

Bea Capps Beddingfield
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Interviewer: David Schenck
Transcriptionist: Cathy Mann
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David Schenck: Okay, so I'm going to tell them who we are, okay?

Bea Beddingfield: Okay.

DS: So this is David Schenck and I'm on Anderson Road and I'm talking to Beatrice Beddingfield, but everybody calls her Bea or Aunt Bea. Is that right? And you've lived here for sixty-seven years did you say?

BB: Yeah.

DS: Okay. So tell me a little bit about this house. You said that the part back there is over two hundred years old.

BB: Yeah, well, this part of it is a 'gettin' close to a hundred.

DS: Oh, really, this part where we're sitting in?

BB: Yeah. My husband he said he was just a little boy when they built it. And so he lived to be eighty-six and he's been dead seven year.

DS: Seven years?

BB: The second day of January. So whenever we married we come here and we stayed here.

DS: Was this his family's?

BB: It was his daddy's and his daddy and mama's picture is right there.

DS: Is that this house in the background or is it something else?

BB: That was the woodshed where the garage is now. And this in behind them was the flowers and it was took right out there.

DS: Well, they're handsome folks. They look pretty serious.

BB: He was full of meanness.

DS: Well, he's got a hard look on him.

BB: And he'd tell you what he thought whether you liked it or not. I loved him to death.

DS: Sometimes it good to know what people think, no matter what they're thinking, right?

BB: Well, that's what they say about me. They say, you say what you want to whether it pleases anybody else or not.

DS: Well, that's a good way to be I think. So he built this house, this part of this house?

BB: Yeah.

DS: But that part was way before him?

BB: Oh, yeah.

DS: So was that his father or grandfather?

BB: Well, his daddy and there's his picture on top.

DS: Oh, with the beard?

BB: Yeah, now the bottom part was added on but they didn't take a picture from here up and they had it added on.

DS: I've never seen that before.

BB: Well, if you look at the hands you can tell they're added on.

DS: Yeah, you can. So is that a picture or did somebody do that as a drawing?

BB: The bottom part they drew it and the top part—

DS: Is a picture.

BB: Yeah.

DS: And this is your husband?

BB: No.

DS: Your son?

BB: No.

DS: Okay, who is that?

BB: That's my niece and nephew.

DS: Okay.

BB: And he thought the world of me. That's the reason a lot of folks got to calling me Aunt Bea. That's all he ever called me.

DS: They looked a little bit alike. That's why I was asking.

BB: Yeah, they favor. That was Buford's brother's boy. And he used to come and set down and talk to me and he got his hand hurt one time. His wife said stop there at Aunt Bea's and it won't take two minutes for her to tie it up. He said I can't leave Aunt Bea in two minutes.

DS: (Laughter) Well, good for him. So who are these folks?

BB: That's me.

DS: I see you.

BB: That's my husband, my oldest boy, my baby, my third boy, and my second boy. And that was took in '74. And they said you hadn't changed from that one to this one and this one was took the last of '89.

DS: Well, I believe they're about right.

BB: I had six children, five boys and a girl. I got twenty-two great grandchildren, fifteen grandchildren and twenty-two great grandchildren, and one great-great grandson.

DS: You're kidding. How old is he?

BB: He's five months old.

DS: Five months old, wow. Not many people get to say that anymore, you know. That's a handsome family.

BB: Thank you.

DS: Great-great grandson, how about that. Did you ever think that would happen? Probably you don't think about those things, do you?

BB: Well, five of them was raised and got to having grandchildren and great grandchildren. Who has time to?

DS: (Laughter) Well, that's the truth. That's the truth. Now is this here?

BB: That's the barn and that's the house above it, and that's the woodhouse. And that's the woodhouse.

DS: So that's the one that's behind this picture over here? Is that right, this one back here?

BB: Yeah.

DS: So your family name before you married?

BB: Capps.

DS: Capps, that's right, that's right, Theron told me that. Well, the Capps' have been here since the beginning really.

BB: Almost.

DS: And the Beddingfield's have been here that long as well?

BB: Yeah. And tell you the truth, whenever I married and come here, up here by the church they was three houses.

DS: That's it?

BB: That's it. And the road going from here to the church, it was growed up with trees on both sides so it was almost closed.

DS: So what we call Bob's Creek Road was almost closed in?

BB: No, I call this Green River. Some of them call it Bob's Creek. Well, it leads into Bob's Creek.

DS: Right. So it was trees grown over, wasn't rododrendum, it was trees?

BB: It was trees. It wasn't growed over but you know it was right on the edge of the road. It made it look kindly dark. I've been around about eighty-six year.

DS: So you've seen a lot happen in the valley.

BB: A whole lot.

DS: A whole lot. Well, what do you remember? What are the biggest things that have happened?

BB: Well, the biggest thing that has happened it's cleared out. It's opened up. I couldn't tell you how many houses there is in above here. I can't keep up with them.

DS: When did they start, I mean I know it's been a long time, but did they start coming in real fast about ten years ago or have they just been gradually coming in all the way over time?

BB: It's been gradually coming in. It didn't come in real fast but now it's 'gettin so it's coming in too fast.

DS: It is moving fast, a lot of people.

BB: This hill over here belonged to Schencks.

DS: Right.

BB: Well, he fixed it so nobody can't build on it. They're filling these mountains full of people.

DS: And they are people who come from the outside.

BB: Yeah. All my younguns live within fifteen minutes, I can be to any of them's house.

DS: All five of these?

BB: Yeah.

DS: So they like it here?

BB: Well, all of them but the oldest one went to the Army and they said if we ever get back to Green River we'll never leave.

DS: Never leave again, huh?

BB: And a lot of the grandchildren, see they come back to be close to mama and daddy.

DS: So do some of those live in the valley?

BB: Yeah, I've got one grandson that lives right there. I got a granddaughter that lives in above him. And if the other boys would turn their part of the land loose, why it would be full.

DS: Of grandchildren, uh-huh. So the land has stayed in the family?

BB: Yeah.

DS: Because that's not true for a lot of the families, is it?

BB: No. See whenever Grandpa Beddingfield divided it up, one got this, one got out here, one got there, and two got over here. Well, people say I want to buy a part and they'd say no way.

DS: They were smart.

BB: They said we don't want to be crowded out. So they wouldn't sell it or they'd be Hazard's a whole lot closer than what they are.

DS: How many acres did he have, the old man?

BB: He had sixty.

DS: Sixty.

BB: And he got it from his daddy. So whenever he got disabled to tend to it, why he just let Grandpa Beddingfield have it.

DS: Right, right.

BB: And then Grandpa Beddingfield inherited from the back of the garage to the forks of the road, he inherited that for taxes.

DS: Oh.

BB: Then whenever that man bought that, he run a line right up to the edge of my house. And he said I wouldn't be very popular if I tried to take your property. I said you can't get it.

DS: Right, good.

BB: He tried every way to get it but Grandpa had had it so long and had paid taxes on it so they wouldn't let him have it.

DS: People will try to get it any way they can, won't they?

BB: They did way back yonder and they're still at it.

