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(SNP098) Sattie Mundy interviewed by Amanda Moody, transcribed by Peggy C. Bradley, updated by Mark S. Purington

Sattie D. Mundy

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM  
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

NARRATOR: Mrs. Sally Mundy  
INTERVIEWER: Amanda Moody  
PLACE: Port Republic, Virginia  
DATE: August 18, 1978

TRANSCRIBED BY:  
Peggy C. Bradley  
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A.M.: I'm at the home of - Mrs. Mundy?

S.M.: Sally Mundy.

A.M.: In Port Republic. And you worked at the Black Rock Springs Hotel?

S.M.: I was a child. I was a small child when we was at Black Rock Springs.

A.M.: Uh-huh. About when was that?

S.M.: Nineteen and - from '98 maybe to - to 102 to the next turn around. I can't talk so you'll have to excuse me. I mean I can't get myself straightened out.

A.M.: So, it was even before 1903?

S.M.: My father and his brother owned one lot. And they had a cabin - I guess two rooms upstairs and two down for bedrooms. And then they had a big long shed kitchen that run the length of the whole house. And the road come up the hill this way -

A.M.: Yes.

S.M.: .... and here was the cabin back here. It was up off the ground, you know, way up.

A.M.: Uh-huh. So it was like on stilts almost?

S.M.: Uh-huh. And that's where they - they had their horses. I can't tell you how they got 'em back there. They had their horses tethered in along the backside of the cabins.

A.M.: So, there wasn't a stable there at that time?

S.M.: No. No. They just tied 'em to a bush or a stake or what have you.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: And then, that was the lower row. And then up on the other ridge, the houses was - was up in front.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: They was on stakes in front -

A.M.: Oh, I see.

S.M.: .... now, I don't know too much about what they did at the back. I can't tell you that because I didn't go up there. It's jest my imagination kindly of that row.

We lived on the lower row.

A.M.: Yes. Well, then, did the houses all face out?

S.M.: They faced - like this is the middle and they all faced to this.

A.M.: Oh, they faced in.

S.M.: Yeah.

A.M.: And they -

S.M.: At the upper part and the lower part.

A.M.: I see. So the stilt portion would have been on the front of the cabin?

S.M.: No. Yeah.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: Of the upper ones.

A.M.: Right. That's very interesting. Now, there was a hotel there, also, wasn't there?

S.M.: Yeah. Then the hotel was down - I can't hardly tell you how. There was a whole row - oh, I don't know how many houses - maybe fifteen or twenty -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... on the upper part and on the lower part. And then, there was a space in here just to walk on or steps or what have you. And then here was the hotel. And then up at this end - let's see - I've kinda got lost.

A.M.: Was there a bowling alley at the other end?

S.M.: That's what I wanted. The bowling alley, then, was up at the other end - different end from the hotel.

A.M.: Right.



S.M.: And then the springs set in kinda that away at the - at the upper part.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: There was three springs. There was one small one and two bigger - two larger ones. They was walled up -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... like they used to wall up the springs and set back in the bank. And, then there was a big platform there close to the springs. And they had a long trough that all the - all the people that lived there brought their milk, their butter or their fruit or what have you, and put it in containers in that trough of water.

A.M.: Oh, I see.

S.M.: And that preserved it -

A.M.: Really?

S.M.: .... 'til they could get it used.

A.M.: Uh-huh. That's interesting.

S.M.: And then - I was talking about the ten pin alley, but I reckon I got that mixed up. That was on the - on the - oh, maybe south side. I can't tell you just exactly which.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: And I helped to set up ten pins.

A.M.: Oh.

S.M.: Another - Herman Hudlow was there. He was older than I was. But, some way or other, we paired off and set up the ten pins for 'em.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: And we got ten cents an hour -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... fer doin' that.

A.M.: From the Black Rocks Springs Company?

S.M.: From the patrons that was there. From the company that was there.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Right. Did people pay to play ten pins there?

S.M.: Well, I don't know where our pay come from. We got ten cent to set up the ten pins.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: Now, whether there was any more charged then that, I couldn't tell you.

A.M.: That's interesting.

S.M.: And then - maybe I'm ready to go on to tell you about the Round House.

There was a section in here that there wasn't no buildings or anything. This was the upper and that was the lower. And then around about the middle was a Round House. I don't know whether you ever seen a Round House or not.

A.M.: I've seen a picture of the one at Black Rock.

S.M.: Well, anyhow, if I've got it right, there was a big kettle set right in the middle of that Round House.

A.M.: My goodness.

S.M.: Wasn't nothin' in it.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: And then around the edge all around was a seat that you could set on and chatter or just talk or rest or whatever.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Did they ever have music there or anything in the Round House?

S.M.: No. No., there wasn't no music there -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... as well as I can remember.

A.M.: So, was there grass all around the Round House there and sort of open?

S.M.: Well, it was rocky a good bit.

A.M.: Rocky.

S.M.: I couldn't tell you jest about the grass. It was shrubs. There was small -  
what would you call 'em?

Mrs. B.: Bushes.

S.M.: Bushes.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: Around.

A.M.: Yeah.

S.M.: And -

A.M.: No trees though?

S.M.: No.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: Well, now, I don't know about that. There was some larger trees, I guess.  
And they cleaned off most of the underneath part. But, it was all fixed  
so you could go here or yon.

A.M.: Were there paths going from the Round House to the cabins?

S.M.: A road. It was a - well, I reckon it was a path in there because the horse  
and buggy didn't get in on that part. And it was a path you might say -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... jest wore down from walking on it.

A.M.: Where did the path go?

S.M.: In between the cottages.

A.M.: I see.

S.M.: The hotel down here and the springs up here -

A.M.: Right.

S.M.: .... and then they'd go from here to yon.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: One road come down from above and then the other from -

A.M.: Yeah.

S.M.: .... from -

A.M.: Maybe we could draw a little map. Let's see.

Mrs.B.: How about those steps?

S.M.: Huh?

Mrs.B.: Those steps.

A.M.: Let's see.

Mrs.B.: You want a pen?

A.M.: I've got one. Here we go.

So, like this is the lower row, right?

S.M.: Yeah. That's all right.

A.M.: And the hotel would be here?

S.M.: Yeah.

A.M.: O.k. And then, would the cabins be like along here?

S.M.: Yeah.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: And back here then would be where they'd tie the horses.

A.M.: Oh, I see.

S.M.: Uh-huh.

A.M.: Right. O.k.

S.M.: You see, it went on a level in the front. And then in the back, it was way up off the ground.

A.M.: Yeah.

S.M.: And that's where they put their horses, then.

A.M.: Yeah. Now, the bowling alley would have been down here? The ten pin alley?

