

Interviewer: Elizabeth Anderson

Interviewee: Clinton Miller

Elizabeth: -tape made with Clinton Miller on Jun 10, 1986 concerning the double log house in Catoctin Furnace.

Clinton: Sure did...but I don't know what her real name was I thought-.

EA: You called her Aunt Pet?

CM: Aunt Pet [indecipherable].

EA: Oh okay, and they lived over there you said. Was that like when you were a youngster.

CM: Yeah, the first I remember.

EA: Where did he work?

CM: I don't think he worked anywhere I think was a, he had a peg leg or a wooden leg or something. They had a horse and buggy [indecipherable] and we used to pass that horse [indecipherable] and a little stable in the back there.

EA: Well out there behind the, behind the house, behind the log house?

CM: No, where Bitt lives now where Bitt built on the-

EA: Oh, I see. And that's where he kept his horse?

CM: Yeah. And he had a little stable back there, back in his house and then he passed me in the back of his lot [indecipherable].

EA: Oh-

CM: I guess he worked at the furnace [indecipherable] that was before my time, he was an old man then. Always coming, Sadie's always Sadie's aunt and uncle, that's Bitt's mother. So I don't remember a damn thing about the folks.

Unknown woman: Oh no what's the problem?

EA: I just wanna make sure-and they were related to you?

CM: No they were related to Bitt's-

EA: They were related to Bitt's people.

CM: Bitt's mother and Aunt Pet, that's right, were she was aunt-she was Sadie's aunt. Bitt's mother's aunt.

EA: So it would've been Bitt's great aunt?

CM: Yeah.

EA: Alright. Did they live in half of the house or the whole house?

CM: No, they lived in just half-the upper half.

EA: Who lived in the other half?

CM: That was Tip's father and daughter lived.

EA: At the same time?

CM: Yeah. Tip was born over there I guess he was too.

EA: Well did he-did his father work up at the furnace?

CM: Who Tips?

EA: Father.

CM: No, his grandfather did.

EA: Grandfather. Where the two halves of the houses connected in anyway? Could you go from one half to the other from the inside or was it all?

CM: Upstairs you could. But I don't know what they had in the bottom, something to do with the downstairs part there was no way the stairway goes up in there ya know downstairs.

EA: Yeah, did you ever heard of lived there before them?

CM: No.

EA: Don't have any idea.

CM: As far back as I remember I don't know who [indecipherable]

EA: Okay, about when-did they die there or moved away or-

CM: Yeah, they did Aunt Pet and Uncle Poke they died there. Then the Anders I think moved in there, that's Marge's father.

EA: Father, right.

CM: [indecipherable] she's not that old I guess she was born there.

EA: Marge is sixty.

CM: Now let's see that's twenty-four I think [indecipherable].

EA: Yeah either twenty-three or twenty-four.

CM: Yeah twenty-four and sixty would be eighty-four-

EA: Yeah.

CM: -some Irish fellow was born after that.

EA: Yeah. Well then who bought it when it was bought?

CM: Pat said it was Dean's father and mother.

EA: Dean's father and mother bought the whole house or just half?

CM: No, just the half.

EA: Just the half, who bought the other half?

CM: John Cardy bought the other half. John lived down, three houses down, four houses down.

That's where Uncle Hoss and Bitt and them all lived. They bought this and John bought that and they just moved Uncle Hoss he bought that place and John bought this one and they just moved back and forth.

Unknown woman: Oh, so they just switched?

EA: They just switched.

Unknown woman: Oh.

EA: Okay, wonder why they did that? Wonder why he didn't buy the one he lived in?

CM: I don't know.

EA: Oh, I think it'd be more convient to have-

CM: Oh, it was and it just sold cheaper maybe that's why reason [indecipherable]. This one was just a little cheaper, ya know.

EA: What kind of shape was it in then?

CM: It wasn't too bad, after they bought. John never did much work, he put some new windows in and the rest of it was about the same.

EA: How did they heat it?

CM: Wood stove.

EA: Downstairs, anything upstairs at all?

CM: No.

EA: No heat upstairs?

CM: No.

EA: What about water?

