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Interviewee: Caveness, Noel; Caveness, Clara  
Interviewer: Poyser, Stephen; Barton, David

Title: An interview with Noel & Clara Caveness, September 10, 1979/ interviewed by Stephen Poyser and David Barton

Scope Note: The following transcript is from the Bay Springs Oral History Project Collection.

The Bay Springs Project is a historical community study. A primary goal of the oral history research was to contribute to the archaeological research of the area.

was conducted by Soil Systems, Inc. (later Resource Analysts, Inc.) of Bloomington Indiana under contracts with Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service using funding provide by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Approximately 40 hours of oral information was collected and recorded with a total of eight hours being transcribed. Most of the informants resided in or near the town of Belmont, Mississippi.

Copies of the tapes and the completed transcripts are on file at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Library of Congress and the Indiana University Archive of Traditional Music (of the Department of Folklore).

Interviews in this collection fall into two processing categories:

1. Untranscribed tapes
2. Transcripts with tapes

Please note that, in many instances, the transcripts provided are only approximations of the contents of the taped interview.

edited

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CC: What I've said lots of times, I guess, Noel was raised right here above this <sup>Red Bud</sup> ~~red~~ Baptist church was the only church in the surroundings. Well, as the children would grow up that was usually the only church they ever went to, where they lived the closest, because they had no way of going, you know. Well, my mother and grandmother Miss (<sup>Gentry's</sup> ~~Jensen's~~) mother, they was raised close to the Church of Christ and no way to go on a walk...

DB: Is that up at Bay Springs?

CC: Well, it is now but there was one further back, way back, well I forget the name of it, <sup>little 'ol</sup> ~~little~~ bitty church, but they got to going to Bay Springs because that was for every denomination, you know, and everybody could meet, anyone that wanted to ~~to~~ preach there. Well, that got closed. Now, they lived way over, almost to Booneville, when my mother was born and they went to the Church of Christ over there. And then, you know, this Bay Springs cotton mill come along. Well, people got to kind a moving to it. Just kind a like they are to this job up here now. And then they got to going to the Church of Christ; they called it the Church of Christ but ~~Methodists~~ and all denominations preached there.

~~SEE NEXT PAGE~~

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Interview with Noel &amp; Clara

Caveness

September 10, 1979

Interviewed by Steve Poyser &  
Dave BartonTape 2<sup>a</sup> Side 1 (parts)

- DB: What was the nearest church to that one up there?  
 CC: To Bay Springs?  
 DB: Bay Springs, What was the nearest one?  
 CC: Well, I guess that old Friendship was, do you reckon? Is it about as old as Bay Springs?  
 NC: Well, the Prentiss Baptist, you know, was up there...  
 CC: Way up there on ~~(Hatchez)~~ <sup>Mackey's</sup> Creek.  
 NC: ~~That's~~ That's where, it used to be down where that graveyard is.  
 CC: ~~Ya~~ Yeah.  
 NC: And then they moved it up there where that old, <sup>New Mackey's Creek,</sup> ~~(Hatchez)~~ Springs.  
 DB: That's about a mile north of Bay Springs?  
 NC: <sup>Yeah</sup> ~~That's~~ That's a...  
 He might know...  
 CC: I can't tell you much about it now since they tore it up so bad.  
 NC: Well he knows where <sup>Ginn Branch</sup> ~~Jim Wright's~~ was at.  
 DB: Yeah.  
 IC: You cross the <sup>Ginn Branch</sup> ~~the~~ Ginn Branch up there.  
 CC: Well you cross <sup>Ginn Branch</sup> ~~Jim Wright's~~... Did you see that cemetery?  
 IC: There's a big cemetery up there. A lot of people buried there. And I believe the church got burnt there, and they moved it on up pretty close to <sup>Paden</sup> ~~(Paden)~~ in there. And then over here in Friendship, that was a Methodist Church, on Number Four over there out, it's about three mile <sup>on</sup> west of Bay Springs.
- C: Bay Springs.
- B: Did you ever hear whether the factory workers went to church or not?  
 C: Oh, I know I didn't. Probably they did, you know, a few, but I tell ya, my mother, I've heard her talk about them having to walk. If there was churches they was far apart, you know, and they'd walk and she'd talk about they'd sit down in the shade and fan with their bonnets.

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C: They wore their bonnets, you know, to church and they had to walk a good way. I think the churches must have been scattered, you know, pretty bad, but there wasn't a lot of people in here either at that time just ...

C: My Daddy he belonged to <sup>Primitive</sup> ~~(Prentiss)~~ Baptist Church, and he'd go up here to Providence, <sup>and that's between Dennis and</sup> ~~that's twenty (minutes) from~~ Belmont, and he belonged to the New Hope Church back over in Prentiss County, and they was raised about two miles back west here, and they'd go up there and they'd stay all night with somebody, you know, and...

C: They used to visit a lot.

C: My Daddy had a cousin up there, and I don't know, and they had some more folks but I remember lots of times <sup>g</sup> going up there <sup>the third and</sup> ~~his~~ <sup>fourth</sup> Sunday in May <sup>their</sup> ~~son~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~there~~ foot washing day. Everybody tried to <sup>that</sup> ~~make~~ ~~best~~, you know, and we'd go up there in a wagon and stay all night with some people up there and...

D: Just as a matter of interest, what is a <sup>d</sup> foot washing day? Show my ignorance.

D: Well, they just washed feet in that church. I never did see it...

D: ...Well, I don't know they got it out of the Bible somewhere ~~{~~ or nother' <sup>belief</sup> ~~...}~~ that was their ~~believes~~, and in May all around they washed feet up here at Providence. My Daddy went up there a whole lot. He'd go in a buggy or ride a mule, horse, something or other up there.

D: Who did the washing?

D: Just each family washed each others' feet.

D: They be a 'sitting on a long bench, you know, or a pew or something, you know...

D: They'd ~~{tie}~~, I forget what ?...

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CC: Someone there'd wash your feet and way I understood it, then you'd wash the next one's feet. Wasn't that the way they did?

NC: ~~Whoever'd~~ <sup>Whoever'd</sup> wash your feet ~~and~~ he'd wash his feet...

CC: I think that's the way they done ~~it~~.

SP: Did each church have a regular minister or did the man go around from...?

NC: Well no, most of the time it'd just, once a month. I know in Providence...

NC: Now that's just out of Dennis, what he's <sup>talking</sup> telling about...just across the railroad.

NC: That was the third Sunday in May and then~~x~~ second Sunday in May was at Old ~~(Natchez)~~ <sup>(Mackey's)</sup> Creek, called it, and the fourth Sunday in May was at New Hope over there. My Daddy he joined there at New Hope and he'd go over there on that day especially.

DB: At the interdenominational church at Bay Springs, did they ever have a minister there?

NC: Well, now not that I know of unless it was just a certain Sunday that one denomination preached. Then maybe if a other denomination had a day ~~{that}~~ they wanted they'd bring a minister. If they<sup>ever</sup> had just regular, well they did I reckon, but it was a, every Sunday ~~{whether}~~ it was the same denomination I thinks the way it was, you know.

B: When you were living down here at Moore's Mill back then, did you ever go up there to church?

C: Oh yes, we went to church... Well, it kinda' went dead at one time, but several year before me and Noel ~~wered~~ married; we married ~~{in}~~ '28, well they (kindly) got it straightened out. Well, you know Ellis Wright at Belmont, you know him...

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NC: No, he didn't know him.

CC: Well, I mean he knows of him, Wright's on that.

id: Mm hmm.

CC: The hotel where you all stayed is his widow you know. So after he bought all that land in there from odds and ends, well, he wanted to fix the church house up and he did, and he helped ~~em~~<sup>'em</sup> get up lumber for the men, my Dadday and all of them helped make the benches. So several year before we married, well they fixed it back up and Ellis Wright, he belonged to the Church of Christ and so after that fix-up I don't reckon there was any other denomination preached there. But they could I reckon now because ~~it's~~<sup>it's</sup> supposed to if they wanted to, but...

DB: You say they made furniture. What kind of furniture did they have?

CC: They just made benches-pews... 3

DB: How was it laid out in the church?

CC: Let me see, that was a big, old house. Well, they had a string went down the side, down the middle and this side. There was three rows. It was a big, old house...

NC: Down in what we call<sup>the</sup> Amen Corner...

CC: They was benches in... ←

NC: They went this way, I mean, ~~probably~~<sup>probably</sup> to the other, on, down where they'd see preachers, see, they turn the benches about, I'd say, twenty feet that way, they'd face preacher's, you see.

CC: Between ~~'em~~<sup>'em</sup>. I, for ~~the~~<sup>the</sup> last few years up there before everybody moved away and sold their farms, after Ellis got to buying the land. A lot of people moved to town you know, Belmont and about. But back a few year before we married, they'd have meetings there through the <sup>S</sup>ummer and ~~Fall~~<sup>Fall</sup> about like now, and the old house was, it was

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CC: just a huge house and a lot of times didn't hold all the people that was there.

DB: This is the Masonic Lodge you're talking about?

CC: Under it, there was a church under it though, building on it, But there was crowds.

SP: When they first decided to build a church in the community, did the members of the community share the cost of the materials and stuff or provide the materials?

IC: Mm hmm, Yeah.

CC: I don't know nothing about Bay Springs. I think this one old man built that building, didn't he?

C: Well now, he may have, I imagine, that was way back before our day. ~~that~~

C: He was a rich, old feller. (Laughs)

B: Was there another building before that Masonic Lodge? Was there another Mason's building?

C: Well, it used to be on this side of the creek. When it was organized, ~~it was~~ on this side of the creek.

B: Where was that located at? Do you know?

C: I don't know just where it was at.... but...

C: I noticed in your book where, that you got us, I reckon. No, it's ~~that~~... Belmont, Jerry Martin's book...

C: (Isn't that) ?...

C: Belmont, Jerry Martin book, wasn't it, it said

burnt the cotton mill up there. Well anyway I read it in some of these books. Now, what I was getting back about the lodge building being on this side now, it was told, and I don't know what book it's in, I read it that this man did burn out Bay Springs and that's how

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CC: come the building on the other side so, I heard my mother tell that. I don't know why this man did burn it but all my life it was told he did and then it was in this book I read, and he probably must have, and that's why they moved it all on the other side. 'Cause it was better building place my mother said. It wasn't rocky like it was on this side.

DB: It was a better place to put up a building.

DC: Mm hmm. More smoother and better, right.

DC: An old store house used to be there, ~~it~~<sup>it's</sup> tore ~~it~~ down.

DB: Do you remember anybody who used to live in the store house.

DC: Yes, a few.

DC: Well, not really just, somebody just messing around...

DC: Old Man Parson, John Parson, he lived in it and run a little store there.

DB: What would he sell in the store?

DC: Just a few groceries, and he didn't sell very much. He was an old man. My Daddy run the store right down here, and he'd come down there and buy most of his stuff.

DB: So Parson's would get his stuff down here and carry it up.

C: Mm hmm.

C: He was real old and he carried...

C: He had an old mule ~~on the~~ and buggy... <sup>a</sup> And he'd lead the old mule. He'd walk.

C: Slap your head off you spoke to him. (Laughter) He was ill. He was real old, you know, and we was afraid of him 'cause we worked the fields up there around it, you know, and sometimes that older brothers, brother-in-law or something would want us to go out to the store and get us something to eat when we would be a' resting

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CC: out in the shade and we wouldn't go 'cause he was ~~live~~<sup>a little bit</sup>... Why he was I reckon, in a way but he was just kind'a old, you know and let his temper. We was just afraid of him. He never <sup>did</sup> ~~say~~ nothing to us but...

B: How did he have the store laid out when you'd go in there?

C: Well, it was just a big, old, huge building, you know, and it was just like it was back in the ~~Nelson~~ time; big, old counters and big, old stair steps go up, fireplace and chimney. Well, he just had what little he had just sitting up on the far end of the counter there close to where they eat and slept, they just had a little bitty... ~~is~~.

B: How old do you think you were when he was running the store there?

C: Him?

B: How old do you think you were ?

C: Me?

B: Yeah.

C: I guess I was about fourteen, sixteen. ~~I~~ I believe about ~~1~~...

B: How many years did he live in that store? Do you remember?

C: Oh, not more than a year or two. He didn't stay there a bit over two year did he?

C: I don't remember either...

C: He just, old feller he just kind'a ~~drifted~~<sup>drifted on</sup> ~~(and all)~~. He didn't stay no place much. He was old. He didn't live too long after he ~~left~~ up there. He was just a...

B: What happened to the store ~~than~~<sup>and</sup> after he left?