DS: They're still at it. (Laughter) I guess land is something people have always kind of fought over or tangled over.

BB: Well, they said if they turned any of it loose, why they'd be, well, Grandpa wouldn't let nobody have it. Whenever they built the watershed they wanted to buy us out and Buford said no, I was raised here and I'm going to stay here.

DS: So where did you grow up as a little girl?

BB: On Rock Creek.

DS: Rock Creek, okay.

BB: Did you go up to Theron's?

DS: Yes.

BB: Well, I lived right across over there.

DS: So what relation are you to Gladson?

BB: Well, me and Gladson are first cousins.

DS: First cousins, you told me that already didn't you, you and Gladson.

BB: I was akin to everybody that lived between top of the hill and church. I was kin to them but no more.

DS: Right, cousins, first cousins, second cousins, something?

BB: No, whenever they couldn't get a place to build, why then they moved. So that let strangers come in and I said I've been here so long it feels like home. Over there's the boy that I lost in Vietnam, his picture.

DS: His picture. Theron told me about him.

BB: Twenty years old.

DS: Young.

BB: Real young.

DS: Too young.

BB: He was my third boy.

DS: He's handsome.

BB: A lot of 'em said he favors me.

DS: Theron told me that they were over I guess about the same time.

BB: Yeah, and Carl Beddingfield, he went I believe it was two or three weeks after he got killed. But we did get to bring him back home.

DS: That's good. That's good.

BB: He's buried down here on the top of that hill.

DS: The Thompson Cemetery? Theron took me in the cemetery and showed me the cemetery, showed me his grave.

BB: Yeah, I had his picture put on his grave, on his tombstone. Now that hurts.

DS: Probably still hurts.

BB: It's been forty-something years. He got killed in '66. And sometimes it gets all over me and sometimes it don't bother me.

DS: I know. My father died in 1970. I was eighteen and he was forty-three. That's thirty-seven years and it's the same thing. Sometimes it just tears me up and sometimes it's just that's what happened.

BB: That's what happened and you have to take it.

DS: That's right. That's right.

BB: I'll show you my great-great grandson.

DS: Alright, you want to sit down here?

BB: I'll set down directly.

DS: Okay, whenever you're ready I'll move that thing [digital recorder sitting on a chair]. She looks pretty happy. They all look pretty happy really. So who are these folks? This is the mother.

BB: Yeah, this is my boy and this is his daughter. She is mother to this one.

DS: Son, granddaughter, great granddaughter, great grandson, and great-great grandson, how about that.

BB: They say do you feel it. I say sometimes more than you know.

DS: (Laughter) That is a pretty baby.

BB: He's five months old and he was about six weeks old.

DS: He's young there. You're a lucky woman to see that.

BB: I said that didn't happen every day.

DS: No, it does not happen every day.

BB: And I'm proud of it.

DS: Well, you should be. [Looking at the list of names on the back of the picture frame.] Dante?

BB: Yeah.

DS: That's a nice name. He wasn't even a month old, three weeks maybe, maybe four.

BB: Debbie couldn't wait to have that took. I said that's something that didn't happen every day. I'm a little bit short and I can't reach things Up there's my grandchildren and first cousins.

DS: All kinds of things.

BB: Nieces and nephews. Me and Debbie put that up about two weeks ago.

DS: Y'all did a good job.

BB: I said I had the house lined in pictures.

DS: Well, you do. There's pictures everywhere you turn around. What is this saw?

BB: That's a whit saw.

DS: Who painted it for you?

BB: A girl in Hendersonville and she didn't have nothing to go by, only just memory. That was Clyde, the one that got killed, that was one of his girlfriends.

DS: Uh-huh, who did the painting.

BB: That done the painting. And she said I didn't have nothing to go by, only memory.

DS: She did a nice job. So one person worked that? Usually when they're that long I always think they're going to have a handle on the other end.

BB: They do and I've got the other handle but it was too big to put on that end in. It was just a big old block with a stick run through it and that didn't cut only one way.

DS: Right, that way.

BB: Yeah. And they either had to build a frame and let somebody get under the log and somebody on top.

DS: Up and down.

BB: Up and down and they sawed boards.

DS: For lumber?

BB: Uh-huh.

DS: So that's why it's like that instead of the crosscut with two of them?

BB: Yeah.

DS: Okay.

BB: It just cut one way. See that handle?

DS: Uh-huh.

BB: One is on top, he'd push down and it would cut, but whenever the other one pushed it up, it didn't cut.

DS: Right, so it worked better for making boards, it was a better cut?

BB: Yeah.

DS: So you grew up farming I guess.

BB: Oh yeah, all my life.

DS: What kinds of things did you grow?

BB: I grow anything you want to eat.

DS: Uh-huh.

BB: I still do.

DS: Yeah, got a garden.

BB: I got a garden out yonder and a flower garden right there. I love flowers. My grandmother loved flowers. My mother loved flowers. And I said naturally I would.

DS: And you probably learned a lot about growing them from them.

BB: I did. I've not been to school since I was eleven years old. What school I got I got it over here at the church. The schoolhouse was where the pump is.

DS: Right, I've been told that there was a schoolhouse there, Cedar Springs.

BB: Yeah, well now that's where I got my education, and you know, they took the little schools and sent them to bigger schools.

DS: Right.

BB: They moved Cedar Springs to Tuxedo. Well, they kept the younguns at home for years trying to get it back.

DS: Uh-huh, didn't quite work, did it?

BB: It didn't work so whenever they quit trying my brothers went to Tuxedo but I didn't. I was too handy at home.

DS: Right, so they kept you.

BB: They kept me at home. So I tell the younguns now I say, I ain't been to school since I was eleven years old. They say, I wish I could quit. I said don't quit. I said now I ain't got no education but I've raised a big family and they said you know more than a lot of the high school.

DS: There are many ways to get an education, not just sitting in the school I think.

BB: Whenever you learn it the hard way you don't forget it.

DS: (Laughter) That's the truth. That is the truth.

BB: And that rocking chair, my brother-in-law made that.

DS: So what's his name?

BB: Burt. Now he could make anything. He even made a bedstead. And my coffee table over here, he made that and that's made out of hickory; now you talking about being heavy. And my dining room table, he made it.

DS: Well, he's a busy man. This is a great chair here. I like these old chairs.

BB: I'd rather sit in them than any chair you can have.

DS: Oh, me too.

BB: People say, why you setting in a straight chair. I say, I like 'em.

DS: Yeah, they're more comfortable I think.

BB: I do too. I set in them more than I do in this or that or that.

DS: So did you ever work in the mill down there?

BB: I worked at J.P. Stevens about two or three year, third shift. I come home every morning I'd fix the younguns breakfast and Buford's breakfast before I went to the mill, and I'd let the bread rise. I put it in the Frigidaire and all they had to do is take it out and brown it. So I done that two or three years and then I quit. Well, the VA man, he said why are you working in the mill. He said you never going to get paid for your boy. And he said as old as you are, he said quit that mill and get to gettin' money for your boy, and he put me on that. He said now the government will have to take care of you as long as you live. He was underage. He didn't volunteer. They took him.

