

Interviewer: Elizabeth Anderson

Interviewee: Plummer Fraley

Plummer Fraley:...my old man came from loading the furnace, he owned the fire.

Elizabeth Anderson: Your father farmed the fire?

PF: Yup. My old man he owned the furnace. And he sold it George Amen and-

EA: To who?

PF: -George Amen.

EA: Oh yeah, yeah.

PF: Sold it to him and he-and he got to [indecipherable]

EA: You didn't-you didn't

PF: My daddy-my daddy he worked there. He fired the furnace for a many years a long time and then the one brother they couldn't-they couldn't farm and that was the one brother he went looking for. And he fired him for a couple years and he [indecipherable].

EA: That one boy?

PF: Yup he was in the service and I had a hog down the road and [indecipherable] he ran over there and I rushed it and there was a fire. So, he was in the service over here and he come back, well his wife was from down around Jefferson, sold him, give her a farm down there. Neighbors there they took over the farm [indecipherable] and he couldn't farm it. So I turned over and I farmed the thing for I don't know how many years and I even farmed.

EA: Well, when your father went there, how old were you then? Were you born there or?

PF: I was born over at the furnace. [indecipherable] was Frank the youngest boy was born right over the hill. I was about eight years old when he left the furnace, used to work there.

EA: Frank, now is that-

PF: [indecipherable]

EA: Well how many then-what year would that have been you think that your father went to the furnace?

PF: Oh I don't know. I couldn't-

EA: You know how old you were then?

PF: I was about eight years old at a couple [indecipherable] he left the furnace.

EA: What did he do at the furnace?

PF: He used to fill on top.

EA: Oh he was a filler?

PF: I used to have a picture of 'em but then [indecipherable]

EA: I have some pictures I brought along here that maybe you can look at. Mom's pictures. And this one is the furnace in operation.

PF: Yeah that's the furnace.

EA: Do you know who any people standing out there might be?

PF: Nope I don't know any of 'em.

EA: But your father worked-did he work in this one or-or over near the charcoal?

PF: No he worked up in here. He worked up in the charcoal [indecipherable] there.

EA: Were they still operating the charcoal furnace?

PF: Oh no no.

EA: It had been shut down?

PF: No, there's nothing there anymore at the furnace.

EA: Yeah I know that but I mean it had been shut down when your father worked there?

PF: Out there it was, he was working here he sure wasn't working [indecipherable]

EA: It wasn't doing anything?

PF: No, he wasn't working there, nu-huh.

EA: Do you-do you remember them talking about anybody else who worked at the furnace?

Who they were and what their job was?

PF: No I don't...I don't know.

EA: You don't remember any names of people might of worked there?

PF: No..No I don't know. My two brothers used to work there for awhile.

EA: What did they do? What was their job?

PF: They worked there out on the mines-

EA: Oh they were in the mines?

PF: Out there at the furnace out there where the road went through.

EA: Yeah.

PF: [indecipherable]

EA: I don't know.

PF: Do you remember where it's been?

EA: That was the mine back in there back in-back in the whole-whole of houses.

PF: Back in the furnace-right back in the furnace.

EA: Right back in the furnace?

PF: Yeah. [indecipherable] right back in the furnace back in there. [indecipherable]

EA: Did you-do you remember when they had this shovel, caulk and shovel there? That-that was up at Blue Mountain.

PF: Yeah.

EA: Here's another picture of the same-same general area...with the shovel down in the pits.

PF: Yeah.

[indecipherable]

EA: You remember these-these buildings? The house and the old store?

PF: Yeah, that's the shop.

EA: That was the shop? Where was the mule barn?

PF: Mule barn?

EA: Yeah, mule barn.

PF: That was-that was over here at the house, right over in there.

EA: That's where they kept the mules and horses and [indecipherable]

PF: Oh yeah back over there. It's gone back over where you make the turn and go around the corner and [indecipherable] where the big house used to be-

EA: Do you know-

PF: -the store that was stuffed up there on the hill.