C: Well, you see Ellis Wright owned it and mostly now, Ellis just kept lumber stored in it, ~~He'd just haul~~<sup>He'd just haul...</sup> ~~He'd just haul~~. Last time I ever seen it before people went tearing up the place, Ellis had lots of lumber. All along he would build a new house on the place, kind'a,

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CC: you know, and it was just full of lumber...

NC: A lot of it was stole~~d~~ out of there.

CC: Yeah, a lot of people did get, he<sup>h</sup> had a lot of pretty cedar lumber, you know, and oh, it was real pretty. Now I think a lot of that come up hauled off, and he didn't know about it, you know, and it just finally like the lodge building was up there--people would just go in and it was such pretty, wide plank you know, {dressed} on one side and people liked it because it was pretty, and they'd just, they said, would just go in and get it, a lot of it was hauled away. And then finally, I reckon, he quit using it much and then people just do like they did the lodge building. They just go and pull off such things as they wanted, and then, I believe, that somebody, they said, there was a chimley (chimney), big, old pretty rock, it had a fireplace in the store, and then the fireplace was in a little, smaller room back there. Mr. Parson {and} them used that for a kitchen and bedroom, I don't know what is was for for the store, but there was a little fireplace back there, and I think somebody just tore that chimney down, hauled the rock off, ain't that what they told?

CC: They was such pretty, they just so pretty and smooth...

NC: Well, the people just go in there and they pushed that chimley (chimney) down. It was, the rock was {hewed} out, you know, and they was just as smooth ...

CC: (they) big and square.

NC: ...as the prettiest chimleys you ever saw.

SP: You mean they didn't use any mortar or anything between the rocks?

NC: Oh yeah, mm hmm.

SP: Oh they did.

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CC: Something.

SP: Yeah. What was the building made out of? What kind of wood? Do you know?

CC: Just pine, {wasn't it} ? —

NC: Mostly pine.

SP: Pine.

CC: Big, old pretty, it looked like pretty pine, you know, {we} used to, there was pretty lumber to what they are now. (This)...

DB: How was the building laid out? Was it one big room in there or?

CC: Yeah, just one {great} old, big... That road down at this end, facing, there was two doors there, and there'd be the steps to walk up in them doors, and then you was in the store, and then the counters was on both sides, and you'd get a way on down {at} that end, {well}, there was some awful, big, pretty stairs. They was wide...

DB: So the front doors were the doors facing out to Highway 4?

CC: Yeah, they facing. They facing the old road, is that what we call?

IC: Yeah (mm hmm).

DB: Old Highway 4.

IC: Hmm, yeah.

CC: But they wasn't...

DB: The back doors were set up on a porch?

~~on (no, or on the north).~~

CC: No, they wasn't, they was just big, old rock steps, to walk up to open the door...

C: Well, they had a door on the east side.

C: Yeah there's a door <sup>you</sup> ~~(on)~~ way and one this a way to go in the store.

B: Okay, so the door on the east side would be the back door?

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CC: Well it would be on that end from... ~~to~~

NC: It was on the east side, 'bout half way ~~to~~ the building, you might say.

CC: One of them.

NC: And then on the other side, the one that come in this room that Clara was talking about...

CC: You already know about.

NC: It was on the west side...

CC: <sup>West</sup> North side... ~~North~~

NC: And the other two doors, they was double doors, they was on the North side.

CC: But now they ~~wasn't~~...

DB: So what side was the front door on, the north side?

NC: Mm hmm.

SP: Why would they have two front doors?

NC: Well, just to taking stuff in the store, unloading, you know, stuff...

SP: Was it like a double door or were there two separate doors?

NC: Mm hmm.

CC: (Two) separate.

SP: Two separate doors.

CC: No, no, they would just open here, right together... there wasn't a window in it.

but now

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SP: Really.

CC: Hm mm. I reckon that's why they had the big, old doors where you could see. They wouldn't...

SP: Did they have any types of lights--kerosene lights, or anything, in there or?

CC: Well they probably did at night but, I don't know, they might a used pine ~~knot~~ lights way back. They had that big, old fireplace.

NC: Ah, guess they did.

CC: But anyway there wasn't a window in that old store.

NC: There wasn't, they...

DB: Was there an upstairs?

CC: Mm hmm, yeah, big upstairs.

DB: How was that laid out?

CC: Well, it was just like the bottom floor. Well, now there might have been a winder (window) upstairs in the end, I call it, way I'm a setting, it was setting this a way with the road, the two doors right at the road. Then you go way on down at the lower end and go up the stairs, plum on up, and I believe there was a winder in this end of the building up there.

SP: Above the doors.

CC: Mm hmm, above the doors, but there wasn't no side windows, the end...

DB: What'd they use the upstairs for?

CC: Well, just storage, I think. I think I've heard my mother say it way back, they'd buy hides, or fur, or something like that and they would hang a lot of that up there to keep it until they got it moved. I don't know what they done with it.

SP: What kind of hides did they have? Do you remember?

CC: Well, what was it--possum?

NC: Yeah some.

CC: And a....

NC: Cowhide.

CC: Yeah, that's what I was trying to think of. Kill beef I reckon, you know, and they'd a....

SP: Would they sell the hides then to people or ship 'em out?

CC: Yes, they...

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NC: (Or) shipped 'em out,)

~~CC: ( )~~

~~CC:~~ Most of that went to Eastport.

DB: From your earliest recollections of Bay Springs area, was there ever a Nelson store running there?

NC: No, huhn uh.

CC: ~~( )~~ Nelson, you {know} when Nelson run ~~( )~~ the store?

NC: Yeah, but we didn't {ever} remember it.

CC: No, I thought you meant the name ?...

DB: That would have been before your time.

CC: Oh yeah, my mother just wasn't plum grown when he run the store...

DB: Now did the people who were factory workers shop at that store?

CC: Well, they did if they had anything they could use, you know. It wasn't like it is now, {but}...

NC: (unintelligible) everything...

CC: You couldn't buy, I mean, little snacks to eat and things like that of couse, but, I guess, material and shoes and things like that I guess they...

DB: How would they buy stuff at the store? Would they trade for it or would they?

CC: Well, if they had the money, now, they would, I guess, use money, but now my grandmother she was a... always carding and spinning and making socks and gloves and she couldn't hardly keep socks and gloves you know. Now I think she'd take 'em there at the store, or maybe, Mr. Nelson's the only one I ever heard 'em talk about. He would want 'em and I don't {know} what she got for 'em, but she would knit 'em, fix 'em and carry 'em, so she probably traded it, lotted it out in groceries and things they needed... and snuff, you know.

DB: Yeah.

CC: Now just such as that, people just didn't, well anybody that had the (unintelligible) and was fortunate to have money to start with, I don't guess they had to trade it out, but anybody like my grandmother, a widow woman, and a small child like my mother, probably, she just traded, I guess, a lot of hers, for something they needed, maybe.

DB: Which of your relatives worked at the factory, if any?

CC: Well, just my mother's sister, Miss Gentry's mother, you was talking about.

DB: Miss Gentry's mother.

CC: Mm hmm. Now that's all that I remember myself.

DB: Did you ever hear any stories of what she did at the factory?

CC: No, I don't. Because I did hear 'em say something one time about... she would run a spinning wheel, but it was a lot bigger arrangements than they had at home. I don't know, could it'd a run by water, the one she?

NC: Yeah...

CC: I think maybe the one she used, it did. ... (~~Right~~)

NC: They spun and {wove} wool there. But I don't think they ever made any cloth there.

CC: At Bay Springs, I don't know.

DB: So if they spun it but they didn't make cloth, what would they do with the threads and the?

CC: Well they'd just {bundle} it up and ship it somewhere.

DB: Did any of your folks ever work at the factory?

CC: No, no {they didn't}.

CC: I guess Noel showed him when he was here last Spring, the coverlet

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- CC: Well, I guess lots of people did. My Daddy did. I can remember when they'd run the sheep in the lower lot, where they put 'em, when they wanted to shear 'em, you know.
- DB: That's up on ~~the~~ Ginn Branch?
- CC: Well, yeah, he had sheep there, and then he moved on up towards Belmont, and he had some there and, so a...
- DB: Do you remember when they stopped raising sheep around here?
- CC: No. Well I just remember, they just kind'a drifted away and everybody quit having 'em. I don't know why they did.
- SP: That is pretty.
- CC: You can show him the ~~width~~<sup>of it</sup>. He can have better eye to what I'm...  
 Now there was three widths of that.
- DB: ~~And~~ your grandmother did this?
- CC: His grandmother did that one.... Now what they tell me that top-side your looking at is all wool, and now that inside--wrong side--is cotton. Now I don't know how but I can remember, I keep a moth ball in it...
- ~~NC: there's three~~ ~~it.~~
- SP: Right and these were sewn together after it was on the loom.
- NC: Mm hmm... Now here it is right this ~~away~~...
- CC: Moths <sup>has</sup> got in it lots of time, but I got it in moth ball but they....  
 it's so old.
- SP: But it's still in good shape though, it ~~really is~~.
- CC: Well, I guess to be a way over a hundred year old.
- NC: I've been offered a hundred dollars for it... My mother give it to me 'fore (before) she died.
- DB: Well hang on to it...
- CC: We keep it on the bed in the wintertime and my mother used to always... Say ~~everybody~~ everybody always used 'em in cold weather and then store 'em in hot weather on account of the moths. But they're so old. Now them old blankets my grandmother made, I think there's some pieces of them here but, ~~there~~. ~~(~~the~~)~~ they was used, you know, there wasn't plenty of sheets back then, fer (for) winter use...
- NC: I know, my mother had, I don't know how many of them yarn blankets ~~she~~ had, ~~but~~ several, if you can get in between them and go to bed, you could sleep warm.
- CC: I'd hate to get in them old scratchy. I never could stand them. I never could.
- NC: I like 'em.
- CC: I can remember. And they'd knit us stockings, they called 'em ~~scratchy ones~~. ~~They made us warm~~... ?
- DB: Did they ever make burlap ~~out of it too~~?
- CC: No, not that I remember, they didn't.
- DB: You were telling me the other day that used to have cotton bags for picking cotton.
- CC: Mm hmm, yeah. They'd buy material for that, you know, ~~It just awful~~ big, old white stuff and...
- DB: That's from Belmont they'd buy it?
- CC: Yeah, Belmont, Booneville, some place and, then one time, it got scarce and we had a lot of cotton, nearly plum over the country here, and people come here they didn't have ~~pick~~ sacks, and I think it's just kind'a like overall, kind'a like the denim or something, Noel got somewhere, He's a-working and I made four or five out of it, we called 'em old blue-pick sacks. People that would come and didn't have enough sacks, you know. We used them old burlap sacks ~~that~~ we'd get feed in.

NC: They wasn't burlap, just heavy... like cloth, you know, more than blue denim...

DB: What was the best kind of bag or basket to pick cotton?

CC: Well, that regular old {pick}-sackin' we called it is what.

DB: That was the best?

CC: Mm hmm, but I don't know the name {of it}. We just called it stuff (x) make {pick}-sacks out of.

NC: Well they got to making them out of, you could buy 'em, already made out of... what'd you call that?

CC: What are you talking about?

NC: You know we had some of 'em here.

Side 2a  
END OF SIDE 1

DB: How long would it take you to fill up a sack?

NC: Well, I never did pick over two hundred pound a day, myself, and I don't know, they had some that pick four hundred pound, in along there. Clara used to pick around three hundred pounds a day. But I just never could pick.

SP: How much did a bail of cotton weigh about?

NC: After it's ginned?

SP: Uh-huh.

NC: Oh around five hundred. They tried to get 'em five hundred pound bale (~~a day~~).

DB: How much would it weigh before it was ginned?

NC: Well, it'd depend on the variety of cotton. And about...

CC: I was gonna (going) to show you. Now this is what they called counterpin now that my grandmother made and this (just) a, that wide you see. I don't know (whether) anything any wider than that or not (that) they ever made. But that is just ~~fold~~... There's some more of 'em somewhere but I don't know what ~~it~~ ever went with 'em. But anyway them's just plain old counterpins and was talking about the old striped blanket. They're wore out, but I'm still a keeping 'em just cause there's... Some of 'em, look better than that. I don't know whatever went with 'em. There's some that my mother here, you can tell they's been used, but now, they was. Now that's what I don't know how they all managed the different colors of thread in ~~there~~, but...

DB: Did they make their own dyes?

CC: Ah, I think they did. I think I've heard 'em talk about getting a, well, I know I have, getting a ~~bark~~, walnut, and red oak, and such as that, and making their dye. Carry it out to the pots ~~in~~ and make... 2

SP: Did they ever use any kind of berries or anything? Do you know?

