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Ron Sayre

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ORAL HISTORY

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COTTAGEVILLE, County of Jackson State
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Date July 9, 1976

RE Sayre
(Signature - Interviewee)

Box 225, Rt 2
Address

Cottageville, WV

Date July 9, 1976

Sharon E. Spren
(Signature - Witness)





ORAL HISTORY

GIFT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

I, Edna Sayne, the undersigned, of
Cottagersville, County of Jefferson State
of W. V. A., grant, convey, and transfer to the James E. Morrow Library Associates, a division of the Marshall University Foundation, Inc., an educational and eleemosynary institution, all my right, title, interest, and literary property rights in and to my testimony recorded on July 9, 1976, to be used for scholarly purposes, including study rights to Reproduction.

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Date July 9, 1976

Edna Sayne
(Signature - Interviewee)

Box 225, Rt 2.
Address

Date July 9, 1976

Cottagersville, WV
Sharon E. Skeer
(Signature - Witness)

Ronald Early Sayre (1897) and his wife, the former Edna Ankrum (1899), live on a farm near Cottageville, West Virginia. Their parents were farm people in Jackson County and, although both have had other occupations, they have returned to life on the farm near the farms on which they were born.

Ron Sayre has only a seventh grade education, but does not consider it a handicap to anything he has wanted to do. He has not spent his whole life on the farm and has had several jobs. The first job he got was in a machine shop in Fairmont, West Virginia. He was drafted into the army in World War I and did guard duty in Washington, D.C. He has worked on the roads, for a private contractor, on the construction of Ohio River and Kanawha River locks, and carried the mail.

Edna Sayre completed the first eight grades of school at the local schoolhouse and attended the normal school at Wilding, West Virginia. After her marriage to Ron Sayre in 1920, she taught school for several years. She taught in a one-room school and taught all eight primary grades. She raised her children; Gerald, Mabel, and Jeannette on a farm.

Ron and Edna were to be interviewed separately. Edna was interviewed while Ron was busy on the farm, but she was doing housework when Ron was interviewed and sometimes made comments in answer to my questions to Ron. I selected Ron and Edna to interview because they fulfilled my instructor's requirements and because they are my maternal grandparents. The following transcript is a verbatim transcript of the interviews I conducted with them on 9 July, 1976.

SS: Granma, where were you born and when?

ES: Cottageville, West Virginia. March 23, 1899.

SS: What was your father's name?

ES: Madison Ankrum.

SS: What was your mother's maiden name?

ES: Adelpia Lloyd.

SS: How do you spell that?

ES: A-D-E-L-P-H-I-A.

SS: Where were your parents from?

ES: Um, well they just, uh, lived down there on the river. I don't know.

SS: In Jackson County?

ES: In Jackson County I'd guess you'd call both of 'em.

SS: What did your father do for a living?

ES: He farmed and carried the mail, uh, and that's about all he ever did do, I guess.

SS: Did your mother work outside of the farm?

ES: No.

SS: How many children were there in the family?

ES: Eleven.

SS: What were their names?

ES: Bert, Clyde, Harley, Stellie, Ethel, Ellie, Roy, Edna, Hallie, Glen, and Bessie. Is that all (whispers as she counts from 1 to 11.).

SS: What kind of work did the boys go into when they got older?

ES: Mostly construction work, the older boys did. Of course, building locks and that kind of thing.

SS: Did most of the family move away or did they stay in Jackson County?

ES: They, you mean, now I, if I ask you a question its on there?

JS: Well did they, uh, did most of them leave the state or did they stay around Jackson County most of their lives?

ES: The boys went west. They was in Indiana most of their life. After they were old enough to work.

JS: How about the girls?

ES: Well they, they stayed around.

JS: Was one of your brothers a teacher with the indiana?

ES: No, Glen was a teacher.

JS: Okay. Where are they now?

ES: Well, uh, let's see, well about all of 'ems gone but Roy, Hallie, and me.

JS: Where are Roy and Hallie?