CM: Carried water from the spring down below Jessie's-

Unknown woman: -down below to Jessie's. Everybody did it. They'd take-

EA: Everybody'd carry the water back?

CM: Yeah.

Unknown woman: Uh-huh.

EA: That was the community spring?

CM: Yeah. Everytime-

Unknown woman: [indecipherable]

CM: -everytime you look out, you see somebody doing it with a water bucket. We'd carry 'em up and down. And that's hard water, ya know, mom didn't like hard water, she liked soft water. We had to go up to the creek and get water, mom did before we had to go to school.

EA: For washing clothes?

CM: Yeah, had a little express wagon, ya know, and take a washing board and watering cans.

EA: Can't you imagine hauling up water to wash clothes.

CM: Yeah.

Unknown woman: Yeah, even a load of clothes!

CM: You'd get some of them on Sunday night and get the rest of them in the morning.

Unknown woman: Yeah, and you had a lot of kids in your family.

CM: Yeah there was eight of us.

Unknown woman: She had a big wash to put out.

EA: But you didn't change clothes as often as we do.

CM: Oh, no.

Unknown woman: I was surprised.

CM: We got a bath once a week.

EA: And the clothes, ya know the really wore the same clothes over again.

CM: Yeah, same clothes.

UW: Yeah many times he'd say he'd get a pair of shoes, he'd think he was something and he would have to wear them shoes.

CM: Go barefoot [indecipherable] school coming, get barefeet.

EA: That's right. That's right. Well times were a lot tighter. Well what about the generation that bought the-are the people that bought the house like Cardy and Stitley-Stitley. Okay, where did they work?

CM: Well let's see, Uncles Hoss worked on the railroad I think bout that-bout that time they the place they built the stave mill-built the stave mill I think.

EA: Oh, okay. But that shut down right after-in the early 20s.

CM: No, it shut down the war. Well I guess that would have been around the 20s.

EA: Yeah. The war was over in 1918.

CM: Yeah, that shut down after the war [indecipherable]. Before that they were too young to work the furnace, I reckon.

EA: [indecipherable]

CM: My father he worked up there at the mine bank to get some more afterwards in Pennsylvania.

EA: Yeah, okay.

CM: But I remember that was about-oh I don't know what year it was.

EA: About 1906-12 they worked that up there.

CM: Yeah. No I was born 1907 so I couldn't have been very big. I remember them working up there.

EA: Yeah, you would've been big enough to remember if something was going on up here.

CM: Oh, yeah I got my steam shovel up there at the mines-lived up there at the mine bank. I was born up there above Sweeney's store up there, right up in Powell.

EA: Ohh.

UW: Were ya? I never knew that.

EA: That was one of the houses that had been-

CM: Oh yeah.

EA: -that had been on the furnace land. See that was all furnace land.

CM: Yeah that was all furnace land. My grandfather he worked at the furnace too, I got a picture of him somewhere too. [indecipherable]

EA: Yeah well now Dean's, some of her relatives were killed in the wreck.

CM: Yeah, her grandfather.

EA: Is that who it was?

CM: Yeah. Her grandfather, my grandfather too.

UW: Now, old Pat Miller dad's father, he survived right?

CM: Yeah. He was on the train.

UW: Yeah, there was some story I remember where him and my pappy changed seats.

CM: Yeah...yeah.

UW: Where he wouldn't of if ya know [indecipherable]-

EA: Is that so?

UW: -even some where along the line he winds closer to the window or the aisle, I forget how the seats were, ya know.

EA: Well, a lot of them were riding outside.

CM: [indecipherable]

EA: They were out there, they were hanging outside. And of course then those trains ran together that was-

UW: [indecipherable]

EA: [indecipherable] Well then after, of course, they were working for the Western Maryland then when that happened, so then where else would they've found work, I mean

[indecipherable]-

CM: They used to work, as far back as I can remember, they working for, Father Tubes was working for Western Maryland and they worked at the stave mill kinda-

EA: Yeah.

CM: -of course then they'd come to work up here. That was 1914 I think.

EA: Then things really got tight after the stave mill moved out, I guess.

CM: Oh after they closed after the war that was-

EA: There wasn't much-wasn't much left to do.

