

Stonewall Jackson Dam Removal
Francine Snyder Oral History
Date of Interview: March 16, 1985
Location: Lewis County, West Virginia
Length of Interview: 02:12:00
Interviewer: MK – Michael Kline
Transcriber: NCC

Michael Kline: This is Lewis County. It's March 17th. Doug Yarrow, Hugh Rogers, and I are on a little runabout with Francine Snyder and her little daughter, Lee. We've just stopped at the home of Barbara Heavner to get some photographs.

Francine Snyder: Yes, assistant prosecuting attorney, [inaudible], said, "Mr. West, isn't it true that Mr. Snyder saw the Corps vehicle go by, and then he picked up a rock and threw it at the Corps?" Aubrey said, "I didn't see him." He said, "Then the car went on down the road and stopped. The men got out, and didn't Mr. Snyder make an obscene gesture with the third finger of his right hand? He said, 'Come on back, boys. Do you want to fight? Come on back.'" Aubrey looked at him for a minute. He looked at his hand, and he said, "Well, he did kind of motion them to come on back." Everything [inaudible] did, I mean, Aubrey just toned it down. He tried to get Aubrey to draw a picture of his place in relation to where all this happened, and Aubrey wouldn't do it. He said, "Now, Mr. West, I want you to draw a map." Aubrey says, "I won't do it." Finally, after about five minutes, he looked at him. He said, "Well, why won't you do it, Mr. West?" Aubrey says, "Because I haven't got my glasses on." He has glasses, and he couldn't see. He couldn't draw any map. It just went on and on and on like that. The jury was just in stitches over Aubrey. You know how he talks.

MK: Was the charge assault?

FS: It was destruction of property, I guess. Wouldn't it have been?

MK: I don't know. Did he hit the car with it?

FS: Hell, yes. He hit the car with the pickup. But they went by and – but these fellows in the Corps, I mean, they're so stupid. The Corps is so stupid. Their witnesses had their testimony down so Pat, it just sounded like, you know, they made the whole thing up. So, they said they were – I'll show you when we're out here at Aspinall's. They came out of Aspinall's road there and were starting to turn right to come to Aubrey, you know, down past Aubrey's house, and they saw Matt in his truck. One of them said, "Isn't that Matt Snyder?" This is their testimony. The other one said, "Yes, that's him." "Isn't that the fellow that's been causing all the trouble here?" The other one said, "Yes, that's him." [laughter] You know, the way they talked. So, finally, they said they made the turn, and Matt picked – they saw Matt pick up this rock. They heard this huge crash. They thought they'd been shot. They went down the road. They tried to radio for help, but the radio was broken. So, they stopped at the bridge. They got out to look at it. That's when he made the obscene gesture, and he said something like, you know, "Come on, boys. I'm ready for you," or something like that. On the witness stand, then Martin got them – he asked each of them – of course, none could hear the other one's testimony. He asked them if there was a Corps insignia on the side of the Jeep. Because we kept telling Martin all these things to ask them. One said there was. One said there wasn't. All through the testimony, they kept saying that they had been in and out of the side of that Jeep all day. There was no damage done to it before that, right? One said there was a Corps insignia on it. The other one said there wasn't. So, finally, they bring the Jeep up. Martin says, "Well, let's take a look at this, you know." They bring the Jeep up for everybody to go out – the jury to go out and see. The whole side of the Jeep had been scraped from one end to the other. They didn't even know what – it was a parking lot accident, they finally decided. They couldn't even see the dent that this rock of

Matt supposedly had made, right? As soon as the jury saw that, they just started laughing. They just actually started laughing. Really wasn't funny. Could have gotten a year in jail for whatever they tried him for. I mean, the penalty was, you know, a fine and a year in jail. Although the magistrate never would have put him in jail for it. But Corps were – they just made fools out of themselves. Aubrey just – he was just funny. The jury just cracked up over him. But he said he was standing right next to Matt, and he didn't see him throwing a rock. Then you ask Aubrey about it, and he'll tell you, "I didn't see him." Not that he didn't know that he'd done it, but that he didn't actually witness him doing it. One of them said that Matt had nothing in his hand, and the other one said he thought he might have been holding something. He's holding a clipboard the whole time. On the back of clipboard said, "Stop – it's one of those big yellow bumper stickers. They didn't see it.

MK: What did it say?

FS: Said, "Stop Stonewall Jackson Dam," the bumper sticker did. But the Corps did not see that, him holding this clipboard. I mean, that's how great witnesses they were. Missed the maple tree – there's a huge maple tree in Aubrey's yard that had branches hanging down. There was no way in hell they could have seen Matt and Aubrey standing there. No way, for that tree. They said they saw him. They made this whole story up, you know, about, "Isn't that Matt Snyder. Yes. He's the one that's causing all the trouble." It was a great trial. We enjoyed it. I think the jury was out about thirty seconds maybe [laughter].

MK: Are those the two main entanglements he's had with the law?

FS: Yes, that – we arrested them once for trespassing. Matthew and I took their Jeep. I told you about that, didn't I? Matthew and I took their Jeep away from them.

MK: [negative]

FS: I didn't tell you that story?

MK: Tell that story.

