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DATE July 21, 1988

Paul Salstrom
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LINCOLN COUNTY HISTORY

TAPE #4

July 19, 1988

AN INTERVIEW WITH: Raymond Black (RB)

CONDUCTED BY: Paul Salstrom (PS)

TRANSCRIBED & TYPED BY: Mary Thomas

LCH-4

PS: Paul Salstrom at Myra in Lincoln County on July 19th 1988. I was going ask Raymond some questions about earlier days in this county. He was born in 1897, has lived all his life around here, I believe. Is that correct Raymond?

RB: Um hm. I _____.

PS: Now your dad was the store keeper here at Blacks Brothers Merchandize.

RB: He opened up the store.

PS: And they called him Uncle Billy Black?

RB: Yeah.

PS: Right. He's also a minister? (yeah) Methodist?

RB: A local preacher in the Methodist Church.

PS: And started this church here at Myra?

RB: [cough] Yeah. They started it here.

PS: Oh. Um well I was going to ask mainly about the way people made their living and how they got by, uh , things like that, but why not give a little background on your early life? Dates, uh, size of your family. Just to...

RB: You mean my father's family?

PS: Umm, yes.

RB: Oh but he had six children.

PS: And which in order were you?

RB: I was the fourth one.

PS: And uh, when you were growing up here did people use cash very much around here?

RB: There wadn't no gas here when we first, not when I was young.

PS: Natural gas?

RB: Un Huh.

PS: So people didn't have much way in making an income in cash?

RB: Oh, well they worked timber, sold timber and things like at.

PS: Oh, I was talking about the timber with Ray Elkins the other day. Mostly, when did the biggest time for cutting timber, uh, happen?

RB: Well, when my dad come to this country, 1894, and that was the first work he got into was he was a buying timber for the Armstrong Timber Company [coughed] they go out the farmers would and cut down the tree and and just hew out the ties. Made em into crossties.

PS: For the railroad? (un huh) So they hew em right there on the land?

RB: Oh, yeah right there. Wadn't very many saw mills around, they just... that's the way they got their timber out, by just get em out and hew it out.

PS: And then they'd haul em after they got the block, the railroad ties...

RB: Well, they had to (crossties) when the ties got, whey had em made why they hauled em to the market, you know, when the railroad went up Guyan Valley. They had to haul them over their on the railroad to sell em.

PS: That was about early 1900's.

RB: Yeah, along there through there.

PS: Yeah, Ray Elkins was talking about the dates the railroad got to different (yeah) towns coming south from Huntington. So how much was a crosstie worth?

RB: I... I wouldn't have any idea. Very little [laugh] very little. I have no... I don't... I really don't know what _____ (un huh) but any rate, [cough] the old farmers, they didn't have very good wagons and things. Bout seven or

eight ties was all they could haul to a load [cough] and they wouldn't get very much for em when they got em there.

PS: Was they using mostly ox or...or mules?

RB: Horses and un horses and mules, mostly. Well they used some oxen too. I've seen one time when the gas fields was a going on here, there was one man had a hundred yoke ox. (huh) Can you imagine that many ox?

PS: He a he was working the (in the) gas (in the gas field) hauling pipe to lay...

RB: Hauling pipe and everything. Whatever they had to haul. Moving the rigs, ah you had to move them you know from place to place, ah, to drill the wells and so on.

PS: That wasn't Jason Pridemore?

RB: Well, he did that kind a work after he come along yeah, but, it started before he did .

PS: Oh that's true, yeah. Um [cleared throat] well was people making getting paid in cash or in kind?

RB: Oh they sold a ties, well, they got cash huh.

PS: Now was they raising tobacco up here yet by then...

RB: Well a little bit it it waden nothing. It didn't amount to much. Tobacco waden a very big crop at that time [cough] cause they couldn't use very much tobacco on the farm (yeah) now they raised corn and potatos and wheat and rye and things like that. Because they could use that, naturally.