CM: No, see they had the stave mill and they had Straup, he had the saw mill and all of them made all kinds of pens to mine shafts and telephone things and glass [indecipherable].

EA: [indecipherable]

CM: No, just the little things.

EA: Oh. just the little things, little pins.

CM: The thread.

EA: Yeah.

CM: A lot of telephone poles besides the lumber they sold.

EA: Did the-was the railroad still operating down into here at that time?

CM: Yeah.

EA: Then of course the trolley came through here.

CM: Yeah. Well the railroad come down took the ties and the telephone poles [indecipherable] the old furnace is-

EA: Yeah.

CM: -and ties, telephone poles.

EA: One of those old pictures shows that piles of that what are obviously ties. Piled along by the ruins of the furnace.

UK: I think-I think you're right.

CM: Yeah, they were so close to the railroad that-

EA: Do you remember any of these mills that were back here?

CM: No, they was-well the remains are pretty well back in the base and some of the stuff was there, mule stones couple of them back there.

EA: There was a stack back there wasn't there [indecipherable]

CM: Oh yeah.

EA: Big tall stack.

CM: Yeah that was back, that's where they had the drying apparatus.

EA: And that had been what kind of a mill in its day?

CM: That was a paint mill that was there.

EA: Okay, do you ever remember any kind of a mill for grinding grain or anything like that back there-griss.

CM: No, they said-they always talked about the mill and I thought that's what it was, but I don't think so.

EA: One of the early furnace owner's had a grain grinding mill somewhere around here, a griss mill. Course that was part of the furnace operation, they had to keep buying corn meal to sell it in the store.

CM: Yeah.

UW: That's right.

EA: I imagine. What if like a big family of kids and a mother and a father would sit down to a table in the evening, what would be a typical meal?

CM: Fried potatoes. Fried potatoes and beans, that was the best. [indecipherable] course cabbage all that kinds of stuff out of the garden.

EA: Raised your own garden.

CM: Yeah.

UW: I went to town with Nancy and I the other night when she got that bread from up at Mountain Gate.

CM: Oh, I was talking about moms. She used to bake a table full like this, big loaves of bread. Grease, a little butter and grease I guess.

EA: Yeah.

CM: Shine it on the top [indecipherable] they would eat that and cooked beans ya know good thick broth.

EA: How often did she bake bread?

CM: Oh, about twice a week I guess.

EA: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

CM: There was eight of use, four of each, plus mom and dad, there was ten of us.

EA: Ten people eat a lot of food.

UW: Of bread.

CM: Eat a lot of bread I know that, didn't have much else. Bread was main and died.

EA: How bout meat?

CM: Had meat once a week, always hogs, raised hogs you never know. In the fall, ya know, the hams were all cured.

UW: Everybody up here had hogs.

CM: Oh yeah. Everybody raised hogs.

EA: Yeah.

UW: Everybody had hogs.

EA: Where did you, you had a little hog pen back there.

CM: Yeah.

EA: Then the butchering time around Thanksgiving.

CM: Yeah around Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving [indecipherable].

EA: That was quite a time too.

CM: Yeah. Thanksgiving that was a big day, a holiday, got a lot of help then.

EA: Did ya-did they do any hunting?

CM: Oh yeah, rabbits, squirrels, anything you could get part of the meat diet.

UW: How bout those groundhogs? Ya know that?

CM: Yeah, used to groundhogs.

EA: How about possums? You ever eat possums?

CM: No, never eat possum.

UW: Felt like you might've tried it though.

CM: Nu-huh.

UW: You never tried it.

CM: [indecipherable] she lived out and I asked her one time if she ever eat possum and she said, "Yeah once," [indecipherable] said he got one and she fried it or done something with it. Looked

nice and brown and good, they had so much of it, they had an old dog named Ring, so she took the rest of it out to give to Ring, Ring smelt it and turned his nose up.

EA: I understand it's pretty strong.

CM: She said no more possum around.

UW: Dog wasn't gonna eat it, she wasn't gonna eat it.

EA: I've heard that's pretty strong, but young groundhogs is good, it's kinda like-

CM: [indecipherable] big groundhog down at the gate where she'd come in and I said, "There it hangs on the wall." [indecipherable]

EA: How about berries and things like that?

