

5-15-1979

(SNP060) Roy Harris interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Peggy C. Bradley

Roy Frank Harris

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Recommended Citation

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

NARRATOR: Mr. Roy R. Harris
INTERVIEWER: Mrs. Dorothy Smith
PLACE: Grottoes, Virginia
DATE: May 15th, 1979

Transcribed by:
Peggy C. Bradley

Completed Date:
March 15th, 1983

D.S.: We are interviewing Mr. Roy R. Harris, who presently lives in Grottoes. Where had you lived in the mountains, Mr. Harris?

R.H.: Browns Gap.

D.S.: Browns Gap.

R.H.: That's right off the park.

D.S.: That's right.

R.H.: I mean the Skyline.

D.S.: That's right, yes. How old were you when you left the Park? Left the mountains?

R.H.: I was about

MS.H.: Nineteen.

R.H.: Nineteen years old.

D.S.: O. K. What was your mother's maiden name?

R.H.: Emma Sipe.

D.S.: Sipe, S-i-p-e?

R.H.: Right.

D.S.: Were there many Sipes up there?

R.H.: No, she come from the Staunton area.

D.S.: I see.

R.H.: She wasn't raised in the mountain either.

D.S.: O. K. How did your father meet her?

R.H.: That I don't exactly know, ... where they met at.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yes. O. K. Ah, the house that you lived in, what kind of house was that?

R.H.: It was a six room frame house.

D.S.: Six rooms, now that was unusual, wasn't it?

R.H.: Well, we built the most of that house, my Dad did.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: His dad lived in a smaller house, years before that.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Now, when your father got married he built this house?

R.H.: We had a good house.

D.S.: Yea. Most of the houses, were they, what was most of the houses made of then?

R.H.: Well, some of them were log houses, some of them just shanties like.

D..S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: Several log houses in the mountain.

D.S.: Uhhuh, yes. Roughly, how much ... land did your father own?

R.H.: He had about fourty acres.

D.S.: Fourty acres? Was this land that his father had given him or

R.H.: He had a little of it probably his father given him, but he bought the most of it.....

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: off of John Driver. Paid fer it working back for him one dollar a day.

D.S.: Oh. What did John Driver do to have him work for him?

R.H.: He was, well, he was a farmer here in the valley, and it was to clean up grazing land. He put lots of cattle up there every year.

D.S.: So, around Browns Gap it was good grazing land?

R.H.: Oh yes, it was five or six hundred cattle in that area.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: *Patterson* had cattle in there, Stuart Crone had cattle in there, Gib Fulton had cattle, Dr. Kennedy had cattle, and lot, they all would drive them from here to the mountains in droves in the spring. And we would fix the fence up and salt them, for a lot of them.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Then, in other words you helped take care of these cattles in the summer.

R.H.: That's right.

D.S.: But you still owned your own property?

R.H.: Oh yes, we raised our own stuff.

D.S.: O. K. Now, were families large families?

R.H.: Ten of us.

D.S.: Ten in your family!

R.H.: That's right.

D.S.: Shu... were most of the families large like that?

R.H.: Well, the majority of them had good many kids.

D.S.: Yea. O. K. How near was your nearest neighbor?

R.H.: Ah, probably a mile and a half.

D.S.: That's quite a distance away, wasn't it?

R.H.: Well, over the hill, a mile and half.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: That was about the closest one, the others were several miles.

D.S.: Yea. Now the children. As you was growing up, ^{well} was you given special jobs to do?

R.H.: Well, in a way yes. We, otherwise, the only special job we had was bringing the cows in and milking them.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: One of us would go get them one morning, and another one another morning. One one evening and one another evening. We had to kind of round them up and bring them in, you see.

D.S.: Sure. How did you know your cattle from other cattle?

R.H.: Well, we had our property fenced.

D.S.: O. K.

R.H.: And most of the other farmers had their cattle branded.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: Like they do out west.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: They would have a C or a F, or whatever on their hoof, or a certain amount of splits in it each ear.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: One farmer would have maybe three splits in this cow ear, in the left ear, or maybe another farmer had two splits in their right ear of his cows. That's how they knew them apart, you see.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: The ones that didn't have theirs branded.

D.S.: Yes. Your cattle, your cows they didn't wander in with other cows?

R.H.: With other people's cows? No, they didn't.

D.S.: Did, did the other farms, did they let their cows go in with the cattle?

R.H.: No, No, they all had their farms fenced separately. The only way they would get out is when the fence would break down or some of them would naturally get out.

D.S.: What kind of fences?

R.H.: Barbed wire.

D.S.: O. K. That was a job to put around forty acres.

R.H.: Yes, but we had trees to put it all too, hardly had to plant any post.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. How many cows did you have?

R.H.: Well, we only kept about four cows of our own.

D.S.: That was a lot of cows.

R.H.: To milk, and to raise a few calves on. But through the summer season, the farmers would bring us milk cows when they would bring the herds to the valley, to the mountains. They would take a lot of calves off of them and let us milk the cows until that fall. We would milk fifteen to twenty cows during the summer season.

D.S.: What did you do with all that milk?

R.H.: Churn it in an old hand churn, ^{make butter out of it} feed the old sour milk to the hogs. Carry the butter to the store.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: We got fifteen cents a pound for it.

D.S.: That was a lot of money in those days.

R.H.: Yes, and that's what we got for chickens. We have carried young chickens and butter by hand, from where we lived to the Black Rock Spring, they had a hotel there. Carry live chickens and butter there and sell to that hotel. Three miles each way.

D.S.: O. K. I want to find out about that Black Rock Hotel, but first, I want to ask you again about, let's go on about You had all these cows, how many chickens did you have?

R.H.: Oh, we had probably anywhere from twenty-five to seventy-five, we would raise them through the summer, see.

D.S.: Did you ever do this, exchange some of your chicken eggs with other people, chicken eggs to improve your stock?

R.H.: No, we didn't. But we always traded corn and potatoes. We would get our seed corn from somebody else and get our seed potatoes, and they would get theirs from us.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: They claimed they would crop better.

D.S.: Yes.

R.H.: But we didn't exchange chickens, as well as I remember we didn't.

D.S.: Yes. Alright. How many hogs did you have?

R.H.: Ah, we usually butchered six to ten, most of the time eight to ten hogs a fall, any how.

D.S.: Did you sell any of the hams?

R.H.: No indeed, wouldn't no gold or no money bought them hams. We turned our hogs out, loose, we quite feeding them about the first of May and we didn't mess with them anymore until cold weather. They all run loose....

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: lived off acorns and chestnuts....

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: apples, stuff like that. We had a big apple orchard, a pretty good size one.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: And awful good meat, leanest meat you could get. Then we would bring them in and feed them corn about a month before we butchered them.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Now again, they stayed inside the fence?

R.H.: Well, not altogether, the hogs, they moved on other people's property too.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: They would go might near where they wanted to go.

D.S.: (Laughed) Yea.

R.H.: Everybody had a corn field or something like that away from home they all fenced it with rail fences.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: So the stock didn't bother them, see.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: And, we had lots of, we raised lots of stuff. We raised apples, we would put apples in the basement about fifty to seventy-five bushels a fall, I mean ^{in the} cellar. We had a big cement cellar, built back in the ground in the mountain. ~~of~~ all types of apples. Then we buried hundreds of heads of cabbages in the fall. We put about fifty to seventy-five bushels of potatoes away. See, it takes a whole lot to feed ^{ten} ~~ten~~ kids.

