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Garnette Cremeans

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ORAL HISTORY

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Date 10/13/85
10/20/85
10/27/85

Garnett A. Cremons
 (Signature - Interviewee)
Branchland, W. Va.
 Address

Date 10/13/85

Dorinda R. Ramirez
 (Signature - Witness)

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Cremons, Garnett

WEST VIRGINIA APPALACHIAN CAREGIVERS

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AN INTERVIEW WITH: Ms. Garnette Cremeans

CONDUCTED BY: Diana Parnicza

DATES OF INTERVIEW: October 13, 1989
October 20, 1989
October 27, 1989

TRANSCRIPTIONIST/TYPIST: Gina Kehali Kates

DP: This is October the 13th. I'm continuing my interviews with Appalachian Caregivers. This is Interview A, caregiver #8.

DP: And then I'm going to ask some questions about your family and I guess your family will just be you and your husband so when is the last time you talked with your daughter? How many years?

CG: About two. I wouldn't say for sure. But to the best of my knowledge, it's been about two years.

DP: Okay, now, how old are you?

CG: I'm eighty.

DP: And this is your husband. Now, do you all have any kind of religion?

CG: Baptist.

DP: And have you ever been employed before?

CG: Yeah, I have worked whenever he was in the hospital.

DP: Okay, um, what was he? Pretty much a farmer?

CG: Um, he worked on the C & O 37 years. He lacked two days getting his C & O pension that he took ruptured of the appendix and gangrene set in and they wouldn't let him work any more and they wouldn't let him go back and work them two days so he don't get paid.

DP: How far did you go to school?

CG: I finished Oley Junior High in Huntington.

DP: You went to ninth grade?

CG: Uh-hum.

DP: And you you told me you all only bring in about 530 a month, both of you all....

CG: Uh-hmm.

DP: And let's see, you've got high blood pressure. What other kinds of problems do you have?

CG: Heart trouble.

DP: And you're on medicine for that, right?

CG: Yeah. She just now put my patch on.

DP: Can ...did you say you were having problems with your bowels?

CG: Yes.

DP: Are they bleeding?

CG: No. Um, I can't think of the name of it. I don't have a regular you know, (bowel movement) yeah, and I have to take a laxa three tablespoons of epon salts and a cup of hot water.

DP: You're not a diabetic, or anything?

CG: No.

DP: Do you have any problems with your breathing or anything?

CG: Yes.

DP: Do you have asthma or anything?

CG: No, just my heart.

DP: And it's just you and your husband living here.

CG: That's right.

DP: And do you all have a car?

CG: No.

DP: You don't have any method of transportation?

CG: No, maam.

DP: You do have running water and electricity but you don't have a telephone, do you?

CG: That's right.

DP: And how long have you been taking care of your husband?

CG: Fifteen years.

DP: Fifteen years; that's when he had his stroke, his first stroke?

CG: No, that's when he had his ruptured appendix and gangrene set in.

DP: And he's been sick ever since?

CG: Every since. 15 years ago, the sixth day of last May

DP: How many hours of the day would you think you took care of your husband?

CG: I stay with him at all times. Even when I have to go to the store.

DP: How many ...how many hours a day would you say you take care of your husband? Spend taking care of him?

CG: I stay with him at all time only when I have to go to the store, or go to the doctor and I get somebody to stay with him cause the doctor told me not to let him be by himself. (okay) And she takes me and we got a (Okay, A. takes you to the store?) Mmm-hmm (And then you just leave him there by himself?) No, no, uh, I have a friend down here, S. whats her name, (okay) she comes up and uh, stays with him, anytime I have to go. I don't....I've had three doctors to tell me not to leave him by hisself cause he was so he could have another stroke at any time.

DP: Okay. Now, this next set of questions I have to ask I'm gonna ask you is about family. (mmm-hmm) And it's 90 sentences and they're true or false. Okay? (mmm-hmm) And what you have to do is just answer true or false when I say

the sentences, okay? (mmm-hmm) And...since you haven't seen your daughter in two years, then, we'll just consider your family you and your husband. (that's right) If you'd been seeing her and having problems and stuff it'd be different. We'll just consider your family as you and your husband. (that's right) Now, some of these are hard to understand. A lot of people I've asked say they didn't understand. Some of these uh, are kind of silly-asking questions. You're probably gonna think, "Why in the world are they asking this?" And some of these are gonna be uh, well, anyway, if you have any problems with 'em, just let me know, okay? (mmm-hmm) And I'll read 'em out since you can't see (that's right) okay. Family members really help and support one another.

