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Flossie Lawson

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LINCOLN COUNTY HISTORY

LCH.3

AN ORAL INTERVIEW WITH: Flossie Lawson

CONDUCTED BY: Paul Salstrom

September 1, 1988



ORAL HISTORY

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DATE Sept. 1, 1988

Floresia Black Lawson
(Signature - Interviewee)

Rt 3 Box 261
(Address)
Branckland W.V. 25506

DATE Sept. 1 1988

Paul Sabstrom
(Signature - Witness)

Lawson, Flossie
LCH-3



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PS: This is Paul Salstrom on September 1, 1988, talking to Flossie Lawson on Upper Mud River Road, in Lincoln County, a mile (at the mouth of Little Laurel)...yeah, a mile below Myra, at the mouth of Little Laurel. And I'm going to ask Flossie questions about her childhood and early days here in Lincoln County. Ah...now you were born in what year, Flossie?

FL: 19 and 10. I was born June the 15h, 19 and 10.

PS: And uh...you know the Black family; I've interviewed Raymond by the way, (I'm one of the Black's myself)...you're one of the Blacks?

FL: I'm a....my mother...ah yes, I'm a Black, and a White, and a Lucas, and a Brown and a Green and Link (oh) I don't know what else.

PS: You have all those color names in your family?

FL: I got that from...I got [INAUDIBLE]...for that, Black, Brown, Green and White. (yeah,okay)

PS: Though, of course Adkins is the most common name around here...

FL: No, I'm not no relation only where they was married into the family. I'm not no...there's no Adkins blood in me as far as I know. (oh)

PS: And you were just saying you were born where Raymond Black lives in Sandlick now, behind the Myra store. Well...one of the things I asked Raymond about, and also Ray Elkins, was how people got by, and what kind of trading went on at the store, you know, when they weren't using cash as much as they are nowadays. Do you remember, Flossie?

FL: They used eggs and chickens, and when they butchered hogs in the fall, they used meat.

PS: He would take...Uncle Billy Black would take meat and...

FL: Yes, uh-huh, he'd take hams and shoulders...(salted down...) salted, cured meat, I'll say it that way (yeah, yeah [pause] huh)...but that's the main things; chickens and eggs was the main thing.

[TRAFFIC IN BACKGROUND]

PS: Yeah, Ray Elkins said he...he uh, knew some of those to go way up in uh, Logan County, some of the Black's eggs, I mean some of the eggs...(well, you see now...)...unless... (I've often thought that it looks to me like they would have been rotten in the summertime, they took crates and put them in big crates, you know, that they had divisions in them, I think. They had 12 dozen on each end, (yeah), and then on the weekends, or the first of the week rather, they would take them over to Sheridan over there, you know where Sheridan is? (yeah) Take 'em over Sheridan and, over there, and put them on a train and ship them out. They'd take 'em to Sheridan and ship 'em. Yeah, well eggs will last uh, (yeah, I think they'd do). Yeah. (they had no way of canning them eggs at that time you didn't can 'em). Yeah...(they just usually just bring 'em in there and trade), yeah...(or exchange them for groceries; people didn't buy very many groceries, they raised their stuff, they didn't have bugs and stuff eating it up like they have now), yeah, (you raised everything there to use). Sure and then put it, (then they'd take eggs to the store and get salt, and now people who used coffee, we didn't use coffee at home, but they'd get salt, and pepper and sugar, and most of the time they'd grow their wheat and they'd grow their corn, and they had their flour and meal and they had their hogs and they had their cows and the milk). Of course it required something to get the corn ground and the wheat...

- FL: Well, they'd get a toll out of their bags, they'd get a toll out of it.
- PS: Yeah, like 10 or 20 percent or something?
- FL: No, they had a dip...they, they give a $\frac{1}{2}$ a gallon to the bushel, the way I remember, seem to me like, (uh-huh), they just had this big 'ole dipper or big 'ole cup with a handle on it, they dipped it down in there and pured it over in theirs and then they ground yours. My pappy use to run the mill up there.
- PS: Well, where was the mill?
- FL: The mill was down there right below where the store is now. They've torn down that 'ole millhouse [trucks going by]...is down there. Do you know where the... that millhouse they had down there? (yeah) That's where the mill was...uh Fletch had a sawmill underneath the, (Myra), [inaudible]...the millhouse is up here and uh, and the porch come up the walk come out to the road there. And the millhouse was in there, and then down underneath it Uncle Fletch had a saw-mill down there.
- PS: Yeah, I think that was still standing when I came in the early (yeah, yeah), 1970's (I think it was about shot, though), yeah, it's on the, (on the left as you went down to Eugene's) on the left coming between the road and the river oh, between the road and the river oh, no that wasn't there anymore. (well, now, you see river's the river over almost against the bank at the road now, the river was way over there then). Oh, (everything's changed), yeah [traffic noises in background] so, but you uhm, grew enough corn to trade some too, if you were growing corn over in this bottom (no, they...they fed it to the hogs, the chickens, and the cows), oh, (and uh, they very seldom ever traded any on corn), uh-huh (our folks didn't), yeah, um...ha...but you might trade the animals then, or uh, (yes, then in the spring of the year when the cows [inaudible]). We always had three cows at home, pappy always managed so he had milk year 'round we'd now we'd sell our calves, he'd sell the calves in the spring to some fellow who'd come around to buy them).
- FL: There used to be a man come around every year, he'd buy up the calves, and then that'd give you money enough to pay your taxes with.
- PS: Yeah. That's about all the money, (raised tobacco crop, pappy raised tobacco, too, and tobacco then, and that kind took care of school clothes), yeah, but how much, an acre to two?
- FL: Oh, I'd expect we'd had 3 or 4 acres, you wouldn't get nothing hardly for it but 18 cents a pound.
- PS: This is about what years...the nineteen teens or World War I decade?
- FL: World War I was in 1918. And that would have been in the 20's, (uh-huh), because that...that war liked to scared me to death 'cause Uncle Tabor had to go, (yeah), and him and ...oh, that Holley boy up there, (yeah), he had to go, too, and he got killed...Holley, he got killed while he was overseas [traffic noises in background]...They went to France, (yeah).
- PS: I know Mrs. Holley, but she a couple generations since uh...(Haskel's wife), Haskel's mother, yeah.
- FL: Yes. Uh-huh. See now, she married...she married one of the Holley boys, (mmm-hmm), she married Marion and uh, Marion and this other boy was first cousins.
- PS: Was the uh, flue very bad around here at the end of World War I, did that come here?