D.S.: (Laughed) Yea.

R.H.: When they are running around over that mountain.

D.S.: Right.

R.H.: We would have a smoke house hanging full of meat, you know, when we put it up. Right full every year.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: We made a good living, we didn't have any money, but we made a good living. A better living than I am making today.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: Fer as the eating line.

D.S.: Right. Now....., along with eating, did you ever eat any beef?

R.H.: Not much beef in the mountains, because we had no way to keep it. We didn't even have a refrigerator.

D.S.: Yea. You kept things in the spring house, right?

R.H.: We kept things, we had a wonderful spring house.

D.S.: Uhuh.

R.H.: And, we had a cement trough in it, we kept sitting full of milk all the time, and a lot of cold water ran right through it, you see, all the time. And we have, once in a time, we had to shovel under the snow from the house to

the spring house, we had to make a tunnel under it to get to it.

D.S.: (Laughed) Oh, no.

R.H.: I'm telling you nothing but the truth. Nothing but the truth.

D.S.: A tunnel?

R.H.: Well, you see, the wind swept it off them hill bad, you know, in the hollows.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: We had cars parked out there and you couldn't see one bit of them.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: And the snow would drift in the roads so bad we couldn't get out sometimes much as a month.

D.S.: Huh!

R.H.: We would ride horses in those drifts back and forth to break them loose, so they would thaw, you see.

D.S.: Yes. How many horses did you have?

R.H.: Well, we kept four horses, good horses.

D.S.: Now what did you use those for?

R.H.: We hauled material out here to the railroad track and sold it, such as locust post, tan bark,

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: telephone poles,

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: and extract wood.

D.S.: O. K. Ah, ... that was a good cash crop, wasn't it?

R.H.: Yea.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: And we would raise our buckwheat for pancakes and we would thrash them with poles, put it on rails and beat it out. The grain out and take it to the mill and have it ground.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Where was the mill?

R.H.: Well, we had to take the mill ..., the mill was in what we called Browns Cove. That was about ten miles from where we lived.

D.S.: Would you put it on the horse, then?

R.H.: Oh no, back, we had mill sacks. We would put it behind the saddle and take it horseback to the mill.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you pay the miller to do it, or did he take a part?

R.H.: Well, as I remember, he taken a part of it, some of it for grinding it.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Now, the Black Rock Hotel.

R.H.: Yea.

D.S.: How far away was that from you?

R.H.: That was three miles from where we lived.

D.S.: Oh, north, right?

R.H.: South.

D.S.: South?

R.H.: See, up here is Browns Gap, back here is Black Rock.

D.S.: O. K.

R.H.: So it was direct south.

D.S.: Now you would take eggs, hams?

R.H.: No hams.

D.S.: Butter?

R.H.: Eggs and chickens.

D.S.: Eggs, chickens, and butter?

R.H.: And butter.

D.S.: O. K.

R.H.: If what we carried weren't *butter*.

D.S.: And they would give you cash?

R.H.: Oh, yes.

D.S.: Alright. What was the hotel like?

R.H.: Well, it was a big hotel set up against a hill, it muster held thirty to fourty people, probably did.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: And people would come there and stay in the summer for their health, people had bad health.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: They had a sulfur water there. They claimed it was good for you. It is still there.

D.S.: Really!

R.H.: You can take a cup and dip it out the bottom of the spring, the sulfur stuff settled, settled in it that deep in the water, then got clear on top, you see. People would go there for the water.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea.

R.H.: And spend the summer. They had a bowling alley there too, and a

D.S.: Uhhuh. How would the people get there?

R.H.: Well, a lot of them would come by train here and go by horses from here up there, or a car, they had some old cars in them days, too.

D.S.: Sure.

R.H.: The first car we ever owned was a 1923.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: And I bought that from the same man I bought this one I got now from. He is still in business.

D.S.: (Laughed) For ..

R.H.: Paul Freed, in Waynesboro.

D.S.: Oh.

R.H.: He has been in business for ~~seventy~~ ^{fifty} years.

D.S.: I guess he is a pretty honest man.

R.H.: Yes, he is.

D.S.: This Black Rock Hotel, do you know how long it had been there?

R.H.: Really I don't.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: I really don't know how long it had been there, it stayed there until the Government taken it and they tore it down.

D.S.: Yes. It was wooden?

R.H.: Yes, that was frame too.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Had a big porch on it?

R.H.: Oh yes, a great big porch along the lower side of it.

D.S.: Uhhuh. And thirty people could stay there?

R.H.: Yes, at least, maybe more as well as I could remember, maybe more.

D.S.: Alright. Back to your life. Where did you get your supplies? Where was the nearest store?

R.H.: Well, I guess up here at Grottoes was just as near, about the same distance here as it was to Browns Cove. If we had to go to town we would come out and go on this train.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: If we wanted to go to Waynesboro

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: Charlottesville, or someplace like that.

D.S.: Yea. But, when you came to the stores to buy things, what would you buy?

R.H.: Welly, mostly oatmeal, sugar, coffee,

D.S.: Kerosene?

R.H.: Kerosene ..., and that type of stuff. We did ^{not} buy ~~much~~

D.S.: Did you pay cash?

R.H.: Oh, yea! Yes, we always paid for it.

D.S.: Because some people use to take things, exchange them, you know.

R.H.: Oh, sometimes we would sell some butter or eggs, or something to the merchants, you know. Paid that much on it, you know what I mean.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: What we had left and so forth.

D.S.: Would you walk down to the store?

R.H.: No, we come over here mostly on wagons.

D.S.: I see.

R.H.: That was in the very earliest days until we did get an old car then, you see.

D.S.: Uhhuh, right. O.K. Ah, your garden that you planted. How big a garden was it?

R.H.: Well, it was just a garden part, about a half an acre or better.

D.S.: And you planted buckwheat?

R.H.: Well, yea, but we didn't plant that in the garden. We use to raise it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: That was good for bees too. We always kept a lot of bees,

for honey, and that made good buckwheat cakes too.

D.S.: Yea, sure, yea. Um, sounds great. Ah, you raised cabbages?

R.H.: A lot of them. Mountain was a wonderful place for cabbages.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Tomatoes?

R.H.: Plenty of tomatoes, cucumbers, and all that stuff.

D.S.: Beets and turnips.

R.H.: Yea, just like we do now, fer as that. Only we didn't have to fertilize back there, the ground raised it without fertilizing.

D.S.: Was it very rocky?

R.H.: Some of it was rocky, some of it was no rocks at all.

D.S.: Did you take the rocks out and build a stone wall with them or just

R.H.: No, we aimed to pick places where we had our garden that wasn't any rocks much, and what was on there we got off. Throw them off. There are a lot of walls back there, but we didn't build them from the patches.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: Then we, my daddy, he would go up ^{the mountains} around close home there and he would fina a smooth rich place, we would put a little truck patch in that, you know.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you use the horses for plowing?

R.H.: Oh, yes.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: We used a single shovel plow, plowed one furr ^{row} at a time, and a horse. And we had a turn plow we turned the ground with, what they called a hillside plow, you don't see many of them anymore.

D.S.: That's right.