PS: And some of that they raised uh, had some surplus maybe uh traded it?

RB: Oh yeah, they could sell all that, easy in that (yeah).

PS: Um when did your dad start the store? Or (in 1894) and there wadn't a store here before that?

RB: Well, yes it was, he bought out a little store, it's in a little room about fourteen by ____ twelve by fourteen feet maybe (oh) had a little old store in it. He bought that, with the merchandise that was in it.

PS: Right here in the same spot?

RB: Right down there, where the store is now. (yeah) heh [cough] that's where they started, and then the next year, '85, they built a bigger store building. Him and my granddad was partners in there. That's the reason it said W. F. Black and son.

PS: Yeah. So uh, your father came with his father (uh huh) here? Was your grandfather a preacher too?

RB: No. No, but my great grandfather was.

PS: Methodist? (um hum) And this church was started in 1904 here at Myra?

RB: Yeah, 19 an 4.

PS: I remember that from when I was going there. (yeah) [cough].

PS: Well what would your father and grandfather accept in trade in, ah, produce, you know, from people...

RB: Anything that you could sell. It didn't make no difference. They'd trade for anything. (unh) They bought chickens, and eggs, and any kind of produce you raised on the farm, well they'd buy it.

PS: And most of that got shipped out at least a little ways or did some of it just recirculate (well I ____) right here in the neighborhood (most of it why, they, wherever they had a demand for it, why that's where it went to).

PS: Now Ray Elkins said that his dad used to get Myra eggs up in uh, Mann (____) I think, (un huh) in Logan county (my dad) up

on the railroad (he use to ship an awful lot of eggs up to Logan.

RB: At one time, now believe this or not, you ever see those old wooden egg cases like you use to have? (yeeah) About 30 dozen you know? (yeah) One time the Island Creek Coal Company shipped him a car load, a railroad car load full of them empty crates. (unh) Now you just imagine [cough] when they got em, brought em over here to below Branchland to a little flagstop, and they gone over there an unloaded em, and stored em in all kinds of buildings around there, course it take an awful lot of wagons to haul them things back. So when they was a hauling loads from the railroad, [cough] they'd tie on a few of them egg cases on top, there wadn't much weight to em, you know (um hum) and bring them in (over to Myra?). Yeah, bring them over en fill em up with eggs and then haul em back over there, ship em out.

PS: You go the direct route over to, to Branchland? From...

RB: You go right up Little Laurel, ah, down Two Mile, (unh) course you come in down what they call the shortened stop (yeah) at that time. That's where they went to.

PS: Oh, yeah. So about what year was that you figure that he got such a big orderrrrr uh, egg cartons?

RB: Oh about along maybe in the teens, somewhere along there.

PS: And they wanted the eggs for their company stores? (yeah, yeah) Island Creek Coal Company? (um hm)

RB: Yeah shipped em up there to Island Creek Coal Company. And they, they scattered em out amongst their stores, you know? (yeah) Yeeah.

PS: Well Ray Elkins' uncle was a store keeper up there, now he had a private store and he was getting Myra [cough] eggs there.

RB: Was he up at Gilbert?

PS: Yeah, maybe in Mingo county, (yeah) that is. On up further, yeah. Well that's the kind of thing I'm particularly, I'm interested in myself. How people got by before there was very much cash. (yeah) Cause, you know a lot of that was on a time lag. I mean it was voluntary, when you would (um hm) fill your a fill your orders or pay off your bills, you know, an exchange for what you'd received, right? Did they carry people on the books?

RB: Oh yeah, lots lots and lots of em. Yeah they had an awful lot of stuff on the book. And lost lots of it. (I suppose) [cough]

PS: Now some people would turn over their land uh if worst came to worst, I suppose, and then buy it back. Uh, and you had some land on your hands sometimes.