ES: Roy lives at Evans and Hallie lives at Mt. Alto.

JS: When you were little did anyone besides the family live with you? Any other relatives or people that weren't relatives?

ES: Well Grandma Lloyd stayed there some but not all the time. But she was, was there a good bit.

JS: Did your married brothers and sisters still live at home?

ES: No.

JS: When your parents got older who took care of them?

ES: Well they lived on the farm and took care of themselves till they was too old and then the children helped them.

JS: How many rooms did your family's house have?

ES: Eight.

JS: Who slept where?

ES: The children slept upstairs and mom and dad slept downstairs.

JS: Did you have to share a bed?

ES: Yes.

JS: Did any relatives besides your grandmother visit you and stay with you?

ES: Oh, I expect they was. Well, we had alot of visitors but they didn't stay too long a time.

JS: What kind of chores did you have to do when you were a girl?

ES: Carry in stove wood and coal and milk the cow.

JS: How did your family celebrate holidays?

ES: Oh, we usually made some ice cream and had a big time (laughs).

JS: Did most of your relatives visit each, visit with each other?

ES: Yes.

JS: How often did they visit?

ES: Oh, bout once a month.

JS: About how long did they stay?

ES: Oh, couple days.

JS: Did your family hold family reunions?

ES: Yes. I'd say so.

JS: Who attended them?

ES: The ones who were close enough to attend.

JS: Where were they held?

ES: At the old home place.

JS: And where's that?

ES: Out on the other side of Cottageville (laughs).

JS: Did the grandparents and relatives go to all the family weddings and funerals?

ES: Not all of 'em I don't think.

JS: Did the family go to church?

ES: Part of them.

JS: What church did you go to?

ES: Advent.

JS: And where was that?

ES: It was out on Dutch Ridge, in Jackson County.

JS: When you were younger who decided most of the important issues in the family?

ES: My mother (laughs).

JS: Did the children need the parents, uh, permission to move or get a job or get married?

ES: To get married.

JS: Who punished the children in the family?

ES: Mommy (laughs).

JS: How did she punish you?

ES: Spanking.

JS: Did she use anything or just her hand?

ES: Well she had a paddle (laughs).

JS: Were there any black sheep in the family?

ES: Oh, I don't think, I don't say that they was.

JS: Were members of the family ranked by age or sex? Did the boys get to do anything special that the girls didn't do?

ES: Yeah. The boys did.

JS: What were the seating arrangements at the dinner table?

ES: (Whispers) oh my goodness.

JS: Who sat at the head of it?

ES: Dad.

JS: And who sat at the foot?

ES: Mom.

JS: Did the children have any special seats or did they just sit any place in between?

ES: In between them.

JS: Okay. At what age did sons and daughters leave home?

ES: Oh, some of the boys left home when they was 16, they went to Indiana.

JS: And the girls?

ES: Oh, around twenty, twenty-one.

JS: Did any relatives help the boys get started in business?

ES: Nope.

JS: Did any of the girls work in any other business?

ES: Nope.

JS: While you were growing up who took care, who took care of poor or sick relatives?

ES: I don't understand what that means.

JS: If there was a sickness in the family would someone, like your mother go and . . .

ES: Yes.

JS: . . . visit and help out?

ES: My mother did.

JS: Okay. Who owned most of the property in the family?

ES: Mom and dad.

JS: Both of them?

ES: Yes.

JS: Did any of the women in the family receive dowries?

ES: Nope.

JS: Who inherited the property?

ES: You know that, let's see, the first school I taught at the landing down to, down to Millwood. I don't know what you want there. Would it be the county? Or, uh, Jackson County.

JS: How did you get your teaching job?

ES: Passing an examination and then there was trustees. And they hired the teachers.

JS: How did you keep discipline?

ES: Whomp 'em (laughs). No, Don't you write that. I never had no trouble. I usually made 'em think I meant what I said. And they did what I said.

JS: What subjects did you teach?

ES: Oh, well I had eight grades so you know what subjects I taught, all of 'em.