CG: No. False.

DP: That's you and your husband?

CG: Mmm-hmm.

DP: Okay. Family members often keep their feelings to themselves.

CG: Yeah.

DP: We fight alot in our family.

CG: No.

DP: We don't do things on our own very often in our family.

CG: No.

DP: Well, okay. We feel that it is important to be the best at whatever you 'do.

CG: What do you mean by that?

DP: That...in life you do your best always.

CG: Oh, yes. True.

DP: We often talk about political and social problems.

CG: Yes.

DP: You do? We spend most weekends and evenings at home.

CG: Always.

DP: Family members attend church or sunday school fairly often.

CG: We can't.

DP: Right, because you...okay. Oh, okay. I'll ask you about that later. Activities in our family are pretty carefully planned. Do you plan everything?

CG: We both talk it over.

DP: Okay. Family members are rarely ordered around.

CG: That's the truth.

DP: We say anything we want to around home.

CG: That's true. We both live for God, so we both talk everything over. To the best of my knowledge. We were both baptized in 1937.

DP: Okay. We often seem to be killing time at home.

CG: Yeah, we sit and talk to each other and on the weekends, that's when he gets depressed, because you see, nobody comes to see us, only A.S. we call her, the woman stays when I go and you know, her mother and things like that. And then her aunt, her husband's aunt, she's in the hospital, and uh, that way, with sickness in her own home, they can't come, you know, like they want to.

DP: Okay. Family members rarely become openly angry. Do you all become openly angry with each other?

CG: No.

DP: In our family, we are strongly encouraged to be independent. You tell each other to be independent and not to need each other or are you...pretty much dependent on each other and need each other?

CG: We need each other and depend on....I depend on him.

DP: Getting ahead in life is very important in our family. It's important to uh, to get ahead and get all this material stuff and money and everything?

CG: I love to just pay my bills.

DP: We rarely go to lectures and plays or concerts.

CG: No, we can't go.

DP: Friends often come over for dinner or to visit.

CG: No.

DP: We don't say prayers in our family.

CG: Yes. (You do say prayers?) Mmm-hmm.

DP: We are generally very neat and orderly.

CG: Yeah.

DP: There are very few rules to follow in our family.

CG: That's right.

DP: We put a lot of energy into what we do at home.

CG: Yeah, what little we can do, both of us.

DP: It's hard to blow off steam at home without upsetting somebody.

CG: We don't do that.

DP: Okay. Family members sometimes get so angry they throw things.

CG: Yeah, [laughs] M threw the clock the other day. He
threw a cane out once. [laughs]

DP: We think things out for ourselves in our family.

CG: Yeah.

DP: Okay. How much money a person makes is not very important.

CG: Well, I don't know how to answ....

DP: Is it....do you think people who make a lot of money,
is that important to you or is that important?

CG: No. Un-huh, no.

DP: Our...learning about new and different things is very
important in our family.

CG: Mmm-hmm.

DP: Nobody in our family is active in sports, little league or
bowling.

CG: No.

DP: We often talk about the religious meaning of Christmas or
other holidays.

CG: Yes.

DP: Okay. It's often hard to find things when you need them in
our household.

CG: That's right; I can't see.

DP: Okay.

CG: A. has to help me. (okay) She does all the writin' out my
checks and gettin' my bills and everything cause I can't ...

DP: If you needed like a knife or a pan or something,
would...would you know where it is?

CG: Yeah, I would, yeah.

DP: There is one family member who makes most of the decisions.

CG: (he does?) He's head of the house according to God.

DP: Okay. There is a feeling of togetherness in our family.

CG: Yes.

DP: We tell each other about our personal problems.

CG: Yes.

DP: Family members hardly ever lose their tempers. You lose your tempers ever now and then?

CG: Oh, yeah, everybody does. We love each other, but they's things that we...discuss and he see's it one way and I see it another and ...

DP: So he throws his clock. [laughs] We come and go as we want to in our family. (no) You can't cause ...(can't do it). We believe in competition and may the best man win. (no) See, some of these questions are....(silly) [laughing]...We are not that interested in cultural activities.