DS: So they drafted him?

BB: Yeah.

DS: But he was underage when they drafted him?

BB: Oh yeah, he was underage before he got killed. And then I had one to go before him, Wayne. I use my tobacco.

DS: That's quite alright.

BB: Some of 'em said, why don't you quit. I said I've used it ever since I was this big and I ain't going to.

DS: Must be good for you because you're still going.

BB: And I use about the strongest they make.

DS: Uh-huh, what's that? I don't know anything about it.

BB: (Brewton ?)

DS: Scotch snuff. Well, it must agree with you, if not it would have taken you out of here before now I'd think.

BB: Well, Grandma lived to be ninety and she used it. I had another one that lived to be eighty-something and she used it. My mother used and my daddy used it and that's what got me started. Of course, I always craved it. I bet you I've eat a ton. (Laughter)

DS: Probably. Hard to count, wouldn't it?

BB: Well, me and my mother used to make quilts and me and my sister would steal Mama's snuff. Well, setting a sewing we couldn't spit or she'd know it and we swallowed it. It didn't make us sick.

DS: (Laughter) Right, right. Like I said, it must agree with you.

BB: They all have a fit about me using my snuff. I said that's alright.

DS: The children, the grandchildren, the great grandchildren, all of them?

BB: They say Granny, why don't you quit that. I said I will whenever I'm six foot under. They said well if you was to have to go to the hospital. I said if I have to go to the hospital I'll get it some way.

DS: Yep, you will. You can get all kinds of things in the hospital, all kinds of things.

BB: Well, I had an aunt to live till she was a hundred and one and she used it.

DS: You've got some long life in your family. Has the river itself changed much over the years?

BB: Oh yeah, it used to be growed up and big trees and they got to cutting and then they got to taking the bank of the river and then they let it grow up a little bit to stop that.

DS: They cut the big trees so the bank would wash?

BB: Yeah.

DS: When the water got high.

BB: It would eat in.

DS: Uh-huh, eat into the fields.

BB: So then they got to letting it, you know, grow up but not like it did way back there. The bank of the road up there, whenever I married and come here, it was growed up in big trees, I mean big trees. I asked Grandpa one day, I said, Grandpa, let's cut some of them big trees. He said, go ahead. He said I don't care. Well, from the back of my garage out there out there to them roads, it was growed up real thick. You couldn't see nothing. I mean from the ground up. I said, Grandpa, can I clear that out. He said, if you want to. So I cleared that and I cleared the bank. I made Buford help me saw the big ones down and I'd get the little ones. I could use an ax.

DS: Yeah, well you must have, must have.

BB: And a go-devil.

DS: What's a go-devil?

BB: What you bust wood with.

DS: Oh, okay. A splitting maul is what I call it. Is that the same thing?

BB: Yeah.

DS: It's on the end of an ax but it's wider and duller.

BB: Well, that's what we called a wedge.

DS: Oh, okay, so what's a go-devil?

BB: A go-devil is like a hammer.

DS: Oh, to hit the wedge with?

BB: Yeah.

DS: Okay.

BB: I've busted a many a stick of wood. But now I ain't got the strength that I used to have.

DS: Yeah, those things are pretty heavy.

BB: I didn't think so.

DS: Uh-huh.

BB: I busted wood last year. Somebody said, you bust that wood; I said, yeah, it ain't no problem.

DS: Right, right, been doing it a long time, know how.

BB: I knowed how to hit it and how to put the wedge in there to make it bust, the go devil and the wedges. They piled a big pile of blocks out there. I said to Zeb, he lives right up there, I said Zeb, bring me the go devil. I had the wedge. He said you don't need it. I said now, I

don't want to have to walk up the hill and get it whenever you got a car and you can bring it. So he brought it and throwed it out. I busted wood a half a day. I'd bust a while and put it in the shed and bust again and put it in the shed. I still get my wood in for my fires.

DS: What do you burn mostly?

BB: Anything but pine.

DS: Pine's a mess, isn't it?

BB: Well, it smokes too bad.

DS: It does, bad on the chimney and it smokes, pops too.

BB: Yeah, and poplar will sparkle. I mean hickory will sparkle. If you put too much in there you can burn the stove up.

DS: Right, right. I lived in Vermont for a few years and we heated with wood and the wood that I liked the most was ash.

BB: It burns real fast.

DS: It burns and is easy to split, didn't but quite as fast as poplar.

BB: Oh, no, I use poplar for a cook stove.

DS: Yeah, if you put it in here and it's gone before—

BB: You can go get some more.

DS: (Laughter) That's right.

BB: I said you can put poplar in there and then get some and put it in there.

DS: That's right. That's the truth.

BB: And see I burn big sticks. They last.

DS: They do. Yeah, I always liked to put in some oak when I went to bed so it actually would still be there the next morning.

BB: I put three sticks in there whenever I get ready to go to bed and I got a fire the next morning. They got to splitting it and I said well, don't make stove wood out of it, it burns up too quick. I said I want some that will last.

DS: Right, but you got to have the stove hot enough and set right or when you put those in there it puts your fire out. But you know what you're doing. They may not know.

BB: They don't. These young folks don't know how to build a fire. So Ben, one of my boys, he put me in a furnace upstairs. I ain't got no basement. It took out on me the other morning and it was cold. It was forty-seven degrees in my house.

DS: In the house?

BB: In where we're setting. And I had wood in there and it wouldn't burn and it wouldn't burn. I'd roll it over and it'd turn black. I'd roll it over and it'd burn a minute and turn

black. I said I'm going to throw it out in the yard and start all over. Of course, now this house is a whole lot tighter than it was whenever I married and come here. This floor whenever I come here you could put your fingers in the cracks.

DS: Between the boards. And this is the new part of the house.

BB: And this is the new part of the house and the door that was here had a hole at the top of it that you could put a cat out.

DS: (Laughter) Now that would make a cold winter. It actually got cold then, unlike now.

BB: Yeah, it got cold.

DS: Kind of forgotten how to get real cold.

BB: Yeah, I said if it'd get cold and stay cold, you're alright. But this getting cold and then warming up and then getting cold again, you can't get used to it.

DS: No, you can't.

BB: But now if it's warm enough for me to get outside, that's where I am.

DS: Uh-huh, anytime you can get out.

BB: Anytime I can get out. And if I want anything done, I can say boys, will you do this; yeah, we'll do it. Well, I wait after them a little while then I'll get out and I'll do it. Well, who done that for you. I say who do you think done it. I said you didn't.

DS: (Laughter) I've heard people say that worked in the mill after they had been outdoors all the time, they could hardly stand being inside working.

BB: I can't. I told a lady last night I said I'm tired of looking at four walls. I said I could just scream. And if it's warm enough, I will open a door. I said I can't stand to be closed in.

DS: Well, it's good sun today. It's cold but there's good sun so you might be able to open the door.

BB: I'll open it about one o'clock.

DS: So where did your husband work? Did he farm?

BB: Yeah.

DS: So it was possible to make a living farming for a while.