EA: And there's the house.

PF: And you come on around here at this corner on this side of the road here on straight onto the river here, there was a stable where they kept their mules. They check their mules there.

EA: Across from 806 from where the house is.

PF: Yeah.

EA: Yeah.

PF: [indecipherable] 15.

EA: [indecipherable]

PF: That was right across the road from the house here right down here where you take the 15 here [indecipherable] at the stable clear over there at the railroad at the charlie haul.

EA: Yeah.

PF: The railroad was a steam went out of hand. After the furnace and everything went down tore away they made room for a trolley line junct.

EA: What was your father's name?

PF: Henry Fraley.

EA: Henry Fraley?

PF: Yeah. [indecipherable]

EA: I found a Fraley along time-a lot earlier than that who was a molder and made the molds in the sand to pour-

PF: [indecipherable]

EA: No they used the molds things like this stove these stove plates and things like that

PF: [indecipherable]

EA: You have- you ever seen a stove that looks anything like that?

PF: [indecipherable] I never have.

EA: And this is a fire back from-you put them in the back of fireplaces.

PF: Nope I never really think about doing.

EA: You ever remember anybody saying who might of built that house there at Lindy Hill? Did ya ever hear a name?

PF: Who built it?

EA: Yeah.

PF: No, I don't know. No it was gone long before I knew anything about it.

EA: Yeah but you never heard of anybody mention a name.

PF: Huh? No, I [indecipherable]

EA: Well you had said, I read in the paper that you said when you were a youngster you had to walk up into the mountains and get the cows.

PF: Well we used to, the cows would get out or something like that and they'd go up on mountain, and my daddy [indecipherable] the farm he had about sixty-seventy acres and people all around the furnace there, a lot of them had cows, and they-

EA: Yeah.

PF: -and they'd just turn 'em out cause there were no cars or nothin. They'd just turn 'em out and they'd go up over the mountain.

EA: How did you know whose cows were whose? Did you have to...

[Elizabeth and Plummer talk at the same time]

PF: ...they had bells on 'em [indecipherable] and they'd go up into the mountains and go up there and go up there to the mountains and [indecipherable].

EA: Yeah.

PF: A chestnut orchard, then just turn the cows out and let 'em go. In that pile of land they had that store there and over there at the- Methodist Church there-

EA: Yeah.

PF: -[indecipherable] Road.

EA: What was his name?

PF: John Powell. He had that. He had a group of cows that turn 'em out and [indecipherable] he'd go and get them and they'd go back and he'd go get 'em, that's all I know.

EA: Did the Kelley run that store at one time that was before Mr.-

PF: Yeah Kelley run it. That was after Kyle's house.

EA: That was after?

PF: Yeah, old man [indecipherable] Henry was dead and gone by that store, his boy used to run. He worked the summer here and he sold it to Kelley.

EA: Well Kelley was the one, he the father of Mrs. Frank Fraley, right?....ya know Frank Fraley down at the furnace the one that had the store there?

PF: Yeah.

EA: Okay his wife was a Kelley, Ida Kelley.

PF: No, he-that wasn't his girl. [Plummer is very hard to understand here and the audio cuts in and out] Mary Kelley, she's still living there. She's with her daughter.

EA: Oh, I see. Wonder where those Kelley's, the Kelley's daughter, the daughter I was acc-her father was supposed to have been a storekeeper, supposed to have worked there at the furnace, Frank-young Frank was supposed to have worked for him. That is her-the man she later married.

PF: I don't know.

EA: You don't know about that.

PF: I-I-I don't know.

EA: Yeah, somebody said that Mrs. Kelley, May Kelley, was still up around Blue Ridge Summit somewhere.

PF: Yeah, she up there in Northern.

EA: Yeah.

PF: But the cows on that farm before that, and then when he died, his boy run it for several years then he sold it and old Kelley bought it.