CG: No.

DP: We often go to movies, sports events, camping...(no) Being on time is very important in our family.

CG:

DP: There are set ways of doing things at home.

CG: Yeah, with him. He has his ways. I don't aggravate him. He does it and he doesn't need to be disturbed.

DP: Okay. We don't believe in Heaven or Hell.

CG: Well, Lord yes, sure do.

DP: Okay. Let's see, we rarely volunteer when something has to be done at home.

CG: No. We don't.

??: Let's see, it was around about ...what was it...about the 18th, 19th? (yeah)

DP: Family members have strict ideas about what is right or wrong.

PT:

DP: People change their minds often in our family.

CG: No.

DP: There is a strong emphasis on following rules in our family.

CG: Right.

DP: Family members really back each other up.

CG: Right.

DP: Someone usually gets upset if you complain in our family.

CG: Yeah, he does, if he thinks I'm a hurtin' or real bad sick. That's the reason I can't go to the hospital. Because there ain't nobody....when he goes to the hospital, I gotta go there and sit day and night because if I don't,

DP: Family members sometimes hit each other.

CG: No. [laughs] We don't do that, do we?

PT: Yeah, I hit her.

CG: [laughs] He's a big ole cut-up.

DP: Family members almost always rely on themselves when a problem comes up.

CG: Well, since A. been.... we talk with A.

DP: Okay. Family members rarely worry about job promotions, school grades...you don't have to worry about that (mmm-hmm). Someone in our family plays a musical instrument.

CG: No.

DP: Family members are not very involved in recreational activities outside of work or school. We believe there are some things you just have to take on faith.

CG: Yeah.

DP: Family members make sure their rooms are neat.

CG: Mmm-hmm.

DP: Everyone has an equal say in family decisions.

CG:

DP: There is very little group spirit in our family.

CG: (Is there group spirit? You all working together and stuff?) Oh, yeah.

DP: Money and paying bills is openly talked about in our family.

CG: Yes.

DP: If there's a disagreement in our family, we try hard to smooth things over and keep the peace.

CG: Mmm-hmm.

DP: Family members strongly encourage each other to stand up for their rights.

CG: Mmm-hmm.

DP: In our family we don't suc....we don't try that hard to succeed.

CG: Well, we try. We get down and we increase your faith and we pray harder.

DP: Family members often go to the library.

CG: No.

DP: Family members sometimes attend courses or take lessons for hobby.

CG: Mmm-unh.

DP: See, that's what I'm finding is people like you who stay at home, can't do anything (mmm-hmm). Uh, in our family, each person has different ideas about what is right and wrong.

CG: No. We discuss it till we (agree?) agree.

DP: Each person's duties are clearly defined in our family.

CG: Oh....

DP: You know what you're supposed to do and he knows what he's supposed to do and things like that?

CG: Yeah.

DP: We can do whatever we want to in our family.

CG: No.

DP: Okay. We really get along well with each other.

CG: Oh, yeah, definitely. We love each other.

DP: Okay. I can....

CG: 57 years. It'll be 58 years the 30th day of January (oh, my goodness). He has been a hard-workin' husband, a true and faithful husband...no problem. That's the reason why I can't leave him;that's all I got to live for now.

DP: We are usually careful about what we say to each other.

CG: Yeah.

DP: Family members often try to one up or outdo each other.

CG: No.

DP: It's hard to be by yourself without hurting someone's feelings in our household.

CG: No.

DP: Work before play is the rule in our family.

CG: Well, we can't work. (What about around the house? Yeah,

you're right, you can't work)

DP: Uh, watching t.v. is more important than reading in our family.

CG: Well, he can't read and I can't see to read.

DP: Okay, so...

CG: We watch t.v., the weather and you know, news.

DP: Okay. Family members go out a lot.

CG: No.

DP: Well, if you're like my grandmother, her favorite show, I couldn't believe it, is Divorce Court [laughs]. She loves to watch Divorce Court.

CW: I do sometimes.

DP: I can't call her at home at that time Divorce Court's on and she won't talk....she sometimes takes the phone off the hook.

CG: Well, now she...uh, he likes wrestlin' or he likes Dallas tonight. Oh, he's followed that for years.

DP: Okay. Let's see. The Bible is a very important book in our home.