S.M.: That's different from the hotel, you know.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: Yeah. The bowling alley would have been there. And then the springs, I would imagine, would be in that section.

A.M.: O.k.

S.M.: And, then, there was steps - it was - the springs was up higher than the other part. And there was maybe two rows of steps, oh, far as from here - how far would it have been?

A.M.: The steps went to the spring?

S.M.: Yeah.

A.M.: Oh.

S.M.: Yeah. The springs was on more of a hill then the other part.

A.M.: Right. Was there a little road going from here up to the springs?

S.M.: Jest a path.

A.M.: A path.

S.M.: Uh-huh.

A.M.: And then there was steps along that path?

S.M.: Yeah.

Mrs.B.: You said it was two rows of steps, wasn't it? Two.

A.M.: Two rows of steps. Yeah.

S.M.: Yeah. Two rows of steps.

A.M.: Now, did people go to the spring to get drinking water?

S.M.: Well, they'd go - there was a place they'd set along the edge there -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... of the platforms. And they'd set there and chatter or whatever.

A.M.: That was like a main spring. You said there were three.

S.M.: They was in a row. They was jest like that.

A.M.: Oh. All the springs were together.

S.M.: Uh-huh.

A.M.: And the steps went to the area where all the springs were.

S.M.: Yeah. The steps then come up from this lower part.

A.M.: I see. Was there a spring over here near the ten pin alley?

S.M.: No.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: No. It was jest the three springs right there together.

A.M.: And they got their water and they kept their butter and eggs in there?

S.M.: Uh-huh.

A.M.: Did they use the water for any kind of illnesses or did they say it cured things?

S.M.: Nothing that I know of but jest to drink and to use.

A.M.: Uh-huh. What color was the water?

S.M.: Well, it was jest water.

A.M.: Just plain colored?

S.M.: I don't think there would be any - it was clear -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... as far as I remember.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: And if I remember right, it had little bubbles in it along as it trickled down or run out of the spring.

A.M.: How'd it taste?

S.M.: Well, jest like water.

A.M.: It wasn't special.. And the Round House would have been in the middle here?

S.M.: Yeah.

A.M.: And then, the other row of cabins, were they above the springs -

S.M.: Yeah.

A.M.: .... or below the springs?

S.M.: They was on this side. Over on -

A.M.: Up above the springs.

S.M.: Yeah.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: You see, you got it lengthwise here.

A.M.: Right.

S.M.: And that was the -

A.M.: It goes like this.

S.M.: Yeah.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: That's the way it set.

A.M.: And so they would have stilts sort of in the front?

S.M.: They would be built up in front.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: And, then I don't know what they done about the horses at the back. I jest can't picture that in my mind. They kept 'em there close.

A.M.: Now, there was a big flat rock over here?

S.M.: Yeah.

A.M.: A slippery rock?

S.M.: That was in the road that we drove over. The horses didn't like to walk on that rock.

A.M.: I can imagine. That's a slippery place. I've been there.

S.M.: They were afraid. But, they shod their horses, you know. They had shoes on 'em all along and they wasn't afraid - they could walk on the rock without slippin'.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: So, they had to drive over that rock either way they went - at the upper road or the lower road.

A.M.: Yeah. Well, did the road circle around?

S.M.: Yeah. The road come around in front of the buildings.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: That built in front here and went on around up there.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Now, was there another road above that road?

S.M.: Well, that went on across the mountain or what have you. There wasn't anything else that connected with the springs more than jest to go on across -

A.M.: Yeah.

S.M.: .... somewhere else.

A.M.: O.k. Now, I have some pictures of a building, and I'm not sure what the building is. I don't know if you'd remember that building.

S.M.: Where was that taken?

A.M.: Well, it was supposed to be Black Rock. Black Rock Hotel somewhere. But, I don't know when. You can see there's a hill going down this way.

S.M.: Yeah.

A.M.: And these are supposed to be the - some cottages. That looks something like that you said was built up on stilts.

S.M.: Yeah.

Mrs.B.: Can you see those?

S.M.: Pretty good.

A.M.: Now, that looks like after there was a big fire there.

S.M.: Yeah. I thought maybe I might recognize some of the people, but I don't know them.

Now, I don't know which is which. I don't know whether this would be the hotel or whether that would be - I jest don't know about that. It jest don't register right.

Mrs.B.: There's one on this side. Look on this side, Grandmother.

A.M.: Yeah. There's another one. The same thing.

S.M.: Well, I guess they had a porch at the - a lower and a upper porch for the upstairs. I don't know now, that's gettin' jest a little bit too deep fer me.

A.M.: Yeah. That was a long time ago.

S.M.: I didn't pay attention to that, you know, then. I didn't try to keep it



in memory.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Well, now, this could have been another time than when you were there, too. I haven't got any dates on -

S.M.: Not necessarily. We were there and away and back again visiting. We'd go in the summertime, you know.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: And the families would load up their vehicle with vegetables and go and stay two weeks. And then they'd leave and somebody else would come in the cabin then.

A.M.: Oh, I see. So - did your father like own a cabin with some other people?

S.M.: Yeah. He owned a cabin with his brother.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: And then after it begin to break up after Mr. Miller - Bob Miller - I can't tell you what the trouble was, but they had trouble, and Bob Miller put a wire fence up so they couldn't get over on him or something. I can't tell you just how that was. And they cut the fence. And that made more trouble. Then they cut off the flow of the spring. And they dug - just practically dug the whole hill up to find the source of the spring -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... to come in to route it somewhere else where they could get to it to use it.

A.M.: Now, when did Bob Miller come in?

S.M.: He was in from the first as fer as I know. He was one of the big men -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... like my dad -

A.M.: Right.

S.M.: Not big men. I mean what owned the cottages.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: I don't know where he lived when he was there. I can see the ten pin alley, but I don't know where he - where his cottage was.

A.M.: Could he have been above the upper row of cottages way up on top of the hill there?

S.M.: No. He was close to the - the hotel was close to the lower part -

A.M.: Right.

S.M.: .... over - that's the spring and then his ten pin alley was back this way some way.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

Mrs.B.: He had identical what the company had, didn't he? Didn't you tell me?

S.M.: Yeah. Yeah. It was jest like the other ten pin alley.

A.M.: Uh-huh. So -

S.M.: And, I don't remember about the company ten pin alley right at that time, because we catered more to Mr. Bob Miller because he was one of the landholders, you know.

A.M.: Right. When you set ten pins, which one did you work in? The Miller -

S.M.: The Miller one.

A.M.: In Miller's?

S.M.: Uh-huh.

A.M.: And, did he have any kind of hotel building or boarding house or -

S.M.: Maybe a boarding house. Maybe one of them pictures -

A.M.: Would be the boarding house?