EA: Who owned that little house there where Bill Sweeney lives? Right there beside

[indecipherable]

PF: All I know is there was a couple that owned it. Owned the house that Bill Sweeney lives in was a store-

EA: Yeah.

PF: -it was a couple who owned it, I don't know, until Bill Sweeney bought it.

EA: Oh I see, it wasn't a Sweeney house then. The Sweeney's didn't-

PF: No, it wasn't.

EA: The Sweeney's lived down in the furnace I think.

PF: They lived down in the furnace, okay? His daddy was my uncle and they lived down in the furnace. They were all killed in that mess of the river that time.

EA: Right. His father was McCollin Sweeney.

PF: Yup, I know 'em.

EA: Hm. You remember seeing them when the furnace-was the furnace operating at all when you were a little boy?

PF: Oh, yeah it was a-runnin. We used to go there and watch it when they made casts, pig iron. We used to go there and watch it.

EA: Is that all they made were making there then, pig iron?

PF: Railroad. That's all they made that I know of, pig iron. That was- Rob Mary worked there when at the old what's his name's house. Old man Cockel had it when he sold it-sold it old man Wayshee. Then he sold the farm [indecipherable]. He sold the furnace to old man Wayshee. Old man Wayshee went for seven-several years. And then he sold to a little fellow from up in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. He had a furnace up there. He had one in Cornwall and he bought and I sold it to him that day. He had it for a couple years after him. It was all over.

EA: Mmhmm.

PF: [indecipherable]

EA: Do you remember when it would make big sparks in the sky at night, I mean big lights in sky at night? Did it-did it light things up or was that charcoal furnaces that did that.

PF: I don't know, it might've been a charcoal [indecipherable]. That was all over up in there. On good nights there were round lights out there afloatin'. They hoist-they'd hoist their ore [indecipherable] and they'd take their carts and dump it down in there. That was about forty-fifty feet high.

EA: Yeah I-

PF: Forty-fifty feet high.

EA: Who was the man that worked with you daddy, do you remember him?

PF: I don't, I don't know.

EA: Well.

PF: Well when that boy from up in Pennsylvania bought it, it didn't last long.

EA: Yeah, yeah I know how,

[indecipherable]

EA: Yeah, yeah do you know who, you don't remember making charcoal at any time. When they brought the charcoal down off the mountain or?

PF: No, I don't know anything about that. All I know is I seen the prices where they cut the wood I mean the coal hours-the coal hours what they call 'em.

EA: Yeah.

PF: And they wrap on there, that's all I know.

EA: They were up in the mountain?

PF: They were all over the hill-mountain. They-they cut [indecipherable] cut 'em about five feet long and set 'em in places in big round places, ya know, big round circumference.

EA: Right.

PF: And then they'd burn it there and I don't know how they done it when they did they they'd load it on wagons and brought int down there.

EA: When you farmed-when your father the farmed the farm, what was it just the general farm, I mean, just raising crops and-

PF: [indecipherable] raised crops

[indecipherable, both talk at the same time]

PF: -had some cattle and [indecipherable].

EA: And your main money crop was just like corn or wheat.

PF: Yeah, we raised corn, wheat, stuff like that.

EA: [indecipherable] How many acres were in that farm?

PF: It was 206 acres. Yup.

EA: And on the road that goes back to it, was it the same road that goes back to it now that goes back through all that in there the same lane-

PF: Yeah that's the same road. Goes back in there around the house [indecipherable]

EA: Were there a lot of little houses along there that people lived who worked over at the furnace, worked around where there were a lot of them along the road [indecipherable]-

PF: All them old furnaces, them old houses down there and all those little houses up there survived by that.

EA: Yeah.

PF: That's the old.

EA: Yeah.

PF: They belonged to the furnace.

EA: Yeah.

PF: And the people who worked at the furnace lived in 'em.

EA: Yeah.