BB: Yeah. He never did work public works. He'd just work if somebody said I want you to help me.

DS: Right.

BB: So we made it and raised six younguns. And my younguns didn't go to a doctor only when it was really necessary till they went to the Army and they were scared to death of the doctor.

DS: I guess they would be.

BB: I doctored. And I doctored myself.

DS: So how did you learn to do that? Did somebody teach you or did you figure it out?

BB: I learned it from my grandma.

DS: What kind of things did she teach you?

BB: Well, spignet [spikenard], black snake root, ginseng, Camphorated Oil, Black Draught, Castor Oil.

DS: Now tell me, I don't know much about this. Were these things that you'd make a poultice and put on? Were they things that you'd give people to swallow, or all different kinds of things?

BB: Make a tea.

DS: A tea, uh-huh.

BB: Now there's spignet is the best kidney medicine you can find anywhere. You can take the root of a spignet and boil it and drink the tea and it will cure kidney trouble.

DS: So you learned this from her when you were a little girl?

BB: Yeah. And black snake root, now whenever my younguns was born, they said take sulfur, black snake root, put it in a jar, pour liquor on it and give them that every day. I didn't have no sick children.

DS: How about that, so you started that when they were just born?

BB: Yeah. I give my oldest boy whenever I come from the hospital, he wouldn't do nothing but cry. George Goines come over here one Sunday morning to see me and he was crying and I was setting up on the side of the bed trying to quieten him. George turned to my husband, Buford, he said you got any liquor. Buford said yeah. He said drop two drops in a tablespoon and let her milk milk out of her breast till the spoon is full and give it to that youngun and it'll stop him from crying. It did.

DS: It worked, huh?

BB: See, way back then people used to go see somebody. They don't do that anymore.

DS: People used to go visit?

BB: Yeah. And I've told my younguns, and my in-laws maybe get sick, I told them what to do. They'd grab them up and go to a doctor. And people say why don't you write down them old timey remedies. I said what's the use, they won't go by them. They won't.

DS: Right, they're probably afraid of them a little bit.

BB: No, they think there ain't nothing to it. They think that that's too simple and a doctor didn't tell it. And they just won't do it. So what's the use of me, I can't write good now, my fingers is stiff, I've got arthritis. And I said what's the use of me sitting down here writing down all this stuff when nobody don't want to know it.

DS: Well, you know, there's a lot of people, maybe not your grandchildren and great grandchildren, but there are a lot of people who are thinking about this and looking at how doctors work and medicine works and thinking it doesn't work too good and are beginning to write these things down. So if you ever wanted to talk about them and go through them kind of one by one, I know some people who would love to just hear you talk about it. You wouldn't have to write it. You could use this thing. My wife knows some things. She learned from her, well, we're married, it's our second marriage. So in her first marriage her mother-in-law and her grandmother-in-law knew a lot of things and they taught her. So she would actually be able to talk to you and ask more intelligent questions than I can because she was taught. But it's mostly the women that learn this and talk to women. The men were I guess doing something else.

BB: Well now, my mama could cure the thrash of a baby.

DS: How'd she do it?

BB: Well, she learned it from somebody. I don't know who. And I don't know but two people that learned it. And if the baby gets the thrash they go to the doctor, the doctor said there ain't no such thing as thrash. But now there's been hundreds of people brought their baby to Buford for him to cure the thrash.

DS: And how did he do it?

BB: Well, he had to have the full name of the baby and he'd go off by hisself, take the baby and there's one person brought a baby here they said it couldn't even nurse, it couldn't eat, and they said Buford, will you doctor it. He said yeah and he told them he said now if it ain't better tomorrow, bring it back. One person brought it late one evening and he said now if the baby ain't better tomorrow, bring it back. But, she didn't come back. She said she went home and that baby eat supper. And yet they say there ain't nothing to it. And he couldn't tell but three people, three women, he couldn't tell a man. So my mother learnt Buford and he wouldn't tell me. He told Zeb's wife up here. She told Zeb. Well, somebody asked me if I knowed anybody that could cure the thrash on a baby. I said Zeb and Sandy. I called Sandy. She said Granny, I forgot everything. Zeb said he'd forgot.

DS: So I guess they didn't use it very much. They didn't do it much to keep remembering it.

BB: Well, they got to taking him to the doctor and wouldn't come to be cured.

DS: So Buford couldn't tell a man?

BB: No.

DS: So his mother told him he had to pass it to a woman?

BB: My mother said you can.

DS: Your mother, that's right I'm sorry.

BB: You can tell three women but if you tell a man you kill it.

DS: That's pretty convincing.

BB: And she said if the man can tell three men but if he tells the wrong one it's through with. So I had the thrash and Mama doctored me whenever I was a baby. She said I knowed your name and she said what's the use of me going to somebody else whenever I could do it.

DS: All that knowledge I guess is gone now, isn't it, or is going fast?

BB: It's going fast now. I know one of Buford's nieces, he told her and I ain't talked to her about it. I don't know whether she forgot it or not. But Sandy said, I wrote it down on a paper and she said I can't find my paper. People don't take care of important things. And they fuss at me, you don't throw nothing away. I said it don't pay to throw everything away – and know what you're throwing away before you throw it away, and look through it.

DS: Right, and know where your things are.

Track 2

DS: So this is two hundred years old?

BB: Yeah. These poplar logs, they come from down here in the field and I used to cook right there.

DS: Right here or here back in the corner?

BB: Back in that corner. Here's where my stovepipe went for my cook stove. And this mantel rock right here it goes from right here all the way down to there, all the way across one rock.

DS: It's about two and a half feet wide and it's what six feet long at least. It's about as wide as my arm. It's about six feet, a single rock.

BB: One rock.

DS: And how wide are these poplars?

BB: I ain't never measured.

DS: That right there is eight inches, almost nine. So that's probably ten or eleven inches.

BB: And it was put together with pegs, not with nails see.

DS: Right, it's a big old peg, about an inch.

BB: There's what it's put together with.

DS: Yeah. So it wasn't just a solid peg. It looks like its two or three pieces wedged in to hold it, is that right?

BB: It might have been, some of them. And this side has got more than that one had and that's one piece. This is rough. They didn't smooth it up. That one's smooth.

DS: So I guess you had to keep caulking it or chinking it. What'd you call it?

BB: Putting stuff in there. That's a plaster (). It was put together with red mud.

DS: Now were these boards sawed with a saw like that kind out there?

BB: No.

DS: No, these are newer than that?

BB: Yeah. And see a cooking and a fire in the fireplace has got 'em right black.

DS: Yeah, it does.

BB: I told a preacher one time, he come over here, I said I tried to get to Buford to seal it. He said don't do that. He said let it stay old-timey. He said I'd give anything if I had this.

DS: Well, that was good advice I think.

BB: But that's how come they're so black and it's been swept and swept and spiders loves it. You can sweep them down and in a day or two they're right back.

DS: They're right back, huh.

BB: And they was one little bitty room there and that's all there was. This was the kitchen and dining room and setting room.

DS: And how many kids did they have in this house?

BB: Seven.

DS: Seven. And you had how many in this house?