S.M.: .... would be where they stayed -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... at night. And then they'd ramble around outside and walk up and down the path and what have you fer exercise.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Well, what was the problem between Bob Miller and the Black Rock Springs Company? Do you have any idea?

S.M.: Well, they wanted - seemed like Bob Miller kindly got ahead of 'em - got ahead of the company.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: And they didn't like that. And they wanted to cut him off.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Who had the water on their property? The springs? Was that on the company?

S.M.: That was - it belonged to the company. The whole part, you know. Cabins on both sides.

A.M.: Right.

S.M.: They'd go to the springs for their water.

A.M.: So, how did Bob Miller get water?

S.M.: Well, he didn't until he dug above the springs and that's when they cut off the water to the main springs.

A.M.: So he cut off the water?

S.M.: Uh-huh.

A.M.: Now, he built the fence?

S.M.: Yeah.

A.M.: Was that to keep people off his property?

S.M.: The others - the company built the fence -

A.M.: Oh, the company built the fence.

S.M.: .... to keep 'em on their side. They didn't want them to -

A.M.: Well, maybe they wanted to keep him from the water?

S.M.: That's what they was up to.

A.M.: I see.

S.M.: I can't tell you jest exactly what there - where the trouble stemmed, but - I just couldn't tell you about that.

A.M.: Now, who cut the fence?

S.M.: My sister fer one.

A.M.: Oh, my goodness.

S.M.: Uh-huh. And two other girls - Annabell Yates and Fanny Miller were the other two girls that cut the fence at night. And, I reckon Mr. Miller furnished the pliers -

A.M.: Oh. Now, we're gettin' somewhere.

S.M.: .... to cut the fence.

A.M.: Uh-huh. And he didn't like the fence, I guess.

S.M.: No. He didn't want to be shut off.

A.M.: Uh-huh. And so what happened after he cut the fence or they cut the fence?

S.M.: Well -

A.M.: Did anybody find out about it?

S.M.: .... that jest caused more trouble. And then from that on - from that time on, it went down. They didn't bother it much after they tore up the springs.

A.M.: Did anybody -

S.M.: People didn't go like they did before.

A.M.: \*Cause it spoiled the springs.

S.M.: Uh-huh.

A.M.: Did anybody blow anything up? I heard there was dynamiting.

S.M.: Well, they did. They dynamited up to- above the line to find the water. They wanted to find where the spring water come in from.

A.M.: So this was Miller trying to get the water on his property.

S.M.: Uh-huh.

A.M.: So he blew it up in order to -

S.M.: Yeah.

A.M.: .... find the source of the water.

S.M.: Uh-huh. Just blew the whole hill up. It was a mess.

A.M.: Oh my goodness. Well, what did people like your father do when all this happened? Didn't they -

S.M.: Well, it wasn't much they could do. They wasn't - there wasn't anything to back 'em.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: I don't know who they bought the property from. I can't tell you about that.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: And - they jest kinda backed out. There wasn't nothing they could do. They couldn't get no hold of anything. Seemed like it - they hadn't started it with a foundation to -

A.M.: Yeah.

S.M.: .... make it legal -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... if I might say.

A.M.: So, if they lost, everybody took their own loss.

S.M.: Sure. It was their loss. They never got anything out of it.

Mrs.B.: Well, would their land still be up there today?

S.M.: Huh?

Mr.B. : Sure.

Mrs.B.: Would they still have owned that up there today?

A.M.: Well, the Park has it now.

Mrs.B.: I see.

Mr.B.: Maybe that's the reason for all those springs. They dynamited it all up maybe it come out - you know -

S.M.: Yeah. From different places.

A.M.: That's a possibility.

Mr.B.: Maybe that's where some of them big holes -

A.M.: Yeah. There's a big ditch up there. Huge thing and springs all around it.

S.M.: Uh-huh. That could be part of the springs.

A.M.: Gee, that's interesting.

Mrs. B.: How about picking the berries, Momma? Picking the berries?

S.M.: Well, the men would go out in the brush and pick huckleberries and bring 'em to the cabin. And the women would can 'em right there.

A.M.: Right there in the hotel?

Mrs. B.: Blackberries, too.

A.M.: Blackberries.

S.M.: Huckleberries.

A.M.: Huckleberries.

S.M.: Uh-huh. And they would can 'em mostly in half gallon cans. They used big cans. Most of 'em had big families.

A.M.: Yeah. And the whole family would stay up there?

S.M.: Not all at one time.

A.M.: I see.

S.M.: There'd have to be somebody, you know, to take care of the farm.

A.M.: Yes.

S.M.: They were all farmers -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... practically. And they would be somebody that would have to stay at the farm and do things. And the family would divide up and different ones go.

A.M.: Right. So people would be coming and going.

S.M.: Uh-huh.

A.M.: Did they have a store up there to get any -

S.M.: Yeah.

A.M.: .... supplies and groceries?

S.M.: Uh-huh. Yeah.

A.M.: Who ran the store? Was that Miller or the company?

S.M.: Well, now, I don't know about that. I don't know. I couldn't tell you

about that.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: We just went to the store, and that's all I can tell you about that.

A.M.: Right. Was there a post office at the hotel?

S.M.: Well, I guess mail came in and that would have been at the hotel.

A.M.: Yeah. And did they have dances?

S.M.: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

A.M.: Where were the dances?

S.M.: On the lower floor of the hotel. And, I remember one time that I sat and watched 'em dance. And I just loved to see 'em. They just danced around so pretty.

S.M.: What kind of dancing was it?

S.M.: Now, I couldn't tell you about that. I didn't know much about dancing then.

A.M.: Was that - so, the first floor of the hotel was like a ballroom?

S.M.: Well, it was jest like the picture you got there. It was -

A.M.: Maybe they'd be dancing somewhere in here on this first floor?

S.M.: Uh-huh. Yeah. Yeah.

A.M.: And did they have a dining room there, too?

S.M.: Yes, I believe they did.

A.M.: Uh-huh. And what would be on the top?

S.M.: How did you get ahold of the pictures? Where -

A.M.: Some naturalist who worked in the Park before I did, got them from some people down here. I'm not sure what their names were.

S.M.: Yeah. Well, you see, I was jest real young and I didn't store up knowledge.

A.M.: Well, you certainly remember a lot. You remember more than anybody I've talked to.

S.M.: Well, after I begin to talk about it, it come to me a little bit more.

A.M.: Yeah.

Mrs.B.: Well, you didn't tell her your sister's name was Dora Good.

S.M.: Yeah.

Mrs.B.: That would be using those three ladies - Dora Good was one of them. It was her sister.

A.M.: Yeah.

Mrs.B.: That cut the fence.