CG: Yes. The most important.

DP: Money is not handled very carefully in our family.

CG: Well, yes, it's handled carefully as we can.

DP: Rules are pretty inflexible in our household. That means there's, you know, strict; you can't make change. Are they pretty strict?

CG:

DP: There is plenty of time and attention for everyone in our family.

CG: Yeah, there is. He don't allow no drunk, or no beer or nothing in the house, not even his brother who come by here 3 months ago. Because we keep our house....we don't know when Jesus is coming, we try to keep our home ready till when he does come, be ready, be prepared.

DP: There are a lot of spontaneous discussions in our family. Do you all just sit down and talk about things or do you...(mmm-hmm). Okay. In our family we believe you don't ever get anywhere by raising your voice.

CG: No, you don't.

DP: Okay. We are not really encouraged to speak up for ourself in our family.

CG: Yeah, we sure speak up for each other.

DP: Family members are often compared to others as to how well they are doing at work or at school.

CG:

DP: Family members really like music, art and literature.

CG: Now Millard likes uh, music.

DP: Okay. Our main form of entertainment is watching t.v. or listening to the radio.

CG: Well, we watch t.v. and we have church every Sunday every time we can. Now when he was bad, A. went and got a preacher and they come down and we had a wonderful meeting and that was the first time for I can't tell you when that we had ever...had the opportunity for a preacher to come in and pray and have services. And we really got a good feeling out of the service.

DP: Uh, family members believe that if you sin, you will be punished.

CG: Oh, yeah.

DP: Dishes are usually done immediately after eating.

CG: Yes.

DP: And you can't get away with much in our family.

CG: We don't try.

DP: Okay. That's pretty much all I have to ask you today. And ...and if I can, if I can come back next Friday, about this time, then uh, I'll ask you some questions about the help. I'll ask you like about A., how often she comes over and what all she does, and about church coming over or about the neighbor coming in, sittin' with him while you go to grocery, cause that's what I'm mainly...I'm just got...got this information to kind of see how many falls in this age group and how many are married and who's taking care of who and all like that. And then this scale about the family to see how close it is and together, but then my main concern would be is looking at the support, and help that you get so I can see...identify areas, so when I put all of you all together, all 12 of you that I'm talking to, so may be all of these areas that I'm finding that don't get any help. One area I'm finding is and it's like wives, who's taking care of husbands that don't like having catheters in him, and a nurse can't come in. So they're not getting a nurse....a nurse can't even come in. And ...and I'm finding things like that out, so can I come back next Friday? About this time?

CG: Honey, you can come back and stay all the time if you want to. (okay) Anything, you're welcome to it.

DP: And hopefully....[both talking at once]...

As soon as I get some answers on this, I'll let you know. I may need to talk to Mrs. and if I do then I...I won't be able to talk to her till next week but uh, I'll call you and let you know, as soon as I can find out some of this stuff,

CG: Well, uh, if uh....

DP: This is October the 20th and I am doing Interview B with Caregiver #8.

CG: They are coming from B....working on a stretch of lines.

CW: Yeah, they're supposed to be here this morning, to be it in.

[both talking at once]

DP: So, you're gonna have your phone, and I was talking to her about those who uh, that's okay; I was gonna talk to...I was talkin' to what's her....A., isn't it? (mmm-hmm). About diapers. She's gonna stop at H.; I'm gonna call I. and...who's the doctor that wrote out the prescription...Dr. ...

CG: Dr. and Dr. , that's the one I give to I. And uh, Dr. Issac wrote out one for me. There's been 4 prescriptions wrote for diapers and I have not got nothing.

DP: Okay, I'll see...I'll find out what I can see and then A. can go on and stop at H. and see what she can do that way. Uh,

CG: And another thing, we're supposed....I tried to do it I thought well. I feel so sorry. A. comes and sweeps this house and she don't get paid for it.

DP: They said she was supposed to get a check this week or next week.

CG: For me and him both...

DP: No, just for him. Now, another social worker, is gonna come out here next with...within sometime within the

DP: If we feel like doing something on the spur of the moment,
we just pick up and go.

CG: No.

DP: Family members often criticize each other.

CG: Well, I can't see I that's all I can tell you.

DP: There's very little privacy in our family.