PF: [indecipherable] lived in one. He used to go to the furnace. The after-after what's it called, the solar plant and wasteland and this old chick and chick bought the furnace [indecipherable] and he sold everything old, and people who bought the houses who lived in them.

EA: When someone worked at the furnace and they lived in one of those houses what happened if the man would get hurt or something? Did the family have to get out of the house?

PF: No, they stayed there.

EA: Even if the-even if the father couldn't work at the furnace they could still stay there?

PF: They stayed there! Or they could do something, that's all I knew anymore.

EA: I was just trying to find out if they had any kinda place to go or ya know any provision made for anybody who got hurt-

PF: They stayed there, that's all I know. They stayed there, that's all I know. And no one got hurt as I know of and-

EA: Well

PF: Nothing I knew anything about.

EA: They were bringing more ore when you remember-were bringing ore out with dinky-those little dinky engines, you, you don't remember any ore out with mules or anything.

PF: No, no I'd never seen that.

EA: But they did bring it out with those little carts with-

PF: Yeah.

EA: -those pull by engines.

PF: Back up there in the mines, that night way back in there had a washer across the road and they brought in down there in those carts with that mule and nothin in there to wash it and that row of houses up there and the old railroad run up there behind it, we'd run right up to it before they put that other paper in.

EA: Yeah.

PF: They done that with mules pulling hard up there different colors, fill it up, and pull it back on the hill, then they bring the oil on down to the furnace, grind it up down in there in those engines.

EA: Somebody said the mule would step up on the little cart and ride down the hill and then when the cart was dumped he'd pull it back up.

PF: I don't know. I just-

EA: That's what one man told me.

PF: I don't know. My daddy brother worked down there and he helped his brother up riding with him and fell off there and killed him.

EA: Is that right?

PF: He was only a boy, a young boy, and he was riding along there along that traffic and fell off there in that and killed him.

EA: What was your father's brother's name.

PF: I'd have to remember that...Uncle Charlie was one of them, Uncle Charlie [indecipherable] Uncle Will.

EA: How are you related to the Fraley's in Catoctin Furnace? Frank and Mabel?

PF: Those guys who are down there now?

EA: Yeah.

PF: [indecipherable] my brother, I mean my daddy knew people way back related to 'em.

EA: But you don't knew-was-was your father's brother-

PF: [indecipherable] they were related way back [indecipherable]

EA: Another generation back.

PF: Yeah they were related, [indecipherable].

EA: Yeah well everybody's related to everyone, ya know?

PF: Yeah back there, back there they were related.

EA: Now Norraine Shook's mother was a Fraley.

PF: Who?

EA: Norraine Shook, married George Shook.

PF: Barbara Shook?

EA: No, Norraine, Norraine Shook. Her mother was a Fraley, she lives down there right below Blue Moun-below the mine bank, right along in there.

PF: I don't know. [indecipherable] my brother's daughter, Margaret or Norraine.

EA: Yeah that's it Norraine.

PF: He died.

EA: Yeah George died.

PF: She's still living down there in her house.

EA: Yeah. And she's your brother's?

PF: Daughter?

EA: Daughter.

PF: Marcy, Norraine, then there was another one, she died when she going back to school.

EA: Huh.

PF: [indecipherable]

EA: Did their father work at the furnace?

PF: He used to work at the bank and he furnace to huh, yup.

EA: They provided work for a lot of people, didn't they?

PF: Oh yeah, all those people who live in those old houses there, down the street the there, when they bought the furnace and all those people lived there they opened the mine bank and all them old houses, the real old ones they all belong to, that's where the people lived who worked at the furnace.

EA: Do you any idea how many people were working at the furnace when you-

PF: No, I don't know. No, I don't have that.

EA: Did you ever hear about any women working there or was it all men?

PF: All men, I'd never heard of no women.

EA: Did they-did they use like young boys or was it mostly old men or there young, like young 13-14-

PF: Well, they were older, they were older people that worked around down there. I ain't seen no boys, no kids, that was-

EA: Well it's a very interesting place.