FL: Well, they...yes, it was here, but we never got it at our house. Because people would...they weren't right close together like they are now, and that way, you eat and you drink at home, and that way you didn't get th flu germs. (no, not...) no, they didn't mix...like everybody didn't live together then like they do now. (yeah) It's all just one big family now. Or just about.

PS: Yeah, everyone uh, sees a lot of each other.

FL: Because you see, the women folks stayed at home, they worked all week. And then the women folks would stay at home while the husband would work till noon, and then he'd go to the store and go to the gristmill or wherever, (yeah), and he raised his wheat to...to make his flour. And that...that had to go to Hamlin to be ground. (yeah) There wasn't any flour mills around in here. There was a gristmill up here at the store that belonged to Uncle Fletch and them. But uh, you had to go to Hamlin, (mmm-hmm), to get uh, the wheat, that's ground in the summertime.

PS: And they'd take about the same amount of toll? (yes) So uh, how big was this farm, then? This pice of property?

FL: I don't know. I don't know. Because it took in all this all down through here. I don't know how many acres that had. You'd have to look at their records and look at the deed. 'Cause this belonged to Mr. Morgan over here. And grandpoppy's place over there, it took all that in, a way down around younder at the Porter place, and back over through yonder, (yeah), and back out to Johnson's on the hill back there, and over to the head of Sandlick...the line between the Holley's and grandpoppy on top of the hill over there, (yeah), back of Eugene's, and all down through there by the church, and back across the...(it'd be a few hundred acres, at least), oh, it has been a big place. So much of that stuff has been homesteaded yers ago.

PS: But uh, he acquired it, (but now Grandpoppy...), you mean, since that time...

FL: Yes, now this, this all in here at one time, I think this belonged to a Thornton and when grandpoppy was over there I think they got that from Sweetland's, (yeah), because Sweetland's had a store at Hamlin, (yeah), and they...well, at that time they owned the bank, they owned everything there was.

PS: All in uh, in World War I period?

FL: Yes, Sweetland's did, yes, they owned everything as far as business was concerned. The bank belonged to Lou Sweetland, (uh-hmm), and he was a man that had never been married; he was an old bachelor, and he had a brother John...John had a store and Lou had the bank.

PS: I guess that's why there's a town of Sweetland on...east of Hamlin, (Sweetland post office up there, yes). Yeah.

FL: [REPLY INAUDIBLE]

TRAFFIC NOISES IN BACKGROUND.

PS: Well, do you think uh, oh, another thing you mentioned was the Red Cross. Now I remember reading about the drought of 1930, and they've compared this year, 1988, to 1930 as far as a drought's concerned, but uh, people weren't given very much relief, is what I've read...

FL: No. Now I was married in 19 and 31, (uh-hmm), and uh, this year is just about like the...the 30 and the 31 I was married...no, no you didn't get anything, no, we didn't get anything.

PS: First of all, they waited a long time and it was winter 1930, I mean, almost 1931 before the Red Cross started giving out money; and they would give \$2 a month per person for those who got relief but...but I didn't read anything about it being political, but you had the impression that uh...

FL: No, I don't know because uh, (yeah), I just don't know anything about it. I know the Red Cross and the relief was around here but uh, Owther had a job with the gas company, (yeah), and we was married like this evening and Monday morning...on a Friday evening...Monday morning he got a notice in the mail he was laid off, (oh, really?), they didn't carry out notices at that time; they mailed them out. He was working for the South Penn Gas Company.

PS: Uh, and that was 1931? (mmm-hmm) So...did he get work again?

FL: No, no, he got uh, two weeks work vacation...for the fellow that got his job, he got two weeks work vacation, when the other man's vacation came...[reply inaudible]... They just didn't live like we live now.

PS: But why...why did they lay him off? Did he figure that out?

FL: They just did it to cut down expenses. They...[reply inaudible due to traffic]

PS: It was Columbia Gas?

FL: No, that was South Penn Gas.

PS: South Penn Gas, oh, (Yawkey, came from Yawkey, South Penn), yeah.

FL: No, they just done it to cut down expenses.

PS: Had he been laying pipe or reading the meters?

FL: No, he was a meter reader, (uh-huh), chart changer. (uh-huh) He had what they call "beats" or route that he went every day. He'd start...he come down Sandlick and went up Mud River and out the top of the hill and back over and down Middle Creek and back around and back up home. (every day) Six days a week... five days a week. (yeah) No, six days a week, 'cause he didn't change charts on Sundays. Yes, they did, too. Yes, they did, too.

PS: Even on Sunday?

FL: Yes, they changed charts on Sunday. Six days a week...seven days a week.

PS: That's about when Ray Elkins started doing meter readings for Columbia Gas. (probably, yes, right along in there). 30, 31...

FL: I think Ray started later.

PS: Um, well, it was soon after he moved up here, but then, (South Penn Gas Company [inaudible]) mmm-hmm.

FL: But now, Ray worked for Columbia Gas, (yeah), it was a developing company. Now that changed hands several different times, too, (yeah, United), yeah, United Fuel, now.