R.H.: When you plowed this a way, when you get to the end you would have to kick the hooker a loose and threw the mold board the other way and hook it back to go back.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: We didn't plow around like they do now.

D.S.: Yea, that's right.

R.H.: We cut the tops out of our corn when it gets about right. Right above the ear, and then we would pull a blade from there down off, just the corn blade, then we would tie them in bundles and then we would hang them back on the stalk and leave the ears of corn stick on the stalk. Hang the blades back on to cure, we'd keep them for the milk cows, they were wonderful feed.

D.S.: Oh.

R.H.: Then we go back later in the fall and pull that corn off. And sled it to the house and barn then we would have a big corn shucking. All the neighbors would come to help us shuck it.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: And the one who use to find the most red ears we would always give them a drink of brandy.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh.

R.H.: Bet you heard that?

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: But that's the truth.

D.S.: Sure.

R.H.: But they'd work good that way, you know.

D.S.: That was a lot of fun, wasn't it?

R.H.: Oh, it was. We had apple butter boilings.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: We'd make a kettle or two of applebutter every fall.

D.S.: Yes. Neighbors all get together for that?

R.H.: A lot of time they would hepe. My Mother would put up fifteen to twenty gallons of preserves in crocks. I'm not counting all the small jars and all of that, I am just counting the gallon crocks. Such as blackberries and raspberries.....

D.S.: Umm..

R.H.: And stuff, you see.

D.S.: With your applebutter boilings, Ah, did you do that in the evening or during the day or?

R.H.: It taken all day, you put it on early in the morning, it wpuld be night nearly when it got done.

D.S.: Sure.

R.H.: Ah, we have boiled it on up into the night.

D.S.: Yep. Did anybody play any music while you were doing this?

R.H.: Once in awhile.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did anybody dance or have any?

R.H.: No, not really. Not at the applebutter boilings. Some of them maybe did, but we didn't.

D.S.: Did, ah, did anybody bring any drinks?

R.H.: Oh, yes, they would always have something to drink.

D.S.: Uhhuh. If the paddle touched the side of the kettle what happened?

R.H.: Well, the paddle was suppose to go all way around the kettle, it is suppose to touch the kettle to keep the applebutter loose from sticking against it. The bottom too, you suppose to rub the bottom with the stirrer too.

D.S.: Yea. Did you ever put a penny in the bottom?

R.H.: Yes, we done that too.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yes.

R.H.: And a little butter if it trys to boil over.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. O. K. Now, Ah, you said people would get together for corn shuckings and for applebutter boilings, ah, did you ever have any dances or anything like that?

R.H.: Yes, we had dances on Saturday nights. A lot of time we would have dances, people would walk eight to ten miles to come to the dance.

D.S.: And you would have it in the houses?

R.H.: Have it in the house.

D.S.: Uhhuh. So you had fiddlers?

R.H.: Fiddlers and banjos.

D.S.: Can you remember any of the tunes they palayed?

R.H.: Ah, yes good many old tunes they played.

D.S.: Can you remember any?

R.H.: Ah, I don't exactly know. They played "Comin" Around The Mountain", or "*Soldier* Boy", or "Turkey In The Straw", different old songs.

D.S.: Yea. Do you ever hear "Money Mush"?

R.H.: I don't believe so.

D.S.: "Leather Breeches"?

R.H.: Yes, yes, they played that.

D.S.: O. K. Now, it was mainly square dancing that you did?

R.H.: Square dancing, old square dancing.

D.S.: Who was the caller?

R.H.: Well, my brother called some, Paul Harris, and ah, Kite Hall, he was a good fiddle caller, he come from up there Browns Cove.

He done most of the fiddle call.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: And a lot of people could do it, different ones.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: And Tom played the music.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Ms.H.: Jimmy Garrison.

R.H.: Yea. Jimmy Garrison, he was the banjo picker. He lived about two miles from us.

D.S.: Have you any ideal of where, how your family came to be in the mountain?

R.H.: Well, not really. Because my dad had been there all his life and his dad had been there all his life. It has been Harrises there for a couple hundred of years.

D.S.: Uhhuh, Yea. You don't know where they come from.

R.H.: I've got a nephew up here looked up a lot of that stuff, and he found way back where my great-grandfather was. I never knew anything about him at all. He, he is making a book on that old stuff.

D.S.: Great, because it, Harris sound~~e~~d thought it was English.

R.H.: They claim most of the Harrises left the mountain and went to Kentucky, way back in the old days. Not very many families ever stayed in the mountains.

R.H.: My daddy and his brother stayed in the mountains. Until he died, he lived about five or six miles from us.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: Is the only real Harrises that I knew where I was growing up was in the mountain.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea.

- R.H.: We had kin people, but around, some of the James were kin to him.
- D.S.: Ah, it was the custom until just about the Civil War that, ah, first cousins would marry in order to make sure of property, did, do you know of people that did that up there?
- R.H.: Well, I knew a couple of families that married first and second cousins, none of our family ~~never~~ did.
- D.S.: Uhhuh. There was always enough visiting around?
- R.H.: We didn't really go for that much.
- D.S.: Uhhuh. Those families did do it, did you know if it was any problems with any of the children?
- R.H.: No, I don't really remember of any. Some of the Garrison married kin, but
- D.S.: Uhhuh.
- R.H.: But I don't know of any problems of it. We never did do it.
- D.S.: Yea. Back when you ~~was~~^{were} a child, your mother told you to do something, did you always jump and do it?
- R.H.: I'd do it.
- D.S.: (Laughed)
- R.H.: That's more than I can say for them today.
- D.S.: (Laughed) Right. Did you ever think of things you wouldn't feel like doing it?
- R.H.: None, I can remember because we done mostly what they asked us, and I think, we was more, we listened much better to our parents than they do today.
- D.S.: Uhhuh. Yes.
- R.H.: Much better, I didn't have any problems with my parents.
- D.S.: Uhhuh.
- R.H.: I never remember having a really falling out with them.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: Neither one of them. Some of the kids did, but I never did.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: I got around that someway or another.

D.S.: Uhhuh. How about visiting. Did you, was there a lot of visiting or not?

R.H.: Yes, right much.

D.S.: Was there any special days you would do it?

R.H.: Mostly Sundays.

D.S.: Sundays.

R.H.: We would walk for miles to our friends house, then they would come by us and we would go to somebody's else. They would come to ours.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Did you have much time to play games?

R.H.: Not much, we didn't play many games in the mountains. We mostly roamed around.

D.S.: Yes. Played marbles?

R.H.: Oh yes, we played marbles.

D.S.: Picked horse shoes?

R.H.: Horse shoes, yea, we always pitched horse shoes.

D.S.: Sure. Ah, when you visited people, if they were busy doing something, what, did they stop doing it?

R.H.: They would quit~~h~~ and always made you take a lunch, weather it was lunch time or not.

D.S.: Yea, Uhhuh.

R.H.: You never got away until you ate.

D.S.: Oh, great, Yea.

D.S.: How about school?

R.H.: That, I was afraid you would come to that. That's what hurt the mountain people, I guess more than anything else.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: All the school we had when I was growing up at my age was just three months, summer school.

D.S.: And you ~~was~~^{were} busy in the summer??

R.H.: Yea, we still had to go to school three months, and walked three or four miles each way to that.

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

R.H.: No, well, yes, one big room.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: And the school teacher roomed with us.

D.S.: Oh.

