

Nicole Musgrave: So, we are recording now, and this is Nicole Musgrave, and I am here with Nancy Adams Pigment, and it is February 2nd, 2023. We are here at the Old Carr Creek High School, and this is for the Carr Creek Oral History Project. So, I guess just to get started will you say your name and introduce yourself?

Nancy Pigman: Okay. Hi, I'm Nancy Pigman. I was born and raised in Knott County, and so I guess I'm here to stay.

NM: Nice. Can you tell me a little bit about your people and where you are from?

NP: Okay. I was born and grew up on Litt Carr. My dad was Seid Adams. My mom was Vinny Amburgey. I am related to just about everybody around here, I feel like. My dad was a bus driver; he was a mail carrier; He was state representative. My mom was mostly a stay-at-home mom. She worked in a daycare. She didn't get her driver's license till she was sixty years old, but she got them then. I have two brothers Rudean Adams and Stan Adams. Stan lives in Nicholasville, Kentucky, and Rudean lives in Winchester, Kentucky. They each have three children. I have three children, so that kind of wraps it up [laughs].

NM: So, three and three and three.

NP: Yes. I have two sons and a daughter. My daughter is a counselor at Knott County Central High School. My two sons, one lives near Cleveland, and my other son lives on Beaver. Jordan is the youngest. He's the one that lives on Beaver. He works at diversified Gas. My son in Cleveland works for a huge company, and the name of it has slipped my mind, but he travels a lot with it. He's in safety as Jordan. Both of the boys are in safety, and all three of them are just doing really well, and I'm really proud of them. My husband died five years ago. He was a mechanic turned boss on surface mine jobs. He worked several different areas, and worked long hours and loved his job, and cancer took him. That's kind of just a lot of people's stories nowadays. Anyway, I live on Pine Top now, just about three miles from where I grew up, so I'm still home. That's kind of about me.

NM: Yes. What was your husband's name?

NP: Roger Pigman. We have kind of a family farm on Pine Top, and so a lot of the relatives live there. Of course, as some of them passed away, and then the younger ones mostly moved off. My daughter still lives up there. She has a house on the farm, and then Roger's cousin, Larry and Ola Pigment, they live there on the farm, and it's just the prettiest place on Pine Top, we think. Of course, this flood has kind of made it look a lot different. My bridge was taken out by the flood, so I call my little place the island because I have a side-by-side, and I have to park my car over at the road, and then I take my side-by-side over [laughs] to my house, [laughs]. So it's just an adventure [laughs]

NM: An adventure every day. Yes. [laughs] Well, I want to hear a little bit more about growing up at Litt Carr. So, can you tell me a little bit about some memories of the community?

NP: Okay. The little community where I lived, everybody knew everybody. We had a little store across the road from us. It was Hammond's owned by Lassie and Mabel Hammond's. Then we also had another little store down the road that belonged to Emmy Adams. On down, a little ways was a couple of more little stores, but that was a little community there called Smacky Town was the name of that. I had two or three good friends that lived there. Growing up there was, as I look back, so ideal, it was just I was just so blessed. My two brothers are quite a bit older than me, eleven and thirteen years older than me. So, I was kind of like an only child, so to speak, and I was spoiled with what we had. We didn't have a lot, but, we didn't know it. I played with my friends; we just rode bicycles. We got in the creek. We went in the hills, and we would make just playhouses out of moss from the hills. We swung on grapevines until we were caught, and they were cut down [laughs]. I guess I was probably ten, eleven maybe twelve years old. We found, me and my friends found this old car top, so we took it to the creek and of course, turned it over, and that was our boat. We rented the boat out for parties [laughs], and we fished. I wish kids today had what we had back then because it was— looking back, it was really good. My neighborhood everybody loved one another. We helped each other out. I didn't know it then, but I know it now. It was just a great place to live and the dam come along and, just kind of uprooted all of us. We were some of the last ones to, I guess, be bought out because we were at the— I'm not sure if that would be the tail waters of the dam or the headwaters. I'm not sure which is which, but my house was moved not because of the water, but just because that, I guess they bought so much land in case the dam overflowed or whatever. I'm not sure what that's called exactly. Actually my house was just moved probably four or 500 feet, maybe more than up on a bank from where we lived because we lived down in the lowlands next to the creek. So when we moved the house up there, it was 1970 when we moved in, or when, I guess when we moved in there. We did a lot of remodeling and my house, the house is still there today. It belonged to my family up until about two or three years ago, and we sold it, when my mom and dad passed away sometime ago. The dam when it just tore up our community and, I wonder for what. I'm not very up and I don't even want to know. I just know hazard still floods. I know. I just wonder if tearing all these people's lives up was worth, because, once you moved, I mean we had a lot, especially the elder people, once they moved, it's just like they give up. They just give up. Their home was taken from them, and we had no choice. We were coming in, they come in and told us— they come in and said, "This is what we're going to give you for your house." You have no choice about it. I'm sure it wasn't in those words, but that's what it was. You had no say in it. You were told what to do. That's the way I feel about it. Like I said, I was young. I didn't pay much attention to it at that time. But I went to the grade school, Carr Creek grade school at Cote of course, that had to be moved, and that building was just eight years old at the time. I started there in first grade, and I graduated eighth grade; well, seventh grade was as far as went at Carr Creek, so I went eighth grade up here at Carr Creek High School. But that building— it's just sometimes I guess makes you mad to think about it. In riding, I rode the bus. My dad, like I said, my dad drove the bus at that time. So, I rode the bus to school and all, and then when I came to Carr Creek, I can remember then they were doing construction on the roads, from Carr Creek High School to my house. I can just remember seeing all those homes where you knew where everybody lived, just being torn down or moved. And it just become a big old brown place where these big machines were digging up dirt, moving dirt, and putting down this and that. It was a hard time, but I guess that goes along with progress.