- PS: Mmm-hmm. Well...what would...another thing I've uh, found in the archives, looking at papers, they...they estimated that when the New Deal started, in Lincoln County, just about all the families...got all the households, got some relief, 'cause they were very uhm, generous with it, or they...they would hand out a little bit...
- FL: They wasn't that generous; that thing was kinda political. If you was a Republican, you didn't get anything. (oh, well, I believe that, in this county), yeah, well, now that was just kinda the way it was. You see, Sweetland's were all Democrats. And the money was all in, in Democratic hands [noises in background]. No, I just like to say it was sorta political. (yeah) Which we never did apply for it; maybe we could've got it if we applied for it, but as I say, we raised our stuff to eat, and had our chickens, eggs and milk, and, (yeah), stuff like that. (yeah) And raised tobacco to pay taxes with.
- PS: That's when they started uh, the tobacco allotments, too, was with the New Deal. And however much you'd been growing, however large your plot was, an acre or two acres or whatever, that was supposed to be the basis for how much you could grow. They cut it, everyone down a little.
- FL: They'd come in a measuring, if you had over, they just take a hoe and chop it down.
- PS: Oh, yeah, they'd uh, chop it right down themselves.
- FL: I don't see why in the world they just didn't take a mowing sythe and just mow it down and go on. But they'd stand right there. Now, you'd have to chop it down yourself, now.
- PS: Uh. That...that happened to your father?
- FL: No. No, we never did...because father was very particular of things like that. He was a church member and he...he always tried to live inside the law. (yeah). And he was very particular--if he said that he could have a half an acre, he was a man that measured the land, worked in timber and stuff like that when he was a boy. He...he stepped it off or took him a measure and measured it. (mmm-hmm) And he always aimed to stay inside. Now, Blacks up here never raised tobacco. (uh-huh) They never raised tobacco, they raised corn and potatoes and stuff like that.
- PS: Bu they were Republicans, too, I know Raymond is...
- FL: Well, they was Republicans; so was uh, now George Black uh, Raymond's uncle that lived over on Trace Creek, where uh, well, right there at the foot of the hill where...now who is the fellow that lives there now, (yeah), at the George Black place. Oh, right there (yeah, I think I know where you mean, but...). It's where you go down in the creek there. He lives right there. I can't think what his name...Martin. (Martin?) He's a Martin.
- PS: His last name...oh, uh, Bob...the new people (uh-huh, yeah). Bob and Stephanie.
- FL: Yeah, uh-huh, he's a Martin. (That was the Black's...) That was...that was the George Black place and he was a brother to Raymond's dad. He was a first cousin to my daddy and my daddy lived around there in the holler where Annie' lives, (Annie Browning?), uh-huh, right on on up there, (at the head of Trace Creek, the Right Hand Fork, yeah). Uh-huh. As you come up.
- PS: Her place borders on uh, Plum Knobs, that's how I know about her, because my place goes up to Plum Knob almost, those high points, those rocks up there. Uh...
- FL: Where is your place?

PS: Well, it's a mile behind Myra. If you go up the hill that comes down to the store, it's right, (in the back of the post office there, go up that hill there?), yeah, yeah, you go up, (I didn't know...), between Sandlick and...and what they call Ivan Branch uh, well, I...it comes out further down the river but..., (down next to place down there), yeah, yeah, in other words, it's right up behind Henry Reynolds old place, (yeah, I didn't know...), where his son or someone's renting now. (I didn't know you had...his son lives down there now). Well, it was the back of Anna Lee's farm, [both talking at once and traffic noises in background - inaudible] Well, no, he had already died, uh, it was in 1974, so the heirs, all the heirs of Jason Pridemore.

FL: Oh, I see. That used to be the Marine Johnson place back there.

PS: Yeah, that sounds right, yeah. (where the Porter place joined against in the Johnsons, yes, yes). Right, yeah, they're old deeds, yeah...

FL: In when uh, down there where Anna Lee lives, that was old man Johnson's place, too. (oh) That was Mr. Johnson's place down there.

PS: Uh-huh. Well, that's why they call that Johnson's Hill, then, I guess, for the same...

FL: Yes, 'cause the Johnson's down there yes, uh-huh. That's a brother. One brother lives down there and then another lived down yonder, and then another one lived another place, and they had all...used to be seemed like the parents left a farm for the children that got married, that's what they aimed to do, around these parts.

PS: They would buy up land...

FL: Uh-huh, and then they'd leave the farm, they buy...they'd have land enough, (yeah), because this over here that belonged to grandpoppy Tabor, up there where Eugene Sias lives, see Uncle Bern and got the upper and of that up there, (uh-hmm). That was grandpoppy's uh, next to the oldest son. And the rest of 'em all drifted out someplace else.

PS: Of course, you had to be a little bit successful to acquire that much land, say by middle age when your children are coming along to....the age to get married.

FL: They didn't marry young then like they do now. And there wasn't any divorces then, either. (No, I suppose not). No. It would have been a disgrace to have got a divorce then. They couldn't get out and strutt around then like they do now. Now when it became dark, everybody was at home. (hmm-huh) 'Cause I said every once in awhile, you knew where everybody was. It wasn't like a gang of dogs, you didn't have to get out and call 'em. They were right there ready to go in and shut the door. (mmm-hmm) And now the people don't even know where their children are.

PS: Yeah, well, the automobile and everything...

FL: I can remember the first automobile that came into Lincoln County. Uncle Louis Tabor and Chreeg Martin uh, caught the train and went to Detroit, Michigan, (yeah), and got two, I think they were Plymouths; I'm not sure about what they were. They drove them things back here, they never was in a automobile in their lives before. AND folks gathered up to go to Hamlin to see them two cars. (mmm-hmm)

PS: That was uh, after 1910, then, if you remember. (yes, [inaudible reply]). Umh.

FL: [inaudible]...yes, 'cause I was getting ready by then to go to school.

FL: And I can remember the first airplane that came in here, too. (When was that?) Well, now I couldn't give you the date on it. And Bob Shank brought it in here. And he had them bottoms down there where the church...where you're talking about the church now. That's where he landed. (mmmh) And we went back on top of the hill over at Annie's, back on top of the hill up there at them rocks, we went back there one Sunday evening and watched him sail around and he was taking people for a ride for \$3 and \$5; children was \$3 and grownups was for \$5. That was lots of money then, too.

PS: Yeah, yeah, that would be, like \$50 now. (maybe more) Yeah.

FL: Uncle Cleo Chapman down here, he was tight as a bark on a tree, but now he give \$5 to go up with Bob Shank in that plane. (mmh) He turned one flip-flop while he was here. (on purpose?) Yeah, he did it on purpose (mmm-hmm). I don't know who he had in there 'cause we was on top of the high knob, it was back of Annie's over there (yeah).

PS: Plum Knob they call it.

FL: And we could see clear over on to the Mud River side all down in there 'cause people then had their fields all cleaned up and it was just a strip of wood here and yonder. (yeah, yeah).

PS: Yeah, people were farmin' a lot (you could see the river, go back on top of the hill on them big rocks back in there and you could see the river down there). Mmm-hmm. (But now you couldn't see nothing). But if you go out the point of uh, well. . . I can see the river from the point of my land, which is the top of Anna Lee's pasture (yeah, now you're...you're in another place), yeah, (see this was back yonder before there was...), right, the river makes a turn around where I'm talking about.

FL: Uh-huh. Yes. Where you're...'cause you're right up there looking right down. (yeah, on three sides is the river), uh-huh. And this other way, see you went up there and you was lookin' in slantin' towards the church down there where the filling station is down there where Charles Yeager is. (right) We was lookin' in down that way and see these _____ bottoms is just back up here a little ways and everybody tended and all pasture fields and sheep and things around, you could see miles.