R.H.: And she is still living, believe it or not.

D.S.: She is?

R.H.: Miss Lottie Moffette, she come from Boonsville. The last I heard from her about a year ago, she was in a nursing home in Charlottesville.

D.S.: Oh, my goodness.

R.H.: She rode a horse up there, we kept her horse and she stayed, she roomed with us.

Ms.H. I thought she came from Free Union.

R.H.: Well, I believe Free, I said Boonsville, well, that's close together.

Ms.H.: Well, it is all on there.

R.H.: But all the girls left home and went away and stayed for school, with some of the people. But they needed us boys at home right much, so we didn't get a chance to get as much education.

D.S.: Uhhuh. How far did the school go? How many grades?

R.H.: Oh, it went to about the eighth.

D.S.: What was taught?

R.H.: Ah, I don't remember anymore much. Just different things.

D.S.: Reading?

R.H.: Reading, writting.

D.S.: Arithmetic?

R.H.: Arithmetic, about the same as, I reckon, they do now.

D.S.: History?

R.H.: Huh?

D.S.: History?

R.H.: Not much history.

D.S.: Geography?

R.H.: Not much.

D.S.: Spelling?

R.H.: Yes, spelling.

D.S.: Did you have spelling bees?

R.H.: Yes.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you like them?

R.H.: No, I never did do very good in school.

D.S.: AH! (Laughed)

R.H.: I always like the school teacher too well, and she would always let me get by too easy. I looked after her old horse and tended for it for her all the time.

D.S.: (Laughed) Three months in the summer?

R.H.: That's right. See it was so rough up there you couldn't get to school any in the winter

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: even if they had school.

D.S.: Yea. Yea.

R.H.: The school board from Charlottesville sent her up there to teach through the summer.

D.S.: Uhhuh, yea. So she was there for all your eight grades.

R.H.: Yes, she was there up to the eighth grade.

D.S.: Uhhuh. And you went through eighth grade?

R.H.: No, I didn't. I never got any further than fifth.

D.S.: Uhhuh. I would think that was pretty normal, wasn't it?

R.H.: Yes, they had it, a lot of them didn't ~~go~~ none, you know, a lot of kids didn't. It was, that was the biggest mistake, I guess, our parents made, but back in that day and time schooling didn't mount to what it does today.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: What people done for a living then didn't require much schooling.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: We didn't know these times were ever coming, I guess, the old people didn't.

D.S.: Sure. Uhhuh.

R.H.: That was the worstest part about living in the mountain, was school.....

D.S.: Yep.

R.H.: of all. We had more to eat, than, we was just as well off money as anybody. Women didn't worry about the furniture in the house, when they went someplace and saw another woman had something they didn't go back home and say they had to have it.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: They were satisfied with what they had. And that a good way to live.

D.S.: By the way, was your furniture handmade or was it purchased?

R.H.: Well, it was mostly purchased. It wasn't much of our stuff handmade, we had some old stuff. I use to didn't think we had twenty-five dollars worth in the house.

D.S.: Yes.

R.H.: Now it would bring enough to furnish a dandy house, you know.

D.S.: Yes.

R.H.: We had old walnuts dressers, walnuts beds, and all that stuff, you know. Old brass tea kettles, all that stuff, you know, would be worth a whole lot now.

D.S.: Yea. How about your clothes, did your mother make your clothes?

R.H.: They made some of them, we bought some of them.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Your shoes, did you have metal

R.H.: Heel plates? Lot of them did. And we use to use these big head tacks in our shoes to walk in the winter on ice. They had tacks with a round sharp head on them.

D.S.: Yes.

R.H.: You drove your shoes right full of them, you could stand up good on them.

D.S.: What would it do to the floors of the house?

R.H.: That didn't hurt no wooden floor, that was all in the house, just wooden floors.

D.S.: Shu! (Laughed) O. K.

MS.H.: Scrub it twice a week with lye water.

D.S.: Yea. Right.

R.H.: That's they way she kept it clean, and she kept it clean, too.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: We didn't have no money, but we had plenty water, we were all clean.

D.S.: She made her own soap?

R.H.: Made her own soap.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: Washed all the clothes by hand.....

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: for all us kids, churned all that butter, we would help sometime churn butter, skim all that milk, the cream off of it every morning, then would come to the fields and work with us a couple hours and then go back and finish dinner.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: Ask a woman to do that today she would drop dead. (Laughed)

D.S.: Sure. What would be a typical dinner?

R.H.: Huh?

D.S.: What would be a typical dinner?

R.H.: You mean what we would have?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: Well we mostly have meat, beans, potatoes, kraut, or **biscuits**, or hoecakes, we made a lot of hoecakes them days.

D.S.: Yes, Ashcakes?

R.H.: Well, not many. We didn't go for that much, some old peple made a lot ashcakes in the fireplaces. But I don't remember us making ashcakes.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: Because we had a big, great big cookstove, and we had meat three times a day, all the time. We would have cabbage, beans, tomatoes, just like other people eat, really.

D.S.: Better.

R.H.: More too, I reckon.

D.S.: Yea.

D.S.: Did you all string beans to dry them?

R.H.: We string beans and dried them.

D.S.: Would you hang them around?

R.H.: We would lay them on a sheet on the roof.

D.S.: Oh.

R.H.: And apples the same way.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: Dried apples, I use to hate them things, now I wish I had some of them.

D.S.: Well, they were good dried.

R.H.: Oh, I know, but I didn't like them when I was young, at all.

D.S.: Oh boy, they made the best pies.

R.H.: Yep.

D.S.: How about cherries?

R.H.: Well, we picked a lot of cherries, we had a lot of cherries at home, but can them for pies

D.S.: But didn't dry any?

R.H.: preserves. We didn't dry cherries.

D.S.: Did you dry huckleberries?

R.H.: No we didn't.

D.S.: Did you pick them?

R.H.: Oh, yes, we picked them.

D.S.: And would you sell those or eat them?

R.H.: Well we would sell some huckleberries and we would sell some blackberries.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Do you recall what you got for those?

R.H.: Well, I think about twenty-five cents a gallon.

D.S.: Hey, that was good!

R.H.: Yea, I know it was. Huckleberries, it would take a long time to pick a gallon of huckleberries.

D.S.: Did you ever, or know of people that started fires to make sure they would have huckleberries?

R.H.: Well, the people use to burn the ground for huckleberries, yes.

D.S.: Sure, it has been proven that really works.

R.H.: Yea, it will, yea, they will grow where it has been burnt. So will blackberries and raspberries.

D.S.: Sure.

R.H.: Good many of them will come on burnt ground.

D.S.: Yea. Hey, speaking of selling things, did you ever catch rabbits and sell them?

R.H.: Oh yes, bring them out here at the store and sell them whole just like we killed them. Take the intrals out of them. We would get fifteen cents a piece for them.

D.S.: You were robbed!

R.H.: That's what we'd get for them.

D.S.: I know some got twenty-five cents.

R.H.: The store right up here at the corner use to buy them from us and give us fifteen cents. He had a room he kept them all hanging up in until he let someone else have them. Hang them up like we taken them there.

D.S.: Would you set traps for them or how would you catch them?

R.H.: Rabbit boxes, mostly.

D.S.: Rabbit boxes. Did you catch, did you hunt anything else?

R.H.: Ah yes, we hunted coons.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: Me and my ~~Dad~~ caught lots of coons. Coon hides back in them days bought a good price.