JS: How long was the school year?

ES: Six months at first.

JS: About how many students did you have at a time?

ES: Oh, bout any where from 20 to 30.

JS: Why did you and your husband move back to Jackson County after living in Fairmont?

ES: Because that's where we was raised and we wanted to come back home (laughs).

JS: How many places have you had in Jackson County?

ES: Oh, bout 3, I guess.

JS: Why did you move so often?

ES: To make things better for us (laughs). Why else?

JS: Where were your children born and when?

ES: Oh, I don't know if I can remember that or not (goes to get the family bible). Gerald was born April 1, 19 and 23, and where was he born? You want the county now or..? Jackson, in Jackson County. Mabel Irene Sayre, born February 6, 1926 in Jackson County. Jeanette Ruth Sayre, born January 15, 1928 in Mason County.

JS: Who was the doctor that delivered them?

ES: Dr. Harrison.

JS: When was he, when was he sent for?

ES: When I knowed I was gonna have a baby (laughs), usually.

JS: How long have you been married to grandpa?

ES: Well we got married on May 27, 1920, how long was that?

JS: And where were you married?

ES: Wait a minute till I study this out a minute. Uncle Ben Ridenour's home.

JS: Whose uncle was he?

ES: Mine. He was a great uncle.

JS: And where was, and where was this?

ES: Out at Mt. Alto.

JS: How long did you and grandpa keep horses to race?

ES: Til he got too old to ride (laughs) oh . . .

JS: Did they work on the farm besides racing?

ES: No, not the ones he rode in the races. (Coughs) the only place he had his own horses was at Evans, you know, in this county overthere.

JS: Did you ever have very many fights over racing?

ES. Nope.

JS: Where were you living when the Depression hit?

ES: What year was that in?

JS: 1929.

ES: We was probably liying out on Cow Run.

JS: Did anyone come to liye with you during the Depression?

ES: No.

JS: Were you teaching school at that time?

ES: Yes, I guess so.

JS: What did the kids do for money?

ES: Did without mostly (laughs). Didn't have any money at that time.

JS: Did you ever trade things at the store?

ES: Traded eggs for groceries. And milk and we sold cream too.

JS: I've heard that people did come and live with you, maybe it wasn't during the Depression. Do you remember anything about 'em?

ES: Oh, not anything in particular.

JS: Were they relatives or people that you knew?

ES: Some of them were and some were not.

JS: Did you vote for FDR?

ES: Yes.

JS: Why?

ES: Cause I'm a Democrat (laughs).

JS: Since when had you been a Democrat?

ES: Ever since I can remember.

JS: Why were you a Democrat?

ES: Cause my dad was.

JS: Did you have any feelings about Hitler or the Japanese before the war started?

ES: I don't think so. I never was to interested in them activities.

JS: After Pearl Harbor did you have any feelings about 'em?

ES: The only things is I didn't like to see my brothers and my friends have to go to war but, uh, that's about all.

JS: Was your son drafted?

ES: Yeah.

JS: What branch of the service was he in?

ES: You know about as much as I do. Infantry I guess or something. I don't know what he was in. Oh, he was in, he was a sail, he was, uh, Navy. Wasn't he?

JS: Where did he serve? In the Atlantic or the Pacific? Do you remember?

ES: No, I don't remember.

JS: Did you worry about him during the war?

ES: Well sure.

JS: Did you give him any advice before he left?

ES: He wouldn't of listened if I had (laughs).

JS: How did, how did the war change life on your farm, or did it?

ES: That's such a long ways back. I don't remember, really.

JS: Uh, did the girls go out and get jobs during the war?

ES: I don't remember.

JS: Uh, when Mabel went to work in Parkersburg, did you and your husband approve?

ES: Yes.'

JS: And when Jeanette left you gave your approval for that too?

ES: (Nodded yes).

JS: Did they have to get your approval to go on to school?

ES: I don't remember that. The ones that wasn't 21 when they got married I had to approve. That's the only thing I remember.