RB: Oh my, dad dealt in land all the time he owned it. At any time nearly he'd own half a dozen farms. (um hm) He'd trade [cough] he'd buy a boundry a land that had a lot of timber on it, an work the timber up, an turn around an sell the land to somebody that wanted it fer a home, you know, a farm. (Yeah?) Yeah. That's the way he dealt in it. He bought it and sold it.

PS: Un huh. When was the worst times when people was losing farms more, would ya say? Were there any particular bad times?

RB: Oh I reckon they was, but I wasn't wadn't up on that very much [__] at that time.

PS: Was the de (cough) was the depression the thirties a really (that was a hard time, yeah) for hanging on to...(that was drought, you know, we had the drought and the depression all

at the same time). Well, the 1930 (yeah) drought, yeah, (yeah), '31 that went into (oh yeah, run over into '31 of course. They call it the 1930 drought). Yeah that winter after it is known fer uh people, maybe even a few people starving to death, but the Red Cross wasn't givin people very big a portions of relief.

RB: They wadn't a wadn't a doing very much at that time.

PS: But once uh the Democrats got in then the New Deal started, then there was cash being handed out. Now that must have changed how people uh arranged their lives.

RB: I guess it did to some extent, yeah.

PS: If they was working on the roads and getting cash, like maybe even 35 cents an hour, uh that was (well) a lot of money if you was a farmer.

RB: Oh yeah. Well now when they built this graded road up the river here, it's paved now but, [cleared throat] they built it just a dirt and graded road you know?

PS: Upper Mud River Road?

RB: Yeah, all this up through here. Well they could hire a man with a team of horses for six dollars a day. And he had to furnish his own team, harness rig and everything. But that's when they worked a day, got six dollars fer it.

PS: When was that?

RB: Tha was when they was building that road along about 13,14,15,16, along in through there.

PS: Yeah. Right before World War I.

RB: Yes, I believe it was before then, yeah.

PS: Well, then they paved it during the 1930's? [cough] (well) During the depression or...?

RB: Now, when that there WPA come along they beat rock into it, they was hauling rocks, (ah) but even that was done mostly

with horse power and man labor, there wadn't no machinery much to it. See? (yeah) They haul them rock out by the team and dumped em on the road, an then the WPA laborers would go along and place em and beat em in, you know (yeah).

PS: So that became a good gravel road, then?

RB: Well, it became a rock based road any way. (yeah)

PS: And, uh, was those mostly farmers? Working fer...?

RB: Yeah, they was just people lived here in the neighborhood, yeah. (yeah)

PS: Now, your son Ray Gene had told me he thought farming went downhill during the depression. (yeah) But, was the land, was it mainly marginal land that people quit working anyway (____) like hill land that was eroding anyway, or what?

RB: Well, I don't knows as much to do with that. You couldn't make a living then, you had to move on, that was all. A lot of the people [cough] then is like they are today, when you talked about work they didn't they, didn't like it very well. (no) [laugh] They just didn't like that part of it.

PS: Well, of course, if you're working the land one way you can ruin it, I mean with the erosion. If you're planting corn up every year on the hillside it ain't gonna hold the topsoil (cough) So, uhm, that's one thing I've wondered about, whether when they was passing out money, you know for WPA, whether maybe that was helping to give the land a rest, or whether it was mostly bad, well maybe it was good for the land and bad for the people to uh, get hooked on money, and then (yeah) once the war came along uh they'd be gone, I guess, to find a job. And, uh, not here any more.

RB: Well, when they was drilling gas wells in this country, you didn't have to look fer a job, there's somebody looking fer

you. And if you wouldn't work, why, you just wouldn't work (yeah) and if you was willing to work and make an out of yourself, there was a job fer ya.

PS: And that started big around World War I? (yeah) The teens? (Along before then, too) uh, before that? (yeah) Up by Yawkey? (Well, all around through here.) Up here too? (yeah) Okay.

RB: That was Griffithsville and Yawkey oil field they called that. That's not a gas field, that was (oh) mostly oil.

PS: Yeah. The gas is evenly distributed around the county probably, an...