PF: Yeah I know it was alright, if they kept that old castin house there in the town-

EA: Yeah.

PF: -showed up, it's a wonder nobody did buy that big house.

EA: Yeah.

PF: They kicked them out, those old folks, when I was farmer, I was farmer then and we could farm then and this [indecipherable] go in with him and buy it and I wished I woulda.

EA: Yeah.

PF: I wished I would've gone in with him and bought it but if I'da known [indecipherable]

EA: Yeah that's too bad.

PF: It was a pretty place with the fireplace and all.

EA: They said it had a lot of fireplaces.

PF: Yeah [indecipherable].

EA: Yeah.

PF: [indecipherable] we was there many times, I liked it there when daddy was home. I told him afterwards, "I'm sorry." [indecipherable] so we could make money out of it.

EA: Yeah sure.

PF: We had that big white fence around there and we could get somebody to move in and take care of it until or boys got big enough to move in and people would come around and [indecipherable] and see it-

EA: Yeah.

PF: -They would charge them so much [indecipherable] cause there was hundreds and hundreds of them running through there.

EA: Yeah there's a lot of people who-

[Elizabeth and Plummer talk at the same time]

EA: -fall down-

PF: Now the furnace runs down there all through the place.

EA: Yeah.

PF: I'm sorry I didn't went with him old man Davis was in town, he wanted me and I said well I don't have too much to do now after retirement and [indecipherable] and I told him I'm sorry [indecipherable]

EA: Do you remember what they wanted for it?

PF: No, I don't know, I don't know what they sold for it.

EA: Was it just the house and the-and the land right around it they were selling at that time?

PF: No, old man Jakes, that old fellow from that Pennsylvania soda farm, old man Jakes-

EA: Yeah.

PF: -worked up there in the mountains and I don't know where he's living and somewhere.

EA: Yeah, he lives in Smithsburg.

PF: Well, he's the one he bought the whole thing.

EA: Yeah.

PF: Yeah he sold the houses all up to the people and lived down there and everything else.

EA: Were you gonna buy it from Jakes or-or from the man before [indecipherable].

PF: We got it from Jakes.

EA: Oh, you've gotten it from Jakes.

PF: We'da bought it from him.

EA: He's the one that broke it all up into little pieces.

PF: Yeah, I think he couldn't sell it and nobody could buy it. [indecipherable]

EA: Yeah, yeah I know it's a mess. No doubt about that. It's a terrible thing-

[Elizabeth and Plummer talk at the same time]

EA: No, no he doesn't own any of it.

PF: [indecipherable] He added 1000 acres to it, the furnace. That road, that road clear up there at the Blue Mountain, up there at the spic bar, on both sides of the road was the furnace.

EA: Yeah, yeah.

PF: Clear up there.

EA: How far back to the east did it go back there along Bryce Road, did it go back that far?

PF: Where they were?-

EA: The land, the furnace's land, as you go off Kelley's store road and you go up Bryce Road, did it go up-

PF: From Kelley's store there it went down across the road there next to the Windy Hill Farm-

EA: Yeah.

PF: -it come up through there were that road and it goes straight on back, way on back there where the 'spic farm is.

EA: Yeah.

PF: All along that road, on this-on this side of the road, long time, clear on up-clear up there 15.

EA: How far north did it come, did it come up as far as Blue Mountain Inn or?

PF: It went clear up the snake farm is and they had that.

EA: Yeah.

PF: It went clear on up there along the trail along the mine bank.

EA: Yeah.

PF: Up there [indecipherable] grey shed goes across-

EA: Yeah, yeah.

PF: -right down the road where the garden was there-

EA: Yeah.

PF: -it went down up there, up there where that store is [indecipherable] it went clear on up there.

EA: Which store is that?

PF: That was the one that the Devilbiss' are on.