JS: Did any of them live at home after they were married?

ES: Not very long. Might of been here some, but they went out on their own.

JS: About how many grandchildren do you think you have?

ES: Goodness, I don't know. You can, you could count them if you want to (laughs).

JS: Do you have any great grandchildren?

ES: Yes.

JS: Does most of the family, the children and grandchildren still live around Jackson County?

ES: Well some of them live in Kanoy County. They live in different counties. I don't know. I expect there more of them in Jackson County maybe.

JS: When did you get electricity on the farm?

ES: I wouldn't have no idea when we got it. Was a good while ago.

JS: When did you start getting appliances, like washing machines?

ES: That's been a good while too. For I had a washing machine for a long time.

JS: How did they affect your life?

ES: Made it easier.

JS: What do you think the country's biggest problem is today?

ES: Well I, I just don't pay any attention to things like that.

JS: Well, you've had some trouble with the government, do you think the government needs to be worked on?

ES: I think so.

JS: Thank you.

JS: Okay grandpa, where were you born and when?

RS: I was born in Jackson County in 1897.

JS: What was your father's name?

RS: Benjamin Wesley Sayre.

JS: What was your mother's maiden name?

RS: Rose, Florence Rosemary.

JS: Where were your parents from?

RS: My dad was from Jackson County and my mother was from Mason.

JS: What did your father do for a living?

RS: Farmed.

JS: Did your mother ever work outside of the farm?

RS: No.

JS: How many children were there in your family?

RS: Six. That is six aliving.

JS: What were their names?

RS: Letty, Harley, Marie . . .

ES: Roscoe.

RS: Clayt.

ES: Roscoe.

RS: . . . and Roscoe.

JS: What line of work did they go into?

ES: Mostly farming wasn't it?

RS: Mostly, yeah.

JS: Did they stay in Jackson County or did they move away?

RS: There was, uh, part of 'em stayed in Jackson County and part of them, er, the girls moved away and then one brother Clayt.

ES: They went to Ohio, didn't they?

RS: Yeah, they went to Ohio.

JS: Where are they now?

RS: Uh, Marie is dead, Clayt's dead, Letty's at Columbus.

ES: Roscoe's dead.

RS: Roscoe's dead. And Har, Harley's dead. And all that's left is me and Letty.

JS: Besides the immediate family had anyone ever lived with you?

RS: Nope.

JS: Did married brothers and sisters live at home?

RS: No.

ES: Ron, now Roscoe . . .

RS: Er, yes Ros did, he stayed with 'em.

JS: When your parents got older who took care of 'em?

RS: Ros was supposed to.

JS: Did they live by themselves?

ES: Yeah, they did till grandpa died.

RS: Yeah, they did till my dad died.

JS: How many rooms did your family's house have?

RS: How many rooms did that last house have?

ES: It only had 4 rooms in it, didn't it. The last house?

RS: Heh?

ES: Four.

RS: That big house out there on the hill?

ES: Oh, out there on the hill. I forgot about that. I don't know, I'd say they was 7 or 8 rooms in that house. Seven at least.

RS: One of 'em had 4 rooms and the other had 7, I believe.

JS: Who slept where?

RS: Huh?

JS: Did the kids sleep downstairs or did the parents sleep downstairs?

RS: Well, when we was at home we was in that 4 room house and we all slept downstairs. Wudn't no upstairs to it.

JS: Did any relatives come and stay with you when they were visiting?

RS: Oh, they's come in once in a while, but they didn't stay too long.

JS: Couple of days?

RS: Yeah, something like that.

JS: What kind of chores did you do on the farm?

RS: Oh, I'd work the horses and fed . . .

ES: Cut wood.

RS: . . . cut wood, put up hay and everything else we do on the farm.

JS: Did you have anything special done on holidays, like big meals or anything?

RS: Nope.

JS: What relatives visited most often?

RS: My mother's, er, mother's brother more I believe than anyone else.

JS: About how often did they visit?

RS: Oh . . .