A.M.: Yeah. We got Fannie Miller.

Mrs.B.: Fannie and who else? Fannie Miller -

S.M.: Yeah, I know, but I can't -

Mrs.B.: .... and Dora Good. And who was the other one?

S.M.: Annabelle Yates.

Mrs.B.: Oh.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: She worked for the - my dad's brother-worked in the home. You know, everybody had a hired girl at that time.

A.M.: Oh, I see.

S.M.: And she worked in the home and that's where she lived then, with the - with Uncle Dan's family.

A.M.: Dan?

S.M.: Dan Good.

A.M.: Dan Good.

S.M.: Uh-huh. And then the Thomas - Thomas Cline -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... and the John Lam were cousins to the other men and the children.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: And they didn't have - that's mentioned in the -



A.M.: In the deed.

S.M.: Uh-huh. And whether they owned part of it or put in their bid, I can't tell you about that.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

Mrs.B.: Tell her the Will Long story.

S.M.: What?

Mrs.B.: Tell her the Will Long story. The lemon.

S.M.: Oh, there was folks come in, you know. Some was real close and preserved everthing. Taken care of everthing.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: And there was - one woman was real conservative and some way or another, she got ahold of a little lemon. It was almost dried up, you know. And, she - her mother was there and she said, "Maw," said, "what we gonna do with this lemon?" And jest come over that and over it again, that was her way of doing. And jest argued about the lemon. What they should do with the lemon. You know, one lemon wouldn't make much lemonade. So that was as far as I know about that. But, we always catered to that kind, you know, as a joke.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: And say, "Well, Maw, what must I do with this.

Can you think of anything else?

Mrs.B.: Ice houses. Did they have some ice houses?

S.M.: No. I don't know anything about any ice around at that time.

Mrs.B.: They just kept their stuff in the spring then?

S.M.: Yeah. They had big long troughs -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... she's already got that. They had a big long trough that people had

their section, you know, and it didn't anybody else set their crocks or cans or what have you - they kept - they had milk and they had cream and they had butter and pickle and what have you.

A.M.: Oh, my goodness.

Mr.B.: Did they let Miller put his in there, too?

S.M.: I don't know about that. That was before it begin to tear up.

A.M.: Yeah.

S.M.: There wasn't much done after they begin to tear it up.

A.M.: Do you have any idea when the business with the fence and the fence getting cut and digging up the spring - do you know when all that happened?

S.M.: Well, it was three or four - nineteen and maybe two or three.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: Somewhere along there.

A.M.: Gee. Was there a fire, do you remember?

S.M.: What?

A.M.: Was there a fire one year that burned everything down?

S.M.: Yes, there was. I was married at that time and lived at Port Republic. And we could see the blaze of the fire.

A.M.: From Port Republic?

S.M.: Where we lived. And it was fire on the mountain, you know. They fought but they didn't keep it away from the buildings. So the whole business went.

A.M.: Everything. Was anything spared?

S.M.: No. Not that I know of.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Was that the fire of 1909?

S.M.; That was the final windup of it.

A.M.; Was that 1909?

S.M.: I don't know. I can't tell you.

Mrs.B.: No. You were married in -

S.M.: It was between two and three and five.

Mrs.B.: No. You were married in 1912, Momma.

S.M.: Huh?

Mrs.B.: You said you were married -

S.M.: Oh, yeah.

Mrs.B.: .... in 1912.

S.M.: Twelve. All right.

Mrs.B.: And you were living at Port then.

S.M.: Well, I've been living there - 1913 -

Mrs.B.: It had to be -

S.M.: But, it wasn't used in the meantime. In between that and - they couldn't make up their mind to agree enough to get there to have leisure anymore.

A.M.: So, it really was going out of use after 1903?

S.M.: Uh-huh. Yeah.

A.M.: And people didn't go up there very much?

S.M.: Not but very little. After it was divided. They didn't - after the fence was put up and made the big trouble, then people didn't go to either side. Bob Miller's side or the other either.

A.M.: Did people go up to Black Rock from the springs? That place where you could climb on the rocks and see out?

S.M.: Uh-huh.

A.M.: How did they get up there?

S.M.: Well, there was a path -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... as good as I can tell you. And, if you watched what you was adoin,

you wouldn't get lost. But, we got off the track one time. And we just had to cut across the mountain.

A.M.: Well, wasn't it steep cutting across?

S.M.: We crawled over logs, and we had long dresses on. Iris and Vada - his aunt and my brother.

Mr.B.: I've walked that path from the rocks down to the spring.

S.M.: And, Casper Hinkle was with me - had taken us - we drove in the horse and buggy. And as far as I know, there wasn't anybody - wasn't anybody around there then. But, they still liked to go to see the situation of it. And, that was, of course, before it burned.

A.M.: Uh-huh. So, even after people weren't going to the springs, they were still coming up -

S.M.: Sure.

A.M.: .... and looking around.

S.M.: They'd go there and look around. It was a beautiful place.

A.M.: When you would go from the springs to the rocks, was it all cleared out from - was it logged off or was it trees grown up?

S.M.: No, it was jest a path through the mountain - what would you call it?

Mrs.B.: Trail.

S.M.: Trail.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Were there trees along the trail or was it logs?

S.M.: Oh my, yeah. Yeah. There was trees down and trees up and brush that you had to scoot around.

A.M.: And, did people mark their initials on the rocks or anything?

S.M.: Well, they did, yeah. After they got up to the rocks, they'd mark there.

The last time I was there, there was a little concern fixed to cover a memoriam. What would you call it? Where they'd write their name there and the date and where they was from, and what have you. That was a place at the Black Rocks. That was after the spring was destroyed.

A.M.: Right.

S.M.: After that part. But, I reckon maybe people still go there, don't they?

A.M.: Oh yes. I've been there.

S.M.: Uh-huh. You have?

A.M.: Yeah.

S.M.: You've been to the rocks?

A.M.: Yes.

S.M.: Yeah.

A.M.: Yes. We take hikes up there. It's very pretty. Of course, there's rattle snakes up there. Did you ever see snakes up there?

S.M.: I don't remember any, but I think they did one time when they was scootin' around.

A.M.: Yeah.

S.M.: Later on. Way later on.

A.M.: Right.

S.M.: I don't remember what kind of snake it was. Do you remember? You remember anything about the snake that you seen that Sunday?

Mr.B.: I don't know. A snake's a snake.

A.M.: Yeah.

Mrs.B.: You see, Mamma was born in '90, so she would have been fourteen - you'd abeen fourteen when you were settin' up those ten pins, weren't you? About?

A.M.: Maybe younger than that.

Mrs.B.: Maybe younger than that.