EA: Oh it went clear up there.

PF: It went clear up past him past the snake farm.

EA: Well the snake farm further on down now.

PF: [indecipherable]

EA: Mmhmm...okay..well this-this.

PF: It went clear on past Devilbiss' and it go all on out there was this furnace way out there.

EA: It was a big operation.

PF: Yes it was, [indecipherable] clear on down there over by Lewistown, just past clear mountain, ya know, and it went far on up there as the others went, others went.

EA: You said when you would go in the mountain you remember seeing places clear off and where they charcoal had been burned. Did you ever see any of the charcoal actually burning, I mean from the furnace-

PF: No, no [indecipherable].

EA: They had stopped that I guess.

PF: All I could see I guess [indecipherable] we cut the mountain off at that there stave mill company come in [indecipherable].

EA: You worked for the stave mill?

PF: I worked at the stave mill, we went out there, my brother and I and some other fella and there was 27 of us. The stave mill [indecipherable] cut it five feet and then they'd hull it into the stave mill and [indecipherable]. Yeah, I worked on that, my brother and I, about 27 of us working up

the devil. [indecipherable] bought that county store back on down that road down there my brother boys own the place now where we were at We walked on the way clear on down there to Lewistown on that mountain we had cut that whole thing clear on there, the furnace up there.

EA: You'd walk up there everyday?

PF: Walk up there everyday, clean on down there everyday.

EA: How did you get the wood out that you cut?

PF: Then we had shoots [indecipherable] make a make shoot-

EA: Yeah.

PF: -and then we [indecipherable] she'd come down to the coal heart, down there in Salem. And we'd sell 'em there for a quarter a pound. Then this fella would come to me there [indecipherable] horses or mules and called me in [indecipherable].

EA: How many years did they operate the stave mill?

PF: I don't know [indecipherable].

EA: They had cut most of the wood out of the mountain then they had?

PF: Yeah, then they moved there and went up the mountain somewhere else, right up there next to Blue Ridge Summit or somewhere back in them mountains somewhere. [indecipherable]

EA: That mountain there above the furnace has been cut off a couple times.

PF: Yeah it's been cut off.

EA: Cut off for charcoal and cut off for staves.

PF: Cut off for staves, charcoal.

EA: Do you remember- do you remember the paint mill at all anything about the paint mill.

PF: Well, right, used to be a flour mill right down where the furnace, the trolley line was, that I know was one.

EA: Was that still operating when you were a boy? The flour mill?

PF: Yeah it was still there [indecipherable] lived there and they had to remove the rail line and they sold everything like that so [indecipherable] then they started to sell that stuff then it got torn down.

EA: Now was that the one that had the tall brick chimney?

PF: What the furnace?

EA: No, the flour mill.

PF: I don't know. [indecipherable]

EA: There was, Clint Miller said there was a big tall brick chimney behind his house. You know where Clint Miller lives?

PF: Yeah.

EA: Okay he said there was a big tall brick chimney.

PF: Well he lived in the house in the end.

EA: There was a big chimney he said back in there.

PF: There was an old flour mill back in there that I know.

EA: Was that the only mill that was back there then?

PF: That's all back there was that big flour mill.

EA: Did they use water from the mill race at all? Was the mill race-

PF: The mill race come on down there and go right on back up there. Right up there across the road there when the stave was a big pond. Right here was the shop is right on this side here before the railroad come down here there's a big pond there and I know water comes from the crick into that [indecipherable] race. Then after they put the trolley line in that was it, the railroad, was closed.

EA: Did they use-did they have mill wheel at the flour mill, I mean, did the mill race turn the water wheel?

PF: I guess I did, I don't remember of it, I guess it 'cause that water went down on in there when they closed the mill race.

EA: The water was still running down there?

PF: Oh it was down around there. I know that [indecipherable].

EA: Do you remember that big pond that was down in front of Auburn? Ya know the bug house down there at the end with the garden?