D.S.: It did?

R.H.: A coon didn't have a chance then. You'd get eight, ten, twelve dollars for a coon hide.

D.S.: Shu!

R.H.: We'd hunt them, we would cut a tree down four or five foot big to get him.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: We had to have it.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: Coon hides was higher then than they have been sine until the last year or two.

D.S.: Did you eat the coon?

R.H.: We have eat coon, I've eat coon, not many,, I've, we have eat coon. I've eat groundhog too.

D.S.: I've heard they were good.

R.H.: I've eat groundhog, coon, squirrels

D.S.: Uhhuh, yea.

R.H.: rabbits.

D.S.: Were they soaked over night in salt?

R.H.: Soak them in strong salt water, coons or a groundhog either. We only eat young groundhogs. Young groundhogs.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. How about moonshine. Were there people around that made much of that?

R.H.: Yea, it was right much of it made.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Were they in any particular hollows that you know of, that did it?

R.H.: Well, fact lot of people made a little moonshine back then, most of the places.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: It was one way of getting a little money, see.

D.S.: That's right. More pratical than carrying a whole barrel of apples. (Laughed) Sure. But, you don't know any particular people that did do it?

R.H.: Oh yes, I know some that done it.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did they ever end up in fights?

R.H.: Hardly ever. They didn't have much trouble back in there them days. Now and then you would find a bad guy. It was, maybe, one or two families back there that wasn't too good, but they mostly fight each other. They didn't tell nobody else about their trouble.

D.S.: Yea. Whhuh. Were they mainly moonshiners.

R.H.: Yes, they made moonshine.

D.S.: Yes, and probably it was because, well, they were jealeous he made a lot of moonshine and jealeousy on that part.

R.H.: Well, we made some too.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: We made some too.

D.S.: Was it a lot of work?

R.H.: No, it wasn't a lot of work and I never thought nobody that stole anything would made it. I never did see no harm in it. The Government is making it now and selling it to us.

D.S.: (Laughed) Right. Right.

R.H.: We bought our sugar and paid for it, bought our grain paid for it.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: We didn't steal nothing, that was one thing people wasn't much about doing in them days.

D.S.: Right.

R.H.: Or take anything that didn't belong to them.

D.S.: Yea, ~~that's~~ right, it wasn't. Did you have a lock on your door?

R.H.: On the house? Never locked it. Truth, I never hardly lock this one. I go away and hardly ever touch the house.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Ah, church?

R.H.: We went to church some.

D.S.: How far away was the church?

R.H.: Ah, the church was five or six miles from where I lived.

D.S.: Uhhuh. That was a distance.

R.H.: That was over in Sugar Hollow. Brethern church was the only church up in there.

D.S.: Yea. Ah, did they use the minister for weddings?

R.H.: Yea.

D.S.: Would they go to the church or would he go to the homes?

R.H.: Well, I don't remember too much exactly about that. Well, both, I guess it worked both ways.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: I guess some of them went to the church and some of them didn't.

D.S.: How about for a funeral?

R.H.: Well, we had a preacher for funerals.

D.S.: Did they, ah, keep the body in the home until it was time to bury it?

R.H.: That's right. We kept it in the home until it was buried and sometimes you would have to carry the corpse a couple of miles to the grave yard.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Were they family grave yards?

R.H.: Most of them. We had a family grave yard not more than a couple hundred yards from the house.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you use monuments, did buy monumentss, or did you use rocks?

R.H.: Mostly rocks, some stones.

D.S.: Would you write on them?

R.H.: Yea. There are some stones in there. There are monuments in most of the grave yards up there.

D.S.: Did they make the caskets or buy them?

R.H.: They bought them.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: I don't know where anymore, but they bought them. I don't remember making any.

D.S.: Yea. Did you know what the most frequent cause of death was?

R.H.: In them days?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: I don't know. Something simple to us now. The people had a lot of heart attacks in them days, and some of them would have sugar, and high blood pressure

D.S.: Diptheria?

R.H.: and diptheria, lot of people had measles, they didn't kill many people, pneumonia, but I don't remember, as well as I remember, not many having cancer in them days.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: If they did, they didn't know it. That's what I'm afraid of, people always had them they didn't have the stuff to find out if you had them or didn't have them.

D.S.: Yea. They would just say something was wrong with them and was failing.

R.H.: That's right.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: People did eat a little bit more purer food than they do now. It wasn't mixed up with as much cholesterol and stuff as it has now, I don't think.

D.S.: Do you remember or recall any medicine or herbs your mother would use like if you got a cold, what would she give you?

R.H.: Well, if we had very much chest cold they would always rub us with camphor. And we would take worm medicine and cator oil and so on, stuff like that for other problems.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: Wasn't any aspirin I knowed anything about.

D.S.: How about turpentine and sugar?

R.H.: Turpentine with sugar

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: that was for worms

D.S.: Oh, that was for worms.

R.H.: Yea, if kids had worms they would give them a spoonful of sugar and a couple drops of turpentine and that would get rid of it.

D.S.: Oh, Uhhuh.

R.H.: Right away.

D.S.: Ah, did you ever hear of any othr herbs that she would use? Do you recall any?

R.H.: No, I

D.S.: So much, we, that we have lost, not using those herbs.

R.H.: Yes.

D.S.: Because they were good.

R.H.: Well, as .., I don't remember. We didn't use herbs much.

D.S.: Sassafras tea?

R.H.: Yes, we drink that many a times, oh, yes.

Mostly get that in the spring of the year.

D.S.: Yea.

Ms.H.: They just dranked that because they liked it.

R.H.: And we use to dig ginseng and sell it too. Wished I had some of that too now, it is one hundred fourty dollars a pound.

D.S.: Yea. You never used ginseng though?

R.H.: No, we never used it, it is good for medicine.

D.S.: Uhhuh, yea. Ah yarrow, did you use yarrow or any of those?

R.H.: No.

D.S.: Peppermint tea?

R.H.: Peppermint tea, we had that.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: Sweet mint and peppermint, two kinds of it.

D.S.: Uhhuh, yea. Ah, how was Christmas celebrated?

R.H.: Well, very poor. (Laughed) We would always have a big dinner..., a big time, but we didn't get a whole lot for Christmas.

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

R.H.: What?

D.S.: The Kriss Kringlers?

R.H.: I don't know exactly what you mean?

D.S.: Oh, that was a custom they had around Elkton, of Miss Kringlers.

R.H.: No, I don't remember anything about it.

D.S.: O. K.

R.H.: We would all put our stockings, we'd take our stockings and put them up, you know.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: Then we would get a orange, a apple, maybe a little cap pistol and a little candy in it. That was about it.

D.S.: Did you shoot off fire crackers?

R.H.: Oh yes, we had plenty of firecrackers.

D.S.: Sure. You did a lot of visiting, I suppose?

R.H.: Yes.

D.S.: Uhhuh, and had a big meal?

R.H.: Oh, yes.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you ever celebrate Easter, Thanksgiving, or Fourth of July?

R.H.: Yes, we mostly all come over here at Grand Caverns on the Fourth of July.

D.S.: Oh yes, and what would go on there?

R.H.: Oh, they would have a big to-do there, people would come up from Roanoke and scurry would run, a train load of people. They would have a big thing over there, all kind of stuff, something like a little carnival or something, you know.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: And we would save our money all year to come over here and if I had seventy-five cents I thought I was in pretty good shape.