CM: Oh yes, you always had blackberries and all that stuff you'd can in the summertime.

EA: Yeah, of course that was-

CM: That was a job for us kids. Get out and pick berries, fifty sixty [indecipherable] fifty sixty [indecipherable].

EA: Where did you find 'em?

CM: Oh they was thick around they wasn't rose up like they were now.

EA: Oh.

CM: [indecipherable] past your cows [indecipherable] and kept those things down. You could see down from the hill where the old houses had been-

EA: Yeah, yeah.

CM: -you can see all around them and these blackberry patches could grow up in lots here and they went down in the bottom of us [indecipherable].

EA: Did you ever go out in the spring and get poke and things?

CM: Oh, yeah. Poke and dandelion and all-

UW: That thing I saw up there at Millbrook.

CM: Yeah.

UW: Toadstool-

CM: We used to eat them too.

EA: Yeah, hunting toad-mushrooms.

CM: Yeah.

EA: That's quite a [indecipherable], if you bought any mushrooms recently you know-

CM: We would get them and everything like that.

EA: You got enough to keep body and soul together that's for sure.

CM: Oh yeah.

EA: When you wanted to buy like clothes or something, what did you do? Go to Frederick?

Somebody go to Frederick for shoes?

CM: Oh I guess somebody went, we don't, we never got [indecipherable] that was the very first time.

EA: How big?

CM: fourteen-fifteen.

EA: Mm. You'd never been beyond like Thurmont?

CM: Thurmont.

EA: Was there any stores in Thurmont where you could buy shoes or?

CM: Yeah.

EA: Did your mother make any of the-

CM: Oh yeah, she'd make most of it.

EA: She had a sewing machine?

CM: Yeah, oh yeah. An old Elkridge I think it was.

EA: One of those-

CM: Still over there [indecipherable].

EA: One of those pedal-

CM: Yeah.

EA: -jobs.

CM: Yeah, they'd done a lot of sewing. Down there where we bought the clothes-

EA: Well if they had to go far down as Frederick, how often did they go?

CM: Not very often.

EA: Twice a year?

CM: No! Twice a year something like that.

EA: How did they get there?

CM: Horse and buggy.

EA: Who had the horse?

CM: Well Anne had one.

UW: Yeah and they'd tell daddy about that fellow? What's his name Charlie Fiff?

CM: Charlie Fiff yeah.

UW: And the bed took him here.

CM: Yeah.

UW: Yeah, that story came out the other day.

CM: [indecipherable] Spring would thaw and bring it up [indecipherable]. Everybody had a picket fence along there and old Mr. Moutty came up the road and he had a hand wagon with these ticks piled up high in the straw, ya know, and this horse was pretty skiddish, so she was

pretty crazy and they come off, old man Moutty, she was gonna take old man Moutty drive away until he passed and he hollered, "Hold your hand over your eyes! Hold your hand over your eyes!" [indecipherable] and she did and they had those blinders and [indecipherable] and he knew something was going on, the horse did. Spurred around there he didn't tear loose or anything.

UW: Why would that man have a wagon load of [indecipherable]? Did he collect everybody's or?

CM: No, no.

UW: That was for his own?

CM: Yeah, he had a family too.

EA: So he had been-he had been down and filled it with fresh straw. So you'd go down there and take 'em down there and dump the old straw out and put fresh straw.

CM: Yeah, fresh straw. Then after everything was trashed and blew there on the stack you know.

EA: Yeah.

UW: Aunt Boomer has the-he has the money and the wagon. How come he had a wagon?

CM: He was a farmer, a farmer.

UW: Oh.

EA: So he had a wagon and a horse?

CM: Yeah.

EA: His horse didn't have to eat the old straw.

CM: Yeah.

EA: Better days.

CM: Yeah, he kept that horse and wagon first for-he always had a good horse too, fast horse. Buggy always died though.

EA: And then when it's the same 'bout the same time that the ticks were filled up, inside the house would be whitewashed.

CM: Oh yeah.

EA: Scrubbed and whitewashed.

CM: Yeah. [indecipherable]

UW: Talk about the itch!