CC: Yes, they used berries, was it *alders* or elders. Yeah they used berries, but I can't remember. I can just remember it very well but I just forgot how it was, but now they used 'em. They'd go off and, walnut, they used walnut. You know that's a terrible stain. You can get that on your fingers. And I know walnut, and cherry, and red oak. I ~~can~~ remember, them three kinds, I...

SP: Do you remember how they used to make the dye from that or not?

CC: Well, they boiled that bark in a pot of water, in the wash pot, and then, they would boil it good. They'd lay that out and <sup>and</sup> they'd have their material wet and wring it out (of) water, and then put it in that pot of water. And I guess they ~~boiled~~ it, I guess they did because <sup>they</sup> had it boiling when they take the bark out.

SP: And then they'd leave it in 'til it was the color they wanted to get it.

CC: I guess so, as dark as they wanted it. And lot of times, now, a pot of that would dye right smart 'cause it was, if it was certain kinds real color, deep color and walnut, best I can remember, I can just see some of it - it was real dark brown. And then the red oak, I'd call it more of a, I don't know what you call it hardly now, the color, but it was real orangey-reddish, strange looking color, I don't know what'd you call it. And cherry was a pretty color too. But that's the only three bark that I can remember, but I think it was these old long berries, ~~alder bark~~. Is that what that is? ~~is~~

SP: Ya'all know what I'm talking about?

SP: Is it sort of like a weedy bush? ~~is~~

CC: No, it's a big, old, hard tree like, sapling-like, and it's hard.

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- CC: Couldn't hardly cut it, could you? The one I'm talking about is what grows around and has these long tags not the blueberries.
- DB: Is this hedge apple, ironwood you're talking about?
- CC: Might be something like that.
- NC: I don't know.
- CC: No, you know what I'm talking about Noel. It's elderberries and alders had these tags, I think. Now these little long. Why I've seen chillen (children) chew them tags. I never did, but I was always afraid of things, but I've seen chillen chew them. Alder tags now is what it is, and that dark bark, you knock that first top side off. Well it's a real yeller (yellow), the inside bark, and now they used that too.
- SP: What about if they wanted to get something like a blue or a purple? What would they use?
- CC: Well, now, I don't know about that. Actually, I've thought about that. I've seen some wayback before these old blankets, they had one was awful pretty and it had a purple in it. It was more purple than this is blue, some way, but I don't know more for nothing how they got, where that come, from but I guess it was some kind of...berries, I imagine.
- NC: I imagine they did sort of like making paints now, you know, put so much of each one in and make a different color.
- CC: They might have done that.
- NC: I guess they mixed some of that and made a different color.
- CC: And I don't know, we might have told David, we might've told him when he was here before, now, I can remember when my grandmother used to get out, August I think when she'd get out and dig a butterfly root for tea for us all through the winter to drink and she'd pull up a little, old green weed, pretty high, you'd walk around and tromple on it and wouldn't know what it was and it smelled so good. Well, she'd pull a lot of that up and put it in (pitter) slips, and dry it for winter to make tea and it was called (Pennyroot). I'd know it if I was to smell it, but I wouldn't know the weed unless I did smell it, but we'd drink a bunch of it.
- NC: Had a yeller (yellow), what do you call that?
- CC: (Boon) That is butterfly root.
- NC: (No). Well now something that dug the roots for sore mouth.
- CC: Yellow root.
- NC: Yeah, yellow root.
- CC: But I wouldn't know that either... We was raised on a lot of that but I wouldn't know 'em myself.
- CC: But now there's a fever weed out, used to grow up and down here by the barn, and my mother's been here a lot of times, and she'd have a bad spell with her kidneys and she'd have us to go and get her some of that fever weed and get the, I think, made out of the roots of it, for a tea. And then I guess, did you all ever drink Sassafras tea?
- SP: Oh yes.
- CC: That's good. Ain't nothing too good with that. I don't see how anybody drinks sassafras. We did, we had to, but I never could see no convenient time to drink it myself, but we had to.
- SP: Did you all ever have any, what they call Shumake tea, made out of sumac?
- CC: Well, I know that bush but I never did drink no tea out of it.
- SP: Yeah. 'Cause people up in Virginia, Kentucky make a tea out of that and sweeten it with honey.
- CC: Well, now out of the...

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- SP: Out of the berries.
- CC: The berries.
- SP: Uh-huh.
- CC: Well, I never...
- SP: You boil the berries and strain them and you get a sort of pinkish colored liquid, and it tastes like hot lemonade.
- CC: Well, I thought (~~Shumake~~ <sup>Shumake</sup> was poison. Now you see I'd know that bush. Well, ~~well~~, I know these...
- NC: Well, there's some here they claim is poison, they ~~caused~~...
- CC: These herbs around, they're, I guess, for all kind of medicine but we just don't know about ?
- SP: Was there anybody that lived in the area that knew a lot about the use of herbs and stuff?
- CC: Well, now, there used to be old people in here, real old ones, that tell a lot of things to use 'em for, I reckon, they did know what they was talking about.
- DB: Did they have a name for 'em?
- CC: Well, no I don't reckon, (~~oh~~ <sup>oh</sup>) maybe they just tell something, ~~that~~ it was good for so and so. Now we had an old man that lived in here and he was, you know, kind of old. (Interruption) (~~Alice~~ <sup>Someone</sup> enters). What I started to tell you about this old man, he was real old, and one of my nephews was real sick when he was about, I guess, three or four year old, he'd vomit and vomit and they went to the Doctor, got medicine ~~time or two~~ and it wasn't helping a bit; and he'd just walk, just a-holding hisself and cry with his stomach, and so this old man, he lived up kinda' in the woods there, and he happened in there and he was crying--they told him what all they done and everything, and it wasn't doing any good. And he said, well I can tell you what is ~~worms~~ what's a bothering him' and he said, 'if you'll get this elder, now that's what got the berries on it, and make him a tea out of that inside bark, scrape the top bark off, and he says, 'he'll be easy by the time he drinks half a cup of it'. Well his Daddy was sitting there and he said, 'Well, you go with me', said, 'I'm afraid I'll get the wrong thing'. And they went out, gone just a little bit and come back with it and he wittled the top bark off, and this old man, he said, 'Now let me show you', says 'Don't scrape it up', say, 'You scrape that down on that paper, because if you scrape it up he'll vomit it up', and he scraped that down and got up there, oh, we was just a-boiling water and getting that tea ready, and it looked after it got boiled, it looked kinda', just a little bit milky looking, you know. Well, he drank that and I don't reckon 'til today he ever had another spell like that. And we've all laughed and made little bit, just fun about it in a way, but now that's a scary yarn but that's the truth. Now we'd never heard of that and his Daddy, he ~~was~~ afraid to go get the bark hisself, I mean, (booish) limb, and now they just whittled that black bark off, and then just scaped it, of course, it just real fine stuff, you know. And now I don't know if he was just ~~to~~ get well or that's what happend.
- SP: When somebody got sick in the family, how sick did they have to be before you called the doctor? Did you try other remedies before you called him or not?
- CC: Well, you just done all you thought you could. You done a whole lot. Everything you could think of.
- NC: Yeah, they'd try all those home remedies they could think of. And then there wasn't too many doctors back.

SEE NEXT PAGE

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NC: ~~And then, a, there wasn't too many doctors, back.~~ WE had an old  
Doctor (deleted), lived up here about three miles, and he rode horse,  
on horseback, all the time.

DB: Was he a dentist or a doctor?

NC: Doctor.

SP: He was a doctor. <sup>that</sup>

NC: And he had a boy <sup>v</sup> was a tooth dentist. ~~He~~ He got killed  
right out there... ~~his~~ his boy did.

CC: And the rest of his boys was outlaws.

DB: What happened? How did he get killed?

NC: Well they was pretty mean boys. (Background noise) And a, they  
was a store across the bridge out there and ~~the~~ broke in that  
night <sup>it was</sup>

CC: That's where Mr. Wilson is now.

SP: HM, MM:

NC: And they <sup>kind</sup> kind of a... <sup>he</sup> He claimed he walked up on this stuff  
there, but he'd had more than he <sup>could</sup> ~~talked~~ <sup>talk</sup>. And I always thought  
he shot himself. He had two caddys tobacco. I don't know  
whether you all ever remember seeing tobacco in caddys, about  
<sup>little</sup> eight inches square.

CC: Boxes.

NC: Boxes, packed in there good, you know. And he had um, about two  
of them and a lot of other stuff, you know, and he was just  
loaded. And a, getting that up on his shoulder better, I think  
he pulled the trigger and shot himself. ~~(Outside noise)~~ through ~~here~~  
here somewhere. He lived a little while. I believe that, always  
believed, there was somebody with him for it was ~~rained~~ that  
night and this, this first house, right down here where ~~the~~  
woke him up. Her brother lived there and a, he didn't have no  
dirt or nothing on his clothes and he'd had to crawl back  
down there, they said. And I think he shot himself.

CC: Accidently.

NC: Yes, <sup>h</sup> (~~dead~~) accident.

CC: Yes, if he did. ~~Body~~, nobody'll ever know because he just...  
He was a, up in the hall there at the door, and he woke my  
brother up, and he told him to get up he'd been shot so he  
was gone and got from the front steps to the hall door, you  
know. And they got up and my other brother was there too  
and they got him in and of course, there wasn't no cars and  
had to do everything horseback, and ~~and~~ they called the doctor  
and called up and down the road and so um, he died a few  
minutes after they got ~~him~~ in the house. Nobody ever did  
know now, he just appeared there at that door and woke them up.

NC: Well ...

DB: You said the ...

NC: ~~Peyton Blazer~~ <sup>(deleted) believes</sup> his brother was with him.

DB: You said the ~~(deleted)~~ boys were pretty rough, were there other  
roughnecks living in these parts?

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- NC: Yeah there were some in here.
- DB: How about up at Bay Springs?
- NC: Well, there was lots of fighting going on there when they had the old soldiers' reunion. They'd get cut... ~~(everybody)~~...
- CC: Have you met the {Finches?} at Iuka since you've been here this year or last year? Jesse Finch or {Barry} Finch. Well, Jesse's eighty-six year old and he was up here yesterday. He married one of Noel's cousins and he was talking about, a long time ago there at Bay Springs at the reunion, old soldier's reunion. He said that he remembered these men had had an awful fight and one of them was just cut all to pieces and he just didn't believe he'd live, but he did live to be a real old man, and he's buried out here at this cemetery. But, he was talking about what all happened at Bay Springs, you know, way back.
- NC: Well, they couldn't move him. He had to stay there a day or two before they could move him, what Jesse was saying.
- CC: Yes, as far as I can remember people said Bay Springs was a rough place, way back on account of the cotton mill and so and so ~~would be (married)~~ a bein' there.
- DB: Were the people who lived up there, were they married or, like the factory workers, did you ever hear if they were... that
- CC: Well, I reckon, all the houses there was around there, the most of them was married, I think... {But} there wasn't an awful lot of houses there, close around, you know.
- DB: Did the people own those houses or did they move around? Move in and out {off} those houses?
- CC: Well, I guess ~~the~~ most of 'em owned them. I've heard my mother say they's just little, maybe a log house ~~(in)~~ <sup>and</sup> the side room, and maybe just one big old log cabin thing, and that was the only, you know, for everything. I guess they owned their little...
- DB: Were there a lot of renters up there?
- CC: Well, I don't think so. They didn't {tend} a lot of land.
- NC: There wasn't too much farming going on back in them days, here.
- CC: Just a little small patches.
- DB: Where did they have farms up there by Bay Springs? What areas up there did they farm?
- NC: Well, I just don't know.
- CC: Well, across the {Ginn Branch} is, I guess, about all the farming land look<sup>n</sup> to me like there could be around {there}.
- NC: Well, there had been some farm land up there.
- CC: I couldn't see nothing <sup>toward</sup> Booneville <sup>(way)</sup>.
- NC: You know, back going ~~for~~ Booneville <sup>(way)</sup>, up on that hill out there in that level out there. I imagine that would have been farmed in time.
- DB: Is that toward Marietta Springs?
- NC: Yeah, uh-huh going...?
- DB: So west, west of Bay Springs.
- NC: Go up, just up the hill from Bay Springs. I can remember there's some level ground out there, and there wasn't no ~~tilling~~ <sup>timber</sup> much on that, and I imagine that they {tended} that in {time}.
- DB: Did you ever farm up there by Bay Springs?
- NC: No, I didn't. Her Daddy and all of them did. They cleared up the land there to cut the timber all around Bay Springs.
- DB: Where was that Clara, up by Bay Springs?
- CC: It was on that side from the Old Lodge church building, you know, where that was at...?
- DB: So it was west of the line?
- CC: Mm hmm. You could see part of it before it was tore away, when