PS: That'd be quite a sight because those are the highest rocks around.

FL: Yes, that...uh-huh (yeah). That...that rock back there back of Annie's on the hill, I think, except the mall rock is supposed to be the highest point there is in Lincoln County, I think, I'm not sure.

PS: Well, up in Big Uglh it gets higher (yeah, but I mean in...well, of course that's in Lincoln County, but it gets back toward Logan County) Well, that yeah, just barely. Yeah.

FL: But law, the land you couldn't believe that when I was a child, to look at it now it don't...

PS: And that was before tractors were...

FL: That was before anything but horses and buggies. (yeah, and...) And oxen. You see, when they first began to drill around in here they brought all their stuff in, old man Lonnie McComas, young Lonnie's daddy, he brought...they brought all the stuff in here by ox teams. (yeah, to haul the pipe). Everything. They moved the rigs and everything. They had standard rigs.

PS: Ray Elkins told me they had uh, twelve uh, twelve pairs of oxen in some of the rigs.

PS: in some of the, (yeah), [inaudible due to traffic noises]... (they had six, they had six on a wagon), yeah, (then when they got ready to start up the hill or something, they dropped them and put 'em to the next wagon and then they dumped them out). I see.

FL: One time pop sent me on the hill, and I don't know why they built 'em, why they built the rigs that way. They always put their ladder on the lower side, of the rig, maybe so you looked up that way and you wasn't looking down as you climbed up. Pop sent me on the hill after horses. I went up there and I seen Uncle Louis and them up on the crown blocks puttin' the...the rope back in when it'd fly out of the crown blocks every once in awhile. They'd have to go back up there and, (yeah), put the line back in. (yeah) Well, I just thought...I didn't know he...I didn't know he was the boss. And so I thought I'd go up there and see how it looked on top of that derrick. I went to the top of the derrick and I was just a gettin' ready to get off the top of the ladder and step on the crown block, like Uncle Louis used to stand over when you had the rope out. He hollered at me. And I looked down and I thought I was a thousand feet in the air, (yeah), and he had to holler and tell me to turn around backwards and hold and he...he uh, guided me off that ladder, down, and I thought sure I'd get whipped. 'Cause he's a feller that raised us too...(mmm-hmm), you did what he said to do. He wasn't mean to us, though, but he was strict. But he didn't. He said, "Now Flossie, the next time you go up there, don't you get up there," he said, "because you could go up, (mmm-hmm), but says, you don't see a distance and said when you get up and look down, it's a different thing." I'd already found that out. (yeah). Oh, I was one of those children, I ventured into anything. Oh, not bad things either. Now I remember they used to talk about uh, Grandpa Black and them they had ox teams, (yeah), and they used to log with their teams all the time. And uh, the house looked down there, you know where Mary Lucas lives? On Trace Creek? (uh, no, down Trace Creek, not way up toward the hill), you know where Jessie Adkins lived down there? (yeah, well...), well, all right, Mary lives in this big old log house, old-timey log house just back up this side of Jessie Adkins' house (oh). Well, you see, uh, poppy and Uncle Elmer hewed out the logs to make that and there was uh, two...let's see, they had uh a downstairs and an upstairs. Well, then, back here then they had uh, another log house, and that was their old houses to start with. (oh) And that was the new house they built. Well, this back here just had logs and just kinda like a log barn, and then it had a loft in it, and then they used it...and they had a entryway in between this like that. And they'd take their ox team and pull their logs in, their wood in, and drive 'em through that entry there, and leave it in the dry there for the winter (yeah). (and then cut it off). Uh-huh, and as they used it up they'd uh, go, and that's the way they got it in there. Took their ox team, (for firewood), mmm-hmm.

PS: Haul it...run the ox right through there...(mmm-hmm, the ox team, they took their oxen), their uh, (just used), passageway, (they just had the two oxen yoked together; they didn't have uh, a string of 'em for a team, they just had the two, yoke 'em together and they'd go out there and drive right through there, and then they had their wood in the dry). Mmm-hmm (Poppy and Uncle Elmer). Well, a lot of people are still putting up wood, and it seems like there's a lot of logging around here right now.

FL: Well, it seems like to me like these folks that have come in here now have come out of town. Don't misunderstand me now, I don't want to insinuate any black things or anything. But these folks that have come in here that have come out of town, that has never experienced any of this hard work and hard living, and poverty business in other words, that they've had plenty---so many of the folks has had plenty though they're not of a rich family, (oh, sure, otherwise they wouldn't be...), then, they don't realize, they don't realize how these folks around in here ever lived. (uh-huh) And then when they begin to try to live like they did, well, you just can't do it, you can't... I couldn't jump in a plane and be a pilot today.

PS: No, you have to be brought up that way really, to...there's a lot of knowledge involved in the entire cycle of the year. (yeah, sure, and the things that's handed down...)

Lawson: ...little children started using axes and hammers and things like that when ...when you went out to play, you played with a hammer or ax or hatchet one, but then it depended on who you was and what you was gonna do and how big you was (mmm-hmm). And when you got big enough to chop, you...you'd chop out a piece _____ (mmm-hmm), and then you could pick up the chips and put 'em in a bucket for school. (mmm-hmm) That maybe sounds like I'm in medieval times (no, no). But that was just the way we did.

Saiström: It comes in handy, too, you know...un, I mean, even today...

Lawson: I wouldn't take a fortune for what I learned right back down there. Because it's been...it's been used so many times through my life. If I hadn't a known how, being the oldest of the family, Poppy always took me with him and hold this and hold that and show me how to plait whips and things like that, of course, I was always nosy; I wanted to know. (mmm-hmm) And I wanted to know the why ...why you had to do it. (mmm-hmm) And he always was the feilar to take patience and show you. I know when he was trying to teach me to milk, and the cow milked...one of 'em milked pretty easy. The other one milked kind of hard. And I couldn't squeeze the milk out of her front tit; I could bring it down, but it wouldn't come out. Well, he had me down...I was wondering what was the matter with this hole down here in the tit but the other cow I could milk her. But what was wrong with the hole in this tit, that the milk wouldn't come out. (mmm-hmm) So, he got me over there looking just as hard as I could look, and

Saiström: inaudible.

Lawson: She was just hard to milk. And now, they get those cows that's hard to milk that way, they have some kind of little instrument that just slips up the tit, and _____ the openin in there. Around the dairies. (yeah) The only way in the world I'd take and try to milk that way, and after a while I got so I could pull the milk down so far and then I'd take this thumb and push it, pull it down that way, take that thumb and push against it and just get it a little bit. Push this a way. She wasn't hard giving milk as she was milking.