BB: Six.

DS: So are there rooms upstairs where people would sleep or all seven people were here?

BB: No.

DS: There's a loft upstairs?

BB: There's a loft upstairs. You can see where on the two by four over here and the boards now that was the stair steps to go upstairs. You went up to here and there was a landing and then you went on up. Now Buford put this plaster in there. That red mud was a falling out.

DS: It dries quick, doesn't it?

BB: So he said I'll stop that so he put plaster here. And there's where I raised my younguns on the swing. That's where the swing hung.

DS: This [large iron wood stove] wasn't here then?

BB: No. It was an open fireplace.

DS: You had the fireplace there, okay. So they would stay warm and stay happy?

BB: Here's the three brothers. That's Buford, he was the baby. That's Fergie and this is the oldest one, Jim.

DS: So I was trying to think, Octavia Beddingfield, was she married to any one of these or is that a whole different part of Beddingfields?

BB: No, as Buford used to say, that's the improved Beddingfield and we was the crazy Beddingfield.

DS: (Laughter) Now how did he figure that out?

BB: Well, there's two sets of Beddingfields.

DS: He didn't want to be improved, he wanted to be crazy.

BB: He didn't want to be improved. He said he'd stay crazy. That staple pulled out. I'll put it back later. But that fireplace is big as that piece of metal. The stove's still warm.

DS: Yeah, it is warm.

BB: Whenever I was raising my younguns, I fenced that porch in with chicken wire. Whenever I had to go to the barn to milk I would put the younguns out there and shut the door, make them stay out there to keep from falling in the fire.

DS: So this was a porch then?

BB: Yeah.

DS: This part right here?

BB: Yeah. And from here back was the meat house and this was all porch.

DS: Meat house?

BB: Where we kept the meat whenever we killed our hogs.

DS: So had you smoked it or something first to keep it from spoiling?

BB: Put salt on it.

DS: Salt on it? And then it hung here?

BB: No, they go boxed in there.

DS: Boxed, okay.

BB: We put it down in a box and cover it in salt. Then in the spring of the year we'd take the salt off and put black pepper on it.

DS: So the black pepper helped preserve it too?

BB: Give it a better taste.

DS: Yeah, I can see that. So you just pile them in the box and keep putting more salt in?

BB: Yeah.

DS: I interrupted you. You were going to say something. Now what?

BB: Now this is my washing place, dryer, freezer. It's just junk. I said it ain't big enough. But didn't have no closets. Didn't have no, you put your clothes anywhere you could find a place to put it.

DS: Well, with that many people in here it was probably hard to find a place. Now was this room there as well?

BB: Yeah, it was there and they was cracks, that's where we slept, all but the younguns, and they went upstairs. And they was cracks in that floor in there that the younguns come in one evening and they run in there and I was in that room that used to be my kitchen. They said Mama, Cleo, that was the dog, has got puppies under the house and they seen it through the cracks of the floor. And that's where we slept.

DS: Right, pretty good breeze I bet.

BB: That's my bedroom.

DS: Uh-huh, I was just looking at this other log and that's even more, that's over a foot I bet.

BB: I never even thought about measuring 'em.

DS: Well, they're so much bigger than anything you see now.

BB: And they're just as solid as they was when they was put there.

DS: And they're poplar?

BB: Yeah. I ain't made my bed but this is where I sleep.

DS: It's a little tighter than it was when you could see through the floor.

BB: Oh, yeah. And it was logs there and whenever they built that in yonder they built this on.

DS: So these were logs around the outside too?

BB: No, no, this was built on whenever they built that.

DS: Oh, that side, I understand. So this is a hundred years old, what we just stepped out of is two hundred years old.

BB: And see here's my closet. This was all together this was the back porch and Buford fixed it so I could have a, we built this part. And they fixed me a closet here and that's my door.

DS: Uh-huh, it works.

BB: They say, why don't you sleep in the living room. I said I don't want in the living room. I love to sleep where it's cold.

DS: I think it's better sleeping myself.

BB: Yeah, I hate to get out of that bed sometimes. (Laughter)

DS: That's true. Get out of bed and get the fire going it's a little cold.

BB: Now this used to be a room. From in there the younguns slept upstairs. They had to come through here and they'd go clean back into the kitchen and go upstairs.

DS: But they all slept up there?

BB: Yeah. Oh, it's altogether a different house. We worked on it and Knox has worked on it. Knox puts up metal buildings like my garage out there for a living.

DS: Right. Is he a son or a grandson?

BB: He's a son. He's my oldest boy. But I said the house is old and I's old and we're just a living it out.

DS: Uh-huh, doing it together, right?

BB: And upstairs is like a basement. It's full of stuff. See it's not tight neither.

DS: No, it's not. No, it's not.

BB: And cold comes down.

DS: I guess it does, and that chimney.

BB: There's enough rock in that chimney to build two houses.

DS: I believe it. I believe it. Now did Buford put some more chinking on that or is that the old chimney the way it was?

BB: No, Buford had to do that.

DS: I bet.

BB: They went upstairs and they said they could see fire all the way through. So you see I still live in an open house.

DS: Well, you do. You've got an open attic up there.

BB: Now this is my brothers and sisters and Mama and Daddy.

DS: So his name was?

BB: Jim Capps.

DS: Jim.

BB: And she was Eunice Ward. That's my oldest sister, my next sister, and me, and brother and brother and brother and brother. And here we are.

DS: What are their names?

BB: This is Mae, Belle, Vee, Dee, Doyle, Don, and Douglas.

DS: Doyle, Don, and Douglas, okay. Does she live down on Green River Road towards? Okay. And she's Staton now?

BB: Isabelle, yeah. And she was a (). And this is my younguns all but him and him and their wives. This is Mae and her husband Grant, Belle and Arthur, her husband. Dee and Lewter

and his wife, Doyle and his first wife and Buford and me. And this is Don and that's Douglas. I'm fifteen year older than this one and seventeen year older than that one.

DS: Uh-huh, a big spread.

BB: Well, Doyle was nine whenever he was born. And that's just school younguns.

DS: Uh-huh, yeah, they look like those school pictures. I've got one that looks about like that.

BB: That's a nephew that lives up the road.

DS: He looks about as happy as I did.

BB: But you see people don't even keep 'em now like I did.

DS: No, no. Well, there's so much stuff now, you know.

BB: And they don't care.

DS: Not in the same way.

BB: Now Zeb's wife, she said if I've got anything, if I ever had it, time I'm tired of it get shed of it. Well, I don't feel like that. So this is a old, old house.

DS: Well, it is.

BB: And here's my boy's stuff that got killed.

DS: There's the flag.

BB: There's the flag. That was a flower. That was a flower.

DS: That's his hat.

BB: Yeah. And them two birds was on the wreath and I kept them. They said, why you keeping all such stuff. I said well, what's the use in getting shed of it. And here's his watch whenever he was in Vietnam. Well, what good is it. I said they could get shed of it whenever I's gone. And there's his little dog. I still got it.

DS: He's cute.

BB: I ain't one to throw things away.