NM: Yes. Well, I am curious let you and I would love it if you could maybe paint me a little bit of a visual picture of what Litt Carr was like. I am curious, about how many families or homes were in that community, and was everyone along the creek or was it a holler? Can you sort of visually paint me a picture?

NP: Where I lived, it was on the main road. It was on Route 160. I have no idea as far as the number, but I had several friends just a little bit up the road. There was mostly just small homes. Like I said, we had a couple of stores, small stores. I know the Hammond store; they had furniture, a little bit of furniture too. There is a hollow just across from my house that I had friends live there, and the name of that Hollow is Dead Man. Dead Man Hollow. Once the dam come, it kind of becomes split in two. The Small Hollow went up by the store, and then Dead Man Branch was, you had to go down the road a little bit and go up the hill to it. There was the two stores, there was the Big Y we called it, and we have a Big Y store there now, but that's not what the Big Y was. The Big Y was the intersection that went up. Pine Top 582 and 160 Litt Carr. It was a service station there. My memory, it was owned by Willard Blair from Heineman. There was also a little dairy bar Clarence Francis had the little dairy bar there. For instance when at Halloween, we walked everywhere we went. People would think now that you're just on the road, what are you doing on the road? It's dangerous, which it is now compared to then. One Halloween we were walking up by, we had trick or treat down to Smacky Town, which was, oh my goodness, it wasn't quarter of a mile, maybe. We had trick or treated down that way, and coming back up right across from that dairy bar, we got bombarded by corn, because there was a cornfield across the road from the dairy bar. So, these older teenagers, older people were in the cornfield, and they just bombarded us with corn, that was the big thing. Then we walked on, we walked probably two miles up the road, trick or treating. You didn't have any worries. There was no worries about anybody getting hurt anything like that. Some of the neighbors up the road was a couple of older, excuse me, older guys up there, and they were Williams, and they were just these really smart guys that were inventors. They come up with everything. They built an airplane with trees. Of course, it didn't fly, but it was so unbelievable. They had a little cave back in from where they lived. We just had a real adventuresome neighborhood, I guess. The creek was not very big, so in the wintertime, then it froze over, completely. We were able to get on the creek and, get on the ice. I mean we just had a really good, good place. Our whole neighborhood that I'm talking about probably was within I'd say a mile, maybe a mile, that was my main area that I lived in, and went to and had friends, but it was a nice little place.

NM: What was the name of the creek that ran through?

NP: Well, I'm not even sure that it had a name. It was Lake Carr, you know, it was a very small creek. But we would find places big enough to swim in it. Yes, we had swimming pools then too of our own making. We had the grapevines, we had the hills, just a kid's dream. That neighborhood, I guess we just all felt really safe and never even thought about that. Never even thought about it. There was no money, no rich people, so to speak, in the neighborhood. We just had it made and didn't know it.

NM: You mentioned fishing. What sort of fish would you all catch? Do you remember?

