes and get maybe a paper bag and throw over our head...buy these faces...but, uh, yea we had some great times. And

sometimes we would have them come in our home...then you wasn't afraid to let people in, but now I would be afraid..somebody to come in their face covered up. They wouldn't come in my house.

D.S.: Sure. Yea. Right...

I.E.: But back in them days it wasn't any danger just a lot of fun.

D.S.: Uh, did you have..did you exchange any gifts at Christmas or <sup>not</sup> just

I.E.: No *we didn't* those times *was hard*.

D.S.: But you went to church?

I.E.: We went to church yea.

D.S.: Did you..how did you..did you shoot firecrackers?

I.E.: Yea. We shot some firecrackers. Um, but most of the people back in them days.. you see what they made through the summer...they used it through the winter... to live on...because it wasn't any work to be done in the winter. And really you wasn't too fortunate to have to much money to spend.

D.S.: Yea. Right.

I.E.: Uh, we would always get a gift and candy and oranges for Christmas. Just a little biddy gift and uh..I never will forget one time my two sisters got a doll baby. And they were just tickled to death because they got this dollbaby.

D.S.: Oh yes. Oh yes.

I.E.: But uh...after all we had what we needed. But we didn't have anything too much you know to splurge on.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. No. Uh, did you celebrate like Thanksgiving or any of those?

I.E.: Uh, most of the time we celebrated Thanksgiving with butchering. We would butcher. About that time.

D.S.: Oh, uhhuh. ~~Great~~. Okey, now, I'd like to know what you girls did to enjoy yourselves when you were little girls? What kind of toys did you have? Did you make your own..like rag dolls...or...

I.E.: Yea. We had rag dolls. And go out and make mud pies.

D.S.: Oh, yes, mud pies.

I.E.: Yes. And build us up a little house. You know with rocks..clean out a little place and put rocks all around it and fix <sup>our kitchen</sup> ~~it~~ up and then take well just any little old thing that we could play with you know..in them days you didn't have not toys, like everybody has..and we had our rag dolls, maybe stick horses or something that we would ride on. We would get together and *there was a group of us* and right above us *was* with another <sup>side</sup> family, *we got together* and you had a great time.

D.S.: Yea. The boys played marbles, I suppose.

I.E.: Yea, And jacks <sup>rock</sup> a lot. Well the girls did too...played jack rocks too..

D.S.: Oh jack rocks, of course. Sure. You mentioned the family that lived *near you.* *Did you do a lot of visiting* like inbetween where you lived and people in the next hollow or so on.

I.E.: Yea.

D.S.: You did?

I.E.: We did a lot of visiting. We would uh *it's real strange* ~~springs~~ now..take all day to get *work done* but then we would get up in the mornings and go to the neighbors houses in the evenings and us children would play with the other children while mother and dad and the older people sat and talked. And uh, then we'd come home in the evening time and cook supper. When we got ready to leave each family that you went to see .. there would be several of them there and they would walk each other half way home and then turn and go back. And they did that most every evening or two or three evenings a week. Unless you would be making maybe apple butter or be in the corn fields or something like that. It just looked like we had a lot of spare time that we don't have now.

D.S.: Yea. And there was a tremendous amount more of visiting. I don't understand why. But uh with...you know one of the things I wanted to know. Ironing and washing and so on. How did you do your laundry?

I.E.: Uh, with a scrubboard.

D.S.: Scrubboard?

I.E.: Uhhuh, we would wash you know and take an old scrubboard and we would have two washing tubs there..one to wash through the first water and then another washing there and then we'd put them over in the kettle and boil them in lye water and then take them out <sup>and</sup> wash them again and hang them up.

D.S.: And you made your own soap too.

I.E.: Made our own soap.

D.S.: Right. Um, have you heard that lye soap was good for poison Ivy?

I.E.: Oh yes. Uhhuh. We used it and still use it.

D.S.: You do. Do you make your own soap still.

I.E.: Well I don't make it, but a lady right up the road here makes it. She makes lye soap.

D.S.: Was it hard to make?

I.E.: No. It's not too hard to make. I have made it. But uh, I haven't made any for a good while.

D.S.: How would you go about making lye soap?

I.E.: Well uh, let's see. I think you start off with three gallons of water. And then maybe put..I don't know whether you put <sup>6</sup> lbs of grease in and you bring it..you cook it until it boils and it just depends on what grease you have. Now you can use meat...but this lye has got to <sup>boil up.</sup> be hot. Put your uh..believe <sup>three</sup> ~~two~~ pounds of lye...I believe I'm right, and then after she cooked it then you put in six gallons of water I believe and then just let it set. And then the next day you cut it out. *Put it in* Whatever you want to put it in. And it's just as firm and nice as can be.

D.S.: Well talking about hard work and that wasn't.

I.E.: No, that wasn't hard

D.S.: You were saying you dried apples and you dried beans...of course.

I.E.: Yea, we dried our beans. Uhhuh.

D.S.: Did you dry huckleberries?

I.E.: No, we never did dry no fruit...

D.S.: No cherries.

I.E.: No cherries..I mean we canned them. We would always can enough for the winter.

A lot..well we did dry apples...

D.S.: So it wasn't all work..uh you didn't have that many rocks there and yet, I bet you had stone fences didn't you?