CM: Put them ropes on the bed-

EA: Yeah.

CM: -cross like that, some of them had slats and some had rope. [indecipherable]

EA: Hate to tell ya my bed's gots ball rope on it, even today.

UW: Really?

EA: Course we got foam mattresses on ours. Yeah they're all over the place.

CM: I can smell that, I can smell that midfolks.

EA: Oh really?

CM: Yeah.

EA: What's it smell like?

CM: Like a bitter like a taste I guess. George Pickett and I was down the, old Tom lived back around the mountain back along rest of 'em lived up around the hill.

EA: Yeah.

CM: [indecipherable] and we stayed all night. Sometimes when George asked me, “Get out of bed!” [indecipherable] and he was sitting out in the chair and he said, “Don’t you mind it.” I said, “No, I don’t mind, used to it I guess.”

EA: How big are they?

CM: Oh, just a little flat shell bug.

EA: About as big as a tick or what?

CM: They’re more closed in the shell, something like a turtle, ya know?

EA: Yeah.

CM: They gotta in the legs, in the knees. Most of ‘em, they’re dark, most of ‘em are red when they eat, suck the blood out of ya.

UW: Wonderful.

EA: They come out at night and bite you.

CM: Oh yeah.

EA: Then they hide during the day, that’s what I’ve heard.

UW: Is that right?

CM: Yeah. And in those log houses there’s nothing inside them but them old logs and cracks in ‘em ya know?

EA: Right.

CM: That was...

EA: I bet they got pretty chilly in the winter time.

CM: Guess it wasn’t too bad in the winter time.

EA: Had to keep the chinking pushed in the-

CM: Yeah.

EA: -in between the logs-

CM: The snow would blow and that wooden sink was the only thing that backed it up [indecipherable] snow would bring it on the bed. I remember one March we had real snow, but until then we had the homemade quilts and that kinda stuff [indecipherable].

EA: Good ole days.

UW: Yeah, you can have 'em.

CM: All we had was the stove in the kitchen.

EA: Yeah.

CM: Every night it had to be kindled, that thing was red in the morning. Get up and plenty times the water was froze in the kitchen in the water bucket, ya know, couldn't get it [indecipherable]. Then you'd kindle up the fire [indecipherable] that was our job after school, fill the wood box and get the kindled for warmth.

EA: That was a daily job.

CM: Yeah. Carry water, the water bucket was always empty. Had these old time sinks, ya know, [indecipherable].

EA: Yeah.

CM: They sell for antiques now. I used to have one of them.

EA: Dry sink?

CM: Yeah.

EA: Yeah.

CM: That's where we kept the water bucket.

EA: Well, did Denn- Marg's family, some member of their family, Dean's family, somebody from their family lived in that house until just recently, didn't they?

CM: Yeah, Dean's mother and father lived there.

UW: Dean's father and mother were the last ones.

CM: And Marg's, Dean's sister, [indecipherable].

UW: [indecipherable] she lived there until she bought it, lived there until somebody bought it right up there. Did they buy that then or how did-how did?

CM: No, I think [indecipherable] it was left to the two girls.

EA: Yeah.

CM: They'd paid Marg.

EA: Then the other half, the half that the Cardy's owned.

CM: Well that was Frank Fraley who bought that.

EA: Frank Fraley bought that. Who-

UW: He rented it.

EA: -He rented it. Who bought the investment property? He never lived in it.

UW and CM: No, uh-huh.

UW: No he rented it and there was numerous families that lived in there.

CM: [indecipherable]

EA: Well Marg and Boyd lived there for awhile.

UW and CM: Yeah.

EA: Cause Patsy was born over there.

UW: That's right. They probably were the last family who stayed there at that time weren't they?

Then once they left-

CM: No, they weren't the last. Shank or-

UW: Oh that's right Polly Shank was it?

CM: They lived in the-

EA: Now did they still have just wood stoves in there when they lived there?

CM: Yeah. [indecipherable]

EA: Did-did-have they ever put any kind of wall board inside of it or any kind of or is it still the rough wall?

CM: No, they put-

UW: Sheet rock?

CM: -John Cardy, John put the sheet rock in.