Saiström: Three cows...were you making cheese?

Lawson: We made....(tape ends)

SIDE 2

Lawson: No, no....

Saiström: cottage cheese?

Lawson: No, cottage cheese, see, mommy would take clabbered milk, after she skimmed the cream off of it and she'd take clabbered milk

and put it on the stove and let it wilt, call it diapered milk (yeah), and you just let it come to a boil and then she'd pour it into a bag, (yeah) and hang it up and let it drip all the water out of it and then she'd put cream and butter, well, she didn't have to put any sugar in it, 'cause we... 'cause she put sugar on it a little bit sometimes when you got it on the table because poppy didn't like it with sugar on it. He just wanted salt, and he didn't want pepper in his either. He didn't like black pepper.

Salstrom: He liked it a little _____.

Lawson: Uh-huh. He didn't like black pepper. He...he liked red pepper because anything cooked with red pepper. And mommy always tried...now, that's another thing back then. The wife tried to please the husband. (yeah, well, I wouldn't be against that, I guess). well, now that's what...that's what they did. Seems like the wife lived for the husband.

Salstrom: Or course, that religious conatations, too.

Lawson: That's right, the husband was head of the family, head of the house. (yeah)

Salstrom: I've often wondered about the connection between the religious point of view and the way of life subsistance, and bartering and borrowing and trusting people, you know, on a time-lapse basis...

Lawson: Why, people's word then was better than their bond now. If a person told you they'd do anything, if they couldn't do it, they'd come and tell you. Or course, they weren't all piled up on top of one another like they are now.

Salstrom: Yeah...true, people have...

Lawson: ...that makes a difference. That makes a difference in things. Because now you see, up there where Raymond lives, (yeah), and then Uncle Benn lived there, that's poppy's oldest boy, next to the oldest boy, he lived up there where Eugene Scites lived. (yeah) And then you come down over here, and then you went on down there at the _____ Porter place, where you're talking about (yeah), and then you went on down there where Anna Lee lives, old man Jim Johnson lived down there, well, that's all they was down on there. (3 or 4 places on the east side of Mud River). Yeah, there was Dillyy _____ up there at the store, (yeah), and then Uncle Benn and grandpoppy, _____ Porters, old man Jim Johnson, so there's just 5 houses on this side of the river.

Salstrom: So, you're almost get to Hamlin. Well,....

Lawson: Well, they was the only ones on that side of the river til you got to Hamlin. Right down there...right down there at uh, there's wasn't any...well, I guess there was one across from

Lawson: Now Hamlin, over at the...let's see, I don't remember who that property over in there belonged to. Anyway, that whole big bottom....(yeah)

Saiström: Well, and that was in the 1920's, so, all these uh, the divisions, sub-divisions of land and such....

Lawson: Inaudible,

Saiström: Is there?

Lawson: See Lou Sweetland, the Sweetland's heirs owns....uh, Lou Sweetland owns so much property around, and he owns nearly all the mineral rights, (oh?) 'Cause Sweetlands had a store, and you see, they bought and then they....(both talking at once)....yeah, sold their mineral rights for 50 cents an acre, (even after the gas was coming in?) That's before it was coming in. (oh) (yeah) (yeah)

Saiström: Well, that's what storekeepers can do. Course, Black's acquired quite a bit of land off and on.

Lawson: Well, you see, a lot...a lot of that comes, see Billy's daddy, was a store man (yeah); ud there, Uncle Fitch. And then Billy...after Uncle Fitch went out of the store business there, Billy took over and after Billy went out, Raymond took over (yeah), and then he turned it over to Eugene...or Raygene. (yeah) Now, see, it passed down all through them hands, the Black's. Well, not exactly with Uncle Fitch. Billy had it.

Saiström: Yeah, from uh, and he was the pastor for Myra Methodist there, too. From maybe the turn of the century.

Lawson: Uncle Fitch left Lincoln County and went to Ohio. He went to Jackson County, Ohio. (before you were born?) No, I mean uh, no, well, maybe, yeah, I believe he did go before, well, not before I was born, before I can remember. (yeah)

Saiström: 'Cause only...only Uncle Billy Black is who people talked about and....

Lawson: Well, see Uncle Fitch was Billy's daddy. (uh-huh) He was a dropper to my...was brother to my granddaddy Black, Poppy's daddy (yeah, I see). They were brothers.

Saiström: Well, Raymond said....

Lawson: Grandpa was a Civil War man, but Uncle Fitch wasn't.

Saiström: Ohh.

Lawson: Grandpa Black, he volunteered for the Civil War, and he (inaudible)....(I see, on the union side) mmm-hmm

Salsstrom: Well, they were some from both sides around here, according to the old uh, genealogy that was...oh, what were those genealogies published in 1888 and now they have 'em for almost every county in West Virginia; it's a series. But anyway, people didn't make a secret out of it, and this was in the 1880's, of which side they'd been on.

Lawson: Oh, well, you see, one of the Union soldiers, they got a pension and the confederate soldiers never got it. Inaw, I suppose not, not for here, 'cause this became a Union state for (thing) well, they got...Grandpa drew a pension, but _____ didn't. He was confederate soldier and he didn't get it.

Salsstrom: Oh, well, there was a little bit of pensions in the south, but they wouldn't have come to West Virginia, I guess, 'cause this was...this became a northern state, in 1863.

Lawson: See they was dividing that...see, west divided right along the line in Virginia (yeah), what was west was...and then what was east, was confederate and the west was (yeah, though there was plenty of confederate up along the Ohio River, I met some of their descendants). But that's the way it was divided, with West Virginia and old Virginia and now, see, Grandpa Tabor had an aunt...Grandmommy and them come from old Virginia. But Grandpa Black's folks come from Ohio. (Ohio?) The Black's come from Ohio and so did the whites. They all come from Ohio. (but uh, did the Tabor's come from...?) The Tabor's and Lucases' came from Virginia. (from Tazewell County?) well, I don't know just exactly where they all came out of Tazewell or not, but that...that's where they came from. They came from Virginia.

Salsstrom: And did they come during the Civil War? Or before or after...?