S.M.: No, I wouldn't abeen fourteen. I'd been more -

Mrs.B.: 1904. Yeah, she was - ten and four is fourteen.

S.M.: I couldn't tell you about that.

A.M.: Was there a rock where Albemarle and Rockingham and Augusta County came

together?

S.M.: Yes ma'am. Yes ma'am. I went around many times.

A.M.: Was that - where was that in relation to the springs and the Black Rock?

S.M.: Not necessarily. It was jest where the four counties cornered together.

A.M.: Was that on the road on the way up to the rocks?

S.M.: That was between the springs and the rocks.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: If I remember right. I don't - I jest remember that and that's all. I don't remember the situation exactly.

A.M.: What did it look like? Was it -

S.M.: Well, it was jest mountain - jest bushy and rocky and -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... what have you.

A.M.: This marker with the counties - that was just a rock in the ground or was it a post or -

S.M.: It was made there. It was stationery. It woulda been deep - way big, wouldn't it?

Mr.B.: I reckon. I never did see that.

Mrs.B.: Was it the rock or a post? Did they put - it wasn't cement?

S.M.: No. No. It was natural rock.

A.M.: Oh.

S.M.: Growed there, I guess.

A.M.: Was there a family named Blackwell who would take care of the springs?

S.M.: Yeah. Uh-huh.

A.M.: Where did they live?

S.M.: Their name was Blackwell.

A.M.: Did they live right there in one of the cabins?

S.M.: They lived up at the upper row.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: Lived up in that part, but that was out of the - out of the spring part. Their house was kinda up in that corner.

A.M.: Oh, was it? Uh-huh. I've seen some things up in that area. And they would stay there in the winter time, too?

S.M.: Well, I think they did.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: I think one family lived there all the time.

A.M.: Yeah.

S.M.: I don't know. They'd maybe - what they'd make a living on - they'd pick huckleberries in the summer and sell 'em and -

A.M.: Yeah.

S.M.: .... and they'd - there's somethin' else there I wanted to say - I don't know.

A.M.: Gather chestnuts maybe?

S.M.: Yeah. Sure. There was chestnuts then.

A.M.: Did any of the people that lived around the mountains, like the Marshalls or the Vias or the Browns or people who were, you know, mountaineers, did they ever come over to the hotel?

S.M.: Probably did. I wouldn't know about that.

A.M.: Uh-huh. You don't remember?

S.M.: You don't have any record of the people from Augusta County? The Wamplers? John Wampler?

A.M.: We have an interview that we did with Ernest Wampler.

S.M.: Well, there would have been Wamplers and -

Mrs.B.: Millers.

S.M.: .... Millers and -

A.M.: Was there a Miller family different from Bob Miller? Some other Millers?

S.M.: Maybe out - in the out part. But not in the -

Mrs.B.: Was Minor C. related to Bob?

S.M.: I don't know about that.

Mr.B.: Some Clines up there wasn't it?

Mrs.B.: The Clines.

Mr.B.: Clines.

S.M.: Yeah. Sure.

Mrs.B.: But Mary O. Miller and Minor C. went up there all the time.

A.M.: Well, Minor Miller wrote the book - a chapter in it.

S.M.: Well, you could get more from that -

Mrs.B.: He would be different from Bob Miller.

A.M.: Yeah.

S.M.: But, I don't know whether they would be related or not. I can't think of the other folks. I can see where they live over in the valley - Waynesboro, but I can't - jest right now, I can't recall.

A.M.: Pattersons. Do you remember Pattersons?

S.M.: That's one.

A.M.: Uh - Irvy? Was that right?

S.M.: No, that don't -

A.M.: Let me see. Driver?

S.M.: Yeah.

A.M.: Walters?

S.M.: What I wanted to tell you about the Wampler man. He shook so. He had - what?

Mrs.B.: Shaking palsy.



S.M.: Shaking Palsy. And I watched him ever chance I got. It was interesting, you know. I watched him. He'd walk. He's jest shiver all over everthing and walk. And when he'd stand still, he'd still shake. And then as time come along, I got that, too.

A.M.: I wonder if it was Everett Wampler's grandfather, maybe. We talked to an Everett Wampler.

S.M.: I couldn't tell you their names.

A.M.: It was probably some -

S.M.: Old Mr. John Wampler that had the shaking palsy that's all that I can remember about that.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Was there anybody living down below the lower row or anything down there toward the stream?

S.M.: No. There was a creek down there a right smart little piece down.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: And, they'd - I don't know whether - they'd go down there and wade, I know that. But, that's about all I can tell you about that.

Mrs.B.: Didn't you tell me it was cleared off back there in the back then? Wasn't it cleared off down there?

S.M.: No.

Mrs.B.: It wasn't?

S.M.: It was bushy. It was mountain land. It wasn't nothing cleared off around anywhere, only where the houses set.

Mrs.B.: One time when I was up there, I remember running to this outhouse up on a steep cliff. Do you remember that?

S.M.: That was put up probably after -

Mrs.B.: What'd they do for bathrooms there?

S.M.: I can't tell you about that.

A.M.: What was in the cabins? Now, they were up on stilts and they had the horses underneath. Was the kitchen over the stilt part?

S.M.: Uh-huh. The horses was underneath the kitchen part.

A.M.: Right. And what were the other rooms?

S.M.: Bedrooms.

A.M.: How many bedrooms?

S.M.: Be four. Two up and two down.

A.M.: Uh-huh. So, it was like two stories. And everybody did their own cooking then. They didn't go up to the hotel?

S.M.: All the cottages had stoves.

A.M.: Right. There was no fireplace, was there?

S.M.: No.

A.M.: Just stoves.

S.M.: There wasn't no fireplace there. There wasn't - in the summertime, you know, they didn't need a fireplace.

A.M.: Right.

S.M.: They just worked up wood for their stoves, they had. They taken the old timey wood stove -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... range, you know, cooking stove I'd call it.

A.M.: Yeah. Like the wood stove.

S.M.: The old timey one. It was just plat on top.

A.M.: You can see pieces of those stoves all over that hill today.

S.M.: Huh.

A.M.: The stove legs and the lids. A whole line up there.

S.M.: Yeah? How about that.

A.M.: It's really interesting. And there's all this pieces of old bottles and

glass and plates.

S.M.: Sure. Sure.

A.M.: Lots of things. We've had a spoon. A whole spoon. It was real interesting. Tell me about - was there any difference between the people that went up to Miller's place and the people that would play ten pins down with the company? Were they two different kinds of people or were they just - were they from two different places?

S.M.: Well, they was - I don't know. You know, when you have trouble, you have two sides.

A.M.: Yeah.