RB: Oh, there's some gas in with it, of course, but, they was drilling them wells for the oil an not for the gas. (yeah)

PS: Yeah. Now, Ray Elkins was telling me about the pump they'd it went by gravity as far as Hamlin uh, where Packs Pipe is now, and there was the big pump that pushed (_____along through, yeah) yeah over to Kentucky somewhere he figured that was the only pumping station (yeah, right over through, Branchland and through that a way) Yeah.

RB: [cough] Yeah I been there a long time. They layed a big gas...line from Hubbell, that's just above Branchland, you know. (Yeah.) Went right through this country and through Hamlin, over to the Nye gas field.

PS: Nye?

RB: That's on route 34, clear over in there. [cough] (oh) Had a big pressure station over there, that pumped, kept the pressure up on it, you know. [cough]

PS: That'd be the northern bit of Lincoln county, route 34? (yeah) Yeah.

PS: I wanted to ask you a little bit about the church, too. Ah, of course they're not doing too tremendous a business with the congregation over there these days, uh that church used to be full?

RB: Um Hm. Yeah that was a big...

PS: From the early (well I) beginnings?

RB: There, there was a time in here that, that the denominations didn't fight one other very much. They lived together or else.

PS: Well, I attended, when I was a Methodist here at Myra, I went up to the Cobbs Knob Baptist (oh yeah).

RB: They do that a little yet, I mean [cough] now, you take what we call the Church of Christ, they they won't associate with you if you're gonna attend the Methodist Church. (oh) They'll fight you right on down [cough]. They'll have nothing to do with you.

PS: And they're located in Hamlin?

RB: Oh, all all over this, all over the county. Yeah. We have the Methodist, and the Baptist, and the Church of Christ, and the Mormons, that's four biggest ones through here, through this country. (Mormons?) Didn't you know we have Mormons? (no!) Oh, plenty of em.

PS: Well, good. Yeah, but they're a little different (quite a big difference) Now, they cooperate with each other around here (no) there just like anyone else around here.

RB: [cough] They wouldn't, used to be they wouldn't have nothing to do with na, nobody else, but a Mormon. (yeah) I mean associating as a Christian (yeah) [cough]. But they had, you know they believed in a man having as many wives as

he could support, didn't make no difference how many he had.
(yeah)

PS: Now one, I've heard one theory, that when everyone was more or less equally poor, there weren't, when there weren't the big economic differences then, people got along better in religion (yeah). Ah, partly cause everyone needed everyone else, (coughing) I don't know how that would go between churches, but within a neighborhood, and thus within a congregation, you depend on other people for help when you need (yeeeeah) help, and ___ an when people start depending on cash instead of, you know, work exchange and uh borrowing an trading. Then it comes, becomes different because of the cash, you just buy whatever you need and you don't need to be as friendly. I've heard that. But, I don't know. That'd be a real interesting study to see how religious values are involved with the way, the way you make your living and everything.

RB: Now, we had a, a Mormon family here in the neighborhood an the old man [cough] would brag about how many times he'd read the Bible through. But when ya pinned him down, he never had read the old Bible a bit. (oh) He said it'd been done away with it, wadn'd, didn't amount to anything anymore. (oh) He just read the New Testament (oh) [cough] and oh he, he had it way up there, he'd read it lots of times, yeah. (Well that..) But, (bout one sixth as long as the Old Testament, huh?) Yeah. Yeah, I, I asked him one time, I said, "did you ever, when your reading along in the Bible there, find a, a verse that had a different meaning then you thought it had? "No, no." [cough] he said, "the only thing when I read a verse, I could remember I'd read

it before. "Well," I said, "you never did read it very much". [cough] That's quite an issue.