CG: I can't (Privacy, when you're alone and and)oh, yeah, yeah,
too much private.

DP: Okay. We of...we always strive to do things just a little
better the next time.

CG: Mmm-hmm.

DP: We rarely have intellectual discussions.

CG: What's that?

DP: Where you talk about things like uh, the news and different
stuff like that?

CG: Yeah, we talk about the news. We talk about the
we are both Democrats (okay, so you talk about politics)
yeah.

DP: Everybody in our family has a hobby or two. Is there
anything...do you have a hobby or anything?

PT: I like fishing. (fishin')

DP: When's the last time you've been fishin'?

PT: About two years.

CG: No, no, A. took you over to Beachfork.

PT: Yeah, but they weren't bitin'.

CG: I know, but you went.

CW: Ain't that been about a month. It's been after you moved up here.

CG: Yeah, and we've been here two months.

next two weeks and fill out the forms for you, so then she'll get paid by both of you all, but said she had filled out the forms for him, so another social worker, L. H. coming to get the forms for you and then she'll get paid for both of you all.

CG: Well, now uh, she went ahead and took everything except my uh, social security number, (I.?) I. did. (okay)

And uh, I told Dr. about it, and Dr. said I will fill out the papers myself, he said, and uh, he filled 'em out. And he said he mailed 'em to her and he didn't know what on earth was wrong with her.

DP: Well, now that this other social worker's coming out, it may make it...better and I'll call next week again to check and see, but she said her name's . And so, then that might ...that might clear up a lot of stuff too, but they...she is gonna come out and see you. Uh, Meals-on-Wheels, I still need to call, but told me that they don't go off the main road. But I'm gonna call either a Mrs. or and find ...I'll call her today and find out about that. (okay) So, let me ask you some questions. (okay) I'm gonna ask you questions on all the kind of help that you get, taking care of your husband, okay? I'm gonna ask you this question and just tell me the first thing that comes into your mind, okay? How do you manage caring for your husband? How do you manage?

CG: Well, now I help him get out...in the chair and out of the chair. (okay) Help him get in the bed and out of the bed. I give him sponge bath of the morning, put his clean clothes

on, bring him in here in the wheelchair and then I fix his breakfast.

DP: Okay. Let me ask you this. Who all ...who all comes into the house and helps you take care of him...you have A., right? (, that's the only one) And she's a choreworker, right? (yeah, and , she comes on...Tuesdays and Thursdays) You have an aide, and you have a nurse, does the nurse..

CG: Once a month.

DP: And she changes his catheter, right? (yeah) Now, how did you find out about a...did you know her or did the county?

CG: I knew her brother (okay) and he lived above us and we knew him ever since he was a little boy (okay). And he came down there and he seen the shape that we were in, and the shape at that time it was awful; I had...you know, my arm was broke and everything, but I still couldn't hardly use it. And he said, , if you and don't care, my youngest sister wants a job of taking care of somebody like you all and said if you don't care, he said, I'll get her and bring her down. So he got her and brought her down and that's when we met.

DP: Okay. And then she got with and (mmm-hmm) okay. How did you get....how did you find out about ?

CG: Uh, I didn't. She took me over there to (A. took you over there to....) yeah (okay, so, okay). I couldn't even find a Welfare

DP: Now, how did you find out about the nurse and the aide

coming to help you?

CG: They told me down there. (uh, where? at the hospital or the Primary Care Center or....) No, down there, see...we had nurses come in down there. (at where you used to live?) Mmm-hmm. (How did you find out about those nurses?) Uh, wait a minute. (was it when he was in the hospital? or ...)he was in the hospital and after I brought him home, they come up to the car and now who sent 'em I don't know.

DP: Okay. And he left the hospital with the catheter, then? (mmm-hmm)

CG: And then they took it out. When they took it out, they took it out, they took the nurses away. Then I had a...what is her name (okay) She some kind of a organization, I don't know what it is. And she sent me out a nurse, I mean an aide, like [inaudible]...like A. is (okay) then the uh, that's all I had until they ...had the catheter put back in.

DP: Okay, you had to have ...you had to take him to primary care to put the catheter back in, at the hospital?

CG: I had to take him to C. H. Hospital.

DP: And so then the nurse started coming back out here? (mmm-hmm) okay. So that's pretty much everybody that helps you physically and you get Medicare and Medicaid, right? (yes) They help you financially (mmm-hmm). And they pay for his diapers and medicine and....