NP: We would catch shiners. I never would bait my hook. Of course, we had cane poles, we did, I think Bobbers and Hooks is about all that was bought because we had everything else ourselves. I just never could put a worm on a hook. So my friend Bobby Sue that I went fishing with a lot. She always baited my hook. She always took the fish off too. I mostly remembered little Shiners is what they were called. I don't even know if they are Shiners now. It wasn't big fish, was just little things. That as far as naming the fish, that's probably about the only one I remember. We just fished out of the creeks, there would be a good fishing spot up and down the creek somewhere in, and we usually knew where it was at, so sometimes we caught and sometimes we didn't.

NM: Were they eating fish or just throw them back?

NP: We just threw them back mostly ourselves. I don't remember ever eating what we call— probably never did catch enough to fool with, eating. If we caught two or three fish each, we were excited. So, no, I don't think we ever had enough to do that with.

NM: Right. Well you mentioned Smacky Town and that being another area that you spent a lot of time in. So, can you tell me a little bit about that? Like in comparison to Litt Carr, was it bigger, smaller?

NP: It was just a little more congested, I guess, that the houses were closer. There was probably three Houses and Virgil Amburgey had a store there on one side of the road, on the other side of the road, there were two houses, a store and another house. And that store belonged to (Wash Vance?) With most houses, you could look out of one window and see into the next, they were actually close. Close, like houses are today in cities and stuff. Both stores had their people that come in and their guys that come in and sit and talked. There was a coal, a Potbelly stove, I remember in Washer's store. I really don't remember about Virgil's, but I remember they would go and play cards a lot, at Virgil's store. I guess one of the guys, maybe two of the guys in there, that lived in the neighborhood were coal truck drivers. Eldrid Vance and Hilton Mullins, I think were, and Eldrid was the son of Wash Vance, who had the one store. He eventually took over the store and then moved when everything had to be moved. He moved it up on Pine Top, what up, what we call ahead of Carr. So I guess Virgil's store was also moved, and his was moved up further up on Litt Carr, probably about three miles, maybe up Litt Carr more toward Hindman. The community was that's pretty much what it consisted of. Just before you got to the Smacky town, there was a little Bible church. It was across from where the Big Wife service station was. It was called Community Bible Church Dennis Klein, Dennis and Leo Klein, Annie Rathburn, Gladys Hall Dick Bowers came in later, and Dick and Leah. That's where I went to Sunday school at, and a lot of the kids in the neighborhood, they ran a van, picked up the kids. It was just a really small, but they just put their whole heart into it, and taught a lot of us, and gave us the foundation for our faith and stuff. That church was eventually moved around on Burgess Creek. I'm not sure about that road number. But it's now Litt Carr, Bible Church which I belong to. So I actually started out at Community Bible Church. I was probably six years old, I'm guessing; when I kind of started going regular. I remember if you went six Sundays in a row, you got a bible, a red Bible. So that was very, that was very exciting. It was really a good little community. Like I said, it was probably within that community was probably within maybe not a mile. Like I said, I'm not real good with measuring distances, half mile to a mile. Where my

house set was kind of kind of off to itself, and several of the houses, the next door neighbors they were not off to their self, exactly. It's like, my house was just kind of the one that was kind of setback self, and then the rest of the neighborhood was kind of closer. The houses were a little closer together. Up the road from me was our neighbor was Kermit and Francis Stamper, and then there was several houses up through there, and most of those were older folks, but we knew them all. We at that time had a party line on our telephone, and there was four people on a party line, and so you kept up with everything in the neighborhood. I had an aunt that lived with us part-time. Well, she kept us up on everything, [laughs] everything in the neighborhood. There was two, two of the women in particular that were very gossipy. I don't want to say that, but that's what it is, I guess. But, so she listened in on them all the time, [laughs], and so we knew everything that went on. I can barely remember getting a telephone. I faintly remember getting the telephone, but I remember my phone number from that time. I don't know if I remember getting the TV. I guess the TV was just always there, but we had to run a line. You had to run a line back to the top of the mountain where the antenna was, and then if wind blew or a branch fell on it, then somebody had to go fix the line. It was in and out. We had three channels on the TV. I can remember my brother, my brother next to me, he was probably, well, he was eleven years older than me. I can remember him. He was probably in high school when we come in from school, he'd want to watch *The Three Stooges*, and I wanted to watch *Popeye* [laughs]. So, it was just like a time in another world, I guess.