DS: I see that. Well, and you know, memory and our connection with people that we love, it's part of it. I understand that.

BB: So I'm bad to keep stuff like that, even papers.

DS: Well, I saw those papers up there.

BB: That's newspapers with stuff that me and Buford, Buford would stick 'em up there, that we wanted if somebody come around, he could tell you what was in the newspaper.

DS: Okay. And how about these people?

BB: A cousin of mine made that and give it to me. It's supposed to hang up, it's got.

DS: Little porch swing, huh?

BB: Yeah, see.

DS: Right.

BB: And I seen that glass that has that on it whenever I was out one time with my granddaughter. I said I'd love to have one of them. She just went and broke it and handed it to me. I stuck it up.

DS: Right, and there it is. Tell me about these eggs. They look like somebody's Easter eggs.

BB: They are. Now see the spider webs?

DS: I do. They're happy in here. Now this is a chicken. This wire thing, is that a chicken?

BB: Yeah.

DS: Can I help you?

BB: Yeah, get it down. There's keys that was there whenever I come here. And see its bill?

DS: I do.

BB: It's dirty. The eggs is dirty.

DS: Let's put it back up. So those keys were here when you got here, huh?

BB: Yeah, over there's some more that was here whenever I got here. And I ain't took 'em down. I said what's the use of taking 'em down. They're something that goes with the old house.

DS: Well, it does. They look like they belong here.

BB: So whenever I'm dead and gone I said you can clean it out and push it down. My granddaughter said they're not gonna push that log house down. Well, it belongs to Brent, my grandson up there. He said I might take that end off but he said the log house.

DS: Save this part.

BB: He said it will never be tore down.

DS: Well, I hope not.

BB: Debbie said I'd cry my eyes out if they was to burn that.

DS: Uh-huh, a lot of living been done in this house.

BB: A lot of it. It's too cold to stay in there long.

DS: Yeah, it's a little chilly.

BB: And that's my pot house in here.

DS: Uh-huh. So what are the other big changes you've seen? More people, it cleared out, cleared the trees and the bush and everything.

BB: Yeah and see they made a different road to come in here. Used to have down yonder they was a hedge of spruce pine and they kept them cut off this way and that way. So they come along and my bank was covered in flowers, what wasn't vegetables. I've grown peppers, tomatoes, and everything on that bank before they come in here and made the road. The crib set up there on the side of the road. It was about two feet from the edge of the road. They said we had to get shut of the crib. Well, it was a log crib, so they said we'll move it. They jacked it up, put blocks under it. They'd jack up one end and go to the other end and jack it up and they put two by fours, nailed two by fours to the logs to keep 'em from giving. Well, they got it up high enough and they put a trailer under it, flat trailer, and they took it down yonder and they said, where do you want it. I said down yonder. So it was a bank where they was going to put it. Well, Knox, my oldest boy, he had a tractor and they told him to come and fasten the tractor to it and let it roll down boards so it wouldn't fall over and bust, so he come and put it on blocks.

DS: So they actually got it moved?

BB: Yeah.

DS: Without tearing it up?

BB: So it used to set up there. It was a crib.

DS: So the road, what you call the Green River Road, that was always there?

BB: It was there whenever I come here. Grandpa Beddingfield said it was built after he was here. Bob's Creek Road, what makes 'em call that Bob's Creek Road, Bob's Creek went this way, went up the hill over yonder and come out on Green River way up in above the church.

DS: Oh, that far up?

BB: Yeah. And they finally built a road over there.

DS: Right, but that was after this road?

BB: Yeah, this road some of 'em was going to block it and Buford said you can't do that. He said that's been there, that's an old established road and he said you can't block that. He said there ain't no way that you can block it for it's been there over a hundred years. But Grandpa said that's the way they went to get out. They had to go down Green River. That's the reason everybody calls that Bob's Creek Road.

DS: Right, so if you were going to go down to South Carolina, down to Greenville or something, would you go that way on that road or was there another way down?

BB: Well, see Bob's Creek goes over to there. No, they had to go this way and go down the river to the church and then go down Gap Creek.

DS: Right, Gap Creek. One story that I was told was about Joe Capps, J. D. Capps maybe, who walked down to Greenville. Do you know this story? Walked down to Greenville and worked in the Poe Mill.

BB: Yeah.

DS: Have you heard that story?

BB: Yeah, they said that and not long before he died they said he still had his first payment that he made whenever he worked in the mill. But they was trails through the woods that they used instead of the road. So they didn't have to do that. They'd just hit a trail and walk it and cut off.

DS: A good part of the distance.

BB: Yeah.

DS: That's still a pretty good walk.

BB: Well, people back then didn't care to walk.

DS: Uh-huh, just ready to get up and go, huh?

BB: And it didn't bother 'em to get up and go to work. They fuss at me. Now if I want to go to one of the youngun's houses, I walk, and they'll say I'll take you home. I say, no, I'd rather walk, and I had. I've always walked. I walked from up there where I lived on Rock Creek down to the school as long as I went to school, rain or shine.

DS: It's a pretty good walk, especially going the other way.

BB: Well, we had a trail across the hill that we cut off a lot of that, lot of that walking.

DS: Did that trail go near where the waterfall is?

BB: No.

DS: No, different place, okay.

BB: I said sometimes I get to thinking about the way I was raised and the way I walked and went everywhere. Even after I was married I would walk from here to Tuxedo to the grocery store. I'd take butter and eggs, carry it down there, and carry the groceries back home.

DS: Now that is a pretty good walk, with your groceries, huh?

BB: You know where the lake is down there?

DS: I do know where the lake is.

BB: Well, that's where we got our groceries. Put twenty-five pounds of flour on your shoulder and walk back home.

DS: So did you carry a pack or something or you'd just throw it over your shoulder?

BB: I just throwed the bag over my shoulder, tote the rest of the groceries, tobacco and sugar and coffee, tote it in a basket I took my butter and eggs up in.

DS: So how long did that take?

BB: About a half a day. I could walk it real good in a half a day. I was walking with a boy one time after we got good and grewed, from up there where Theron lives. We worked on Rock Creek all day. They wouldn't come and get us. I said, let's walk down to Green River Road. He said alright. We lit out a walking. He said God, I'm awful glad we're getting there. He said you're killing me.

DS: (Laughter) You were walking him in the ground, huh?

BB: He said he was so tired, he said I don't know when I'll ever get rested. He said you're the fastest walker I ever seen walking, after working all day hoeing corn, such as that. He said God, I never seen nobody could walk as fast in my life. I said well, reach out there and get it and let's go. And I still like to walk. I can do pretty good if I am eighty years old.

DS: I believe it. I believe it.

BB: Now my sister after her and Arthur was married and after the younguns got bigger they worked in the cotton mill.

DS: She told me a little bit. I talked with her.

BB: So I said sometimes I wish it was back like it used to be. People was more healthier back then.

DS: Oh, yeah, walked more, worked more, ate better things probably.