D.S.: Sure.

R.H.: We would fill a wagon bed up full of straw and all us kids would fill it up.

D.S.: (Laughed) Yea.

R.H.: This whole bottom over here would be full of wagons and horses and buggies.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: Where they got it right now. They got a hold of that now they would've made a nice place out of that now.

D.S.: Sure, yea.

R.H.: Since that Park Service got a hold of it.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: But it had went to nothing.

D.S.: Yes, I know it.

R.H.: We would come out for the Fourth of July mostly.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Ah, how about practical jokes, did any of you played practical jokes on each other?

R.H.: Yea, right many.

D.S.: Can you think of any you did?

R.H.: (Laughed) Different kinds, but I don't remember any more what they were about. Put frogs in bed with people, we tied their legs together and throwed them to the sheep, so they couldn't get away.

D.S.: (Laughed)

Ms.H.: How about that cow manure you put on that man's biscuit.

R.H.: We didn't tell that to her?

Ms.H. Sure, I'm telling it.

D.S.: On some of his biscuits? (Laughed)

MS.H.: Tell it all why you are telling it, I heard you tell the kids.

D.S.: (Laughed) Why not tell it. Was it a man visiting?

R.H.: It was an old man that had cattle up there. Us kids watching him eat, we always had plenty to eat, but he had different stuff and he never would give us any of it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: But one day he left the buggy, we taken one of his apple-butter sandwiches and racked it off and put cow manure on it and wrapped it back up like it were. And he came back and bit into it before he knew it. We didn't gain nothing, he just went on down to the house and ate dinner with our daddy.

(All laughed)

R.H.: That's about the meanest trick, I guess, we could have done.

(All laughed)

R.H.: We thought that was one way of getting even with him, you see.

(All laughed)

MS.H.: I had to tell that one on him.

R.H.: I wasn't going to tell that.

D.S.: (Laughing) That was a beautiful story.

R.H.: I'm ashamed of that any how.

D.S.: (Laughing) Oh, come on! How about ghost stories, did you ever sit around and tell ghost stories?

R.H.: Not much.

MS.H.: How about that old house where y'all went down there where many were dancing and were playing.

*end of
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R.H.: I know We visited an old empty deserted house one time, a bunch of us. It was nothing in it but a solid room, so when we come back down we heard as many people up there as when we were up there. And we all about run ourself to death to get home.

D.S.: (Laughed)

R.H.: (Laughed) And we didn't even look back. We never did know where it come from or how it ever happen, and we really heard them. Five or six of us, they were dancing and carrying on just like we were. They always did tell us that old house was hainted, but we didn't believe it. And it was no other way into that house, just a big room upstairs and steps went up from down here, wasn't no closets anybody could have been hid in.

D.S.: That's a good one.

R.H.: It scared us to death, we run and run,

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: on the way home.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: And jack-my-lanterns, we use to see a lot of jack-my-lanterns in the mountains. Don't see many of them any-more.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: Use to sit on the porch after a rain and just follow each other just like kids playing with lights at nights.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: One would run after the other all around in them fields.

D.S.: Huh!

R.H.: We would see them lite on the horses ears and just run all over the horses ears, as we were coming in at night. Just light their ears up, just like fire on the horse's ears.

D.S.: Wonder what it was?

R.H.: I never did know what it was. Some people said it was ore in the ground, some says one thing, some says another, you know. I've heard a lot of preachers and different people speak of jack-my-lanterns, but noone knows what they are.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh.

R.H.: No, they don't know what they are. But, I've seen my dad take a switch and like wipe them off the horse's ear and they just run back, see they don't hurt anything.

D.S.: Did it bother the horses?

R.H.: No, he didn't even know they were on him, I guess.

D.S.: No heat from it at all?

R.H.: No, didn't know they were on there, no heat to it.

D.S.: Huh! Speaking of that, did you ever know about any iron mines or ore mines up there?

R.H.: No, I didn't. It's a few old coal hearths back in there where they burnt coal, wood to make coal out of.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: But, I don't know where in ^{Owassa} ~~Erie~~, where we lived, of any iron mines or anything.

D.S.: O. K. Yea. Now you had to cut these logs, you said, and make ties, made railroad ties out of them.

R.H.: Yes, we'd make them too.

D.S.: And, first you'd peel the bark?

R.H.: We peeled that bark, that all went to Elkton to the tannery, to tan leather with.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: We just sawed the tree down, take the bark off, and let the tree lay.

D.S.: Ah.

R.H.: If it was a good tree, we sometimes used it for a railroad tie.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: And we would cut locust post, and we hauled a lot of telephone poles out, the whole long pole. We had to put a trailer along behind your wagon to haul them.

D.S.: Yea. Right. It was a lot of work to doing that, wasn't it?

R.H.: Yes. Then one year we got a contract to make these cross pieces goes on telephone poles.

D.S.: Oh, yes.

R.H.: Where they put these balls on. Locust, so we didn't have to cut them but four feet long. And we made a good bit of money off of that.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: We hauled that out here and loaded railroad cars with it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: Up here.

D.S.: Yea. Do you recall how much your father got for taking care of the cattle that ^{were} ~~was~~ up there?

R.H.: Well, he probably didn't get much, they'd probably, maybe, give him twenty-five dollars, a season.

D.S.: Well he had to keep the brush down?

R.H.: No, we didn't fool with the brush, the cattle mostly kept it clean.

D.S.: Oh.

R.H.: We had to keep the fences fixed and salt them, we salted them every couple weeks. We would take salt out on the horses and pour it on top of them big rock and that

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: They would lick them rocks, you know.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. How about doctors. If somebody was very sick was there a doctor that would come up there?

R.H.: Yes, we had a doctor in Grottoes use to come up there. We had to come after him, but he would come most of the time. Dr. Whistler, and he would stay a couple of days when he come. Of course he would get plenty to eat.

D.S.: (Laughed) Did he come by horseback?

R.H.: Some, mostly buggy.

D.S.: Oh. Uhhuh.

R.H.: He had a buggy.

D.S.: Yea. Ah, did they use doctors or midwives for babies?

R.H.: Well, lots of midwives.

D.S.: Uhhuh. They were good.

R.H.: Back in them days.

D.S.: Yea. Were you, aware of the flu epidemic in 1917?

R.H.: No, see I wasn't

D.S.: You ~~was~~^{were} too young then.

R.H.: very young then.

D.S.: Ah, I was just wondering about, Now, how about when the park said it was going to take over Ah, did you join the CCC?

R.H.: No, I wasn't in the CC.

D.S.: Why?

R.H.: I never could get in. I tried once or twice, they had a camp right up here.

D.S.: Sure.

MS.H.: Roy, you was married.

R.H.: I know I was married! Then they mostly taken younger boys, but we still tried to get in it. Remember ?

MS.H.; Yea, but they didn't take married people?

R.H.: It was some in it that was married. I don't But I helped to do a little surveying for the park when it come in there.

D.S.: Oh, Uhhuh.

R.H.: Helped them, you know, to survey some of the land.

D.S.: Yea. How did you feel about it?

R.H.: Well, I didn't really care much. But it sure did hurt my daddy a lot. He never was the same anymore after he had to leave from there.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea.