Lawson: Well, Grandpa Tabor brought them little boys and come here during the Civil War because he walked 'em of the night and slept 'em of the day, and begged food for 'em up near Tazewell Virginia, over at where the curve where Seton Wheeler lived. (un-nun) Had them two little boys. And he had three children. His wife had died, and he had three children. And he left the girl with an old woman that lived there in Virginia (mmm-hmm), and he brought the little boys with him. (did he ever get the girl back and reunite the family?) Oh, yes, yes, she stayed with us years before she died. (mmmh) Yes, un-nun. But un, and then he married into the family that he moved into. You know, he brought the little boys and come to...he married into that family. (inaudible due to traffic noises)...he was runnin' for the Civil war, so he (inaudible)...(mmm-hmm), and then he...that's how... (inaudible)...

Salsstrom: You don't hear the name Tabor around here nowadays, too much. Are there...Tabors?

Lawson: No, there's not too many of 'em around here. The men folks are about all...the male part of the Tabor's is just about

all gone. (I see) Well, a lot of 'em's drifted out to work, too. (yeah) See, now, andthere's just....Grandpoppy Tabor's bunch, (let's see...) I guess it's just one of Uncle Frank's boys and uh, and Johnny Tabor up on Lewis Fork...and Andrew, Uncle Bern's got a boy that lived...there's just three I believe, out of the Tabor family livin' of the men folks. (mmm-hmm) Andrew Tabor over at West Hamlin, that's Uncle Bern's boy. All of Uncle Ezra's boys....I believe every one of Uncle Ezra's boys are over there.

Salstrom: Well....now, another thing I wanted to ask you about was uh, New Deal, period. Because Raygene told me once before he died, he thought of course, he would have been pretty young, uh, then, but he thought a lot of farming was abandoned, that is a lot of people quit farming so much when the New Deal and the WPA, started building roads.

Lawson: Well, we never, because we just had the little bity place over at home, just a little bity place and you just had to work it to get anything to eat. (yeah)

Salstrom: But then you never put in for relief. (no, no, no)

Lawson: Poppy was a republican, and the way it was in this county, he couldn't got it if he had. (mmm-hmm) But he wouldn't put in for it. (mmh) He said he was gonna make it as long as he could on is own. (yeah)

Salstrom: And uh...but they were handy now to amounts like \$9 a month, \$10 a month.

Lawson: I don't mean to say it ...I don't mean to insinuate anything or any...make anything bad out of that or anything, but....)

Salstrom: Oh, no, a lot of people were dependent on cash maybe, because there had been the gas and....

Lawson: Well, you see, we never had...because when they sold the land around ...in here, these people that had this land, they reserved the mineral rights. They kept 'em. (oh) That's how Black's got all their mineral rights, the bigger portion of it. 'Cause Uncle Fletch got a lot of land you know, through store business (yeah), and they got the mineral rights. Well, they'd sell you the land, but they wouldn't let you have the mineral right.

Salstrom: You mean if you ran up your bill and they ended up....

Lawson: Yeah, lots of times they'd take....(or take your land)...uh-huh, or give you...

Salstrom: And when you got it back from 'em, you wouldn't get the mineral rights back.

LAWSON: Well, they'd sell it on to somebody else, they reserved the mineral rights. No, they wouldn't take it unless you could..unless they could buy the mineral rights. (yeah, yeah)

SALSTROM: Well, that's using their heads, I guess.

LAWSON: In one sense of the word, not like I was born corn or anything, I'm not..I'm not as smart as the rest of 'em, and as old as I am, I don't remember things, not having anybody to talk to. You have to rehearse things to remember. (sure, yeah) And, but now, I'm out of two good livin' families, the Black's and the Tabor families. Grandpappy was county superintendent of this county, and that's the Tabor's. And he was a school teacher, and Black's up here, they had the store, they handed it right on down. They didn't ..they just handed it down. (right) See, Uncle Fletch had the store up there, and the gristmill and sawmill and all that stuff. And then, Billy, when Uncle Fletch died, got it, and then when Hal got through with it, uh, _____ came into and then Hal got out of it, (yeah), but you see, they hung to their mineral rights. See, that got all of that mineral rights; they kept all them. But grandpappy let Lou Sweetland have his for 50 cents an acre. I don't know why he did, but he did. (grandpappy Tabor?) Uh-huh.

SALSTROM: Well,....

LAWSON: He was county superintendent, he was a school teacher and he was county superintendent of this county. I don't know why in the wide world he let Lou Sweetland have his mineral rights, but of course, they...it never developed into ...coal's all they knew at that time. (right, before the gas came in) Uh-huh. Didn't know a thing in the world about that. Because I remember the first gas..about the first gas well was drilled around in here was over on ..one was drilled over on Middle Fork, near the Middle Fork River, (yeah), and one of those Vicker's men, he got on his horse and running up and down the road, and whipped his horse with his hat and said, we're rich, we're rich, they struck gas, we're rich, we're rich (laughter), Lincoln county's rich.

SALSTROM: Well, that part of the county; (yeah)....

LAWSON: (inaudible)...hit the road when he struck gas.

SALSTROM: Well, people had more energy in those days.

LAWSON: They didn't have all this entertainment at home...televisions.

SALSTROM: No, they had music. They had..made music.

LAWSON: Why yeah, but some of ...but now they weren't very much of that. You gathered up and went to different people's homes when you did that. (yeah) Now, now Grandpappy Tabor's folks was musicians with any kind of an instrument that could get their fingers off. But now, Black's..Black's they played organs. (oh)

And they were people who sang. (yeah, well...) They didn't use... (they were more involved with the church, maybe). Well, no they was (inaudible)... (Tabor's was?) Uh-huh. But Grandpoppy's folks could sing... that's one thing about the black's. They sang like birds, they gather up and they'd have choirs, part of 'em sang bass, first one and then another, soprano, and that's the way it was over at Grandpoppy's but they's a big family then, and they did theirs at home (yeah). Grandpoppy was a teacher, and they did theirs at home. He did... uh-huh.

Salstrom: The Tabor's yeah. Well, you were a teacher too.

Lawson: Yeah, but I never made a teacher out of myself until I was... my children were in high school. (oh?) I passed my GED test and got my diploma, and then...

Salstrom: You were fairly late.

Lawson: And it's like a man out here today, working on the road, I mean, he's flagin' on the road, he said, I said, (inaudible due to traffic)... and later on he said, I went to school with you. And I said, you went to school with me? And I was showing him where to dump that dirt down there, and I said... and he said, yeah, I went to school with you and I said, down at _____. (uh-huh) And he said, yes, that's right. Well, I said, I hope I didn't leave any black spots on you, and he said, you sure did.