ES: They was neighbors. You know how neighbors do.

RS: . . . bout once a year anyhow.

JS: About how long did they stay?

RS: Oh, sometimes they'd stay a week. Er, they had another sister who lived right above. They stayed there part of the time.

JS: Did your family ever hold family reunions?

RS: No, not that I know of.

JS: Did the grandparents and relatives come in for the weddings and funerals?

RS: Did what?

JS: Did the grandparents and relatives come in for the weddings and funerals?

ES: The funerals they did.

RS: Grandparents? No, they was, they was dead.

JS: Did your family go to church?

RS: Yeah.

JS: Where?

RS: Longbottom.

JS: And what kind of church was that?

RS: Methodist.

JS: Who decided most of the important issues in the family?

RS: Oh, dad I reckon.

JS: And did the kids have to get his permission to move or get a job or get married?

RS: Nope.

JS: Who punished the children?

RS: Huh?

JS: Who punished the children?

RS: Oh.

ES: They didn't punish them.

RS: Wasn't too much punishment went on.

JS: How were you punished when they did punish you?

RS: Oh. . .

JS: Was there anybody who was a black sheep in the family?

RS: Nope.

JS: Were members of the family ranked by age or sex? Was the older ones treated different from, than, the others and the boys different from the girls?

RS: Oh, not that I know of.

JS: Okay. Uh, at the dinner table what were the seating arrangements? Who sat at the head and who sat at the foot?

RS: My dad mostly.

JS: Okay. What age did the sons and daughters leave home?

ES: About 20.

RS: Oh, I imagine about 20, 21, somethin' like that.

JS: Did anybody help you get started in business? Or help you get a job?

RS: Nope.

JS: Who took care of the poor and sick relatives in the family?

RS: The what?

JS: Who took care of the sick relatives in the family?

RS: My mother.

JS: Who owned property in the family?

RS: Dad and mother.

JS: Did the women receive dowries?

RS: Nope.

JS: Who inherited the property?

RS: My brother.

JS: Did all the sons become farmers?

RS: Yeah, I suppose you'd say that. I don't know either.

JS: Did girls work outside of the family?

RS: Nope.

JS: Were your grandparents farm people?

RS: Yeah, I guess, I suppose they was.

JS: What did it take to be considered a success, your own land or lots of money, or what?

RS: No. We didn't know, er we didn't, uh, we didn't own a lot of land or a lot of money either.

JS: Who took care of the babies in the family?

RS: Mother mostly, I reckon.

JS: At what age did the children stop being children?

RS: Well that's pretty hard to say (laughs).

ES: Some of 'em neyer did stop (laughs).

RS: Yeah, that's pretty hard one.

ES: Some of 'em just got bigger.

JS: Okay, Was then a teenager considered a special stage when you got to, to be a teenager?

RS: Oh, I don't know.

JS: About what, what age did children become adults.

ES: Some of 'em neyer did grow up.

RS: Oh, er, about 16 or 17 I reckon, somewhere along there.

JS: What was your first job?

RS. Mining machine shop at Fairmont.

JS: What kind of work did you do in the machine shop?

RS: Head blacksmith.

JS: What kind of tools did you use?

RS: Sledge hammer, steam hammer, uh, electric press.

JS: How long did you work there?

RS: I believe about a year, the first time.

JS: Where did you live while you were working there?

RS: I stayed in Fairmont.

JS: In a house or . . .

RS: I boarded (coughs).

JS: Were your meals included in your board?

RS: Yep.

JS: Uh, were you in the service in World War I?

RS: Yep.

JS: Did you volunteer?

RS: Nope.

JS: Did you try to get in the cavalry?

RS: Nope.

JS: Where did you train?

RS: Camp Meade, Maryland.

JS: And where did you serve most of the time?

RS: Uh, Washington, D.C.

JS: And why didn't you go overseas?

ES: Quarantined.

RS: Camp Meade was quarantined for the flu.

JS: How long were you in the army?

RS: Just about a year.

JS: Did you like army life?