R.H.: And, I got a job helping to build that Skyland, driving a truck, well, I got a job as watchman. And, he had moved, they had done made him move out of the mountain, so he begged me and begged me to try to get him a job up there, so I got him a job up there as a night watchman. So, I taken a job of driving a truck and gave him my job.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: So, he come back to Browns Gap where he left from, and my mother too. They had a little shanty on runners and he watched the equipment. Every time they moved a mile, they would pull this shanty on. Went from up here on to Elkton,

That way he was up there a year or more.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: As a night watchman.....

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: ... for them.

D.S.: Yea. In other words, they didn't relocate him, they didn't give him a home?

R.H.: Oh, no, ... no.

MS.H.: He bought a home over the mountain.

R.H.: He bought it, the park didn't give him anything.

MS.H.: They paid him for the ground and he bought him a home over the mountain. Over there at.....

R.H.: At Stonney Point, I know that! But they didn't give it to him, they just bought his place.

MS.H.: Well, yes.

R.H.: Give him about half what it was worth.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

MS.H.: Oh! You would never have given him enough for it. (Laughed)

D.S.: How many, you said you had lots and lots of kinds of apples. I don't want to brush over that lightly. How many kind of apples did you have?

R.H.: Lord! It will take me a good while to tell you, really what I can think of.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: We had a Strawberry apple, we had a Sheep Nose apple, we had a Limber-twig tree, we had a Northern ^{sp}apple, we had a Smokehouse apple.

D.S.: Huh.

R.H.: And we had two or three different types of Winesap apples, we had a big sweet apple, great big apples. We just had all kinds of apples. Kinds you can't even find or hear of anymore.

D.S.: Did you or your father knew how to do grafting?

R.H.: Oh yes, oh yes, we trimmed them up. The Northern Spies were a wonderful apple and the Smokehouse was a good apple for pies.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: Then we had Yorks, called them Jonathans them days, and Winesaps, Limber-twigs, something like that to put in the cellar for winter. ~~Boiling, boiling~~ ^{Baldwin} apples, a big apple.

D.S.: How about Milams?

R.H.: We had milams, plenty of them. I could ~~have~~ ^{forget} get them, you see.

D.S.: Yea. How many, roughly how many acres of orchards was there?

R.H.: Well, we probably had five acres.

D.S.: (Whistled)!

R.H.: Something like that in apple trees. We sold some apples.

D.S.: Yes, I should think so. Golly.

MS.H.: Use to sell cabbages by the wagon loads. Haul it to

R.H.: Me and my Mother taken a load of cabbage to Waynesboro by horse and wagon, taken two days. We got ten cents a head for them, they weighed ten pounds a head or better. Hauled them right to Waynesboro, had to spend the night each way.

D.S.: Oh, my goodness.

- R.H.: Oh, we taken a couple hundred of heads up there.
- D.S.: Those were tremendous cabbages then.
- R.H.: Oh, he..., he has raised cabbages up there that has weighed fifteen to eighteen pounds, any how.
- D.S.: Huh.
- MR.H.: That ground was good suitable ground for cabbage.
- D.S.: Yea.
- MS.H.: We use to always haul them out there to Grottoes to sell.
- R.H.: We had about every year. Everybody said they were sweeter than their's, better, would come back there for them, and stuff like that.
- D.S.: And, of course, then your mother made sauerkraut.
- R.H.: Made a half of barrel of sauerkraut each fall.
- D.S.: Huh, and the rest ..., where would you keep the rest of them during the winter?
- R.H.: In a cellar.
- D.S.: In the cellar?
- R.H.: We had a big cellar built back in the ground, cement sides, walls on it, and had ^{beans} in there ^{and} ~~for~~ the apples.
- D.S.: And the cabbage, and turnips, and potatoes?
- R.H.: The cabbage we would bury them outside.
- D.S.: O. K., that's what I was wondering. Did you dig a trench?
- R.H.: No, we just set the cabbage on ^{top} the ground with the head down and the root up
- D.S.: Yea.
- R.H.: If you dig a trench too much water gets in then, you got to keep them up. Then throw dirt on top of them after you set them on the ground.
- D.S.: Oh.

R.H.: See, if you dig a trench to put something in, it would draw too much water ... In the trench.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: We just set them level on the ground and then put a little straw or bark, or something over them and cover with dirt. And they would keep all winter.

D.S.: Turnips the same way?

R.H.: Turnips same way, bury turnips too. But we mostly put potatoes in the cellar.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: Oh, might be a few bushels to keep from growing out anything, so they would keep on up in the summer.

D.S.: Yea. Sure. Now, in the spring you would exchange your potatoes with a neighbor.

R.H.: That's right, and seed corn too.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh.

R.H.: They claim it done better, now I don't know what, and if it is really anything to that or not.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Sure.

R.H.: But, they claim it did.

D.S.: Sure. Well, that's still the custom, I know. Great. I was wondering, there must be more things you can tell me.

R.H.: Well, you can't think of everything, you know, you think of it later.

MS.H.: You had chicken coops up there, you had a cider mill up there. What else?

D.S.: A cider mill?

R.H.: Oh, we made lots of cider.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: And, we had a chicken coop factory there, made chicken coops. And a sawmill, too.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: Sawed lumber.

D.S.: Yes. Was this a moveable sawmill?

R.H.: Yes, you could move it from, you know, one place to another, was a right smart job, wasn't as easy as you can now, but you can move tem. But the sawmill really didn't belong to us. We had a lot of stuff cut and sawed there, but it belonged to anothr man out here at Grottoes.

D.S.: Yes. Did anybody in your family, were they cobblers or blacksmiths? How did you get your horses shod and your feet shod? (Laughed)

R.H.: Well, they had blacksmith shops out here, mostly in Grottoes, two colored men, had two blacksmith shops here.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: And we fixed our own shoes.

D.S.: Yes.

R.H.: We had a last and staff and put our own soles and stuff on our shoes.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: And we use to make molasses, homemade too.

D.S.: Yes, then you raised cane, too.

R.H.: We raised cane, too.

D.S.: Uhhuh. He looks like the kind to raise cane, doesn't he? (Laughed) I bet you really whirrled about at those *dances*

R.H.: Make cane, you made molasses with

D.S.: Yes.

R.H.: Bet you don't see anymore of it, do you?

D.S.: Well, it's not, they claim it's the same, but it is not the same. It's the sorghum, it is not as good as it use to be.

R.H.: No, it's not exactly the same, I know that. You can buy it here and yonder.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Right. Ah, friends. Did you have any particular childhood friends when you ~~was~~^{were} growing up? With so many brothers and sister, I guess you didn't need them, did you?

R.H.: Well, we, not particular, really, we had some families, we liked playing with boys I enjoyed playing with more than others.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: But, not really particular, we got along good with, we would all play together from house to house.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: We didn't have any trouble.

MS.H.: It was always somebody else up there staying with all, beside the family mostly.

R.H.: We didn't get into any ~~meanest~~. *Miannus*

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: When we was growing up.

D.S.: Yea. You know, before the park took over, tourist was beginning to come in.

R.H.: Yea, some.

D.S.: What was your reaction to them?

R.H.: Well, all of them we ever had, we see, any thing, we were always very friendly with them. My dad always like company. He would be, he was friendly with anybody, and help them in

anyway he could, he really would.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. When you knew the park was coming in, ~~was~~ *were* you happy about it or upset?