PF: That's the MacFerson's house.

EA: Yeah.

PF: Yeah, out there, I know that. I've seen that many times.

EA: That didn't have anything to do with the water at the furnace?

PF: Nope, not that I know of.

EA: It was just a pond for beauty, I guess.

PF: Yup that [indecipherable] that's all. Then the road come on through there cut up through there [indecipherable].

EA: Yeah. Yup.

PF: Yup.

EA: Do you remember when they farmed-when they farmed there at all? When Dr. MacFerson was there, do you remember him? Old Dr. MacFerson?

PF: Yes [indecipherable] after that.

EA: Oh did he?

PF: When lived on [indecipherable] and the other half we exchanged it for him [indecipherable].

EA: Is that the place where down- where the house is down on Blacksmill Road where Carl lives? Lorihan?

PF: What?

EA: You said the lower half of it. Which?

PF: On the lower side of the road on the left side of 15 was out there a long time.

EA: Yeah.

PF: Down in there is the other groundhog Charlie.

EA: Yeah.

PF: The other cyclones [indecipherable].

EA: Oh I see. A lot of that on the upper side is right back up in the trees now.

PF: Yeah, yeah [indecipherable], he farmed the one half and my daddy farmed the other half.

EA: Oh.

PF: They did that for years.

EA: What, that was when Dr. MacFerson was still living?

PF: He's still living there seen him [indecipherable]. We used to go [indecipherable] when we was boys up there to see him.

EA: Yeah.

PF: And Mrs. old MacFerson.

EA: Yeah.

PF: She lived there used to go [indecipherable] go up there, eight or ten of us. Had a lot of fun, can't do that anymore there.

EA: Yeah, I know I remember a lot of people-

PF: [indecipherable]

EA: Yeah, I guess so.

PF: Yeah can't trust it now. No, after we took that that there started to get dirty and that was it.

When we went for a good many years we was dressed now.

EA: Everybody dressed up?

PF: Yes, see everybody didn't know us. We just wanted to have a little fun.

EA: Yeah.

PF: Then we'd take off our mask, ya know?

EA: Yeah.

PF: Then they'd give us lemonade, cake, and everyone was welcome then everyone would go to the next house. We'd walk over to Thurmont, then went down to Grace head. Then we went to Creagerstown and back.

EA: Is that right?

PF: We'd walk all around, all over the place down there, [indecipherable] after it starts it began to get dirty, ya know, and that was it. We did for many years we just went. That was with my cousins.

EA: Yeah.

PF: Now unless somebody takes a bunch of little kids they was in-

EA: Yeah.

PF: -they don't do that anymore.

EA: Yeah, I know. It's too bad cause those were good times.

PF: Yeah, yeah we had a lot of fun. It's there, I didn't forget. I wished she'd come back again.

When we would go on Christmas Eve, we'd go every night til after New Year's.

EA: Yeah.

PF: [indecipherable] They'd tell us, "We want ya to come." So we'd go [indecipherable] and we'd walk all around like that.

EA: Do you remember-you remember over there at Creagerstown when that Monocacy Valley Creamery was running? The one that burned down in the big fire in 1914.

PF: [indecipherable]

EA: Yeah.

PF: Yeah, my daddy and I was down there at the brick church working on the graveyard and here come before we knew it come the fire right there close to us, he was up and out doin something, he come out [indecipherable] and wagons, spring wagons, boy he was hollering and [indecipherable] church and go over there Grey looked out and he said, "the town was on fire." And my daddy and my other brother we jumped in the spring wagon with the horse and we went over. And we go over and that fire go from that mill right across like that cross New England Road and go this way and if we wouldn't have changed there wouldn't have been nothin left. [indecipherable] everything.

EA: It burnt a lot of it anyway.

PF: It went in and across the road there and must've took everything up to the square!

EA: Yeah.