NM: What denomination was the church?

NP: It wasn't a denominational church. It was just a Bible church, and that's even what Little Carr is now. It's a Bible church. They're affiliated with Camp Nathaniel over at Linas. So that's I guess how most of the missionaries, which Leo and Dennis Klein, I think were probably local people, but Annie Rathburn and Gladys Hall, and even Dick and Leah Bowers were missionaries that came in and settled. They lived the rest of their lives. I know when Annie Rathburn, I guess when she retired, she went back to Michigan. She was from Michigan. I'm not sure about Gladys, but Dick and Leah, they lived up Red Oak Sassafras Holler or Red Oak at Sassafras all these years. Of course they they've both passed away now, but really, really good people. The little church was gosh, I don't know. It wasn't very big at all, but we got everything we needed there.

NM: As you recall, there were not any very like wealthy people that lived in the community. So, was it more of like a middle-class community? Working class?

NP: Yes. It was pretty much a working class. I was just thinking. I guess our community really was at that time, to me what I would call older people. Like the stampers next door Francis Stamper, she was a teacher. She taught at Carr Creek Elementary. Let's see, now, this is in my memory at the time, her neighbor was Maddie Francis. I'm not even sure what Maddie did do beside that was Grady King, which one of her girls was one of my good friends. She had about five children there. Her sister Grady's sister, Esky lived beside of her. Most of the people there were either truck drive, coal truck drivers or miners up in Dead Man, Hollow. I know there was several of the people that lived up in there. Several of the men were miners, coal miners even deep, deep mine miners underground. Yes, it was definitely a working, working class people.

NM: How would you describe the racial and ethnic mix of people in the community?

NP: Well, we had the black, most of them lived on Red Fox, but at Carr Creek Elementary before the dam came the blacks came in. I'm not real clear. I'm not real sure about how that came to be. They came in and to my knowledge, there was no problem whatsoever. You know like I said, I was young. I had friends then that I had all through high school. In fact, we had a PE teacher his name was Goodlow Adams. He was a black guy. He was very jovial, and just a good guy. I don't remember who it was, but I remember that they had me convinced, his last name was Adams, and mine was too, so, I thought he was a relative, which he could have been, but it was so different. I don't know. I don't think we seen the color of the skin as much because we did kind of intermingle. My mom and dad lived on Red Fox before I was born. I don't think from my point of view, there was none. Somebody else may give you a different point of view, but in my memory and stuff, there was no racial conflict whatsoever.

NM: As you remember, most of the black families at that time lived on Red Fox like, there were not necessarily many living in Litt Carr or Smacky Town?

NP: Right. They were, it's like most of them did live on Red Fox. That was the black community. Now, there was whites that lived there as well, but that was where, I don't know of any blacks at that time that lived on Litt Carr, but all our communities were pretty close anyway. I don't remember. I don't remember any. So I'd say they mostly were at red Fox.

NM: You mentioned memories about neighbors inventing things and shared some of your own about making a boat and these things. I am curious too, in terms of the different kinds of creative things that people were into. Do you remember anyone, like anybody making music growing up or different crafts? Like what sort of creative traditions and things were people involved?

NP: Well, of course, quilting, was a big thing that most of the women, the sewing and quilting raising gardens, there was there was up the road, just a little bit. There was a guy, he was an older guy. His name was Old Man Joel is what we called him, and he had oxen. He had two oxen. The oxen had a name, but I can't think of them right now. I know our neighbors plowed their gardens, with their mules. It was kind of, more of a sewing garden that type of thing that went on as I got older, much older. We had a lady that put in like a little ceramic shop. That was even after the dam had come, I guess, in that area. The inventions, as far as, like I had mentioned earlier, were just things that the kids kind of dreamed of. Like I said, those guys they could just come up with anything. I think we were pretty, I guess, inventive in our own way, and I made a boat out of a car top, and we made our own fishing poles. We had our own little houses back in the mountains when we would go back there, we had our little playhouse built. It was a creative community.

NM: Do you remember the name of the ceramic shop or the person that opened it?