BB: Yeah, see I told them I'd go to the store and I buy what's necessary, what I have to have. And I said I'd go back home and I couldn't get nothing at the grocery store that I wanted to eat, I had to come back home and fix something I had. I can about seventy quarts of beans and put about seventy or eighty bags of corn in the freezer. Now I can my beans but I make cream style corn and put it in the freezer.

DS: You must have a pretty good size garden.

BB: I do. We grow our own taters.

DS: Right, your boys help?

BB: Mostly me.

DS: Mostly you. They're supposed to help.

BB: I plant beans in the flowers, put stake at each end and so many in between 'em and put a wire on top, string on the bottom, wrap 'em. I dig the holes. I told Zeb last summer I said I'll dig the holes, you can put the big stakes in, I can't. He said well, Ma, why do you dig them so deep. I said I hate to go to pick beans and them on the ground. So I dug bean holes last year.

DS: Uh-huh, you were trained early.

BB: Well, I like it.

DS: Yeah, makes a difference, doesn't it?

BB: You know, I've got a grandson up there and he'd go to the field with me for about an hour, Granny, I'm going home, I'm tired. Well, now we didn't do that whenever we was little. I knowed what he was going to do but he wouldn't say it. And I'd say alright and he'd say, will you watch me go home. I'd say yeah, I'll watch you. I'd watch him till he went up the hill and then sometimes he'd come back and he'd stay a few minutes. Granny, I'm going home. I'd say okay. Now I didn't tell mine okay. I'd say we'll be through in a little bit. You just help me a little bit.

DS: Little bit longer. Well, the television that changed a lot of things, hasn't it, for children?

BB: That's all they want to do and the younger parents they'll sit and watch TV. I turned mine on a little while this morning and got the news and the weather. I pushed the button and cut it off.

DS: We don't even have one. I don't like 'em. When my boys were young we had one but they had one hour every day that they could pick but that was it.

BB: Mine would come in from school, Knox got to working at the dime store in Hendersonville whenever he was going to high school, so he bought a TV. They'd run in off the bus and first thing they'd do is turn the TV on, I'd just walk and cut it off and say no TV till the chores is all done. And I said after that then you can look at TV a little while and I'd cut it off and I'd say get your homework.

DS: That's right. I remember when I was a little boy four or five years old, it was Saturday morning and I was watching my favorite TV program and my father came in and he said, we're going to go out in the woods. There was a magnolia tree, just a little tiny magnolia tree, he said we're going to go out there and we're going to dig it up and we're going to bring it to the house and we're going to plant it. I said, no, I want to watch. He said no, we're going. So I went with him and I was not very happy. That thing had three leaves on it. I drove by the house last summer and, it's a two-story house, it's taller now than the house, this enormous tree. And I, you know, if I'd had my choice, four years old, I would have stayed there sitting at TV. But he made me go with him and now I can say I planted that tree. But it was only because he pulled me away from the machine.

BB: I did mine, I'd say no TV, we've got work to do. Now they ain't got no work to do.

DS: That's true. That's true.

BB: And I took mine, all my younguns in the spring of the year, I took 'em to the field. I didn't have no playpen. I had a pasteboard box for 'em to stay in. And I'd put the least one in

the pasteboard box and let the rest of 'em run around. They got to fighting and hollering Mama, I said I'll tend to you when I get there.

DS: That teaches them to be independent I guess. Work things out themselves, one way or the other.

BB: Well, people tell me now, you got the workingest crowd of boys of anybody. I said that's all they've ever knowed. So I said it's the way they're raised.

DS: Right.

BB: It is. It's the way they're raised.

DS: That's what you know and that's what you do.

BB: Yeah. Brent up there, his younguns they turn the TV on whenever they get up and that's all they know. Not me, I might turn mine on at twelve o'clock or I might not. I'll turn it on after I get done with my night work. But if I've got something to do outside, I don't even think about TV.

DS: Uh-huh, you're ready to be out.

BB: They said I couldn't climb the bank of the road but I got flowers on the bank of the road. He said, Ben said, Mama, if I catch you on that bank he said I'll take my belt off to you. I said you'll have to eat more biscuit than you've ever eat. My granddaughter was on the bank with me and, boy, she come off the bank whenever Ben said he'd take his belt off to me. She got between me and Ben. I said Debbie, move, I said I ain't afraid of Ben, I raised him. I said I whooped him a lot of times, I can whoop him again. She said if Ben had a hit you she said I'd a killed him. I said baby, don't worry. I said Ben ain't going to hurt me.

DS: Right, just talking.

BB: He was just aggravating because Debbie was there.

DS: Uh-huh.

BB: I put flowers on the bank of the road. I said when you younguns goes to work you don't know what I'm a doing.

DS: That's right. What kind off flowers do you put in?

BB: Oh, I put all kinds of flowers. I've got poppies up and () and roses coming up. I have about eighty hills of dahlias, put stakes to them, then plant little flowers. I work as much in the flowers as I do in the garden. Of course, they put plastic down for me to plant them.

DS: Uh-huh, in the garden. So when do you start the garden or have you already started?

BB: No, not yet, it's too early. The biggest snow I ever seen come the second day of March.

DS: Yeah, you can't ever tell. I got married to my wife now, we got married on April 11th and it snowed April 10th. We were going to have an outdoor wedding and it snowed the day before six inches. So we were in the church instead.

BB: I got married in the courthouse in Greenville.

DS: Oh, yeah?

BB: Me and Buford and the woman that married us was all that was there.

DS: So a woman married you? Was she a part of the court, the magistrate or something?

BB: Yeah, she married us and we come back home and it rained, it just poured rain.

They say you will shed as many tears as a drop of rain fall, I said I done shed more than that.

DS: (Laughter) So how old were you?

BB: Seventeen.

DS: Seventeen.

BB: I lacked twenty days being eighteen.

DS: And how old was he?

BB: He was twenty-four.

DS: Twenty-four, he was an old man, twenty-four.

BB: He thought he was.

DS: I'm sure he did.

BB: And he thought he'd stay an old man and he did a long time. I finally told him I said, you've been boss long enough. It's time for me to take it.

DS: I'm taking over. (Laughter) Little revolution here.

BB: He didn't say nothing.

DS: Did it work?

BB: It worked.

DS: I remember my father when I was sixteen he said the thing about being sixteen is that you're the smartest you're ever going to be in your life. From now on it's downhill. Meaning you think you know everything now and all that's going to happen to you for the rest of your life is you're going to discover what you don't know.

BB: Yeah, Brent said he told one of my grandsons, he said going to school, you just get ready to get an education, whenever you get out of school. He said that's when you go through learning. And he got out of school, he got him a job. Oh, he got so upset. I'm gonna quit. I'm going somewhere else. I said okay. Well, he went somewhere else and got him another job and he come in one day, I don't like my job, I'm going to hunt me another one. I'm going to quit. I got mad. I said Brent, let me tell you something. I said I don't care what kind of job you get

you're going to get mad. I said one job is good as another. I said you might just as well, he worked for the telephone plant. He got mad right after he started, I'm going to quit and hunt me another one. I said, Brent, you got a good job, don't quit. You'll get mad whenever you leave. I said you can't stay with one job and stay happy all the time. And I talked to him about staying with Duke Power and, I mean the telephone company. He knows it like a book. He makes good money. I said, Brent, do you want to quit the telephone now. He said, no.