S.M.: And that would be about what I'd put it. The ones that belonged to the company had one notion and then Bob Miller had the other.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: But, there was a lot of the company people still catered to Bob Miller after he built his second ten pin alley.

A.M.: Oh, I see. Even people who had been with the company.

S.M.: Uh-huh.

A.M.: He was probably making more money.

S.M.: Well, I don't know about that. He had plenty of money, I reckon. But, I don't remember much about the money part.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: I don't know whether they rented their rooms. People would go as there was rooms emptied out for them to stay.

A.M.: To Miller's boarding house?

S.M.: Huh?

A.M.: To Miller's boarding house? Is that it?

S.M.: Well, to the cabins.

A.M.: To the cabins. Oh, I see.

S.M.: Yeah. But, I don't remember whether they charged for that or whether they  
jest went free. I can't tell you about that.

Mrs.B.: Didn't you tell me that Miller had identical up above what the company had  
below?

S.M.: Yeah.

A.M.: So, he was up on the hill?

S.M.: Uh-huh. Up on the hill.

A.M.: Above the springs.

S.M.: Uh-huh.

A.M.: So, was there another road? I've come in several ways. Now, I've come in  
on a road that made a big horseshoe bend like a big loop right at the lower  
road. I've come in on a road there. And, I've also come in on a road that  
came in way above the springs.

S.M.: Well, that would be the one that I'd know about. And the one down where  
you was talking about -

A.M.: The bend there?

S.M.: .... before you'd come in from the outside.

A.M.: Right. Now, did that one go on up the mountain, or did it stop at the  
lower road?

S.M.: Well, I guess it went on through. It wound around in front of the lower  
cabins -

A.M.: Yeah.

S.M.: .... and then broke through when it got to the other side.

A.M.: Right. And -

S.M.: And they went on their way. I don't know where.

A.M.: Did that go past Miller's place?

S.M.: Miller's place was over to a different corner kinda.

A.M.: Right. So in other words, if the road came in like this, it went around like this -

S.M.: Yeah.

A.M.: .... and out here and then up the mountain here.

S.M.: Yeah.

A.M.: O.k. That's the way it still is today.

Mrs.B.: That's what that is there.

A.M.: Yeah. That's interesting.

Were all the people from around Grottoes and Port Republic and Harriston?  
Or were there people from other places?

S.M.: Well, jest the ones that wanted to go to the springs. I don't know. Maybe there was thirty-five or forty or maybe fifty cabins. And each one, you know, had their patrons -

A.M.: Right.

S.M.: .... where they'd go and stay.

A.M.: Were there any people who came over Black Rock Gap from Charlottesville or from Sugar Hollow?

S.M.: Now I couldn't tell you about that.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: I don't know about that.

A.M.: Most of them were from the Valley, I guess.

Did they have people come by train sometimes and send down buggys for them at Harriston? Somebody mentioned that.

S.M.: Maybe so. I just don't - we always drove through and I just don't know about that.

A.M.: Did you keep on going up every year after things had sort of broken up?

S.M.: I didn't go to stay, I expect, after I was eight years old.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Was anybody going up?

S.M.: Yeah. They still went.

A.M.: Some people were going up.

S.M.: They still went. And they still went some after Bob Miller built his other ten pin alley. But I - he built over off of the company land.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: But -

A.M.: He had two or he had one?

S.M.: Jest one -

A.M.: He had one. But his was built later. And that was the one you worked in, was it his?

S.M.: Indicating yes.

A.M.: What happened to your father's cabin?

S.M.: Burned.

A.M.: Did it burn in that 1912 fire you talked about? 1913 - something like that? That was like in the wintertime?

S.M.: But they had given it up long before that.

A.M.: They just kind of left it?

S.M.: Well, there was no hope. They didn't have anything to work with.

A.M.: Uh-huh. But they didn't try to sell it or anything?

S.M.: No. They couldn't agive a deed for it or anything like that. Some way or another when it was fixed up, they didn't aim to keep it always, I reckon. I don't know what.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: But, they talked about it. And there was a right smart stir at one time about selling it or gettin' a little somethin' out of their purchase. But,

there didn't anything ever work out. Some of 'em kinda taken a hold then and went on with it and the others jest stepped out.

A.M.: I see.

S.M.: Didn't do anything about it.

A.M.: So there was kinda fighting among themselves in the company.

S.M.: Uh-huh.

A.M.: It seems like they lost a lot of land at one time. Was it maybe because some pulled out and sold off or something?

S.M.: I can't tell you about that.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Did you ever go up there anytime except the summertime?

S.M.: No.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Nobody went up in the winter?

S.M.: No.

A.M.: I guess the roads were pretty bad.

S.M.: Uh-huh.

A.M.: How long did it take to get from, say, Port Republic to Black Rock Springs in a buggy?

S.M.: Oh, I don't know. Two, three or four hours maybe. We'd start out early in the morning and get there about noon.

Mrs.B.: Her home place is just near here. It's not too far that way.

A.M.: Uh-huh. So -

S.M.: And they forded the river at Port at that time, if you know where the Harnsberger place is? George Harnsberger place?

A.M.: No, I don't.

S.M.: Jest on the other side of Port from here.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: The road went in on part of his land and crossed the river. They forded

the river at that time.

Mr.B.: How did you get across North River?

S.M.: Well, I guess there was a landing there - maybe went across in the ferry. I can't tell you about that. We went across one time in the ferry, I remember. Put the horse and buggy on the boat, you know, and went on your way.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: I believe they had a rope or a cable -

Mr.B.: Had a cable, I imagine.

S.M.: .... to draw the boat across.

A.M.: Oh. Like a ferry.

S.M.: And they'd pole, you know. And they'd have big long poles. The water was deep. And they had big, long poles that they'd move the boat along with.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: But, they still had the cable to keep the boat -

A.M.: From going downstream, I guess.

S.M.: .... in line.

A.M.: Yeah. So, would you get together with young people ever and go up for a day or were you too young?

S.M.: Well, I didn't indulge in it. I didn't know anything about that.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: What I was telling you about it - when we lost the track and went up to the Black Rock. Everthing was all tore up then. There wasn't - it was still so you could get through, but it wasn't nothing pretty about it.

A.M.: Was that before the fire?

S.M.: Uh-huh.

A.M.: Was the hotel still there and everything?



S.M.: I guess it was.

A.M.: Was Miller still there?

S.M.: As far as I know.

A.M.: So he was there after most of the company people had gone?

S.M.: Uh-huh.

A.M.: And were things kind of falling down?

S.M.: Sure. Went down fast towards the last.

Mrs.B.: Well, now, Aunt Dora, for instance, what would she do while she was up there?

S.M.: She was a guest. She stayed in the cabin.

Mr.B.: But she didn't go except when Grandpap and Grandma went?