NP: Lura Francis. She lived— and like I said, I was grown, and it was after the dam had come in because I had even gone and made some things for my nieces and nephews. I've still got a few little things, that I made today, but she was a school teacher. Lura was a school teacher at Carr

Creek, but she had the little ceramic shop kind of evenings and on the side, I guess. I was just trying to think. There was another little store. We had a lot of little stores on Litt Carr. We really did. We had a little store kind of, it was a little further up, but it was Van Anderson. Now this store was a little one room, it was a little bitty store, but he had the basics, what most of the neighborhood needed. So we just had all kinds of places to go, and our parents did, or our dads did, to go and sit and talk, and find out all the news of the day [laughs].

NM: I am curious too, if you have a specific memory of when you heard about the project to build the dam. What are your early memories of learning about all that?

NP: I don't really remember exactly hearing how I heard it. I know my grandfather, something that I meant to mention and forgot, my grandfather lived just up 582, just off 160 there probably half a mile or something. He of course they had to move; that area had to move too, and he was quite old then. So, we took at the time that, I guess the house had to be torn down or moved. He was in his nineties, and I think he was in, maybe in the nursing home in Prestonsburg. That was the closest nursing home that we had then, and we I can remember kind of moving stuff out of his house and stuff. A guy bought the lumber from his house and went on a Pine Top and kind of built a house from the lumber on that house. I can remember my mom and her sister getting so angry because, they had rose bushes and different flowers and stuff there, and they would come, somebody come along and dug up the rose bushes, and before the family could do anything with it. I'm sure there was things like that that went on that, like I said, I didn't think that much about it. I just heard them talking about it, but it was just— as I'm sure you've been told many times before, it just totally destroyed the community. Some people come out of it pretty good and some people didn't.

NM: About how old were you when it was going on?

NP: As I said, when we moved our house, I was sixteen. I'm not even sure what year that they did start the actual buying out and all that. I was in my early teens I guess when it was going on, I can remember being scared about it because you didn't know, and you lost— there, people had to leave. Our side of the county, I call it the, around the lake area it's not populated very much at all because of the dam. We had all kinds of people, all kinds of families, and they were families. Families had to be split up. Families were split up because of having nowhere to go. So, they had to leave for work too.

NM: Do you remember what you thought about when you heard that your house would have to be moved?

NP: I don't remember a lot. I don't remember hearing or how I felt, but I just know it was a very scary time. Truthfully, I don't remember. I know that we didn't live there, but I honestly don't remember where we did stay. You would think I would remember it then. I had an aunt that lived in Hindman. I guess that's probably where we stayed. But as a teenager you're pretty fully yourself then you're pretty involved in that. So, I guess we probably lived in our house right up until it was moved. I remember seeing it moved and seeing it took up the hill because actually they just made a little road up the hill from where, on a little bank from where we did live. I don't even see the need in it being moved, but then again, they did build the road up. They did

change the area. The place where our house was is still there. I guess it's just a little higher than it used to be, because they did change the road and changed the creek a little bit.

NM: What do you remember about watching them move it?

NP: Well, I can remember thinking that's really amazing that they can do a house course. We've seen that a lot because a lot of that was done at that time, and like I said, we were probably on the tail end of that being done. We were probably some of the last ones that had to move. But yes that was unbelievable. It wasn't really that unusual to see a house go up the road on the back of a semi or be driving down the road or somewhere and get in back of a house being moved. Lots of houses were moved and lot were tore down, but that was something, and of course I just thought that being a teenager, they had some really good-looking guys too that worked there [laughs]

NM: So, that is what your attention was on? [laughs]

NP: Yes. [laughs] It's a tell them what could have happened, [laughs].

NM: Yes, fair enough [laughs]. Did, you all have to like, move stuff out of your house before they moved it?

NP: Some. I can remember I guess maybe taping down maybe like some of the cabinet doors. Like I said, once we got it up there it was remodeled quite a bit to – there was a room or so added on, and it was kind of facing a different way, direction than it was from where it came. Excuse me. It was kind of turned around. So yes, it was it was something to see all that and to see how we had a full basement built, had a full basement up there, so the house was kind of I guess moved in over the – so, yes, that was very, very interesting. I'm even thinking of things that I really hadn't thought of much before about like that, but we settled in and just went on with it.

NM: What was it like for you and your family living there after all of your neighbors had moved out?