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- CC: you was here before, couldn't you?
- DB: Yeah.
- CC: Well, it was all them fields back that way, <sup>plum</sup> come on up to the top of that high hill, you know, going towards Booneville.
- DB: What kind of crops <sup>is</sup> did they have planted in there?
- CC: We planted cotton in every bit of it. It was new ground after they cut all that big pine, oh it was awful pretty pine.
- DB: How old were you when that was?
- CC: Oh I was seventeen, sixteen, seventeen, about grown, a ~~D~~ of us. But we liked it. Just after they cut all the timber off, hauled 'em off, and the sawmill was in there, just that way from Bay Springs. We could pile all the pine limbs and things. We tried to fill up all, ~~but~~ there was a lot of deep gullies in there, you know, and Ellis Wright had bought that and had all the timber cut off and he wanted it.
- DB: Do you remember who ran the sawmill up there?
- CC: It was Cyrus Gilbert's mill, from Belmont. I think ~~(Calvin)~~ (unintelligible) Whitehead was actually running the mill, but it belonged to the Gilberts, and they was...
- DB: Did Hubert Davis ever have a mill out there?
- CC: Not out there at Bay Springs.
- NC: He logged--his brother did, Mac Davis, and Hubert he logged all the time.
- CC: There used to be a lot of sawmills in here when people first went to cutting this old <sup>growth</sup> ~~grove~~ timber, you know.
- SP: Did your Daddy rent out there, or did he own the land that the cotton was on?
- CC: We rented it from Ellis Wright.
- DB: I see, and where did you live? Where was your house?
- CC: We lived then, when we was a <sup>do</sup> doing that, we lived just a, you know up here across Rock Creek, that first, only house there are from Rock Creek to Bay Springs.
- DB: That's the Kennedy's house?
- CC: Kennedy's, that's the, mm hmm.
- DB: You lived at that house.
- CC: That, we was first ones that lived in that house.
- DB: Do you remember when that was built?
- CC: No, ~~(it)~~ I thought to, I was grown, but I don't remember now, it must have been...
- DB: Do you remember how old you were about that time?
- CC: No, not more than fourteen, somewhere along there probably. I can't remember. Sixteen.
- NC: Y<sup>e</sup> all lived there when you got married in 1928.
- CC: Yeah, but I just don't remember how long we been... ?
- DB: Did you rent the house or did you own it?
- CC: Yeah ~~(Forest)~~ Wright, that was Ellis' first wife, her mother, she owned that, but when she divided her land up with the Allens, and her daughter ~~(Forest)~~ Wright, well, that's what ~~(Forest)~~ got, she got up there, and Allens got this end down here.
- DB: Well, who were the other people ~~that~~ lived up there around Bay Springs? Now you lived there in the twenties. Who else lived up there north of you?
- CC: Well, <sup>now</sup> my sister and her husband and my oldest brother lived in the next two houses, the other side of our house.
- DB: Is that where Jack ~~(Sears)~~ lived later?
- CC: No, now where Jack ~~(Sears)~~ lived, one time, on the right.
- NC: He lived around where ~~(Candy's)~~ <sup>Kennedy's</sup> house is.
- CC: Where he lived one time was Mr. Jerrod Harris' farm. ~~(But)~~ on up,  
Jerrad

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- CC: going towards Bay Springs, on the right hand side, you can still see the part of the house.
- DB: Part of the ~~farm~~ there.
- CC: Mm, part of it's standing out there, it's kindy ~~of~~ growing up, but you can see it (~~out~~ pretty well, and that was, I guess, one time called, ah Lord, I don't know, it's old, the Ashleys lived there and the Tiptons, then Jack's father-in-law, Mr. <sup>Jerry</sup> ~~Jerred~~ Harris owned it until Jack and the Wrights got a hold of it. So it's still in the Wright's hands, you know.
- DB: Did anybody live right around where the lodge and the store were?
- CC: No, not in old times they didn't. Now, of course across the road out there now going towards that cemetery Noel was telling you about. Now Ellis built that house and there was a lot of different ones lived in and out in it in the last few years. ~~(Thirstons)~~ and...  
Searcys
- DB: They were renters?
- CC: Mm hnm. Yeah they all rent it from Ellis.
- NC: Hubert Davis.
- CC: Hubert Davis lived there awhile but he was renting. He didn't never own it he's just living there in Ellis' house. He's sawmilling and moving around and, but they's (~~know~~) lots of different families lived around Bay Springs in time. A lot different names, different places.
- DB: We're interested in cotton farming. Maybe you could tell us how you used to set up your, get started every year. What was the system that they used to use for cotton farming? I mean what kind of a cut would you give to the, say if you were a renter versus being a owner?
- NC: Well, you mean how they <sup>prepared</sup> (~~farmed~~) the land and everything?
- DB: Well that, plus how the arrangements.
- CC: How they'd trade a... ~~two~~
- NC: Well now, cotton was <sup>on the</sup> ~~in a~~ fourth. The landowner got a fourth and the ~~property~~ got two-- a, let me see now... ~~say it out loud.~~
- CC: Third and fourth.
- NC: Well, corn was third and fourth, and the cotton was, ha cotton, Corn was third and the corn was fourth. Fourth pound or fourth dollar out of every... all of it ~~and~~
- CC: Well now listen, if he was a-renting land from you, this Fall, whenever if he made four or five bails of cotton, well how many bails would you get out of his crop. That's what he wants to ~~get~~.
- DB: Yeah, that's what I'm interested in.
- NC: Well, they would just, this cropper, the one that was raising, he would just go ~~land~~ carry it ~~to~~ the gin and have it ginned, then carry it and sell it. He'd get a fourth out of it, I mean, three fourths, and a landowner get a fourth. And they just generally settled up when they sold the cotton.
- CC: Well now, if he made four bails of cotton on his rent, well then how much would you get out of them four bails of cotton?
- NC: Well he'd just get a fourth out of it.
- CC: Well I mean how much...
- NC: The landowner'd get one bail and he'd get three.
- CC: Well, that's what I mean... Well that's what he's trying to get at, just exactly what it would be.
- DB: And how did the corn works?
- NC: You got every ~~pile~~... Well a lot of 'em they gathered and throwed it in the wagon and you'd get every third load.
- CC: (Laughs) That was ~~pitiful~~ pitiful.
- NC: And you'd pulled it and throwed it on the ground, you got every third pile. Picking it up off the ground. That's way lots of 'em

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NC: would do it. Then the ~~landlord~~ <sup>landowner'd</sup> go pick ~~it~~ <sup>his</sup> up off the ground and, but on the Allen place up here, they paid 'em so much for hauling in the rent, they ~~call~~ <sup>called</sup> it. We always (unintelligible) when the crop was earin' ~~o~~, we'd pick it up.

SP: What about if he were a sharecropper now instead of a renter? Would the proportion be different?

NC: That'd be ~~half~~ halves.

SP: Half and half.

NC: Mm hmm.

CC: One day for yourself and one day for somebody else.

DB: So you have to pay a third of the corn and a quarter of the cotton.

NC: Mm hmm.

DB: How come you had to pay more of corn than you did cotton?

NC: Well, I don't know why but that's as far back as I can remember and before too I guess, that's the way they {done} it.

CC: Alice, can you give us any history of anything? You was like us raised on the farm.

A : No, what you was telling was ~~all right~~ <sup>all I ever knowed about.</sup> ~~about.~~

CC: Well, that's the way about all farmers know it.

DB: Do you remember that; a third of the corn and a quarter of the cotton?

A : Mm, yeah.

CC: Well now, that's the way people like Noel's father lived out here on the farm and he'd just go ahead and pick up his rent and take it. Go out here in the corn a little where you pitched it and throwed it in the middle. Well <sup>the</sup> renter pick up two little heaps and then Mr. Caveness have one left, you know. Well now, Wright and Allens farm up here, they didn't fool with it that way because they'd just sold their rent, you know. Well, way we would do on their place, we'd just go in there and just pull it ~~in~~ <sup>and divide</sup> ~~the back~~ <sup>it by</sup> of the load, you know. And they never did fool with that 'cause that took up a lot of time {dibbing} that away and so we'd just put it and ~~(throw)~~ <sup>throw</sup> it in the wagon and did it like that.

NC: We never did do it that much.

CC: It saved a lot of handlin' ~~the~~ corn to do it like that. {If} something... <sup>evenin'</sup>

NC: We'd pull the ~~(even)~~ <sup>so</sup> it pulls <sup>v</sup> much better, and haul it the next morning. And you could haul it better in the morning than you could <sup>at</sup> the evening.

CC: We never did go at it the easy way. We always went the hard way. We'd get out there morning, just pull all morning and all day, and then we'd do fodder that way. Pulling fodder off of the corn stalk, we just went right on pulling just like it's ... and but now Mr. Caveness was a old and {kindly} farmer than we was. He wanted everything done the right way, and we didn't do it that away. We just took it. We had...

DB: Did he rent to people, your father?

NC: Mm hmm.

DB: Where were his plots that he rented?

NC: Well, this is one that used to be a rent house, right here. You lived here when you got married didn't ya Alice?

A : ~~(we)~~ we moved here, we rented ~~it~~ <sup>from him.</sup>  
Yeah,

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NC: They've made crops here, and this first one and [another]. And there's some houses down below the store down there, and them down there.

A: What're you using this [wine] bottle here for?

CC: No, go ahead and use it Alice.

A: (unintelligible)

CC: Yeah, go right on.

DB: We're interested in the different things you did at different times of the year. Maybe if you could start with January and tell us the different kinds of things that you would do during the different seasons, like working?

CC: Well, now I'll tell you what little, way it was to me now. You know, well, we'll start in January. Well, most of the time when January come along we'd begin.

END OF TAPE 2a, side 2

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edited

AU 807  
Cont'd

Noel + Clara Carver

Fill in of unasterisked sections

CC: And then March come along you looked <sup>3</sup> back then, you would like to plant some <sup>7</sup> early corn and then some cotton, you know, <sup>start your tail</sup> crop. May come along you'd plant your watermelons and just on and on.

NC: You went to hoein' in May, ~~maybe~~

CC: And you'd go to chop it, what they call chopping cotton the first time. And from then on, well, you'd get your crop made and then it was time to go to seedin' dry peas and dry beans...

DB: When you say you, you make your crop made; what d'you mean by that?

CC: Get it where you could quit working <sup>it</sup> ~~(you)~~.

DB: Okay.

NC: Lay it by...

DB: Is that lay it by?

NC: Mm hmm.

CC: Lay it, let it grow up <sup>and</sup> ~~then~~ be to big to work.

DB: When did that happen? What, what month was that?

CC: Well, my Daddy used to tell us if we'd hurry up and work hard, he'd say, 'we'll be through <sup>by</sup> the Fourth of July', <sup>was</sup> That ~~is~~ back in **MDAH** mule days, you know, and they could plow and do a lot better job <sup>a</sup> then you do your tractors. Hmm. We were through early and then we'd have a, maybe a few days kind a, lay and rest and then we'd have to get out <sup>Savin'</sup> ~~feelin'~~ fruit, just such as you <sup>2</sup> {made} {off} ~~to~~ of hunting {muskadines} things, it was just all the time there's something to do. And then by the last of August, course now there was a fodder <sup>pullin'</sup> ~~clearing~~ time, to save fodder along in July and August. <sup>it would</sup> And then <sup>it would</sup> start sorghum making, go to <sup>2</sup> making sorghum, molasses and

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CC: then it would come along and you'd start the cotton-picking and that was last.

DB: When was that?

CC: You'd start picking sometimes last of August, well we ~~had our~~ <sup>have picked</sup> ~~picks~~ with a bit, in August, but September and part of October <sup>'body ought to</sup> ~~about~~ ~~and~~ be getting through with cotton by then. And then course the corn was <sup>(unintelligible)</sup> ~~?~~ and along in August there's a time you had to save your hay. Well, there just wasn't no idle time ~~?~~. There's just something to do all the time on the farm. Don't never farm... don't...

DB: What would you do in late October and November?

CC: Well now, late October sometimes you wasn't through <sup>gatherin'</sup> ~~(getting it)~~. You had a little more scattering cotton, they called it, to pick. But November you's probably done, ~~?~~ but back then, what we're talking 'bout now, you had to go to laying up your winter wood, saw wood, and ~~{stove}~~ wood and go to school. Work all you could before and after school. Then hog-killing time. My Daddy always wanted ~~?~~ kill our hogs in November and then that would come ~~{off}~~, and by that time Santa Claus would come. <sup>A</sup> and the next thing was Spring, starting the cotton again. That's just kind a the way it was. Actually, there wasn't no time to waste back then.