CG: They did till just before we moved.

DP: Till the problem you're having now?

CG: Mmm-hmm.

DP: They pay for his wheelchair and stuff?

CG: No, we've got it rented from uh,

DP: But Medicare pays for it (yeah) okay.

CG: Medicare and Medicaid, together.

DP: Okay. Now, who helps you emotionally, when you get depressed or feel like...you have problems, or is there anything you read? Anything you do? (Ann) Talk to A.; A. helps you? (yeah) A.'s your confidante, unh, she's someone you can talk to. Can you talk to your husband too or are you afraid?

CG: No. (you don't talk to him?) He's nervous (okay); he worries now about diapers and worries about we're almost out of food. And I said, well, the Lord'll take care of us some way, some how.

DP: Do you get foodstamps?

CG: Yeah. I get foodstamps. (how much uh...) [tape shuts off]...see, he's on a diet.

DP: He's diabetic?

CW: He's just uh, they put him on a special kind of diet; he can't have but one bisquit a week or one piece of cornbread (a low cholesterol...okay) There's certain kinds of fruits he's gotta have and ...different things like that, and that's what makes it rough for him.

DP: As far as pay, A. gets paid through the Social Welfare Department, maybe. [laughs] (maybe) And the nurses and aides gets paid through Medicare and Medicaid. You don't have to pay them anything? (no) And they bring the

catheters and everything? (yes) So that takes care of anything ...do you have uh, does church...I think you mentioned church comes in.

CW: Mr. is supposed to be back pretty soon; I don't know. (He's a preacher?) Yeah. (He's comes and visits maybe once a month or something like that?)

CG: One time he said I'll be back but he didn't say when.

DP: Do you have any other friends or neighbors around that comes and visits or anything?

CG: Aunt S. B.

DP: She a friend? (unh-huh) How often does she come by?

CG: Any time I have to go to a doctor or Ann has to take me to the store or....

DP: She'll come and take care of him?

CG: She'll take care of him till I get back.

DP: Okay, so, you...that's a friend that you ...does she live around here?

CG: Yeah, down here in the other trailer.

DP: Okay, you also have a friend that will sit, when you've gotta go to the doctor or grocery (mmm-hmm).

CG: Cause I'm not allowed to leave him by himself.

DP: Okay. And you've pretty much then....Ann takes you...someone takes you to do your grocery.

CG: Ann takes me all the time. I went yesterday. And yesterday she couldn't.

DP: Is that how much you get out? Is that you go to the grocery store or go to the doctor? And then pretty much you just stay here.

CG: Right here.

DP: Okay. Let's see something then.

CG: That's the reason why I said, I didn't know nobody that had babies around here, you know, or anything cause...and I told 'em and A. told 'em, she said she can not be friendly with... visitin' neighbors or gettin' hold of you, cause she has to stay with her husband all of the time only except when she has to go to the doctor herself or the store or things like that.

DP: Um...now how long have you had to help you? Oh, since August, right? (August) How long has the nurses and aides been coming out here? How long have you had them helping you?

CG: What time was it? September? (I think so) Mmm-hmm.

DP: What about before you moved here? They came out and visited before you moved here, too?

CG: They didn't.

DP: Okay. So that nurse has just been here since October. Okay. Didn't uh, who else besides L...didn't another aide come and visit when you all lived in that little bit a time? What was her name?

CG: Well, I had just one. And the other one's name's (okay, how long had they been seeing you then?) Oh, ever since I brought him back down from the hospital, and I can't tell you what....(A year...two years?) A year anyhow. (a year, okay). That's all I remembered.

DP: Okay. Let me ask you this. If you're thinking of all the people and all the financial assistance, and things that you get

help....all the areas you get help is
there one that's the most important to you? One that stands
out the most?

CG: A.

DP: Okay, why A.?

CG: Because she's just like a daughter. (because you can talk
to her and besides all the things she does and everything?)

DP: What about next? Is there another (no) after A?

CG: Well, A. S., I talk to her.

DP: Okay, but what about uh, okay, A. be number one. What
kind of help do you think's the most important to you as
number two?

CG: A. the only one - number two. (okay).

DP: Now, are there any areas that you're getting...that you're
not getting any help, that you think you should get help
with?