RS: Oh, I didn't mind it too bad after the first month (laughs).

JS: What did you like the most?

RS: Oh, I don't know. I don't make a whole lot of difference.

JS: What did you, what did you dislike the most?

ES: Getting up early.

RS: K.P., K.P. (laughs).

JS: How did you feel about the city boys?

RS: City boys?

JS: Uh, huh.

RS: Oh, I didn't mind them much. They all treated me pretty good.

JS: How did you like being in the city?

RS: I never did like city life too well (laughs).

JS: When were you discharged?

RS: I'd have to look at the discharge to see. I believe it was in, sometime in May.

JS: What year?

RS: I'd have to look to tell ya that (laughs).

JS: Okay.

ES: About 19 (coughs) 18 wasn't it? Or when was that war?

RS: Now what was it? Later than that I think.

JS: Yeah. When did you get married?

RS: (Laughs) I don't know (laughs).

ES: You got that on mine, what was it?

JS: Okay.

ES: It's in that book there.

JS: Where and when did you meet grandma?

ES: Uh, we got married in 19 and 20 on May 27.

RS: When?

ES: May 27, 1920.

RS: Uh, I met her at, uh, . .

ES: Ice cream social.

RS: Uh, ice cream social, um, at Lone Oak Schoolhouse.

JS: About what year?

ES: Well I can figure that. We was married in 1920. We went together about 2 years. So, I'd say about 1918 or 19.

RS: I think we went together about 3 years.

ES: No, I think we'd been engaged before you left for Camp Meade and all that.

JS: Okay. After you were married where did you live?

RS: We lived out on Cow Run for about 2 years and then moved to Mason County and lived out there. . .

ES: We lived at Fairmont, too.

RS: Uh, we lived at Fairmont first. Went to Fairmont when we was married. I don't know how long we did live at Fairmont.

JS: What did grandma do all day when you were working?

ES: Sleep.

RS: Sleep mostly, I think (laughs).

JS: How did you get new jobs?

RS: Just asked fer 'em, I guess.

JS: What kind of jobs did you have?

RS: Well after, after we, uh, left Fairmont next job I got was a blacksmith in a, help a blacksmith on locks at Millwood, wadn't it?

JS: Yeah.

RS: And I worked there for a year or more, I reckon.

JS: Did grandma go with ya when you went to these jobs?

RS: She was, uh, . .

ES: I was teaching.

RS: We, uh, she was teaching school. We lived in Mason County when I worked at Millwood.

JS: Okay. Why did you come back to Jackson County?

RS: Oh, that's where we was raised and that's where we come back to.

JS: How many places did you have and where were they in Jackson County?

RS: Well we lived at, uh, Cow Run in Mason County. Uh, 3 different places in Jackson County.

JS: Why did you move so often?

RS: What?

JS: Why did you move so often?

RS: We just rented the farms, ya see, and uh . . .

JS: When did you decide it was time to send for the doctor when grandma was having a baby?

RS: (Laughs) I don't know (laughs).

JS: Did you ask her or just go?

RS: She was most generally said, uh, . . .

JS: When did you start racing horses?

ES: I'd say it was when they had the fair up here. But I don't know when that was.

RS: It was when, uh, wadn't till after we moved here.

JS: And when did you move here?

ES: I don't have any idea.

RS: I believe it was about '35, wadn't it?

ES: I don't know.

JS: How did you come by your horses?

RS: Traded fer 'em.

JS: Were they, uh, were they registered race horses or were they just. . .

RS: Some of them were.

JS: Farm horses?

RS: Some of 'em was.

JS: Did they do any work on the farm?

RS: Nope.

JS: Did you use them to ride into town or anything?

RS: Oh, I'd ride 'em once in a while, but not very much on the road.

JS: How long did you race?

ES: Do you mean how many years? He just raced them at the fair once a year.

RS: Raced them at the fairs, at the fairs over for, I reckon, 5 or 6 years wasn't it?

JS: What were your best horses names?