~~DB: How about sawmilling?~~ REFER TO ~~INSERTED PAGES~~

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1 of 300 90  
Tape 2b, side 1

Bay Springs Oral History Project  
Interview with Noel & Clara  
Caveness  
September 10, 1979  
Interviewed by Dave Barton &  
Steve Poyser  
Tape 2 Side 1  
(Only asterisks transcribed)

- DB: How about sawmilling? What time of the year would they do sawmilling?
- CC: All the time. ~~Yeah~~ Yeah, all the time.
- NC: Most time a, they'd start....
- CC: Now sawmilling, that, that'd just go on like we was farm and sawmill that's all we had to do, and if it was possible, the year round. Make any difference how hot the weather or how cold, nothing about it. If it's possible you had to <sup>get</sup> it. You, sometimes the timber would be froze and they'd have to wait a few days, something like that. But most of the time, as a rule, you had to stay with it pretty close, if you could, you know.
- DB: How many years did you move around with the timber?
- CC: Well, you mean, um, well, I don't know how many times a year, just whenever you'd cut out a lot you'd have time for something else and more but...
- DB: But, I mean how many years did you as a family?
- CC: Well, we a, I guess...we followed it about fourteen, fifteen years.
- NC: Me and Clara, we sawmilled about twelve, fifteen years. I sawmilled before we was married.
- CC: Wherever the mill and the timber, that's <sup>where</sup> you had to go you couldn't a...Back then there wasn't cars every three steps like they are now. You just had to, kind of stay with your job. Just move to it and sit down. We'd <sup>have</sup> had a little garden started sometimes, and the time come the timber's gone, well, you had to move on. ~~Find~~ <sup>Find</sup> Hunt something else. But it is alright. I guess saw <sup>mill's</sup> (widows) about as contented as, um, you could live because it didn't matter whether you ever straightened up much or not because you'd soon be gone further and um, we didn't have very much with us. We'd just a, carried a bedding and a few dishes and clothes and things like that. We called it just ~~batching~~ along. We kept a, lot of times cooked for some mill hands and a, and they'd just have them little bunks built where they could sleep out in the yard somewhere, and they'd have their own beds and things. They'd eat with us but they'd do their own sleeping ~~facilities~~ (unintelligible).
- DB: Were they bachelors, usually?
- CC: No, most of, some of them single boys and some of them was a married men, but they didn't move their families. A lot of times, they'd have children in school, you know, and they didn't move families, a, too much. There'd be a good many families, but maybe there'd be smaller children.
- DB: Was there somebody always in charge of the sawmilling operation?
- NC: Well, most times, if they sawmilled all year, you did.
- DB: Say like, were you ever a manager of a sawmill?
- CC: Yes, when we was in Alabama, and he ...
- NC: ~~Yeah~~, went up there ~~with~~ <sup>that</sup> a mill, belonged to my cousin and a, I went up there with him, and I done the logging and seeing after the mill.

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DB: Did you have one of those skid engines?

NC: Skid motors, yeah.

DB: Skid motors... Was it a tractor?

CC: And they logged <sup>with</sup> ~~skid motors~~ trucks and mules too.

NC: (Sorry? or Sir?)

DB: Was it a tractor?

NC: Well, it'd just a motor part...

DB: Tractor motor yeah.

NC: Yeah....

CC: Well, it's a lot of difference now <sup>a</sup> then the way people used to sawmill. They've got so many more convenience to what they had then.

NC: It's ~~is~~ all hard, just hard <sup>work</sup> wood. There's a mill down below here, I guess it's running, <sup>today</sup> runs every day nearly. ~~is~~ I wish you all could see that. It's more modern, and you don't have to handle the lumber like you used to did. 2

SEE INSERT PAGE 5

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- SP: Mr. Caveness you were telling me the other day the various men that <sup>were</sup> responsible for working in the mill and their various jobs. Could you go through that one more time for me? The various men that worked there at the sawmill and what they did?
- NC: Hmm. Ya, well now the way <sup>they</sup> ~~their~~, when I was sawmilling, a... There would be a bunch of hands that'd go cut the timber and the loggers and take it up there to the mill, and then a, be <sup>carriage</sup> the sawyer, he's the one that'd run the <sup>v</sup> ~~(cage)~~. And a, and there'd be a <sup>pole roller</sup> ~~(roller)~~ over there, and a block setter... and then it'd a, Course, some of them had a edgers and some didn't. And if they had a edger they'd flitch it, in two inch flitches, and a, (Noise) ~~(cut) it all done~~ and then it'd go through the edger. Now, ~~stripped~~, and then ... had a dummy line, you know, ~~that~~ way out on the ... a, the lumber be'd loaded on this dummy and I'd carry it out and unload it and, and each ~~board~~ <sup>then</sup> length ~~and~~ was a, most of the times where we, I worked at, it didn't make no difference about the width. It's the length is what kept, try to keep separated.
- SP: Hmm, mm.
- NC: And a, and the truck come in and pick it up, carry it to a, to a ~~planer~~.
- SP: Uh, <sup>but</sup> what was a flitch? You called it.
- NC: Flitch, ya. Ah, just two inch flitch, had bark on two sides...
- SP: Oh, I see.
- NC: Called a flitch.
- SP: Okay.
- NC: Then, the edger, it had two saws on the edger and you run it through there and it cut both sides off when you run it through.
- SP: Uh, huh.
- DB: ~~And~~ That would finish the board?
- NC: Ya, that was finished.
- SP: Did they ever do any planing or anything, or not, or was that just left rough after they sawed it.
- NC: Well, there used to a planer right over there and a, they, I don't know, they stayed there three or four year I guess. Then they hauled lumber to Belmont after it was ~~allego~~ <sup>allego</sup> in dressed and load it on boxcars
- SP: Uh, huh.
- DB: You said the other day that there were three different kinds of mills. What kind of mills were they? Or two, or three different kinds of mills.
- SP: A block.? Wasn't one of them a block or not? Where they used to make barrels? Wood for barrels?
- NC: Ah, must have been a steam mill, wasn't it?
- SP: I don't remember. I thought it was a block mill.
- DB: Said something about a block mill. They used to square them off for barrels. Was there just one kind of sawmill or were there more than one?
- NC: Well, they'd, all of its done <sup>about</sup> by the same way, but some of tractor them be bigger and some steam mill and some ~~(tracking)~~ mills. But the block, oh, I guess you <sup>'a</sup> talking about the man that's setting the blocks. Is that it?
- DB: I was just wondering. What kind of, were there different kinds of sawmills that turn out different product. Or did,

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DB: could that sawmill, one kind of sawmill do everything?

NC: Ya, make just about any kind of lumber.

SP: Uh-huh.

DB: It's just dependent on how you set up the?

NC: Well, well a, let's see. Seem like I got some pictures here of some mills but I don't know where they're at.

That blocksetter that ~~load~~<sup>road</sup> the ~~carriage~~<sup>carriage</sup>. The carriage went backwards and forwards, and this blocksetter he, when he got back, ~~back~~ from the last saw, he'd set up, if you wanted a inch board, or two inch, he'd set up two inches, or inch, and it go through and then it got on the other side. He'd come back, and he'd make ~~it~~<sup>his</sup> set again, and, whatever he wanted.

SP: Hm, mm.

NC: And a, that must have been about that blocksetter.

SP: That must be. What about drying the lumber? Did they ever season<sup>it</sup> or anything after it was cut?

NC: ~~Yes~~<sup>Yeah</sup>, lots of people did. Stacked it.

SP: Uh-huh. And how long would you have to let it set before it was dry?

NC: Well, it ~~depend~~<sup>you know</sup> on the weather, ~~and um~~, hot it'd soon dry in a, weather like this.

SP: ~~Yes~~ Yeah.

NC: And a, but they, they got out of that mostly, about dried, dried ya, my uncle used to run a mill down here. He had a steam mill and they'd dry ~~kiln~~<sup>kiln</sup> it, ~~that was~~<sup>that was</sup> in W.W.I. And ~~put~~<sup>they'd up</sup> the posts, you know, up pretty high, and they stacked the lumber up on ~~a~~<sup>that</sup>, and they'd stand lumber or slab or something ~~of it~~<sup>another</sup> all around and keep the fire ~~on~~<sup>under</sup> it.

SP: Uh-huh.

NC: And the smoke go up through it and dry.

MDAH

insert  
up to end of P. 6. 149  
SP: Dh-huh.

DB: Did you ever cut out any timber at Bay Springs?

Yeah

a cousin

NC: Ya. There used to be a, when ~~the entering~~ {run} a mill

back the other side of Bay Springs about two miles. {On}

<sup>Wright's</sup>  
(~~the forest~~) timber. Cut it up and, um, they had had a lot

down here under these bluffs in Bay Springs, and they took

the caterpillar <sup>and run a</sup> ~~along~~ the cable and pull, they'd just go

down and cut the tree down and trim it up and drag the

whole tree out. Then, they'd saw it up right <sup>and drag it out of</sup> ~~down on~~

{the line}. And <sup>uh</sup> ~~um~~, we hauled it on over there {to}

where we was at. We'd cut <sup>a million feet</sup> over ~~tree~~ there, in one place

on that Wright ~~right length~~ place.

DB: Hmm. Well, did they ever set up a skid engine out there at Bay Springs?

NC: No. They, just a caterpillar and crawler-type, <sup>you know,</sup> what pulled the logs out...

DB: What was the closest skid motor up there? —

NC: Well now the mill was, one of these a, well, it was skid motor.

DB: Where was that? Where was the closest skid motor to Bay Springs? Closest mill?

NC: Well, when Mac Davis cut that timber out there around Bay Springs he had two {of} these old-time <sup>of</sup> Ford tractors. He had two of them hooked up and they pulled the mill with that.

DB: Where was that?

NC: It, one was down on the Bluffs just below the old church there. That's all tore up, up there now I guess where it {was} at.

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DB: Is that where they call Lover's Leap?

NC: Down below it down there.

D B: Down below there.

NC: Mm hmm.

MDAH

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SP: Well, there was a sawmill right there at Bay Springs, wasn't there?

NC: <sup>Yeah</sup> ~~Yes~~, there's, way back ~~the~~ yonder?

SP: ~~Yes~~ Yeah.

NC: Oh <sup>Yeah</sup> ~~yes~~. They pulled (powered) that with water, then.

SP: ~~Yes~~ Yeah,

NC: Back, when they were, they's all this ...

SP: Did you ever hear how it used to work or not?

NC: No.

SP: How they'd take the power off the...

NC: Off the water?

SP: The water.

NC: Well, they had a big head, just a dam, you know.

SP: Hm, mm.

NC: And <sup>it'd</sup> ~~(it'd)~~ back water way up and then they, (pause) they, they had a water wheel and they'd turn this water loose and it'd go maybe down a chute,            something or other to this a, a, water wheel. And that'd get it started ~~and~~ turning you know.

SP: Hm, mm.

NC: And just ...

DB: Was it a up and down water wheel or was it sideways ...?

NC: ... well, I don't know whether it was a overshot mill or just a plain a, a, going through a box.

SP: Hm, mm. And then how was the saw powered off of that? Do you know?

NC: Well, they'd, they'd a <sup>have</sup> ~~(power)~~ this wheel. In fact, it would turn a big <sup>shaft</sup> ~~shaft~~. You see, have a big, long <sup>shaft</sup> ~~shaft~~ pull it ~~along~~ along?

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haul  
NC: (~~haul~~) it along.

SP: Hm, mm.

NC: And a, it'd just get that ~~main~~ <sup>shaft</sup> ~~shaft~~ running, and it just turned the whole thing.

SP: Hm, mm. So the, the saw itself was run off of a belt, like, which attached to the main shaft by pulley.

NC: No, it was on there.

SP: Oh, it was on the, the shaft itself...

NC: You put a, put a, what you had a split pulley, <sup>we</sup> called it. You could just put it up, and tighten it up anywhere you wanted to on that shaft.

SP: ~~Yes~~ Yeah.

NC: Then it had a belt running to the sawmill...

SP: Right.

NC: The mandrel of the saw.

SP: What was the belt made out of? Do you remember or not?

NC: Well, it was fiber and a, had <sup>glue</sup> all in it, you know, just stuck together.

DB: Did you ever see one?

NC: ~~Yes~~ Yeah.

DB: Where was that?

NC: I've got one out here, I think. Um, belt a, just like all belts. Some of them be, maybe that wide and a, ten inches, eight inches. Then they got on this late model, they used "y" belts.

SP: Hm, mm.

NC: Like on, on a car, you know.

SP: Right.

MDAH

NC: Fan belt.

SP: Hm, mm.

DB: Did your father ever tell you any stories about the mill up there? How it used to run?