UW: I thought Marg had a like a kerosene space heater?

CM: Well maybe they did.

UW: I don't think they had wood, back when I remember there it sat on the right-hand side window [indecipherable]. She was there then.

EA: So, there was never any water at any time.

CM: No, nu-huh.

UW: No, never.

EA: And had outhouses in the back.

CM: Yeah.

UW: It had a real pretty bartlett tree in the back and [indecipherable]

CM: Yeah.

EA: Yeah well hopefully eventually we'll get it.

CM and EA: [indecipherable]

CM: Spring back up there again right where they live now and down here at the next house where Jerry lives the spring down there on that side, they have water I know. And the rest of us carry it from down there.

EA: And that spring down there is never failing spring right?

CM: No, no and now it stays right up there all the time.

EA: Who owned that-the Reeds owned that place did they?

CM: Yeah. Jessie's father and mother bought that.

EA: Okay, well that sounds good.

CM: And they was just a one story [indecipherable]. They raised it up like that, two stories. All about the same, all logs besides the stone house.

EA: Yeah. How about at Christmas? What-

CM: Well everybody had a Christmas tree all decorated up with homemade stuff ya know. Up at church they had [indecipherable] they used to do a Christmas tree [indecipherable].

EA: Anybody ever-have a tree like outside or anything.

CM: Oh no it was [indecipherable].

UW: You'd have the good Lord take care of the ones outside.

CM: Most was homemade stuff-

EA: Yeah.

CM: -[indecipherable].

EA: Did you ever go Kris Kringling?

CM: Oh yeah we used to go Kris Kringling.

EA: What did you wear?

CM: Oh most anything you know. Make ya look funny.

EA: Just old clothes?

CM: Yeah.

EA: You'd go [indecipherable] or something.

CM: Yeah, yeah.

CD BREAKS

EA: -Kris Kringling?

CM: Oh maybe twenty-five I don't know.

EA: What-

UW: Where did you go?

CM: We'd go around all over the place.

UW and CM: [indecipherable]

CM: Just to show yourself.

EA: Did you have a mask on?

CM: Yeah. The homemade stuff.

EA: Yeah.

CM: Most the farmers [indecipherable]

EA: Yeah.

CM: The Englishmen's they lived there in Springfield.

EA Then-didn't they kind you cookies?

CM: Cookies, cider, that kind of stuff. Warner's, go far down as the Warner's they lived down in-

EA: Mount Prospect.

CM: Yeah, Mount Prospect. That's about the limit, down [indecipherable].

EA: What day-what day did you go? Was it-

CM: Any time during the holidays, Christmas Eve.

EA: Okay...and-

CM: Then we'd go down to Mrs. Lou's down on [indecipherable] place. Til they had a dance down there, so they had us fight one time and-

EA: And you weren't invited back after that?

CM: No.

UW: Crowd got rowdy huh?

CM: Yeah, danced and some of the Fraley's some of the Fraley boys [indecipherable] dance and Christmas party down then.

EA: Who provided the music?

CM: Somebody along, there'd be somebody along and they'd play.

EA: What'd they play?

CM: Fiddle, guitar, mouth organ.

EA: Was that like square dancing?

CM: Yeah. We all square dancing.

EA: Well when you had the dances did they wear costumes then or just go in regular clothes?

CM: No they were in costumes.

EA: So-

CM: There was a lot of them that would go to that in costumes. Quite a crowd went down in there and dance.

EA: What about when there would be a snow, what about sledding? Did anybody have a sleigh or a horse?

CM: Yeah, then everybody, all them kids we all had wooden sled and everything and go back there in the mountains.

EA: Did you have toboggans that three or four people would ride at once?

CM: Yeah.

EA: You sit up on those, right?

CM: Yeah.

EA: And they'd really come down the mountain.

CM: Yeah. [indecipherable] We'd go up and down the mountain where and [indecipherable]

UW and CM: [indecipherable]

EA: Where did you skate?

CM: You know where [indecipherable].

EA: Oh I see.

CM: We'd go back in here in the winter time was always cool and we would go up there.

EA: What kind of skates did you use?

CM: Regular ice skates.

EA: They kind that you buckle on the shoes?