ES: Smatterpop.

RS: Oh, Smatterpop was the best, was the best running horse I had.

JS: What were your favorite tracks?

RS: Eyans.

JS: Did you ever have arguments or fights over racing?

RS: One (laughs).

JS: Did you ever have an argument with grandma about racing?

RS: No, not that I know of.

JS: Where did you live during the Depression?

RS: Here.

JS: Did anybody come to live with ya?

RS: Yeah.

ES: Uh, not really to live with us, some of, of 'em stayed a while.

RS: They stayed here anyhow.

JS: Did you have any jobs besides farming during the Depression?

RS: Nope.

JS: Who decided who came to live with you?

ES: We didn't have to decide.

RS: I don't know as anybody decided. They just come in and we didn't run 'em off.

JS: About how long did they stay?

ES: One time, Punk, he stayed with us about 3 or 4 years.

RS: Well, Clinton Sayre down here stayed about a year didn't he?

ES: Oh, I don't know. Clint was here with Punk several times. Him and Sam would come, would come around and . . .

JS: What did they do to earn their keep?

ES: Nothing.

RS: Now Sam, uh, Clinton Sayre helped a whole lot. He was the only one that did. If he had any money, he spent it (laughs).

ES: Punk helped alot too when he worked on the road.

RS: And Punk helped too.

JS: Did you vote for F.D.R.?

RS: Yep.

JS: Why?

ES: 'Cause he was Democrat.

RS: 'Cause I couldn't get no job with none of them other fellas. He was the best one of the outfit and so I voted for him.

JS: Have you always been a Democrat?

RS: Yep.

JS: Why?

RS: I think, I think they're the best party.

JS: Were your parents Democrats?

RS: Yep.

JS: Was being a Democrat good for getting any jobs?

RS: Yep.

JS: What kind?

RS: Road. Fact was, the first job I was at after the Depression was supervisor on, on the road.

JS: What did you have to do?

RS: Work these P.W.A. outfits. And that was right after . . .

ES: Roosevelt.

RS: Roosevelt went in.

ES: I'm afraid he'll say too much (laughs).

JS: Was, was the farm doing pretty good just before World War II?
Was it back to where it was making pretty good money?

ES: We didn't own that much farm then, I expect.

RS: We didn't have to they didn't have too big a farm then.

JS: Did you, uh, know anything about Hitler or any of the others
before World War II started? Had you ever heard of 'em?

RS: Hitler?

JS: Uh, huh.

RS: No. I never heard much about him.

JS: After they attacked Pearl Harbor were you, did you think there
should have been a war?

RS: Yeah, I think so.

JS: Was Jiggs drafted?

RS: Yep.

JS: Where did he serve?

RS: He was in the Navy wasn't he?

ES: Navy? I forget now, its been so long.

RS: Well I believe he was in the Navy.

ES: Yeah.

JS: Did you give him any advice before he went in?

RS: No. I didn't give him any. I didn't know much about the Navy.

JS: How was, uh, farming during the war? Was it harder or about
the same?

RS: Now what?

JS: How was farming during the war? Was the prices good and . . .

RS: It was better.

JS: When did your two girls start to go out and work?

RS: I don't know (laughs). I don't remember that.

JS: Did you approve of them working outside the house?

RS: Do what, what?

JS: Did you approve of them working?

RS: Oh, I didn't . . .

ES: Mabel worked at Parkersburg when she went to school up there and stayed with Marthy. But now I don't know if Jeanette worked or not. I don't remember her working too much till she got finished with high school.

JS: How much help were tractors and stuff in farming?

RS: A whole lot.

ES: Saves time.

RS: Saves alot of time and alot of work too.

JS: When did you first start watching TV and listening to the radio?

ES: We had a radio long time before we had a TV.

RS: Yeah, we had a radio long time.

JS: How did they affect you? Did you just use them for entertainment or did you use them for news and stuff, too?

RS: I use 'em mostly now for news.

JS: What do you think the country's biggest problem is now?

RS: These high wages.