NC: No, ~~I, I~~ get ~~eighty, carry~~ (unintelligible).

SP: Hm, mm.

NC: And there was wheat up there on his ground.

SP: What happened when the saw blade got dull? Who sharpened it?

NC: Well, the sawyer generally sharpened...

SP: Was there any special tools that he used, or not?

NC: Ya. Um, he have a, a, what you call a swedge. I got one of them out here. I'll show you here. What they, they fixed the ~~taper~~ <sup>teeth</sup> with.

SP: Hm, mm. Now how did this work?

NC: Well, they a, there was one side of that would round, I mean, they'd a, they'd hit this with a hammer right ~~here~~, put it over the ~~tube~~ <sup>ooth</sup>.

SP: ~~Ya~~ Yeah,

NC: Hit it with a hammer and that'd spread ~~(it too) or (the tube)~~ <sup>the tooth,</sup>

SP: Uh-huh.

NC: And then on this side here, it'd put a square edge on it.

SP: I see.

NC: Then bring it up square.

SP: Right.

NC: On the side a, this, this side, a, would always a get, you'd get your corners off, off <sup>your</sup> ~~his~~ teeth, and they would a, it'd go, a leadin', it wouldn't cut through ~~on~~ <sup>true Lumber</sup> it. And then they'd have to set it, ~~set~~ <sup>shut</sup> down and a sometime you <sup>could</sup> just file it, and then

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NC: again you had to put these corners back on it, if you didn't  
it'd just ~~be~~ lead.

SP: Right.

NC: And a ...

SP: And how often did you have to do that ~~usually~~?

NC: Oh about a, they generally swedged maybe twice a day.

SP: Twice a day.

NC: <sup>Yeah</sup> ~~no~~, sometimes a, it just, <sup>only</sup>, if your logs were  
dirty, a, you had to file it pretty often.

SP: Cause it would dull the blades of the saw.

NC: Uh-huh.

DB: How many board feet could you go through in a day?

NC: Um, I guess some of the mills cut eighteen, twenty-five <sup>thousand</sup> feet  
a day.

SP: Good night.

DB: How did you get paid when you were working in the mill? ~~Did~~  
you get paid by the board foot or by the hour?

NC: By the hour. Well there's some mills that a, would a, ~~you~~ use  
<sup>like your,</sup> so much a thousand, you know.

DB: Uh-huh. How much would the rates be by a thousand?

NC: Well, I don't know. I ~~never~~ <sup>did</sup> work ~~none~~ that way.

DB: So you started about 1920?

NC: <sup>Yeah</sup> ~~no~~, I ~~done~~ it earlier than that.

DB: Uh-huh. How much did you get paid when you first started?

NC: Well I don't remember. During the Depression I worked for  
a nickel a hour. And if I got eight hours I got fifty cents  
So it was ~~work~~ just, and <sup>didn't</sup> get eight hours I got a five cents  
a hour. That was when <sup>there</sup> was a Depression though

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DB: ~~Yeah.~~

NC: ~~(unintelligible)~~ (unintelligible)

SP: Hm, mm.

DB: How about in the fourties? How much were you making?

NC: Oh, well it, it'd be some mills paid more than others, or ~~nothing~~.

But actually, a, that a, law come on and had to pay so much  
out.

SP: Hm, mm.

NC: Ah, it'd just pay according to the <sup>(unintelligible)</sup>, you see, whatever  
the scale was .

SP: Hm, mm.

NC: But when that law took effect, we just a, getting about fifteen  
cents an hour. Just, just <sup>owing</sup> ~~(according)~~ to what you could do at  
the mill, you know.

SP: Hm, mm.

DB: Did everybody get paid the same. The people out sawing?

NC: No. No. The blocker had a <sup>hired</sup> ~~(hand)~~ sawyer, the blocker and a,  
a, sawyer get more. And the edger, <sup>men</sup> generally get more.

DB: That's agent?

NC: Edger. One doing the edger.

SP: Hm, mm. Let me ask you Mr. Caveness; after they cut the tree  
down....How did they get it from where the tree was into the  
mill?

NC: <sup>By</sup> ~~(why it go through)~~ mules or truck, ~~or~~ haul it,

SP: Uh-huh. Was there a wagon they put it on, or not?

NC: Hm, mm.

DB: What'd they call that wagon?

MDAH

NC: Durgan.

DB: Durgan.

NC: <sup>Yeah</sup> ~~ya~~. Used to, I remember <sup>that</sup> ~~(when)~~ durgan, as far back as I can remember, they called them durgans.

SP: What'd they look like?

NC: Well, they'd just a, had bolsters on it ~~(on)~~ you see. You <sup>saw these here</sup> ~~(saw)~~ with your wagons there.

SP: ~~ya~~ Yeah.

NC: Well, they'd put, what you call a bolster on it, up even with their, the, or the <sup>tire</sup> ~~lower~~, as high as it was, and then used skids and roll them up on that, see.

SP: Uh-huh.

NC: ~~This~~ level ground, you always had to load them with mules <sup>but they was</sup> ~~was~~ if ~~(you)~~ on a hillside you could a, load 'em along skids.

SP: Uh-huh.

NC: Just roll them up.

SP: And how many mules did he usually use per wagon?

NC: Well most time, later years, just two.

SP: Uh-huh.

NC: But they... way back yonder. <sup>They'd work 4 mules</sup> to a wagon.

SP: Hm, mm.

NC: Where ~~they~~ got the big logs, you know, <sup>(unintelligible)</sup> ~~pull it all~~

SP: ~~ya~~ Yeah.

NC: And a, and a lot of others done by steers. And there'd be about three to four yoke of steers to a wagon.

SP: Uh-huh.

DB: What lengths did they cut the logs to fit on the wagon?

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NC: Well just a different lengths. It's whatever, they's kind of sold the lumber you know ~~(the)~~ <sup>by</sup> grade, and the length of it, sometime the longer lumber <sup>would</sup> bring more. And a, a we hauled lots of it twenty-four foot. And a, ~~that~~ (you) ~~just~~ couple your wagon out, you see, had a long coupling pole and you'd couple it out.

SP: Hm, mm.

NC: And load.

DB: Was it a dangerous job? Did people get injured a lot?

NC: Well, they didn't <sup>ty</sup> too many get hurt.

DB: It was hard work though wasn't it?

NC: <sup>Yeah was</sup> ~~is~~, it's hard work.

SP: Hm, mm. About how many people, how many men worked out as a team in cutting the trees.

NC: Well, most time there'd be just two.

SP: Hm, mm.

NC: Then um, it was ~~(owing)~~ to how much lumber, I mean what the mill cut, you know. And they had to put on hands to take care of that.

SP: Were there more than one team out in the forest at the same time?

NC: Uh-huh.

SP: And about how far apart would they be when they were cutting? Do you remember?

NC: Not too far. Oh, a way down a, all this logging around Bay Springs, over here, we used trucks. We had a two pair of mules. I had a pair and <sup>a</sup> cousin had a pair.

SP: Hm, mm.

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NC: And a, he'd haul close around the mill with a wagon, you know.

And we'd haul, haul <sup>a</sup> <sup>piece</sup> good ~~team~~.

SP: Hm, mm.

NC: We, we'd ~~bunched~~ it with two mules and then a, we had a, most of the time two mules, two people driving {with} this logging, this one mule from {Hammel} . We'd just a {single} them out.

SP: Hm, mm.

*helped load, load the truck.*

NC: And most time I ~~had log, log truck~~

SP: Hm, mm.

*pick out loading places.*

NC: And ~~in fact I've loaded (place)~~

SP: Hm, mm. What kind of saw did you use to cut the trees down, remember?

NC: Cross-~~(~~cut~~)~~.

SP: Was there any specific name for it?

NC: No.

SP: Like a Simmons. Did you ever hear of that? Sims?

NC: ~~Yes~~. <sup>Yeah They</sup> ~~There~~ was different names.

SP: Uh-huh.

NC: <sup>Yeah</sup> ~~Yes~~, there was a, I don't know, Black Diamond, I believe, and Simon.

SP: Uh-huh. And were the teeth arranged on the saw in any particular way or not?

NC: No, they was all about the same.

SP: Uh-huh. <sup>And</sup> they was all, all teeth that went across the saw?

NC: Hm, mm. ...

SP: There wasn't a little separate bar anywhere in between?

NC: <sup>Yeah</sup> ~~Yes~~, there was a little, um, teeth. There was four teeth and

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NC: they was all barred together.

SP: Uh-huh.

NC: Then they had the drag.

SP: Uh-huh.

NC: It was ~~a~~ V-shaped on the end. That's what took the dust out.

SP: Uh-huh.

NC: ~~Uh-huh~~. I got an old one out there...

SP: Do you?

NC:...in the ~~little~~ house.

SP: And then how did you trim the branches off the trunk?

NC: Well, most times a, they just knocked them off the (back).

SP: Any particular...

DB: ... with a axe?

NC: Sorry?

DB: Did you have a name for the axe?

NC: Well, just a, double-bit mostly, that's a what they was called,  
a double-bit axe.

SP: Hm,mm. And then you dragged the, the trunk over to where the,  
the wagon was or the truck and loaded up from there and then  
took it into the mill?

NC: Hm,mm.

DB: How many people would work on the wagon team?

NC: One.

DB: Just one.

NC: Hm,mm.

DB: So you'd get the log from the woods to the mill-what happened  
then?

NC: Well, he'd just unload 'em and a he'd just go back to the wood,

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NC: just a backward and forward.

SP: Hm, mm.

DB: And how many people worked at the mill?

NC: Well, it's on the <sup>size</sup> ~~(side)~~ of the mill. A, I believe, let's see; one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine about eleven <sup>or</sup> twelve men. If there's a, that's about what they used in a, this mill up, we cut out of up here.

DB: What were the different jobs that the men had?

NC: Well, there was a, what they called a pole-roller and a third one; he stood there and helped them a, a sawyer turn the log. Then a, all, I mean a, log-~~{setter}~~ and sawyer and the tripper, he took care of all the lumber that come off of the saw there and he put it on a, to, to the edger and there the edgerman ~~and the~~ tripper and a, stripped <sup>toter</sup> ~~(~~it~~)~~ and slab-<sup>toter</sup> ~~(~~toted~~)~~ ~~it~~ and the {dummy-roller}. Then the, (unintelligible) used, maybe one man at the back end {would} handle the lumber. And then, the, a, one that <sup>rolled</sup> ~~is~~ the dummy, he'd be, come back when he got unloaded and he helped load it on the dummy.

SP: Hm, mm. And {mean} to say after the lumber was all cut they loaded it onto railroad cars, you said, or not?

NC: No, they <sup>was</sup> trucks.

SP: Trucks, and then they'd take it over to the...

NC: Railroad.

SP: Uh-huh. And what kind, what would they put <sup>it</sup> on, what kind of cars would they put it on the railroad?

NC: A boxcar.

SP: A boxcar, and what kind of engine did they have on the train?

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NC: Well, just <sup>these</sup> ~~the~~ locomotive<sup>s</sup>, way back yonder.

SP: Uh-huh and what'd they look like, you remember or not?

NC: Huh?

SP: What'd they look like?

NC: Well just, you saw a, like passenger trains.

SP: Hm,mm. How many, do you remember how many drive wheels they had on them or not?

NC: No. I don't.

SP: Were they very big or...

NC: Oh yes, big.

SP: Uh-huh.

NC: They'd carry maybe a...

Tape 2<sup>b</sup>,  
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NC: And they'd have to gum them to make new teeth. And a, and they's  
~~(was) to have them inserted~~ This, a, most time now they're  
all inserted.                      tooth saw.

~~SP: mm hm.~~

~~DB: mm hm.~~

~~NC:~~ You buy your collars and your teeth and all.

~~SP: mm hm.~~

DB: ~~mm hm.~~ I see.

~~SP: mm hm.~~

DB: You call it insert tooth? I've heard of...

NC: Inserted.

SP: Yeah. Now, you had a lot of sawdust and stuff from sawing.

Did they ever do anything with that or not? Or just pile it  
up and leave it, or what?

<sup>They'd</sup>  
NC: Just leave it.

SP: Did it ever catch on fire or anything?

NC: Yeah.

SP: Did they ever try to put it out?

NC: No, if there wasn't nothing around it'd hurt they wouldn't...

SP: Let it go.

NC: You couldn't put it out ~~it'd just be fire?~~

DB: Were there ever any big fires around here in the?...  
NC: Yeah, lots of times the woods. Way back in the wood burn over  
every year. ~~(?)~~ But they got a, passed a law that a, it'd be  
a, it's a....They had a fine. They cath<sup>a</sup> ya, if you set the  
woods on fire.

SP: I see.