CG: Well, they told me that I would be getting diapers cause I
was gettin' them in H. (okay).

DP: And I'll check on that for you. Anything else? Are there
anything, as along as you got A., she pretty much does
anything as long as the nurses' come and change the catheter
and L. comes? You could always use more money. You
could always use that.

CG: Come in. He's in bed. He don't feel like getting up this
morning.

DP: What about...okay, so that's ...with all the help that you
get, is there any changes you'd like to have made?

CG: No, if I can just get diapers.

DP: Okay, I was thinkin' maybe things a little bit more organized or a little bit more communication maybe a little bit better or something like that. Okay.

But the big problem you are having is with those diapers.

CG: Now he's out of his medicine and I don't have the money to get it either. (Medicare won't take care of that?) I don't think so. I gave him his last heart tablet yesterday.

DP: When you get your phone you can call....I'd call I. to see about gettin' that medicine, cause they can do an emergency kind of a thing, too. They uh, I'm thinking...I could be wrong, and she'd be the one to know. Or you can maybe talk to that L. H., since she's gonna be coming out here. He needs that heart medicine.

CG: I know it; bad. See he's got a pacemaker too. (yeah)

DP: So you may...okay, this is the last question. Tell me, from the time you get up, till the time you go to bed, what you do...an average day...what you usually do?

CG: Well, I get up and I uh, (what time do you get up?) well, around 9:30 or 10:00 in the morning (okay). (And then what do you do when you get up?) Well, the first thing I do is I go in and take my own bath and put my clothes on, and if it's cool in the house, I turn the fires on, and then uh, I go in and I give him a sponge bath. And put his clean clothes on, put him in the chair, bring him in here and then get breakfast. (Okay) Then when he wants something to eat through the day, I fix that.

DP: What do you all do...what do you all do...pretty much sit

around and watch t.v. and talk and then A. comes and helps clean or cleans and everything? (yeah) What time do you all usually go to bed at night?

CG: Well, since the Hurricanes and things like that have been going on, the earthquake and everything we've been going to bed about 11:30.

DP: And you all sometimes try and get him up and move him around. What about emptying his foley catheters? Now, can you do that or does Ann do that?

CG: I empty 'em.

DP: Okay.

CG: I always tell A. if he's got blood in his urine or anything happening, I'll tell A.

DP: Now when the aide comes, she'll bath and dress him, right?

CG: Mmm-hmm.

CW: They was here yesterday, wasn't they? (mmm-hmm, they've come here now Tuesday and Thursday.

DP: L. here two days a week.

Why, did she tell you why she just comes out here two days a week instead of five days a week?

CW: Cause she's got so many patients.

CG: She's got so many patients. That's the reason why...they added two more on to her recently. And now

the schedule from Monday through Friday to Tuesday and Thursday.

DP: Okay, that's pretty much...answers all my questions. I'll come back next week.

DP: This is October the 27th, and I'm doing Interview C with Caregiver #8. Okay. I'm gonna...these are from all the questions I've asked you when I came out here last two times and just make sure I've got this written down right, okay? Uh, you're 80 years old and you're taking care of your husband and you've got health problems, too, with your high blood pressure and your heart and with your bowels, but you're afraid to do anything or don't wanta do anything because you don't wanna leave him. And you wanna take care of him. You've been taking care of him basically for about 15 years (yeah) and let's see, he uh, had a stroke (four of 'em) okay, four of 'em and also had a problem with pneumonia and anemia and some of things that you ...so he needs help gettin' bathed and dressed and eating and taking care of his foley catheter and everything like that. Now, you do everything, except you've got A. that comes out and helps clean (she cleans the house for me and does the washin') okay, and washes for you; she cleans and washes. And what about cooks (no) You do the cooking. (yeah) Okay. And uh,

CG: Now sometimes she'll cook something extra at home and bring it over (bring it over).

DP: Okay. And let's see. You...you hav....okay, you had a nurse that would come in about once a month and change his catheter and you had an aide that came in twice a week (mmm-hmm) and bath him and stuff, but no more. She's not coming....an aide or any nurses doesn't come out anymore.

CG: Monday will be her last day.