CM: Yeah.

EA: Yeah. Well did many people have just individual sleds? I mean most people just have their own sleds?

CM: Oh yes all of us kids [indecipherable]

EA: Were they homemade?

CM: Yeah.

EA: How'd ya make a sled?

CM: Oh the runner than you put on [indecipherable] black wagon tires, ya know, wooden runners, oak, put a brace in the middle to hold the runner. [indecipherable] way back there on the hill back in the Charlie Hill or something like that, then we'd go down where the furnace is there is a stave mill made a road back there, the lumber, the wood. We'd sled right back there in the road and Pig Sweeney, we'd call him Pig, Harry, Bill's brother-

EA: Yeah.

CM: He was coming down there one day and going up and we saw somebody going down in there and he come down and he hit a stump and brace his knee little stump in the road, the road, brace must've been a little lower or something, he hit that stump and he went on down [indecipherable] break his neck, it didn't just cut him up a little bit. You'd go fast down off that-

EA: Oh I'm sure you could. Did ever make a snowman.

CM: Oh yes we'd always play out in the snow.

EA: Snowball fights?

CM: Yeah.

EA: Well when you'd want a Christmas tree, what'd you do? Go up in the mountains?

CM: Yeah, there's Christmas trees right up here on what we'd called Chestnut then.

EA: What kind of decorations did they put on them I mean you said they'd make homemade stuff out of paper or ribbon or?

CM: Yeah, yeah, ribbon or anything but most of it was out of paper.

EA: So just make-

CM: Little lanterns, little lights ya know [indecipherable].

EA: Yeah.

CM: All kinds of cards, Christmas cards and all that kind of stuff.

EA: Anything that you could find-

CM: Yeah.

EA: -that could make a decoration.

CM: Yeah, a decoration.

EA: So up at church, what would happen at church? I mean anything in particular.

CM: No, I mean we didn't have any kind of entertainment. Kids would say [indecipherable] and sing.

EA: And that was when Mrs. Mammie McGill-

CM: [indecipherable]

EA: She was-

CM: She was up at the church that time. Course it was always [indecipherable] too.

EA: Yeah.

CM: Bring the tree and [indecipherable] they had more stuff on the tree than what we had at home, knickknacks ya know tinsel like things, course they had most anything on it [indecipherable] big tree.

EA: Put up a big tree in that hall right down there-

CM: Church ya.

EA: What about right up here in the big house who was living there then?

CM: Well [indecipherable] up here and had different people ya know and [indecipherable] there Carl lived there and Watson's.

EA: Did you ever go up there for any of the celebrations around Christmas?

CM: Yeah, the Wayshees lived up there, they used to hold dances then. No we never went [indecipherable] the furnace people. A lot of them were people that worked at the drop. The Wayshees they used to hold parties, they were there dancing and.

EA: And I guess they-they, it was more or less down at Auburn it was?

CM: Mmhmm. [indecipherable]

EA: Yeah, okay. Do you remember anything in particular down around Easter?

CM: No I don't about Easter.

EA: Did-did anybody pay much attention around Easter in particular?

CM: No, no.

EA: Didn't have special celebration for that or anything?

CM: No.

EA: Did people make a big thing out of birthdays?

CM: No not too much no.

EA: Didn't have a birthday cake or?

CM: No, not that I remember, I guess some people did but I don't know much about it ya know didn't get out the furnace much.

EA: No not if you only were in Frederick ya know fourteen or fifteen.

CM: Yeah I [indecipherable].

EA: Yeah I imagine that was quite a-quite a trip.

CM: Oh yeah.

EA: Go to the big city. You remember anything in particular about Frederick that was unusual.

CM: No, it didn't change much. Yeah.

EA: Yeah.

CM: Yeah something big about that time I went to get it.

EA: When did the trolley come through here first?

CM: Let's see.....I don't remember exactly when that was.

EA: In the thirties?

CM: No, it was before that.

EA: Was the stave mill still going when the tr-

CM: Yeah.

EA: So it'd have to been like-

CM: Must've been like, it come here-it come here across right across the road and I think they had some trouble getting the property, the righta way. Then they come up through there, they had a sign [indecipherable] back here. They come up there and then they filed right along through. I don't know what year that was I don't know.