NC: And a, we don't have the fires like we used to.

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DB: Was there any big fires like, any special year that you remember a big fire?

NC: No, when they burn 'em off every year, let 'em burn off, lots of people wanted them burned off. ~~(For)~~ they, to use as pasture....

DB: Crop land or pasture?

NC: Pasture.

SP: ~~mm, hmm.~~

NC: And then bring more grass up, you know.

DB: You say pasture. What kind of animals would they pasture out?

NC: Well, they'd, mostly cattle.

DB: Cattle.

NC: And a, an old gentleman used to live right up here and he had a bunch of sheep, he kept out in ~~(deep)~~ pasture for them. Lot a, they used a rail fences way back then.

DB: What kind of cattle ~~(do or did)~~ people have around here? What species?

NC: Well they just mixed. They'd um, Jerseys.

DB: mm hmm.

NC: Just, they just old ~~(scrub)~~ cow. Just, be, just cow, you see.

Just, people didn't care about um, breeding 'em and a getting

a (unintelligible)

DB: mm, hmm.

SP: Then they had, <sup>if</sup> they had Jerseys they were dairy cow, milk cattle weren't they?

NC: mm, hmm.

SP: And did every family usually have one or not?

NC: Most of 'em.

SP: ~~Um-huh.~~

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DB: How many hogs would a family have?

NC: Well it'd just depend. This old man (Moore) up here a, every winter he'd take his, what they call to the hill, (eight) acres, and he just let them run out and he'd go to feed 'em a little every day or two, you know.

SP: Uh-huh.

NC: And you could hear him calling them hogs a long way.

~~DB: laugh.~~

SP: <sup>when</sup> was, did they butcher hogs?

NC: Yeah.

SP: When was the best time to do that?

NC: November 's the best time.

SP: Why? Why November?

NC: Well, it's a generally um, better weather, I mean.

CC: Good (and) dry...cold.

NC: Dry-cold, you know...

CC: What they used to say.

SP: Uh-huh.

DB: Not as many flies.

NC: No, no. Well they's have a warm spell they'd put a (smoke) in the smokehouse.

~~DB: Mm hmm.~~

~~NC: ?~~

~~SP: Uh-huh. And...~~

CC: People had a, had a idea of using hickory tree bark, hickory limbs for hickory smokes what they wanted.

SP: Uh-huh.

CC: On their meat I don't know for why.

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NC: I never did like that smoke myself.

SP: Do you remember how they used to dress out hogs? Did you ever do that or not?

NC: Oh yeah, I've dressed so many....

SP: Did you used to ever cure them with salt?

NC: Mm hmm.

SP: And why would you use salt?

NC: Well it'd dry the meat out. Dry all the blood and everything ~~(out of there)~~.

SP: Uh-huh. And then they used to hang them up?

NC: Yeah, a, yeah, after they'd cured, they'd a sack the hams keep the , we called them <sup>creep</sup> ~~(crate)~~ a, ~~(creepers)~~ out of it.

SP: Uh-huh.

NC: And a, and the, where there was no joint they wasn't hardly ~~(nothing)~~ bother there. They just hang it up.

SP: Uh-huh. And how long did it hang before it was?

NC: Well, ~~(in Midland or mainly)~~ they just let 'em hang 'til they used them up, you know, ~~(they'd)~~ just go in cut a slab off.

SP: Uh-huh.

NC: And the hams, they'd sack them and a, a, ~~(then)~~ the flies wouldn't get to them.

~~SP: Yeah.~~

~~NC: Bones~~

?

SP: Uh-huh.

NC: Boy that was good old meat when it got about a year old. Oh, I liked the ~~(whole thing)~~.

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SP: Uh-huh. Did they ever use pork skin for anything, or did they throw that away, or not?

NC: Most times throw it away, or make soap-grease out of it.

SP: Uh-huh.

DB: Now did a any of the white folks eat chittlings or was that just black folks eat those?

NC: Well they, a, I never did know of no white through this country to eat 'em. But a they do now. They go over to the restaurant and get a, order 'em out, but I'll never eat any.

SP: Mm hmm.

NC: These niggers live down Adams' place, they get them, they have to kill ~~ta~~ hog. And they take everyone ~~at~~.

DB: Uh-huh.

NC: They said ?

DB: Mm hmm.

SP: What other, what, what all parts of the hog would you use now? You take the hams and the bacons and, and what else?

NC: And shoulders.

SP: Shoulder.

NC: And...

CC: Ribs, liver and lights, backbone, (laughs)...

SP: Good...

CC: Brain, lot of people eat the brain.

SP: Brain?

CC: ...But we never did save <sup>none</sup> ~~none~~ of ours ourselves. But everybody, nearly, eat 'em but us...

NC: Didn't like the taste.

CC: And we didn't like 'em.

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SP: Uh-huh.

NC: I's, I don't know I've always been pretty, I don't know what'd you call it...

CC: (unintelligible) *I*

NC: Particular about my eating.

SP: (Laughs) you and me too.

CC: (Talks in background - unintelligible)

DB: (Laughs)

NC: Well I, I don't...

CC: Why don't you all come on and talk in here. They're getting hungry. They didn't have no um, breakfast, dinner.

NC: A, I didn't care about a ribs or backbones. (Interruption) (took off) (running) (but) you could see part of 'em.

DB: What was it like working in a cotton gin? What kind of work did you do?

NC: Well, a, the cotton, a, they drove it up on the scales, wagon and all, the truck, *(whatever)*. And they weighed it and then a, it was *pulled* *off* by suction, and *it* went up in the gin. Went through the cleaners and a, if it was damp, wet cotton it'd go through the dryer and a, well, most all of it went through the dryer, but they wouldn't have the heat turned up high enough, too high. Then it went around, this gin here just had three heads, gin heads and they would, go up through all these cleaners and everything and it'd come back and go through the gin heads and the seeds was took out. Then it went up, back in and through the condenser into the, in the press, press *(hung)*, *bale box*, ~~bale box~~, you might call it. Then when it, it was ginned, this double-press a, they'd turn the press, you know, and tie that cotton out with ties and...

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DB: What kind of ties did they use?

NC: They would be a, a steel I guess you'd call it. And then they had a bag ~~hand~~ put on it. And a, roll it out from, from there, out of the press. The press would open up, you know, and a, and a, two big doors on the side, and they'd open down and a, on the backside they would but the other side they, just a, ~~oh~~, had a door, it just swang back. And then a, oh, I believe it's later when they, they, both doors swung back and you'd tie that out, ~~put the ties, it~~ it had five ties, I believe, on it and then ~~it'd~~ push 'em through, and then back through and there's, tie it out, and then you lift the press up and then the <sup>bale</sup> ~~bail~~ would role out, you know. And they'd put the bag in the back, hang it in there ~~a~~ before he'd close the doors. Then he'd close the doors up and then he's ready for another <sup>bale</sup> ~~bail~~. And you'd roll the <sup>bale</sup> ~~bail~~ of cotton out, weighed it. And then a the weight was carried into the office. And a I'd give the man, you know, take his seed cotton from his ~~alint~~ weight of his bail and then ~~that's~~ amount of seed he had in that <sup>bale</sup> ~~bail~~, you know, and they paid him so much a hundred for the seed.

DB: Did you say the seed, they'd get paid for the ginning?

NC: Yeah. They, they paid, take pay out of it, seed for the ginning.

DB: There's a usually enough seed to pay for the ginning?

NC: Yeah, most time it was.

DB: Do you ever remember when there wasn't?

NC: Well, sometimes a, it might not but most time it would.

DB: Uh-huh. Do you remember back in the old days before they had the suction heads, the, suck it up from the wagons?

NC: Mm hmm.

DB: How'd they used to get it upstairs in the gin?

NC: Well they, in baskets.

DB: In baskets.

NC: Mm hmm.

DB: Carry it up in baskets. Do you ever remember them having to use their feet to press the cotton down?

NC: No, not in the gin, they never did. Oh yeah, I think, they'd get in there and tromple, if they wanted to, but a... My granddaddy up there at <sup>Waddle</sup> ~~(Wattle)~~, he had a gin and my Daddy worked at it a whole lot, and a, in them days, they had a, they just wanted gin, they had a, a feller had to feed the first one that they had and, then it goes to the press. Then they'd a, raise the press, you know, up and put the cotton in, then let the press back down and pack it for the press, then it'd come back up and they'd put more in.

DB: I see.

NC: And my Daddy worked nearly every ~~(Fall)~~ <sup>along with</sup> at the gin ~~(other)~~ my Granddaddy.

DB: How old were you when they got the suction devices in?

NC: Oh, I guess I was eighteen or ~~(twenty)~~ years. I can remember the old, old gin my Granddaddy had up there. <sup>AND</sup> They had two gin heads when we worked 'cause ~~(unintelligible)~~ and they used pitch forks ~~(raking)~~ it there. Them old ~~(unintelligible)~~ <sup>(dust)</sup> my granddaddy put in there. The seed fell down behind and you had to take a scoop and scoop the seed out <sup>into</sup> ~~into~~ the chute. If they wanted to carry 'em home with them, and if they didn't want to carry 'em home, they just drop down through under the gin, you know. And a....

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NC: they, and they had a, ~~heads~~ pretty high up, and they had a big, fat (unintelligible) <sup>bale</sup> ~~bail~~ the cotton out on that, and they put 'em there. Most of 'em, they'd pick up the cotton, maybe, they'd wait and get it, carry it home and they'd carry it to (Boonville) or <sup>Baldwyn</sup> ~~Baldwin~~ a, Belmont, anywhere, and sell it ? and a...

DB: Where did they have gin <sup>located</sup> ~~the~~ the old days? What towns had gins?

NC: Well, Belmont, I believe ~~aint~~ Dennis had one, Tishomingo, Red Bay, and there's one put in at Golden one time, but a ~~feller~~ ~~Kat~~, ~~Patterson~~, here at Belmont bought out the gin ~~when he was~~ in town. Golden, they moved down to Belmont.

DB: They had two gins at Belmont...

NC: Mm hmm.

DB: at one time.

NC: Hmm.

DB: And there aren't any gins around here anymore are there?

NC: No, ~~they~~ I think you have to go to Cherokee to get 'em, <sup>bale</sup> ~~bail~~ gin now, maybe, that's about the closest. I imagine they got one at Corinth, maybe, I don't know that they have.

SP: Mm hmm.

DB: How did you get paid when you worked at the gin?

NC: So much a day.

DB: How much did that come out to when you started?

NC: Well, a, it varied to ~~how~~ how much time you got in. ~~more~~ more. I believe you had to worked overtime as I did, you got ~~more~~ more. I believe I worked up there, seemed like nine dollars a week, the most

NC: I ever got (unintelligible).

Unid: Mm hmm.

NC: And that's from early to late.... AIP had to work. He'd a have to put on a night crew and, um, I always wanted me to work on the night crew, and I had to work twenty-four hours. Worked through the day shift and then go on through the night shift and you get sleepy (laughter).

DB: I imagine.

NC: Before we put on a night crew we stayed (unintelligible) I we caught up, then we'd come home, I would. Then get up, get back up there was six o'clock.

DB: When you put the cotton into the heads did they have brushes inside that would separate the lint from the...

NC: Yeah, they knocked, knocked that a, brushes knocked it off the saws in there. Run through there and it'd knock the cotton off the saw and the suction in there would pick it up and carry it back up in a pipe and back over through the condenser and then a, a, in to the bale box....

DB: If you had your choice would you rather work in a cotton gin or out in the woods cutting, cutting timber?

NC: Well, if it wasn't the hours wasn't so long I'd rather work in the cotton gin. See if you, if you get two good hands, you could tie bale the cotton out in a very few minutes. Then you'd be done 'til there's another ah, bale come on. 'Bout three bales an hour's about what the average, a, this gin run with three gin heads.

DB: And there'd be two people working on it?

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NC: On the gin head, yeah. Would, a, when I'd go on a night shift I generally have to go on the heads up there. Feed those ~~fall~~<sup>up</sup> and then, when ~~they~~ run and got all that cotton out you'd raise the heads then they'd turn the press and we'd just, as soon as they got the press turned, we'd start it right back ~~then~~<sup>up</sup>. Let the heads down on it, ~~go in~~<sup>the</sup> gin.

SP: Mm hmm.

DB: How many other people did it take to operate the cotton gin?

NC: Well, there's about five of us, a, in the gin house; ~~When~~<sup>W</sup> it got really crowded but a...

DB: So you had two on the gin heads what did the other three do?