Salstrom: So, he was gettin' his... studying for his GED, too, if he was in adult education?

Lawson: No, uh, he was working for a GED test, or GED diploma. They forced them people that worked for the welfare, I call it welfare now, I don't know what they called it then, (yeah), they forced them ... that was part of their work was to go to school, so cause so many of 'em couldn't even read nor write or anything. Now that was that program that come in. (yeah) And they forced them to go to school. And then you taught 'em just like you did beginners. (I see, in the 1960's maybe) I don't know: I'd have to look it up, to see what it was. You know where the _____ in Hamlin? (yeah) Well, that's where we went to. 'Course _____ don't mean the demonstration farm down there now. I don't know how I come to ... they needed a teacher for some reason and I don't know how I come to get in on that. (mmm-hmm) Because I taught so...

Salstrom: You were teaching in Hamlin?

Lawson: No, I never did teach at Hamlin. I taught... I taught up at uh, upon on Forrester and I taught over on Eli and I taught up at Atensville, I taught up Big... I taught up on on... _____ and then I taught down here at Big Creek, up there back of _____ (yeah), where it's the church now (mmm-hmm). I don't... of course I made teacher after I ... after my children was in high school, took the test and got my diploma, but I still... they never did send you around very much.

Salstrom: Well...

Lawson: They just...they just kind of like poppin' popcorn with teachers, but now they never did do that with me. Maybe they sent me in to places like Forrester that nobody else would go. I taught up to un, oh...Favis, too (yeah), that was my last...that's where I retired from. (yeah) But now they never did send me around very much.

Salstrom: But uh, you always lived here in or you moved closer to the school?

Lawson: No, just...no, I lived around in here, just first one place and then another. No, we bought this in...I can't remember when we bought this...(pause)...bought it then overloaded, sold it again, and we bought the place up there where Eugene's house is, and I was so mad about him a sellin' this down here (uh)...I never did unpack the stuff. If you wanted a shirt, you had to hunt it. I never did unpack the stuff. I never...I was so mad over that deal, and so I said to him, I said, if Eldred Dick ever takes a notion to sell that place down there, I said, buddy, I'm going back home. I don't know what you're gonna do, so when Eldred got ready to sell, we bought it back. (mmm-hmm) And then we sold that up there at Eugene's.

Salstrom: Well, different places appeal to different people.

Lawson: Well, if you have to work, my goodness alive, when you get ready to go from down there to Eugene's up to the store to go somewhere, you got to dress like you're going to clear...I'd just as soon go to the head of Trace Creek, because you got to put your boots on, you've got to put your wrap up, you've got to get your umbrella and everything. And here all I had to do was just walk out to the road. (right) Boy, I was mad.

Salstrom: Yeah, it was kind of in the bottom there. Of course, we'd get the school bus in and out of there.

Lawson: Yes, but they didn't have any school buses then like that (oh). (they've improved the roads since then). Yes. The children had to go to the store to catch the school bus. Down here all I had to do was just walk out there...and you know, that when we first moved here in '47 I believe was when we come here, the children at a certain time in a day, it was on up in the morning, after things...they could go up there and ride their bicycles and play marbles on that road until long in the evening. (it was paved?) Yes. They seldom ever had to get off. (but now, it's dangerous to walk on it. (yeah, there's been a lot of traffic since we've been sittin' here). Yes. (I don't know who all these people are here going up and down Mud River) I don't know where they go to. But everything's changed. Everything's changed since you came into here. (yeah, it's been 15 years) What state did you come out of? (Illinois) Illinois. Well, now in 15 years (17 years) 17 years and you're just about lost in places you go now, ain't you? Certain places. (yeah, they...)

It's just changed around. Now, you think of over there where old Bob Martin lives. Why, that's changed.

Salstrom: Yeah. I haven't been over there since I got back this in the 80's, I haven't been there. Trace Creek.

Lawson: Look how little Laurel's built up. (yeah)

Salstrom: And no one has pony's any more. It's amazing...every one was ridin' horses in the early 70's. Though I looked at the census and I found it was in the 1950's that there was suddenly more uh, farm, motorized farm equipment than there was horses in this county...horses or mules. Uh, it was around 1955 that the uh, preponderance went over to uh, farm equipment, you know, the amount of uh, motorized farm equipment.

Lawson: _____ there in that period, right along through there, that's when people began get tractors and stuff (is the 50's, right?)

Salstrom: Between 1950 and 1960 a huge change in the number of horses

Lawson: Well, see that around the Korean and Vietnam war, right along in there. (yeah) Because uh, see both of my boys were one in the Korean War I believe and Buford was in the Vietnam War. That was the last one, wasn't it? (yeah) Well, that's where the boys was. And you see then, they was out of high school and all that, and then that's when everything in here began to turn wrong side out. You know...(yeah)...it was kinda rough statement out that...

Salstrom: Well, television of course, got big in the 1950's.

Lawson: Radio...radio went from that to television. That's where...and when the first...I don't remember who it was had the first television around, (inaudible due to traffic)....

Salstrom: People'd go visit

Lawson: And that was the way it was when they got radio; they'd go...they'd go of the night, and listen to people's radios. (inaudible)...had a little old flat radio.

Salstrom: Yeah. I was curious about the telephones un...the party lines because just about everyone was on a party line in the early 1970's.

Lawson: Well, now you see...

Salstrom: And there aren't any anymore.

Lawson: When I first remember...when I can first remember world war I, they had telephones all around through here (but you had to have a switchboard in your house), no, the switchboard was at

Hamlin. (Oh, but uh, to have a party line, one member of the party say if there were 15 or 20 on a party line...) I think we had about 4 or 5 on it.

Balstrom: ...oh, even then?

Lawson: And if you picked up when somebody was on it, you just go hang it up.

Balstrom: Oh, you wouldn't have to have a switchboard up uh, anywhere.

Lawson: No, the switchboard was at Hamlin (okay), down in the lower end of town next to the bridge (yeah). And you see, when anybody'd ring, the phone would ring in to your phone when you was on a party line. Everybody's phone rung at the same time, (yeah), but had different rings (yeah), so many longs, and so many shorts, or so many shorts and so many longs.

Balstrom: Right. Well, that was still true in the early '70's. But not everyone was still on party lines but most people...

Lawson: Let's see, we were on party line here for a long time.

Balstrom: There goes the school bus. First day of school, isn't it?

Lawson: Paul Smith's a drivin' it. (oh) He lives up Little Laurel.