PF: Across the square and them old houses down this way to that old farm, Stayver farm. Huh? Stayver, it stopped before it went to them, the wind changed then it got ahead of us. If it wouldn't done that there wouldn't been nothin. They were between the whole thing. [indecipherable].

EA: Is that right?

PF: It went straight down like that.

EA: It was a high wind?

PF: Yeah, the wind blowed across the road down there, then it went straight on up and they go that way and all it was it stopped. When it done that well it saved the little houses down there across the farm then. There's a couple down there on that side-

EA: Yeah.

PF: -in that square down there.

EA: Yeah.

PF: And when it got there it stopped.

EA: Yeah.

PF: 'Cause they got ahead of it and the wind stopped, and that's how they saved it. If it hadn't been for that it would've go [indecipherable] in between the whole thing. And we was right there and we [indecipherable] or not.

EA: How many days did it burn?

PF: Oh, I don't know, hard to tell how long we was there, I guess it stopped right down there [indecipherable] go home.

EA: Well, a lot of those houses were brick houses, weren't they?

PF: Yeah [indecipherable].

EA: Yeah, cause I found a picture of foundations and everything, ya know, standing up and just the old foundations, the old chimney foundations and everything, I gotta picture of Creagerstown before the fire and after the fire. And it's really-it's amazing how much it burned.

PF: Oh it did, if it wouldn't of stopped it'da gone [indecipherable] straight on down there on toward Frederick.

EA: Yeah, yeah.

PF: It would've gone clear on down but the wind stopped and they had a chance to stop it. That's how they saved it.

EA: They brought fire trucks in there from?-

PF: Yeah, they things up there from, some they had there but they had to use horses to pull it.

EA: Yeah.

PF: They had to pull those horses [indecipherable].

EA: Yeah, took a long time.

PF: Yeah, took a long time to get things straightened out. If it wouldn't have stopped, if the wind hadn't stopped [indecipherable] may have killed them all, it certainly did get burned [indecipherable].

EA: Did they say that a lot milk, was there a lot of milk shipped into that milk plant from around there, I mean, did it come in there in cans?

PF: Yeah, that's the way the hauling time all those milk cans.

EA: What did they do with it there, what did they make?

PF: I don't know, I don't know, I know they hauled milk there, we never hauled milk there.

EA: You don't know if they made butter or what they did?

PF: They made butter on the farm.

EA: You sold your own butter?

PF: Yup. When I farmed, my daddy [indecipherable].

EA: How many cows did you have?

PF: I had about, I think I had twenty, I had 'em all hand roped. I made butter for a long while and then they started to ship the milk in.

EA: Yeah.

PF: Then I got tagged, and got the cows tested and got everything straightened out. And all the milk I hauled over to the furnace, to the road.

EA: Yeah.

PF: Six o'clock in the morning [indecipherable].

EA: And you went out there at six o'clock in the morning?

PF: Six o'clock in the morning, I'd have it cooled and hauled out there.

EA: Did they pick it up everyday?

PF: Every morning.

EA: Gee, that makes you get up every morning.

PF: Four o'clock in the morning I had to be up and do it all by hand, now they do it with machines.

EA: Oh yeah, I know, I know.

PF: Same way of farming.

EA: Yup.

PF: We stepped up there in the farming with horses walking and doing. Now all they do is ride.

EA: Yeah.

PF: They ride to cut their hay. They ride to rake it. They ride to bale it. They bring it in they tear off all the little shoots and take it up to the [indecipherable]. Everything is done by riding, but we done all of ours by walking.

EA: Yeah I-

PF: Cause all we had was one, single, little plow.

EA: And you farmed 200 acres?

PF: We farmed that 206 acre farm. That's right, we had about 40-50 acres of wood, 40-50 acres of wheat, and stuff like that and done it all with horses.

EA: How many horses did you have?

PF: I had six then? [indecipherable] and we rode up on them then.

EA: Mmhmm.

PF: Yup.

EA: Yeah that was-

CD BREAKS