PS: Yeah, ya see what you're looking for I guess. (yeah) I had I've read the New Testament a few times, but last time I was going through one of the epistles of Paul, I saw sumpin I hadn't noticed before, about the baptism of the dead. (um hum) Now the Mormons, do what they call the baptism of the d..., well their relatives who passed on, (yeah) they'll get em baptised an saved, uh they figure. I'd never noticed that, uh you know, it's there. No one knows exactly what Saint Paul was talking about, but, course the Mormons figure they know. (put their meaning to it) Yeah. Um, well, would you say Myra now, this neighborhood is depopulated? There's fewer people around than...

RB: No, I wouldn't say that. There more people, I expect, around here than there ever was [cough] (um) but there so many different idees. Well, uh, we've got off old times a little bit here, let's see. Uh. Anything else you can think of that ought to be mentioned, the tobacco maybe ought a be mentioned. Did your father or you ever trade in tobacco, here at the store?

RB: No. We never did. Dad never did raise a hill of tobacco, no. He rented farms that did raise tobacco on them, but, the farmer raises tobacco, an sold it, an dad didn't have nothing to do with it.

PS: Then, most farmers had a little bit of tobacco, at least? (Oh, yeah, yeah, most of em.) For sale? (yeah) We was starting to talk about tobacco. Now, you figure most farmers at least raised a little bit of tobacco?

RB: Most of em did, yeah, way back there.

PS: And they was able to continue when the New Deal...? (Oh, yeah, there wadn't nothing done to stop em.) If they had their a uh acreage they were able to continue, able to get a base? (yeah) Now, ah, did the price go up? Uh, you think people did better from their tobacco?

RB: Oh, as everything else went up, naturally it got a little better.

PS: In the thirties?

RB: Um hm.

PS: Oh. And um, I had some question about how how much timber they would be able to float out on Mud River. Cause, it's not a very big river. At least these days.

RB: You mean the flows out of here?

PS: Yah. Down to some sawmill, well you had a sawmill here though.

RB: Yeah. Well ah, they use to drift lots of lumber, of timber down the river, that went right on clear down to Barboursville. (Uh. On Mud river?) Well, you see Mud river goes into a Guyan river down at Barboursville.

PS: Oh. I see, before ah, reaching the Ohio?

RB: Yeah. Had to go into the Guyan river, you see.

PS: Yeah. So, ah, that lumber, would just join, that timber would just join with what was coming down the Guyan, an they'd catch it there at Guyandotte? (Yeah) Would the boom...?

RB: They had a big boom there an they'd catch the timber, you know, as it come down. An haul it out up on the river bank, to a mill. I don't quite know how they hauled it up, but (yeah) I imagine they had, more than likely hauled it, most of it up by teams of some kind.

PS: Uhm. Well did people put a brand on their (oh,yeah) logs?
(yeah) Was it companies that was cutting up here, or
individual farmers...?

RB: Most people cut individually off their own land, you know.
But they'd sell it to some company. An that company would
have a man "take it up", as they called it. An they'd brand
it, with their little brand, you see. (yeah)

PS: And then they'd float it (un hun) on the river. But you'd
have to wait till a high water, right?

RB: Well, they always in the spring of the year, there's was
lots of water, they would then way back there. (Um hm, I
suppose a...) It would seem like that back there we would
have floods, that we don't have any more.

PS: I remember one in the 1970's, when a few people got washed
out here.

RB: Oh, yeah, once in a while.

PS: But, uh, how many logs could you put together into a raft on
the Mud River, here?

RB: Oh, they'd wouldn't put too many, eight or ten, maybe
twenty.

PS: Side by side?

RB: Un hun. Yeah, maybe it'd be two lengths, you know, they'd
stagger em in like that.

PS: Yeah. Hum. Well, Ray Elkins was thinking maybe they don't
eah be able to put two big ones just to keep it from rolling
you know and that was as wide as they would use on the Mud
River, but (Oh they used...) he came here later, of course.

RB: They was a whole lot more than that, put together. (Um hm)

PS: Well, this used to be a bigger river, I guess. Ah, well,
storekeeping, that's real crucial in the local economic

life, that's why I particularly wanted to ask you those questions about what people brought in an, uh, how they managed to support themselves. But, uh chickens and eggs were the biggest trade items that you'd accept, right?