I.E.: One...we had...I don't believe there was but one. And that was just across at the road. And that was...Well I imagine some of the earlier ones there had hauled these rocks off and piled them along the fence row.

D.S.: Had your father built your house?

I.E.: Oh, that house was already there. I think, I'm not sure but I think it belonged to my grandfather Hensley. And my granddaddy Breeden bought it and then we lived with..we always lived in with the grandmother. And of course I think she lived with us but we lived with her really until the park taken it. And then we moved out.

D.S.: How did the people feel about the Park coming in?

I.E.: ...very hurt.

D.S.: They were hurt.

I.E.: They were very hurt.

D.S.: Uh, did they like the new places that they were moved too.

I.E.: No, not many of them. Not many of them ever liked it.

D.S.: D<sup>o</sup> you know why. Was it because they didn't have their <sup>spring houses</sup> ~~free mountains~~ anymore.

I.E.: I think it was. It was because they didn't have..they couldn't raise the food, and a lot of the people back in the mountain would raise their food and bring it off and sell it in the valley. And I think that was a <sup>whole</sup> lot of it. But we always felt like we never did get out of our place what it was worth, in the first place.

D.S.: You don't recall what you got for it.

I.E.: It was around 3,000. I think is what we got.

D.S.: Do you know that is a lot in comparison to what other people got.

I.E.: Well I guess it was. I think...the best I can remember it was right around \$3,000 that we got.

D.S.: Was .. were your mother and father still alive...

I.E.: Uhuh.

D.S.: Where did they move?

I.E.: They moved well, right near the Park line again...he bought a place for \$2,000.

And they moved there..they lived there til all the children were grown. And then the homeplace was right up the road here. And that's where they died. Both of them. But it's just <sup>lots of</sup> ~~not the~~ people \_\_\_\_\_ that moved out of the park that I believe would have lived a lot longer. There is one man for instance I don't think he .. after he was moved out of the park .. I think he spent most of his time in bed after that. He uh, got this crippling arthritis and which he might have had it on the mountain I don't know, but it was a lot of exercise going up and down the hill you see. And I don't think he ever lived over a year or two years til he was down in bed. About thirteen years and he got crippling arthritis and they wasn't...I don't say that we was really hurt that much by moving out cause all of us children was grown <sup>there was</sup> .. only about three .. only about four that wasn't married. I really don't remember just how many...I wasn't married at the time when we moved out, but I married shortly afterward. And uh, but uh for us really we missed our spring and we didn't have our neighbors..and we really missed them. And then we had farther to go to church...for that one whole year <sup>Then some of the children that was going to</sup> ~~Sunday~~ School \_\_\_\_\_ walked from where we lived back to the school.

D.S.: None of you thought of going like into Ida or WolfeTown or..settlements... <sup>others</sup>

I.E.: No, not any of my family, but there was just lots of them did .. now there was this one man I was talking about...he went into Barbourville and there was a lot of them went to Scottville and <sup>Rock</sup> ~~Buck~~ingham County and different places around

over in there. And I don't think they were ever satisfied.

D.S.: Yea. You know it's a shame to have broken up the community as they did. Because you had all lived and worked so closely together.

I.E.: Uh,

D.S.: Uh, I know that living that closely together there were a lot of people that got married that maybe were second cousins and so on but you never saw anything that meant they weren't capable of handling themselves...

I.E.: I never saw anybody that was afflicted. Now I had an aunt that was afflicted but now that didn't come from close kin. Because my grandmother was an Eppard and my grandfather was a Meadows. And really I just don't know what kin they was but they wasn't that close kin. I don't know just why..well she knew everything but she couldn't talk. And she lived to be about sixty some years old. She just died two years ago. And she was able to help to do a little bit of work around but she just couldn't talk. And then I had a cousin that was crippled. But just why I really don't know. But uh, other than that most everybody was capable of what they did.

D.S.: And you don't believe that you are any kin to these Breedens that live down around Stanley.

I.E.: Uh, yes. Wesley Breeden now I'm kin to him. ~~But~~ he would be my second cousin.

D.S.: Oh, now that's what I'm trying to find out.

I.E.: Now wait a minute. He would be my first cousin.

D.S.: You don't look like him at all.

I.E.: He is my first cousin uh, half first cousins. But my grandfather was married twice. We don't have the same grandmother, but we have the same grandfather. You know Wesley Breeden?

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Yea.

I.E.: Yes, he's uh he would be my first cousin.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. So that was quite a distance...from Stanley up to here.

I.E.: Yea. Two of his brothers moved over on the other side of the mountain and two or three sisters moved over on the other side of the mountain. Down in Scottsville. Buckingham..down in there. He went from Stanley down in Ida down that way. But the others they went the other side of the mountain.

D.S.: Yea. Well is there anything you can think of. I have been doing all the questioning. And there must be some things that you have thought of that you would like to tell us about.

I.E.: Really about the only thing that I know..we was very happy in the park. We didn't have the convenience that we can have now, but we could have had..I think we could still have them if we was back up there. Because there is some people back there now and they have the same convenience that we have. It was just a little area that the park didn't take. They didn't take the **school**, they didn't take the church. We go back every Sunday to church yet.

D.S.: Yea. Well you don't know how I thank you. You having taken all this time to

I.E.: Well I hope I was a help...

D.S.: You certainly have, and don't forget that your children can go *and hear*  
*this any time they want to.*