NP: Well, I know it was kind of probably harder on my mom and dad because like I said, I was in that time of my life, but the neighbors up the road they pretty much stayed intact. We were probably the very last house that had to be moved. Maybe the stamper house had to be moved back. It was just probably had to be moved back a few hundred feet. Whole house torn down to be, just moved back a few hundred feet, but that was for the road. But then they put in the store, over where Hammond's store used to be. That become like a focal point of the neighborhood, and I said, as mom and dad both got older, they sit on the porch and would watch the happenings going on, coming and going at the Big Y. It changed it. As far as Smacky, Smacky was completely gone, it's not under water. The land itself is all changed and all, but it's not water. Let's see, the water actually ends, I guess around the Litt Carr campground now is where the lake actually, what I would say ends the main water. There was miles and miles and miles of row of people that had to move just because I want to say, and I may be wrong in that, I want to say it was either called the tail waters or the back waters. From my memory of it, it was just like I said, in case the dam broke or overflowed or whatever, and the water had a place to go to where



it would not disturb anybody. That was my understanding of it then. We had to move just like we're underwater too [laughs].

NM: Do you remember what like talk was among like your family or neighbors or even friends, like what the sentiment was around all of this? While it was going on, or even after, how did people generally sort of feel about it all?

NP: Nobody was happy. Everybody was very aggravated and torn and, the thing being that coming back to the government, just being able to do that and to say, your place is worth this. This is what we'll give you; you just had no choice. There was a lot of anger several— I think I know a couple of the neighbors probably got lawyers with it. I don't know what come out of that. There was a lot of hurt feelings and, even to this day, I don't think they've made the use of the dam being built that that could have been done. It's just like they built the dam just to keep hazard from flooding, which it still does, but then they've just kind of dropped it. I mean, because the dam could have so much more benefit for this area. I feel like, you go to some of the other places and there is more recreation just more things to do. In my opinion, Carr Creek Lake just doesn't— They don't have what they should have. They've got a campground, but I mean, look, there's all kinds of places to be hiking trails just things like that, that's not here. I mean, it's just water and yes, you can go out and fish and ride boats, and camp, and if you like to do that, that's wonderful, and I'm glad that we've got that. But it could be so much more, and I feel like that it should be, I feel like when you destroy people by moving and upsetting their lives, I feel like they need to make it worth their while. They need to. I mean people come back to visit. There's no place to stay, no place to stay in Knott County. Like I said I know that's not in itself the Corps of Engineers or the dams responsibility, but I feel like they've just kind of put a damper on just everybody's lives around here just kind of took the life out of them. Here we are, how many years later and fifty years later or so. It's nice, it's a nice area, but it could be so much more for what they destroyed. That's the way I feel. I don't feel any love toward them [laughs].

NM: That is understandable with everything that you all had to sacrifice. One thing that other people have talked about and I do not know if you have recollections of this or know what people's feelings were on it. I know a lot of people have brought up the fact that they had to move cemeteries and graves. What do you remember about that?

NP: Yes. es, my family cemetery had to be moved. My grandfather that lived just up 582 we had a family cemetery back on the hill, across the creek from his house, and of course, all those had to be moved Carr Fork Cemetery. He didn't die until the cemetery was fixed up there. But I can remember my mom, because my family is up at the upper end of the cemetery, kind of on the bank. My mom constantly wrote the Corps of Engineers because where Air Cemetery, where air plots were, there was real bad water drainage, and water stayed kind of pulled at the bottom. It was a slope up the hill, but water just kind of— and even to this day, it's not as bad as it was, but it's still wet if there's any little bit of rain. She wrote letter after letter to the Corps of Engineers in Louisville, complaining about, and they were just told that there was nothing they could do about it. I don't remember. I wish I'd kept the letters. I wish I'd kept the letters that she wrote and stuff. Yes, there was a lot of hard feelings. If I remember correct, I think you could be there when you're— if you chose to be when your cemetery was moved. I don't know. I don't

remember. That was one of the hurtful, very hurtful, horrible aspects, of the dam that had to be done.

NM: Yes. You said earlier that it seemed like some people made out pretty good with all of this, and others very much did not. What do you mean by some people made out good?

NP: I guess they accepted it. They ended up in a good place, and were satisfied, and happy with where they were. Then there was a lot of people that just never got over, and I guess that was more so elderly. Like I said, they just never really got over, got settled in and got over losing their home that they lived in, that their families had lived in, their whole generations of their families had lived there. You talk to some people, and they're still mad over that. And like I said, what for [laughs], what for? Why did they do it here? They thought it was a good area. Who decided? Somebody that certainly didn't live around here, somebody that had no connection whatsoever. That's the way it is. That's the way I guess it has to be, and the way our world's becoming today, it sure isn't getting no better.