S.M.: Well, she couldn't go when they went because she had to oversee -

Mrs.B.: I know.

S.M.: .... had to be at that -

Mrs.B.: But, some of the family was there when she was there?

S.M.: Yeah.

A.M.: So nobody would stay for the whole summer, would they?

S.M.: Oh, no. Two weeks - four weeks, maybe, would be the limit. And then they'd go home, you know, and let somebody else come. They always had to have somebody to run the farm. They'd milk cows. They didn't milk to sell milk or cream or anything, but they always had cows on the farm.

A.M.: Right. You couldn't leave them.

S.M.: And there was things that had to be tended to all the way along.

A.M.: You mentioned milk up at the Black Rock Springs that they kept in the trough, who had cows up there? Did they bring their own cows with them?

S.M.: Oh no. They brought their milk in -

A.M.: Oh, I see.

S.M.: .... when they'd come to stay. And then maybe, sometime if they was gonna stay a little longer, somebody would bring in a fresh supply.

A.M.: Oh yeah, I see.

S.M.: The milk would keep maybe a week. I'd expect a week.

A.M.: A week?

S.M.: I'd expect a week.

A.M.: It was cold water, I guess.

S.M.: Uh-huh.

A.M.: And then somebody would bring up another load of milk.

S.M.: A fresh supply.

A.M.: Maybe somebody in the family?

S.M.: Didn't too many of 'em stay more than two weeks.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: Each group didn't.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Did people go up in the fall to get chestnuts and all?

S.M.: Well, maybe jest to drive through. I couldn't tell you about that.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: But, there was chestnut trees all around then. They was very plentiful.

A.M.: Did people build their own cabins or -

S.M.: I think so. Yeah. I don't know where they got the lumber. I couldn't tell you about that.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Do you have any idea when it got started?

S.M.: No. I wouldn't know about that.

A.M.: And you say the water ran clear. You don't remember anything about people going to get the water for healing anything?

S.M.: No. They didn't do that then. And maybe after the springs broke up, then people would go more for the mountain water, and -

A.M.: Oh, I see.

S.M.: .... take a supply home.

A.M.: But, the hotel - the attraction of it was just to be up in the mountains for the summer.

S.M.: Uh-huh.

A.M.: The water wasn't the attraction?

S.M.: No. No.

A.M.: Well, the walls they built around the spring, was that sort of like a mantle piece kind of thing - a wall around it or -

S.M.: Kinda like a fireplace. It looked like - it had a -

A.M.: Now, you were saying they had a platform up at the spring and they had to go up the steps there and sit around the walls.

S.M.: No. The steps went up the hill. And then the platform was right along level with the springs.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: And then down at the side of the springs was their big long trough. I expect far as from here over to the other house maybe - the trough was.

A.M.: Oh my goodness.

S.M.: And each one had been niched where they put their stuff, and then they never did get mixed up. I don't know whether they had 'em numbered or jest like a bird - jest knew which one to go to.

A.M.: Were they like boxes that they had in this trough?

S.M.: Oh no. It was jest a big trough. I'd say maybe that wide -

A.M.: About two feet wide?

S.M.: Uh-huh.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: And they could set things side by side - a crock or a can or what have you.

A.M.: Did they have compartments in there?

S.M.: As far as I know, they didn't. They jest had their section they set in.

A.M.: They must have marked their own things or something.

S.M.: As far as I remember about that. I don't remember about that.

A.M.: Did they have a - let's see - the Blackwells, I guess, they would have had cows and chickens and things.

S.M.: No. No. No. No. They was jest mountain people.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: As far as I know, they didn't - maybe had a few chickens and maybe a cow. I don't know about that.

A.M.: But just for themselves.

S.M.: No.

A.M.: Everything everybody had came from down in the valley.

S.M.: Sure. Came from the valley.

A.M.: People were responsible for their own things -

S.M.: Sure.

A.M.: .... they didn't have like a supply truck that came up for everybody?

S.M.: No. No.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: They jest brought their stuff in as they come to camp.

A.M.: Uh-huh. And how long would you have stayed there? Like you would come up for maybe two weeks.

S.M.: Two weeks would be what we'd stay.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: Like my mother and dad would go two weeks and then maybe go home. And Dora and others of other families would go -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... and while the others tend to the farm.

A.M.: What did you do besides - you know, you'd set the ten pins up there. But what else was there for a child to do besides do that work?

S.M.: Well, jest paddle around. Go up and down the steps. Play maybe with other children.

A.M.: Were there many children up there?

S.M.: Oh yeah. Sure.

Mrs.B.: What would Aunt Dora do as a young girl?

S.M.: Well, now, she done whatever the others done. I couldn't name any one thing. I reckon they danced some at night. But what they done in the daytime, I couldn't tell you about that. Jest roam around mostly.

A.M.: Did people go to church while they were up there?

S.M.: Not that I know of.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: They didn't have any church service.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Did you ever go across to the other side of the mountain?

S.M.: No. I never did.

A.M.: Uh-huh. I guess the road went on into Sugar Hollow. I imagine some people woulda went down the other side - maybe - or come up?

S.M.: Well, they traveled. There was a road across the mountain always that you could go and go by Black Rock Springs and go on across then. I don't know where they went. I never was over there.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: But, it was another section of mountain -

A.M.: Right.

S.M.: .... that they went into.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Do you remember automobiles going up the road to where the springs

would be?

S.M.: There wasn't any as far as I know.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: Not while we went.

A.M.: Yeah. So was the road pretty rough?

S.M.: Well, not too bad. You see, it was rocky and it didn't rut like the County road did -

A.M.: Yeah.

S.M.: But, as far as I know, there wasn't any.

A.M.: Did the County keep up that road or did -

S.M.: Well, I guess the patrons kept it up whatever it was.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: I don't remember. I reckon we crossed the creek - crossed the water maybe four or five times after we got in the mountains 'til we got to the spring road.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Was the water very deep?

S.M.: No. It was jest nice to ford -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... would be all.

A.M.: Do you remember them putting a stable in across from the hotel or they didn't have stables?

S.M.: No. They didn't have stables.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: As I remember.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: Jest like I say. They tethered their horses to a post or a tree and had boxes nailed up, you know, for 'em to eat their grain out of.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: And then I reckon they jest put their hay on the ground maybe. I don't remember about that.

A.M.: Was there any place else they would have gone besides up to Black Rock and back down to Harriston? Did they go anywhere else in the mountains?

S.M.: Not - not - only up to the rocks.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: The Black Rocks was all that I ever heard tell of to sight see.

A.M.: Right. It must have been pretty back there. It's very pretty now. You can see down into the valley -

S.M.: Right.

A.M.: .... and over into Madison.