NC: Well, they, they'd a, one of 'em ~~(wagon~~<sup>unloading the wagon</sup>?) and feeding it, ~~the~~ cotton, off. And be four in the house, and then sometime you'd put five in the house, but the last feller at ~~a~~ Patterson sold out, ~~course~~ his health got bad on him. And a, they, he would ~~work~~ work with three men in the house. I worked a little for him and ~~so~~ so I didn't like it. It's too hard. You had to feed the (overflow) and keep the ties all, a, you had to put your buckles on the, on the ties and then you (ratted) them and a, and (un)roll your bag and spread it out and have it ready and then it ~~just~~ just too much for three men in there. Patterson, I liked to work for him. He, he didn't ~~try~~ try to work you to death. You tell him you need another hand and a he'd put him in there ~~and~~ and you'd get it ~~it~~....

SP: 'Bout when did the cotton play out around here? When did people stop growing cotton?

NC: Ah, ten, fifteen year ago ... ~~a~~

MDAH

SP: And why, why'd they stop? Do you know?

NC: Well they'd just ~~sick~~, the expense to it and a, labor. You couldn't get nobody to pick and there wasn't many cotton pickers around at that time.

SP: Mm hmm.

NC: And a, I ~~don't~~ know whether they just got on (unintelligible) ~~and~~ a, one man could work ~~a week~~ ~~and~~ (unintelligible) ~~beans~~, and then they'd have their own a, a combine you know.

SP: Mm hmm.

NC: And a, it'd just cost more money to it.

SP: Mm hmm.

NC: And the insects got bad and the ~~bale weevils~~ <sup>got in</sup> ~~and~~ the cotton a whole lot. And (unintelligible) ~~and~~ it, it's just lots of expenses to it.

SP: Yeah.

DB: Back in the old days, when they grew cotton, did they ever do crop rotation?

NC: Yes, uh-huh. Some places...

DB: How did they do that?

NC: Well, maybe just a, plant cotton in certain patch one year and next year put in corn, then ~~start back~~.

SP: Mm hmm.

NC: But a, they had a, some good land they ought to ~~let 'em~~ rotate.

SP: Did they ever ~~have~~ have to, ever have to fertilize cotton much or not?

NC: Oh yeah, yeah. More you use the better cotton you'd grow.

SP: Ah, I see.

DB: You can remember back when they didn't use fertilizer, can't you?

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NC: Well, no, a, they used it about ever since I can remember anything about it.

DB: Mm hmm.

NC: They didn't put too much.... but they got up ~~(gradually)~~, they used a lot of fertilizer, and make it a lot more.... I raised, out here in the (flash) back here, I raised a ~~(little over)~~ a <sup>bale</sup> ~~bail~~. That's ~~(more)~~ <sup>over</sup> a <sup>bale</sup> ~~bail~~ to the acre.

SP: Mm hmm.

NC: ~~(Almost)~~ any of 'em make a <sup>bale</sup> ~~bail~~ to the acre but a, this ~~(out here)~~, we had... ~~(We)~~ We saved the barnyard fertilizer, put it out. And a.... ~~(we)~~, make cotton. And then there's some years, it a lot better than it was the others.

DB: Back in the old days how much did they used to get per acre? Cotton?

NC: Well, I was out, when I was ~~(2)~~ growing up about, I'd get it less than a, half <sup>bale</sup> ~~bail~~ an acre. They just didn't fertilize it much....

SP: Hmm.

NC: My Daddy never did raise too much cotton.

SP: What kinds of insects and ~~other~~ ~~(stuff)~~ eat off cotton?

NC: Well, bole weevil was the worst thing. And they had what you'd called a hopper.

SP: Isn't it, like a grasshopper?

NC: A, similar to that. And they, they was pretty bad on it. You had to poison it, ~~(after 'em)~~. I remember when there was no bole weevil in ~~(there)~~. But a, when they got in here they ate up a lot of cotton.

DB: When did they come? How old were you when..you remember?

NC: Ah, I guess I was ten or twelve year old.

SP: What do they look like? Bole weevil?

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NC: Well.... they was, they wasn't very large. They had a, round back kind a, and a, brown, and they had a bill where they done their puncturing ~~there~~ <sup>AND</sup> a....they're square, had a round bill, and they'd lay a egg in there, and it'd fall off ~~there~~, and then the bole weevil come out of that after it fall off, or it might come out before it fall off....things were bad. ~~They~~ had wings or something.

SP: Were they native to this country or were they brought in from somewhere else once?

NC: They ~~were~~ brought in from Texas.

DB: Oh!

SP: Oh!

NC: Mm hmm. Immigrated, I reckon from Texas ... just. Little by little.

SP: Yeah.

DB: Was there ever any diseases of the pines?

NC: Well....

DB: 2.

NC: Not too bad. 'Bout the only thing that'd bother that is a, a, if a tree got lightin' struck or something <sup>around</sup> in a certain time of the year, didn't die and a, and get the, a, insects ...

SP: Did you ever get <sup>galls</sup> ~~(galls)~~ or anything on 'em, or any kind of <sup>blight</sup> ~~(blood)~~ or anything?

NC: Well some spots are black.

SP: Uh-huh.

NC: But they, you used...<sup>would</sup> certain kind of fertilizer, and <sup>help</sup> that.

SP: Uh-huh....

DB: Back in the old days when you were a boy um, do you ever remember

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DB: your Mama making ash cakes in the fire?

NC: Yeah cooking on the fire <sup>place</sup> (~~pipes~~). They have a oven they bake bread in.

DB: What'd they call that oven? Remember?

NC: Uh...

DB: ~~Did they~~ have a name for it?

NC: Clara, what'd they'd call them a, where they used to bake bread in the fireplace?

CC: Well they just called it the ovens. Them old, big, deep ovens with legs on 'em.

DB: Called it Dutch Oven ever?

NC: Yeah, but ~~that was n't~~ a Dutch Oven, but they had legs about so long on it. (gesturing)

SP: Mm hmm.

NC: Then they had a solid lid with a top.

DB: Uh-huh.

NC: Had a place on top, usually. <sup>D</sup> ~~hooker~~ used to raise your top.

SP: Did you ever hear 'em called a spider?

CC: (Laugh)

NC: No I never did. Don't remember.

DB: What were the kinds of food did you used to eat back in those days?

NC: Well just, peas and what, whatever they could raise. Had collards, turnip salads.

DB: Is that what they call a poke salad?

NC: No.

DB: No.

NC: Just a salad. <sup>T</sup> ~~Q~~ they sow the seeds, you know. We got a

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NC: little patch sowed out there now.

DB: Uh-huh.

NC: And a...

DB: Mrs. Caveness, did you ever make ash cakes?

CC: What?

DB: Did you ever make ash cakes?

CC: Don't reckon I know what it means.

DB: That's where you used to take corn meal and mix it up and then put it directly in the coals, and then it would get like a, get like charcoal on the top of it, and then it would cook in there and then you'd just beat off the charcoal off the top of it.

NC: No, no...

CC: No, I never did do that but a, I have a, well we have ~~ourselves~~ <sup>it</sup>.  
~~Place it there, just place it there~~ right over here.

SP: Okay.

CC: We have a, you know, a, would do our taters, I mean, sweet potaters like that.

Unid. (Sigh)

CC: ~~(Can't stand that fly)~~ um, we'd a, I remember we would be a, raking leaves in the, here in the yard, and we'd a put sweet potaters in there and rake your leaves and burn. And then when the a, fire would get out or we thought they had enough burning we'd roll the potaters out and um, peel that off, peeling, and they was real good to us ~~(kids)~~. ~~They would be really hard~~ on through, but they'd be soft way around, and eat that. And then ~~the~~ middle was kind of firm but it's, it wasn't done, but it was good. We'd eat that way anyway.

DB: How did you store your potatoes back then?

MDAH

CC: Well I think a only way we ever had, they had a cellar, they called it, under the floor here. Raise the plank here at the fireplace and go down in the cellar and pick up a bucket of sweet potatoes and set 'em up here on the floor. And then they'd take 'em and wash 'em and bake 'em in the oven or stove whichever one they aimed to bake 'em in, you know. Sometimes it'd be in that old oven sitting on the fireplace and sometimes it'd, they'd have, they put 'em in the stove<sup>to</sup> bake...

NC: You talk about good cornbread, that was, put them on the oven and place them on the fire, I mean, have it up close to your andirons, ~~stoves~~ and that was good. They'd put fire under it and it'd cover lid or coals, you know, whatever... and that was really good. And I don't know whether you all ever eat any, what ~~they~~<sup>they</sup> call shortnin' bread or not, have ya?

CC: Cracklin' bread...

SP: Mm hmm.

CC: (unintelligible) & cakes.

NC: Yeah.

CC: We called it cracklin' so...

SP: I love cracklin' bread.

CC: Long time ago.

SP: That's what we call leather britches.

CC: Mm hmm.

SP: Did you ever hear of that?

NC: Mn hmm.

CC: Well I've heard that but I, I reckon that was ~~from~~ shortnin' bread, wasn't it?

SP: Well, the leather britches were the beans, <sup>y</sup> used to take the beans

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SP: and leave 'em in the <sup>pod</sup> pot and string 'em up on thread and <sup>dry</sup> grind them.

CC: Yeah.

SP: And then they get all brown and shriveled up, <sup>AND</sup> then you take 'em down and soak them overnight like ~~stuff~~ you do with regular dried beans.

CC: Mm hmm.

SP: And then cook 'em with ham and have that <sup>AND</sup> cracklin' bread.

DB: (Laugh).

CC: You mean you dry it, you, you would hang up these....beans...

SP: Hang up, just like a whole green bean.

CC: Mm hmm.

SP: You just string 'em on a piece of thread and hang it up, like in the rafters. <sup>L</sup> Yet 'em dry in the <sup>pod</sup> pot and they'd get all brown and shriveled up. Then you just take 'em down and separate 'em and soak 'em overnight and cook 'em with ham.

CC: Oh, well I, I never seen any cooked like that.

DB: Well, how do you make the cracklin' bread?

CC: Well a, I guess he can tell ya better about that than I can (laughs).

SP: Well give me your recipe let's see if you make it the same way.

CC: Well, a now, what, now I don't like cracklin' bread. I never did.

And I don't yet. But a, course back when everybody killed their hogs um, they would save their cracklins' and what was, a, they didn't <sup>wanna</sup> want a fool with making bread. Now a lot of people grind 'em up, but most of my brothers and sisters and mother and them that did like it, well, they just a, take this whole cracklin', you know, just like you ~~rendered~~ your lard and um, they didn't cut the skin. They'd pick out chunks, it was a, didn't have no skin on it, some lean pieces.

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SP: Mm hmm.

CC: And they'd just throw them big old chunks in the ~~meal~~ and a, stir it up, and put it in the skillets and cook it and just be big old gobs, so big sticking all over that bread. Well now that's the way they liked it.

SP: Mm hmm.

CC: Just like that, but I never did like it. I didn't never like cracklin' bread. Did you <sup>Noel</sup> know?

NC: Yeah I liked it.

CC: Well, I never did.

SP: (Laughs)

NC: Ah...

CC: Hmm I ?

NC: My Daddy, ~~he~~ he (unintelligible) ~~took~~ took, maybe when they's ~~running~~ out the lard, they'd put the skins separate, and then...

CC: Then you just...

NC: take sausage, put it in the sausage mill and ~~then~~ grind it up. And that was good.

CC: Now, didn't none of my brothers, they, they didn't want it ground...

NC: Well, there's lots....

CC: They wanted them chunks of meat.

NC: Lots of people wanted that meat in it. <sup>Course</sup> ~~cause~~ I never did like them cracklin' .

CC: Did you ever eat any cracklin' bread?

NC: (unintelligible).

CC: ~~Well~~, I don't think we, I did have some cracklin' in the deep freeze. Seem like I give it to somebody here while back. I ~~know~~ know

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CC: we wouldn't eat 'em, but I saved 'em and I thought somebody did, and I think I give 'em to some of the kids here awhile back...

SP: Do people down here eat pigsfeet at all, or not?

CC: Well...

SP: ~~Do~~...

CC: A lot of people likes pigfeet. I've never tasted one myself. (Laughs)  
But I do hear a lot of people talk about them.

Unid: I love.

Unid: I love it.

CC: And then they just can't get enough of a hog jowl and black-eyed peas. New Year's, I believe's, when they cook them.

SP: Right.

DB: You were telling me the other day that they used to make piles out in the yard with straw and dirt, and did they put turnips in there or potatoes or something?

CC: Yeah. Um, (unintelligible) here.

Last, two, three years ago she had lots of turnips over here.

She told me one day (unintelligible) here, and he says, 'if ya'all want any' he said, 'go out there and get 'em'. Well, we didn't want 'em. We had 'em up here in garden.

So, one evening he was over here visiting, and he brought us.'

END OF TAPE 2b, Side 2

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