NM: Do you know why they chose this area to inundate?

NP: No, I don't know for certain. I'm thinking that it was because it was just, I guess the— I know seems like I had heard that they had talked about maybe another area, I don't even know which one it was, but ended up with this one. I guess because, the rivers and the creeks and streams and stuff fit into the river going through hazard or whatever, and that it was just a little valley. Of course, there's a lot of little valleys, but as far as knowing exactly why? I don't.

NM: Just wrapping up with a few last questions, I guess I am curious, I do not know if you would have a lot of insight on this or not, but I am just curious if there were ways that people maintained their neighborly connections after people were forced to move. Were there ways that people were able to stay connected with one another?

NP: Some communities I think kind of moved to the same area. I'm thinking about some of the Smith Borough community that moved, like with Corbett and Debbie Mullins, and Etta Joe, and a lot of that area up there come from— a lot of Burgess Creek where they live came from the lake Carr or the Carr Creek, not lake Carr, but Car Creek Smith Burro area. A lot of those settled up in Burgess Creek up the main road of Burgess Creek and then up Wolf Pen. A lot of those houses have been moved from that area, but the houses that were sold, and were moved, they just kind of spread all over the area. Like I said, they're pretty old houses because It's been a while [laughs]

NM: I am curious, so from here at the old high school, how would I get to where your old home is? Like, if I wanted to kind of see that area?

NP: Well, it's just straight up the road here. It's on 160 going toward Hindman.

NM: Taking a right?

NP: Yes. Like I said, I'm not good with distance, but I'll say just a couple miles, maybe three, I don't know if it would be three miles or not. Once you pass the campground and where the elementary school is, then you just keep driving probably about a mile, and on the right side is the Big Y market. There's a brick house that used to be a store, but it's just a dwelling now, and then the Big Y market, the store and my parents' house is across the creek, kind of on the bank. The people that we sold it to have worked on it and fixed it and done a lot of inside work to it too. I said I'm so grateful that they got it because they've took such good care of it. That was my home. We didn't sell it for many, many, many years, after my mom died, she died in 2008. We just hated. We didn't want to let it go, but the people that did buy it, they have just done wonderful with it. It just does my heart good to go by and see. I have my home, my brothers have theirs, so, we just let it go, and we've let it go to a good one, but that's where it is. It's still right there. Looks pretty as ever [laughs].

NM: Well, I will have to look out for it. When I leave, I will go that way. I guess I am curious too, who else would you recommend that I talk with about their experiences around all this?

NP: Like I was telling you Betty Amburgey, now, she was from Schmidt Burro Irishman she lived probably in the same roundabout area as Corbett and Debbie. I'm sure you've probably talked to Karen Cody.

NM: Yes. I was going to talk with her today, but she had to reschedule.

NP: She's really good. She can tell you a lot, and she's younger than me, but she had all these aunts that kept her, I guess up on it. She's a newspaper lady, so, she's supposed to know all that stuff, [laughs]. Just trying to think. I know there's all kinds of people. I have another friend, Brenda Adams, she lives in Letcher now. She lives up Cowan, I think now, but her parents rented a home at the bottom of the hill here of Carr Creek Hill, and of course, had to move. I'm sure there's dozens of people, but I can't think of anybody right off.

NM: Well, you have got my number and we are on Facebook. If you think of other folks.

NP: Betty would probably be a good one. She's always had a pretty good memory.

NM: Great. What I am going to do is, I want to just get a little bit of the sound of the room. So, we will just kind of sit here in silence for about thirty seconds. After that, I just want to know if there is just anything else that is still on your mind, anything I did not ask you about that you think would be important for folks to know, either about, the communities that were here, what the experience was like with the [inaudible] anything at all, anything that is still on your mind. I will go ahead, and count off here for about 30 seconds. All right. Well, is there anything else that you think folks should know, or anything you wish I would have asked you about?

NP: I'm sure there is, and I'll think of it probably in two or three hours, but right now I can't think of a thing, but if I do, I'll get in touch with you.

NM: Okay, great. Well, I will go ahead and sign us off here. So again, this is Nicole Musgrave speaking with Nancy Pigman on February 2nd, 2023. We are at the Old Carr Creek High School in Knott County, Kentucky, and this was for the Car Creek Oral History Project.

[End of Transcript]