Balstrom: Yeah, right.

Lawson: He's a substitute driver. Maybe he's got on full-time this year. He's...

Balstrom: Oh, the fellow who use to work in Huntington. (uh-huh)

Lawson: Uh-huh, down at Danco's.

Balstrom: Danco's, yeah, I rode back and forth with him sometimes. He was telling me about his father during the '30's walking, use to walk from the head of Sandlick down to Mud River and up Little Laurel and down to Hubbel (over at Hubbel), yeah, to the coal mine over there and dig coal all day and walk back of an evening, which would be 7 or 8 miles each way.

Lawson: Well, he left about 3:30 in the morning, he got back about 10:00 or 9:00 or 10:00 at night (I suppose, yeah). You took your lantern, and when it got daylight, now, that's another thing. See, you take your lantern with you, take your dinner in a bucket, and when you ...daylight overtook you, you hung your lantern up on a tree, or a post or someplace till you come back, then you picked it up and then you lit it to come on back home and then you put it up till next morning. (uh-huh)

Salstrom: You must have known him.

Lawson: Yes, I knew Jess Snodgrass. Yes.

Salstrom: What...what's his name?

Lawson: Jessie Snodgrass. S-n-o-d-g-r-a-s-s. (Oh, oh)

Salstrom: No wonder he lived at the head of Sandlick then, he was a Snodgrass.

Lawson: Yeah, uh-huh. He lived right over in there.

Salstrom: But that's Paul Smith's father?

Lawson: No, Arnold up here...Arnold up here's Paul Smith's father. And see uh, Arnold uh, Paul's mother was Jessie Snodgrass's girl. (oh, okay) That's how he come to be in the Snodgrass family. (I see, yeah, yeah)

Salstrom: So they were mining coal, well, more than than now.

Lawson: See, they just went over there and dug it with a pick and shovel and then when they wanted to...when they wanted coal to burn or anything like they, why people just burned wood, they'd go over there and take their wagon and horses and things back a way...

Salstrom: They were selling coal there right at....

Lawson: Mmm-hmm. So much a wagonload. Poppy never did burn very much coal; of course, he always said it was so dirty (yeah); he'd rather cut wood he said, than he would to mess with coal 'cause he didn't want to put the coal in and take out the ashes. (yeah) Mommy wasn't very well then so he won't do nothing. He'd been married before he...of course, probably that's the reason for one thing he overly protected her like he did because he's been married before and he lost his wife in childbirth (yeah), and then he married mommy and mommy never would...she never could keep her blood built up. Didn't know at that time she was anemic; probably...called it perneshia anemia now. (yeah) And uh, so, as much of the time mommy wasn't able to do anything only just kind of drag around the house and cook or a little something like that. And I said different times if Poppy hadn't been a man that had had been experienced in family before, he'd never...he'd never...but people didn't marry today and divorce...marry today and divorce comonnow like they do now. They weren't supposed to get divorced then. (mmm-hmm)

Salstrom: Even if you weren't in uh, a member of a church?

Lawson: Yeah, it was a disgrace. And lots of times the preacher wouldn't marry if you...if say that I was a Christian and you wasn't, and we went up to get married, they'd ask me if you

belonged to the church and you said, no, then they'd say I won't marry you. (mmm-nmm) But now...

Salstrom: Well, there's a certain logic to that. (yeah) I mean, based on experience. Yeah.

Lawson: Whereas you get older and you think back, there's a pretty sound bottom to a whole lot of stuff.

Salstrom: Sure, it wouldn't have lasted so long if there wasn't.

Lawson: Foundation...a good foundation, of course (inaudible)...I think that's why (inaudible)....

Salstrom: Oh, sure...more youth culture and uh, so, experience ...experience is not appreciated and used.

Lawson: ...they say, you're old-fashioned. I said, I'd rather be old-fashioned and know where I am and who I am, than I would to be first-fashioned and not know nothing. (mmmh)

Salstrom: 'Course you're only young once but uh, it's dangerous being young (laughter).

Lawson: It's dangerous being young twice. (yeah)

Salstrom: Yeah. Well....

Lawson: Why, this young generation don't have anything to look forward to. (no, I think that affects people unconsciously but uh...you don't know what's going to happen. I mean, not just the nuclear business) uh-huh, (but uh, the way society's changing. It's unpredictable). As I say so much in time, we have just about used up all the resources of the earth (mmm-hmm).

Salstrom: Well, the oilpretty much gonna be gone 20 or 30 years. I mean, they'll still be able to squeeze it out of sand or something.

Lawson: There's so much...the gas is already gone. (mmm-nmm) See, that's where the people in here have made their money, was from gas. Cause now that was big business.

Salstrom: Yeah, I suppose in the 20's, right?

Lawson: I'd say....

Salstrom: (inaudible)...oooooh, too, bad, there it went. Charlie _____ he's going all the way to the head of Little Laurel.

Lawson: Look like he was lookin' toward the river there.

Salstrom: Yeah, no, he wouldn't have any idea that I'd be

Lawson: Well, I mean, though, he was lookin' over toward the river, there, maybe he's lookin' at that bottom there where Steve has been mowing there for me today. There at the garage? (yeah)

Galstrom: I see.....

Lawson: Stavia Sowards. Somebody come along and he never finished it up; he quit, maybe his mowing sythe got dull or something, but he never got it cleaned up down at the river. (inaudible) I wanted to tell you something that you never did hear of this before. Did you ever hear tell of anybody borrowing cats? (borrowing? no) (laughter) I borrowed three the other day. (I'd like to lend some) I borrowed three the other day down to my nephews, oh, I had some many of them...so many ground squirrels around here and mice. I catch mice....and I just decided I'd about had so many cats, just drop 'em down there at _____. Well, they have a new cat down there, every morning they'd get up and there's a new cat out there. Well, Jeff brought me up, him and oh, Monica, that's another of Robert's grandchildren, they brought me up three cats, an old cat and two kittens. And they was so wild, them little blacks out there, two of 'em, they was so wild when they got 'em up here, they just took off like Schneider's hound! (mmm-hmm) And well, to come to find out, they got the mommma, but these two kittens didn't belong to that mommma, she probably at last took 'em but they weren't hers. (oh) (I see) Well, now the ground squirrels...I never see a ground squirrel and I don't see any mice around. Never had one to _____ for I don't know when.

Galstrom: I could give you a couple of cats.

END OF TAPE

END OF INTERVIEW