S.M.: Uh-huh.

A.M.: Did - what was I going to say now. People would come up from Harriston. I lost what I was gonna say.

Mrs.B.: Welcome to the club.

A.M.: Let's see. Did they have get togethers and things while they were up there? Did people -

S.M.: Not that I know of.

A.M.: Not any special -

S.M.: Only their dancing -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... of a night they'd gather in.

Mrs.B.: Who would help them to do this canning? Did each person do their own?

S.M.: Uh-huh. Each person - each housewife canned her own berries.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: They had their kettles and they had their stoves. And they'd can the berries

and then pack 'em -

Mr.B.: Did she bring 'em back home then?

S.M.: Yeah. They would take 'em home when they got ready to go. Pack 'em in boxes, I guess. I don't know about that. I wasn't interested in that at that time too much.

Mr.B.: You was interested in that ten cents an hour.

S.M.: Yeah.

A.M.: What did you do with your ten cents an hour?

S.M.: Oh, I don't know. Maybe bought chewin' gum, maybe some little stick candy that they had in the store, somethin' like that.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Did you ever see animals up there? Were there ever any deer at all?

S.M.: No. No. Not at that time. You didn't hear tell of that. There was maybe bobcats and something else I thought of -

Mrs.B.: Raccoons?

S.M.: Snakes, of course. They'd kill rattlers -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... ever so often. But, they wouldn't bother out too much in the settlement because people was walkin' around -

A.M.: Yeah.

S.M.: .... all the time and they avoided them.

A.M.: Right. No bears up there then?

S.M.: Well, there was bear in the mountain at that time -

A.M.: Oh, was there?

S.M.: I guess. I have an idea.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: But, jest never any crossed my path.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Did people - did they have a doctor who would come up to the springs



or did people have to go home if they got sick?

S.M.: Well, I guess they went home when they got sick or needed a doctor.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: They usually taken their little vials or what have you - their - they lived mostly on their own at that time, with herbs, you know, or tea -

A.M.: Right.

S.M.: .... or root or what have you.

A.M.: What kinds of things did they use?

S.M.: Oh mercy, I don't believe I could name anything.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: It was jest stuff that they used and that most everbody had in their home garden.

A.M.: Right. I see.

S.M.: And they'd make tea out of it or -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: And they'd take their supply along. Once in awhile somebody would have to come out to a doctor, but not too often.

A.M.: Uh-huh. The people that would stay either in the hotel or in Miller's boarding house, were they just like travelers or they were people that didn't own cabins?

S.M.: They were jest people from the County that had money to go and didn't own any cabin.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: That would be it. About all I could tell you about that.

A.M.: Was it pretty full in the summertime -

S.M.: Yeah. Uh-huh.

A.M.: .... when things were going strong?

S.M.: From the time it started, until it was time to close, it was generally filled up.

A.M.: Uh-huh. What about - what kind of a person was Miller?

S.M.: Well, he was a nice person. He was a very nice person -

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: .... for the ones that thought he was. And they turned to him. They tried awful hard to discourage him. Didn't want him to have a part in it.

A.M.: Well, I can't understand why he would wanta open up another bowling alley, when there was already one there.

S.M.: Well -

A.M.: It seemed like he wanted to cause some trouble.

S.M.: .... they wouldn't let certain ones bowl.

A.M.: Oh, I see.

S.M.: And he opened the alley - the bowling alley then for people that couldn't work on the company side.

A.M.: And you have no reason - was there a certain reason why certain people weren't allowed -

S.M.: I can't tell you.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: What the disturbance - what started it.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: I don't know about that.

A.M.: So, other people I've talked to said, you know, that he was terrible, but I guess it just depended on what side you were on.

S.M.: Oh no. My father cherished the memory of him as long as they lived. Both of them.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: Both of 'em.

A.M.: Well, I'm glad to hear his side of it finally.

S.M.: Well, he was a nice person.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: But -

A.M.: I guess he had a lot of money one time when he bought it all.

S.M.: Well, fer people at that time, he was fairly wealthy.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Was he from Port Republic?

S.M.: Grottoes.

A.M.: Grottoes. Uh-huh. So, in other words, he went up there, and he probably would have worked with the company, but they didn't want him.

S.M.: I don't know. I can't tell you too much about that. I don't know the business part of it.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Can you think of anything else? You can remember so much, and you were just a little girl eight years old.

S.M.: Well, after I begin to talk about it, you know, things would -

Mrs.B.: Come back.

S.M.: .... come back that I wouldn't jest ordinarily think about.

A.M.: I have some -

S.M.: There's other things that could be told would be interesting, I'm sure, if you'd jest get the right person. But, as far as I know, around in this section, I'm the only one that went to the springs.

Mrs.B.: That's living.

A.M.: Uh-huh. I have some pictures - some more pictures of the Round House and the bowling alley and things, but I forgot them. Maybe I could come back sometime and show you those pictures.

S.M.: Well, I don't know if I could tell you much more.

A.M.: Uh-huh. Maybe somebody -

S.M.: I don't believe I could.

A.M.: Uh-huh. There might be somebody in there you'd recognize. I thought you might like to see 'em perhaps.

S.M.: Well, it could be possible. But, I believe that's about the limit that I would -

A.M.: Well, I certainly appreciate this because we do take people down there on hikes and show 'em there was a hotel there. I never did know much about it, so I appreciate all this information.

Mrs.B.: Was Mrs. Sheets ever up there when you was there?

S.M.: Huh?

Mr.B.: Mrs. Sheets?

?: Minnie.

S.M.: Minnie? No, she wasn't.

Mrs.B.: Well, see, she's much younger. She's 82 now and you're 88. So -

S.M.: That much difference would have been a big difference at that time.

?: They were all Pleasant Valley people.

Mrs.B.: Pleasant Valley. And that would be the group.

Mr.B.: She'd probably remember the finishing up of it.

?: She was a Wampler.

Mr.B.: Yeah.

?: Minor C. Miller had a

Mrs.B.: Up there.

?: And he wrote a book. Minor C. Miller wrote a book These Things I Remember.

A.M.: Yeah. I read part of that in the envelope.

?: Do you. He mentioned Black Rock Springs in his book.

A.M.: Yeah.

S.M.: Jean - her daddy had a picture of the Springs -

Mrs.B.: That's Arley Cline, that you're talking about.

S.M.: Yeah. But some way or another after Jean got in the family, the picture got lost. I don't know how it got lost or what, but it got away.

A.M.: Uh-huh.

S.M.: And I only seen it one time. And that memory's still with me.

Mrs.B.: Similar to what you was looking at there?

S.M.: Uh-huh.

Mrs.B.: O.k.

S.M.: So, if I've helped you, I'm proud.