RB: Well, that, that was a, yeah, they'd do that. And hey, listen, anything like that. [cough] Then later on, why they was a fellow from Logan got to bring, ah, drive a truck down through here an gather up produce. (hm) And he'd buy all the chickens you had, all the eggs, potatos, or anything like at, that he could haul around without refrigerating. (yeah) Yeah. He had a, most of the time he had a truck, about a three-quarter van I reckon, yeah. He'd haul a right smart load of stuff in it. (Oh, and where would he sell?) He, up to Logan, up there, ah, let's see, Amherstdale, I believe.

PS: Um hm. Yeah. Amherst Coal Company? (umph) And... (and he was individually...) the town of Amherst? (...just a merchant up there and has a store too. He bought that stuff and took it up there and retailed it.) Uh. Well, that was almost like competition, uh, with your store here, except maybe you didn't want all, all that produce.

RB: Un. Well he, he bought it from us, you see.

PS: Oh, I see. You were gathering points (yeah) rather than uh...

RB: I've been, I believe over on Big Laurel, there's a store back over there that got lots of eggs and things. And I been up there with dad an taken a team and wagon an, an get a whole wagon load of eggs.

PS: Um hm. (cough) And, uh, bring em down here?

RB: Bring em down here an that feller'd come in with his truck
an load em up an take em right on. To Logan.

PS: Many of em get broke, then wagons...?

RB: Never had no complaints on that. (Uh huh).

PS: Well then, you told me once you used to haul wood by wagon
from Bluelick, that be up Panther Branch, a mile up here,
uh, couple miles up Panther Branch an, ah, over into
Bluelick?

RB: Bluelick, well we never hauled very much over that a way.
Now, dad had sawmill over on Six Mile. He done lots of
sawmilling.

PS: Oh, he was cutting over there?

PS: Yeah, cutting timber an everything.

RB: Yeah, Bluelick flows into Six Mile, that's where (yeah)
there talking about maybe strip mining now. (yeah) Hope
they're just talking. But, uh, an then how would he dispose
of the lumber once it was cut up?

RB: He had it sold. There was always the man from _____. When
he got it in here very much, he'd haul it down there an pile
it up by the railroad, an when he got a carload worth enough
to load a car, well he'd just loaded it up. (um hm) But
that was mostly ties. (um hm) Crossties.

PS: About when was that? Which decade was he operating the saw
mill over there?

RB: Oh, well that was back in 1930 on up.

PS: Un hunh. Well, it sounds like all kinds of activities, he
had his hand in a lot of things.

RB: Oh, yeah, we kept, everything kept a going.

PS: Yeah. How many children did you and Frieda have?

RB: Eight. (eight?) Seven boys an a girl.

PS: Oh. Uh, Charlotte, who was here? Charlotte or Caroline?

RB: Caroline.

PS: Caroline. She's your only girl?

RB: Um hum.

PS: And, that was your youngest son that was here the other day?

RB: He was here the other day.

PS: Yeah. Bill? (um hm) He seemed pretty young. Ah...?

RB: He's a preacher now, he has a church over at Rio Grand, Ohio.

PS: Oh, Rio Grand. (um hm) Spelled like Rio Grand. (yeah) He explained that to me. (yeah) Well, I was hoping this church would see revival, course I ain't done nothing to help it maybe, by being away.

RB: Their gonna start one the first of the month.

PS: Oh, good. (um hm) Last time they did one they a it was pretty good uh, (cough) what was that about, 1975?

RB: Um hm. (Was that the last?) I expect.

PS: Yeah. '75 or '76. Yeah, I heard a lot of news of that. Well, maybe I can get down to, will it be in the evenings?

RB: Hunh?

PS: Preaching in the evenings? Wil...it..er...

RB: Yeah. That's the only time, they they don't have none in the morning.

PS: During the week days?

RB: All the way through, yeah.