DP: Okay. Now, you all have Medicare and you have Medicaid and they to care of...they pay for a wheelchair uh, and they pay for the diapers; when you get the diapers; you've got a problem getting the diapers. And uh, let's see. Sometimes you have uh, a friend and neighbor who can come and sit with ...if you need to....when someone takes you to the grocery or takes you to the doctor (yeah) or something like that. Uh, to get him to get Mr. C. out, you need an ambulance to get him to take him out. Um, you have a daughter but she doesn't help out at all (no) [laugh] (won't even phone me or answer a letter or...) and you all bring in about \$500 a month, right? (mmm-hmm) (\$517 or I don't know, ask him) And that's...that's from social security and stuff like that. (Mmm-hmm, I. got the correct number) Okay. Now, the help that you have had, like with...when a nurse came out and when L. the aide comes out, and when A. can come, she's the chore worker - she gets paid from Medicare, you really like that help; they've been a big help to you. (Oh, definitely) Okay. But now the problem you had has been, especially since you moved, you've had a problem getting a telephone (yeah) and like you said, it cost you \$200 to finally get a telephone hooked up in here. Unh, you're still having problem getting diapers because no drug store will take the medical card. Uh, you really like to get on to Meals-on-Wheels, that would help out a lot, cause you only get what, \$19 in foodstamps a month or something like that?

CG: No, I get ...when I moved here, the rent raised \$25.00, so, (okay) no, I get a hundred and one dollars.

DP: Uh, the problem with Meals-on-Wheels is because you live out far in the county, up a holler, they won't...they don't drive that far and deliver the food, um, and...and now you're immediate problem now is the fact that the nurse's and the aide's is not coming out here any more. But I think Ms...I think they'll get a nurse come out here, from probably L. County. And I'll check about an aide. I've got a lady I can call and see about gettin' an aide come out here and stay with you all. And now you might have a problem with gettin' a doctor; because you've....you've got a doctor out at the primary care center (yeah) but Dr. I. was his doctor and he's been...he's moved (that's what they said) and usually when he...usually when a doctor moves and goes somewhere, then another doctor takes over his patient's, so you can maybe call out there and check with them. And when I see I., I'll check with her too, and see uh, they usually have another doctor that can that can take care of him. But your problem is gettin' his catheter changed when it needs to be changed and stuff like that, since there's not a nurse. (mmmh) Let's see...let's see if there's anything else. Can you think of anything else?

CG: Mmm-hmm. He's out of a lot of his medicine and the card won't pay for it and it and I don't have the money till next Wednesday to get it and I don't have a lot of money.

DP: The card won't pay for the medicines?

CG: Mmm-hmm. A. took it to the drug store and ...

DP: What drug...here in H. ?

CG: W. H.

DP: And they said....they won't...the med...the card won't pay for it?

CG: Mmm-hmm. Dr. B. said they got so they wouldn't hardly pay for nothing. (yeah, you're right they won't). I went down to church down there at where me and M. use to go (uh-huh) and got me some groceries cause he's still on that diet and diet stuff is so high and uh they give me some groceries.

DP: Okay, so, they have like a food bank and stuff that they keep and so they ...you went there and got some groceries. (mmm-hmm)

CG: And they told me to come back the 18th day of next month and they'd give me some more.

DP: Okay.

CG: And they give me some clothes for me and M. both. But my problem is now honey, I don't have sheets and pillow cases, towels and wash clothes; they're all wore out.

DP: Uh, (I'm takin' and cuttin' the ends that's good of the towels and making wash clothes out of 'em.) I wonder if the church has(they didn't have any) towels, sheets. I'll check with I. and see. What medicines are you taking that the card won't pay for? All of 'em?

CG: All of 'em.

DP: And of course, you've got another social worker now. No, let's see. (it's supposed to be that S. woman) No, that's L., isn't it? (No, there's another one. She's suppose to come in a week or two but I ain't never seen her). I thought it was L. H. (oh, it might be) L. H. the name I. gave me. (mmmh) And uh, I'll check and see when she's planning to come out here. Cause that might help, too. She can get you on cause she's gotta fill out forms and get you on. She's got you on and she's gotta get him on; one of...you know, get both of you on and that may help bring in more money, and get more help and stuff that way.

CG: Oh, yeah.

DP: And I'll tell I. you're all pretty desperate and if she can get out here as soon as she can and get those forms filled out.

[end of interview]?