R.H.: Well, I really didn't mind seeing it come, because I thought it was time for us to move any how.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: He didn't, older people didn't want it at all, under no circumstances. But, us young generation, we had been out here, too, a good bit, you know. We really didn't care too much.

D.S.: Had you given any thought to what you wanted to be when you grew up?

R.H.: Not really.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: Not really, at all.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: None of us had no real good trade, wasn't nothing in them days to learn a good trade on.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: All we knew how to do was work.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: But, we've got along alright.

D.S.: Sure. Did you buy newspapers when you came into town?

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

D.S.: Yea. So how did you know what was going on?

R.H.: I think we would be better off right today, if we didn't know what was going on. Just like we didn't in that day and time.

D.S.: (Laughed)

R.H.: I really do.

D.S.: (Laughed) You're right.

R.H.: I watch this news and stuff over this television till it gets me so confussed about it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: One will say one thing, one will say something another, and half of it never gets done. I don't know if we weren't better off not knowing what is going on.

D.S.: Right. But the people did know that the Civil War was going on.

R.H.: Oh, yes, they knew about them things. You'd find out from somebody, somewhere, someway. Maybe some of them did get a paper, I don't know.

D.S.: Do you know any of them in your family that went in the war?

R.H.: No, I don't.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: No, I don't.

D.S.: No. Alright.

R.H.: Didn't none of my brothers go, and well, my Dad's people, I don't know if any of them was in it or not.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. I wished you knew how your father had met

D.S.: your mother.

R.H.: I really don't know, maybe some of the girls might know, but I don't. I never did know just where they met at.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: I'm sure some of the older girls would know.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Well, I have certainly picked your brain.

I appreciate this more than you know. But, I'm going to do ..

.... this is a song written by Mr. Harris' father, unfortunately I cannot sing it, so I'll read it. It is called: "Blue Ridge Mountain~~will~~"

I've spent my days in the Blue Ridge Hills,
Where I couldn't hear nothing but the whippoorwills,
There the lightning gave such a beautiful sight.,
I could hardly tell when it grew night.
But, now I'm down in this lowland,
Where the water is warm, and the land all poor.

Mr. Harris, would you mind repeating for me, the story you was telling me about the Polystons. You said there was four little houses.

R.H.: Four little small houses, just had a path from one of them to another, and they had a path on to walk out for miles before you could get to any kind of transportation. They carried their stuff in there on their backs.

D.S.: Did they have a garden?

R.H.: Not as I remember them raising anything.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did they have any horses?

R.H.: No horses.

D.S.: No cows?

R.H.: No cows.

D.S.: Well tell about your mother with the milk.

R.H.: Oh, give them the milk. They carried all the milk that they drank and used from our house in jugs. One right after the other every day, they all would come for milk.

D.S.: And your mother just gave it to them?

R.H.: Yes, she just gave it to them, the milk. They lived very poorly, they could have lived as well as anybody else in

the mountains did, but they didn't go for it. They didn't get out and work like other people did.

D.S.: Can you account for any reason?

R.H.: Not really ..., not really. I, they all, after they left the mountain, they seem to streighten up, most of them. Two of them are still living, all of the others are dead. There was six boys down there.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Could it have been that, ah, the original one didn't know how to do anything, so had no?

R.H.: Probably just followed his foot steps and they didn't really own any of it, they just built houses down there any how. It was never their land.

D.S.: Well, they just couldn't live off of just milk.

R.H.: No, they got other things some ways, but I don't know just how any more. As far as any of them going out to work, I don't remember any of them doing any work.

D.S.: Uhhuh. That's strange.

R.H.: Probably raised a little something somewhere. They ...

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: they used corn..

D.S.: Could it have been too close a marriages?

R.H.: Huh?

D.S.: Could it have been marrying too closely?

R.H.: No, they didn't ever none of them ever get married while they were up there. They didn't even have a father, that I knew of.

D.S.: Oh! Uhhuh.

R.H.: These old ladies had these boys and I didn't , I was very young, I really never knew by who. (Laughed)

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: But, it never was nobody to look after them.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Well, then the park coming in was a good thing for them.

R.H.: That's right. That's right.

D.S.: Right. Well, Thank-you very, very much.

R.H.: You don't know why some people want to live that way. But we will find a few yet today that don't care much either.

D.S.: That's right.

R.H.: If they make anything they throw it all away as soon as they get it.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Mrs. Harris, you got on the phone to find out how his father met his mother, did you?

MS.H.: No, she is like me, she just thought that was the way, she wasn't sure.

D.S.: Yes, Uhhuh.

MS.H.: That she had gone there to work.

D.S.: Oh, one question, I meant to ask. Did your mother raise flowers?

R.H.: Some. Some flowers. We, she would have lots of flowers during the summer, she didn't keep many during the winter.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: Wasn't heated proper for them.

D.S.: Do you recall any of the plants that she had?

R.H.: Not really.

D.S.: Lilac?

R.H.: Lilacs and roses, lots of rose bushes.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: She liked flowers.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea.

MS.H.: She had a lot of Black-eye Susans.

R.H.: Yea.

MS.H.: Always let them grow.

D.S.: And kept the seeds then.

R.H.: She lived until she was eighty-three, she finished up living up the road here a couple of miles. She was healthy until just up to a very few days before she died. Waited on herself.

D.S.: Well, don't you think all that outdoor living and all that exercise that everybody did make them healthy?

R.H.: Well, I do indeed! I do, it kept people from getting so fat, kept the calories burnt out of you.

D.S.: (Laughed)

R.H.: I saw her saw logs with a cross cut saw as well as a man.

D.S.: Yea. Yep.

R.H.: And, she worked hard, she done more work in a week than a woman does now in a month.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: Easy she done very much more.

D.S.: Yes.

R.H.: Women just couldn't do that anymore, they couldn't stand it.

D.S.: Huh-Un.

R.H.: And, we had wind just like a deer, we could run up them hills, one, from the bottom to the top. It was nothing for us to run a mile up hill, not a thing.

D.S.: (Laughed) Yea.

R.H.: We was raised to it, from little on up, you see.

D.S.: Yea, right.

R.H.: No, we could run from the house to the top of that mountain on that road not even stopping.

D.S.: Very, very

R.H.: Strong. And much, and you didn't see ever medicine cabinet sitting full of medicines either, like you do now.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: You can go to night near any house you want to and you can find all kind of pills that somebody in that family is taking.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: Only pill I ever seen was a dose of worm medicine and Castor Oil. (Laughed).....

D.S.: (Laughed) Yea.

R.H.: ever once in awhile. Eat a big piece of fat meat cooked in ~~colored~~ ^{collard} beans and anything we wanted, all of us wanted, and we didn't gain an ounce, because we would run and burn it all out.

D.S.: Yea.

R.H.: Now you lay around the house and want a bite of this or a bite of that.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Well, the worst is snack foods.

R.H.: I don't deserve living, raised in the mountain, living in the mountain. We, like I said, we didn't have much money, but we had more to eat since I have moved out.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

R.H.: The year round, one of us ever went hungry. We never had to go dirty, we always stayed clean and had decent stuff to wear.

D.S.: Well, I think that is a beautiful story you have given us, Mr. Harris, and I sure appreciate it.

R.H.: Well, there is a lot of things, you know you can't remember this, that, and another.

D.S.: I know.