PS: Starting August 1st? (um hm) For a week?

RB: Well, maybe two weeks. They (yeah) they didn't limit it at the time. This to start the revival.

PS: You know, another thing there's alot of interest in, is the homecomings, the, ah, the gatherings, the family gatherings,

starting around this time a year. Anthropologists are interested in those sorts of activities an what parts of the family come an how the families are calculated, you know as to who's in the family and who's on the margin, or not in the family. They have homecoming here at Myra anymore?

RB: I, I don't remember just what date that was set for it now. Uh, Maybe I can find _____.

PS: Um hm. It's the church homecoming or a cemetary homecoming?

RB: Unh. It's the church.

PS: Yeah. Oh good. Maybe I can get to that. Now, how long has this been your home place? Here at the mouth of a Sand Lick?

RB: Well, I was born down there where that other house is.

PS: Right, at the corner where the store is?

RB: Yeah. (yeah) So, this has been my home place all the time. (un hunh) But, I moved into this house in the spring of 19 an 24. (Oh, with your own family then?) That's when I went to housekeeping, here. Just after I was married.

PS: Yeah. Well, when was this barn built?

RB: (____) about a hundred an fifty years ago. (oh)

PS: Before your dad came?

RB: Oh yeah, long before that.

PS: Oh. Must be oak to last that long. (hunh?) Must be oak, or it wouldn't (most of it) last a hundred an fifty years.

RB: Most of it is oak. [cough] Now that side there that built out of lumber, (yeah) my grandfather built that after he moved here in 1904. [cough] But the log part of it was the old part.

PS: I see. Yeah. Too bad they tore down that, ah, barn that used to be the house where Chuck Yeager was born.

RB: Who tore it down?

PS: Well, people living there.

RB: Yeah. Tore it down.

PS: Yeah, it should of been a national monument or something. I don't know, if they (well) could fix it up looking nice enough, it was leaning pretty bad.

RB: It it was been rented around, tore around, used for a barn, this that an the other. It got pretty bad off.

PS: I guess he only lived there a year or something anyway an then moved up toward Hamlin.

RB: You mean the Yeagers? (yeah) Oh they lived there, his daddy-in-law lived there two or three years.

PS: Oh. I see. You remember him?

RB: Oh yeah. Yep.

PS: You was grown up by the time he was born, I guess. (um hm) Yeah. Well, he wrote a little bit about Lincoln County, the first chapter of his autobiography. (yeah, un hunh) The late thirties, an the war, an then he was gone. (Yeah) Yeah. What do you remember about him, anything in particular, or you just remember him....?

RB: Well, they moved away from up here when he was just real little. (yeah) [cough] They moved downtown an I never knowed nothing about him, as a child like that. Now, my oldest boy went to high school with him. (um hm) [cough] Now, they knowed him. Oh, well we knowed the family all the time, you know. But I mean I didn't have no personal acquaintance with him.

PS: Yeah. Um, well, let's call it quits for the time being. I'll have to think up more questions if I'm gonna, unless

you can think of something that ought a be recorded about

RB: ~~this~~ area.
Naw.

PS: Or local history. The struggle between the Republicans and the Democrats, maybe. [cough]

RB: Naw, I don't ever muss with Democrats nor Republicans. Don't take no hand in their politics.

PS: County politics, un huhn.

RB: Un? They just... they ain't nothing to it, they get started an argument, just start an argument.

PS: Yeah. Sure. Well of course there are a few jobs to hand out in the county. The patronage.

RB: Yeah. [cough] Well, if you're working for a job, why if you put in that time trying to get something that's worth something, it'd be worth more to you. (rather than...) If one of them politicians put you in a place, work you a couple of months, an they see where another man could bring another vote in, they just lay you off an put the other man in. [Inaudiable.]

PS: Yeah. Right. Well, some people do uh [cough] campaign in order to get (oh yeah, yeah they do that) get a job. Okay. Well, let's stop for the time being. [end of interview]