DS: Probably gets mad every now and then. (Laughter)

BB: Yeah, he gets mad.

DS: That's what jobs are all about sometimes.

BB: And this boy lives up here, Zeb, he's my baby. He was making roads. He was operating a bulldozer. He liked that. Well, they told him to go to Duke Power and put in for a job. Well, he did and they wanted him so he went. He said I don't want to quit bulldozing work. He said I like it. I said son, you can't work when it's bad and I said Duke Power will be here a long time where there's electric work. And I said you might have to leave and go a long way and you don't want to leave home. I said take Duke Power. So he took Duke Power and they love him to death.

DS: Uh-huh, hard work.

BB: And Knox is one that told them about Zeb. They seen Knox somewhere and they said you got some more brothers we'll give them all a job if they're good as Zeb.

DS: So what does he do for them? Does he do a bulldozer, no?

BB: No, he's still at Duke Power.

DS: But I mean what does he do for Duke Power?

BB: Well, he's a lineman. Now he knows.

DS: I bet he does by now.

BB: And Ben after he got out of the Army why he took electricity and he's an electrician and he works for Henderson County Schools. He's a maintenance man.

DS: Uh-huh, keeps all their electrical stuff going.

BB: And he's got hands under him. If he wants to get off why he just tells them what to do and he'll leave. Now he's got a good job. All my younguns but my daughter has got real good jobs.

DS: That's good.

BB: And she cleans houses.

DS: Uh-huh, so she stays busy.

BB: Yeah. She said, Mama, I wish I could quit. I said, yeah, Mae, I've been so tired I wish I would never see another garden. But I said again spring of the year comes I'm ready to go.

DS: Ready to go. Tired of the four walls.

BB: Yeah, I get tired of them four walls. I got out the other day. My maples are dying out here, dead limbs falling off. It wasn't too awfully cold. I got out there and picked them up and took 'em up there to the woodpile, went and got my ax and cut 'em up.

DS: Do you have a favorite place, places in the valley, or is it your garden, that's your favorite place, well, and your flower bed?

BB: My flowers and my garden and I've tried to get Sandy interested in flowers. But she don't like to work in flowers too much. Now Zeb does.

DS: Zeb does, uh-huh.

BB: I tried to get Brent's wife to put out flowers. She said I ain't going to get out there and pull grass and mess with flowers. I've even had people to stop on the side of the road and look at my flowers.

DS: Well, I have to come back up here when things come out.

BB: They say, you've got the prettiest place that ever was. I grow dahlias that's about this big. Well, I had some this summer that was bigger than a dinner plate.

DS: Oh, really? Well, yep, I'll have to come back, drive by, and stop and tell you how they look.

BB: Well, I guess I'll be outside.

DS: Yeah, that's right.

BB: They'll stop and look at my flowers and they say them is the prettiest things. There used to be a camp over here.

DS: Uh-huh, what was the name of it?

BB: Flintlock.

DS: Flintlock, right.

BB: Well, the man that's running the camp, he stopped one day. He said, I can't hardly pass here. I said, why. He said, there's so many flowers you can't look at one without looking at another. So I said, if you want to stop, go down in there and work between it. I got poppies up now that thick. So I got pansies blooming. Most of the time there's a flower blooming somewhere out there.

DS: All year.

BB: And you see what I've got in the house.

DS: Yeah, I do. I saw crocuses the other day and daffodils up in Asheville.

BB: Yeah, and they're blooming here too. I used to have 'em out there but the road took 'em whenever they built the road. Sandy said, Granny won't spend for everything but if she sees a flower and she wants it she don't care, she'll get it. Things has changed in the last sixty year. I said if some of these old folks that's been dead a long time if they was to come back they'd be lost.

DS: They would be.

BB: They couldn't even realize.

DS: I mean even something like the road being paved all the way up in here or the four lane.

BB: And the cars, used to go to town and probably pass one or two. Now you can't hardly get on the road sometimes.

DS: Right, that's true.

BB: So I go get my groceries. I didn't get my drivers license till I was, I was about forty-six, forty-seven year old.

DS: Uh-huh, so you were walking before that? Were there ever any stores up this way from Tuxedo? They were all always down there, right? That's all I've ever heard anybody talk about.

BB: No, there's never been a store and they talked about taking from 25 up for a watershed. They said this was the purest water that they could find.

DS: Yeah, that's probably true.

BB: And they was going to buy everybody out and I said I oh no, don't make us swim out of here. But it finally passed.

DS: Well, I hope it stays, hope they keep the watershed out.

BB: They's too many bought these mountains that don't want the watershed in here. Back up here a man that's got two hundred acres and it's up for sale and he stopped and talked to me one day. He said, Bea, he said I like it up here but he said I'm getting older and he lives in Flat Rock now. I said well, I'm getting older too but I'm going to stay. He's got two hundred acres. He's got it up for sale. He had it up for sale a year or two ago and they said he was wanting two million for it. I said, he ain't wanting to sell. (Laughter)

DS: That's why he put it that high, huh?

BB: I said, if he wanted to sell it he'd cut the price. I said I know better. He wants to live up here. He said he don't, he don't want to live here. I think my fire's gone down. You cold?

DS: No, I'm fine. Did Buford make this stove?

BB: No.

DS: Did y'all buy it like that or was it here?

BB: No, a man give it to Zeb and then he put water heat in his house. My stove what I had in here was about burnt up. He said, Mama, you want my stove. I said, yeah, I'll take it. He brought it over here and stuck it in. We'll have a big fire in a little bit.

DS: Yeah.

BB: They'll come in and they'll say, shew, you got it hot in here. I say that's the way I like it.

DS: Well, I appreciate you talking to me.

BB: Well, I told you whenever you come, Buford used to say I had a long tongue and had it fastened in the middle and loose on both ends.

DS: (Laughter) Well, no you told me all kinds of good stuff.

BB: I said, listen, I said, the good Lord give me a tongue, I know how to use it, and that's what I'm gonna do. He said you've never seen a stranger. He said you beat all I ever seen. He said you don't have to know 'em to talk to 'em.

DS: My wife is like that, same thing.

BB: I said I'm glad I am. Anybody that comes I can talk to 'em. And they'll say I've enjoyed listening to you talk. Now I don't have nobody to talk to so anybody comes around.

DS: Well, I should get my wife to come talk to you about those remedies, those cures, if you're willing to talk. She would enjoy it.

BB: I'll talk to anybody.

DS: Alright.

BB: I said now, I don't keep house. I said my house keeps me.

DS: I like that. I like that. I'll remember that. I don't keep house, my house keeps me. That's good.

BB: I said, that's the only way I can live. I said, I don't keep house, my house keeps me. I ain't got a fancy house where I can put certain things certain places, and I said now I do the best I can do with what I've got. I'm satisfied with it. Anybody that don't like the looks of my house they don't have to come.

DS: Exactly. Well, and you're surrounded by the pictures of the people that you love.