EA: Did you ever ride the trolley?

CM: Oh yeah.

EA: Where did you go on it?

CM: That's when [indecipherable].

EA: Oh that's when you got to Frederick. Okay and go to Thurmont the other way.

CM: Go to Thurmont, yeah go to Thurmont and ride the trolley on the way home on Saturday evenings. Saturday evenings [indecipherable]. Yeah see the trolley, we had nowhere to go before the trolley, the horses and buggies.

EA: Yeah.

CM: We'd have to go with somebody.

EA: Where did you go to school?

CM: Up here at the furnace.

EA: That's the school that burned down?

CM: Yeah.

EA: K. Like over here in this log house, say the windows, did people put curtains in the windows?

CM: Yeah.

EA: What did they make those out of?

CM: Just out of cloth and [indecipherable] no fancy curtains or anything like that.

EA: What about on the floors? What would have been on the floors?

CM: Floors were bare, floors were bare, wood floor, wood floors. They was shiny.

EA: Did they ever make, crochet rugs, rag rugs?

CM: [indecipherable] crochet rugs yeah. Yeah we used to have some of them. Mostly round ones, ya know?

EA: Yeah.

CM: And then on the weekends we'd go clean up. I don't know what they used to make the boards look so clean.

EA: Lye soap?

CM: You had, yeah it's lye soap. [indecipherable]

EA: Did most people make their own lye soap.

CM: Yeah.

EA: So that was part of the, that was another job?

CM: Yeah.

EA: Save the grease from the butchering?

CM: Yeah, rines and....yup made your own soap. There was one brand of soap you could be, I forget what it was, laundry soap.

EA: Fels-naptha?

CM: [indecipherable]

EA: That was an early soap-

CM: Yeah.

EA: -I know that they-

CM: long days.

EA: Yeah. That sounds like cause that was one of the early ones that they had. Yeah. Did-did any photographers come through or anything take pictures of kids or?

CM: Yeah. Yeah once in awhile in the summertime [indecipherable].

EA: Any of those old pictures survive, do you know?

CM: I don't know...my brother remembered him being hired and took a picture one time, I don't know what he had in his hand, something in his hand the flies were after. Something he was eating I guess. The things sticking between his fingers the flies, that was on the picture I do know that. He was just a little thing then I remember him being [indecipherable].

EA: Might've been a piece of cake or something?

CM: Might of been something to eat.

EA: Did you ever make ice cream?

CM: Yeah, made ice cream.

EA: Did anybody have a cow? Where'd you get the milk?

CM: Oh Fraley's had cows and Shupp's had cows and Al Shupp who lived out back he had a cow.

EA: So they'd sell the milk?

CM: Yeah.

EA: I bet ice cream as a real treat.

CM: Oh yeah it was, ya know, in the summertime, the summertime.

EA: Where'd you get the ice?

CM: Up here at the beachhouse.

EA: Oh, okay.

CM: The ice house.

EA: So, you'd have an ice cream turner-

CM: Yeah.

EA: -and turn it.

CM: Yeah.

EA: How bout mail? Do you remember the post office here?

CM: Na-huh.

EA: Oh okay, I guess that was gone.

CM: Oh yeah i remember the [indecipherable].

EA: They brought the mail down from Thurmont?

CM: Yeah.

EA: How-how the mailman go?

CM: On buggy.

EA: Horse and buggy.

CM: Old man Damon I believe his name was.

EA: Hal Damon?

CM: No na-huh. Older than him he was an old man I remember.

EA: And he went to-I wonder how far he went.

CM: I don't know how far he went...he come through here about nine o'clock.

EA: Come through pretty early then?

CM: Yeah.

EA: I guess not a lot of people got mail.

CM: No, na-huh.

EA: A letter was a treat.

CM: Yeah, there was no papers or nothing back then.

EA: Did anybody get the paper?

CM: No, Fraley used to get the Baltimore Sun.

EA: How'd they get that? Did it come up on the train?

CM: Came up on the train in Thurmont. I don't know how they [indecipherable] I guess it did.

The Baltimore Sun.

CD BREAKS