FS: Matthew and I were – and Missy – were all home one day and looked out the window, and I saw the Corps go up the road, which is unusual, because they don't have any business past our place. Of course, as soon you see the Corps, it always makes you wonder what they're up to anyway. Darn if I didn't see them turn up the road there, across from our house, that well location road, they turned up that road and went on the hill. Well, that's private property. That's our property. I mean, if anybody else would have done it, that would have been something. But it was almost like it was a deliberate effort, you know, to upset us. So, Matthew been out groundhog hunting, and I hollered for him. We went up on the hill and waited for them to come down. There were No Trespassing signs there. We had all these No Trespassing Corps of Engineers signs we – everybody bought, had them posted. So, when they came down, we just stopped the Jeep. Matthew had a gun, and I had a gun. We told them that they were trespassing. They had to leave their vehicle and walk out. So, there was a fellow from the Corps – two fellows from the Corps, an appraiser, a gas well appraiser, who would come to appraise a gas

well on the place, which wasn't even – the gas well wasn't even on our property, but that was easiest way to get to it. So, Matthew and I made those three fellows walk out of the holler then called the sheriff. Matt was over at Linger's at the time, called him. He said, "Call the police." So, we called the police, and they came over. Finally, we did let them come and get their Jeep and take it out. We had them arrested for trespassing. One of them decided to go ahead through magistrate's court, the appraiser, the gas well appraiser, had a trial through magistrate's court. They acquitted him. They had a hung jury and never retried it. The other two in federal court never did come up for trial. But the fellow that owned the gas wells, they said they had permission to be there. Well, he didn't have a right of way through us, and he knew that. He wasn't about to give them permission to go up there. So, they called the fellow in the gas well and tried to get him to write them a retroactive letter saying that they had permission to be on that road. Of course, the gas well fellow who has to work with the local people, he went about to do that, right, you know? So, anyway, Matthew was acquitted finally. But it was fun. (Monjar?) came up and begged to get his jeep back. Legally, we really didn't have any right to hold it, I guess. But the next time Matt went over to federal court was somebody who was involved in something and wanted Matt over there to witness something what was going on at the Corps. (Mac Lowe?) told me he was going to arrest Matthew and I for illegal weapons charges or something. I told him, go ahead. I'd like to see any jury in West Virginia convict you for having a shotgun on your own property. You know, I didn't point it at them. I said, "If we wanted to be nasty, we would have pointed it at them." I was holding the thing, and it scared them. Can't understand why. But they knew better. I mean, the Corps had to have known. I mean, they knew where we lived. They know who we are. They know how hard we fought them. Yet they still do something that blatant. That's –

MK: Asking for it.

FS: That's asking for it. That's what I think they did. I think they just deliberately did it to provoke us. They weren't going to be intimidated. But they walked out of the holler, all three of them. It's a long ways to a telephone too. I think they ended up going somewhere, finding one of the Weiss Brothers' people, and they radioed for help.

MK: Help [laughter].

FS: A bit of house that's still standing.

MK: This is who's house?

FS: This house was the McRae house where Ruth Post grew up. Down over the hill here is where Matt's family grew up. They were real ornery, all the kids in Matt's dad's family. They would always be down there playing in the river and whatnot. Ruth's dad and mom never let her go down and play in the river. She told me how she'd sit up there, and she'd watch the Snyder kids down there playing. It was just awful. But she used to walk down that hill, across the swinging bridge here, to get to school at Roanoke. Or she'd go on horseback to get to school down here at Roanoke. Then there was no – that was elementary school – there was no high school or junior high school. Matt's family, they took the train from here to Burnsville. The train went along the river there. The train would stop and pick them up and then take them on

down to Burnsville. That's where they went to high school. Your other choice was to board in Weston, and Ruth boarded in Weston and went to high school in Weston. But Matt's – someone told Matt not long ago that Matt's great granddad had a still over there across the river. As the train went by, someone threw out a rock with a note on it that said, "The sheriff's on the train." Of course, the sheriff then had to go down here and get off at the station at Roanoke and then come back up through here and down to the river. Well, by that time, they had the still dismantled on a manure wagon and put all this manure on top of it when the sheriff got there. So, they never did get caught. I can't now remember who it was that told Matt the story, but it was like her grandfather or her father that had thrown the note out that warned the Snyders that the sheriff was coming.

MK: Is that swinging bridge still down there?

FS: Yes. There's a swinging bridge down there that – on that Matt's dad's place that goes across the West Fork River there. There never was a road down through there. Cemeteries are down there. See, there are two big cemeteries down there. One of the first fights we had with the Corps was that they planned to move all the cemeteries. This is the recreation area. They had a miniature golf course or something like that slated for one of those cemeteries. So, that was one of our success stories. The only cemetery that was moved was one that would be absolutely affected by water, and all the rest of the cemeteries stayed. Small but important to most people.

MK: Yes. Mary Aspinall said, "Yes, they'll let the dead people stay – the dead people and the gas well stay. The living people all get kicked out."

FS: Yes, that sounds like Mary.

MK: That's not the Snyder place that we're looking at there.

FS: Yes. That was there.

MK: Now, who's not parts of that kind, do you suppose? Is that vandals, or is that Corps work?

FS: Well, there was a barn standing there. I think his Uncle Tom tore it down or had it torn down. His uncle Tom, Matt's Uncle Tom, had this part of it, and across the river was his dad's farm. The two of them split the farm up, that one. Then his Aunt Alice lived over here in a trailer. Although Tom only was here in the summers. He's a doctor at Clarksburg. We see how it affected – you know, family-wise, you can get a whole group of people in one family affected. But Aunt Alice, Matt's Aunt Alice, ran the Corps out of the graveyard, threatened to go get her gun. Matt told you that story around the Corps and the graveyard. Did I tell you about the lady that lived – you can't see the house right now, but it was there where the – not this closest pine tree, but on down that, that's called Briar Point Road. She was 90 or 92 years old.

MK: [inaudible]

FS: Yes. There were three sisters that were all real old that lived there. They got along so well. I guess they had somebody live in with them, you know. But you can see nothing's yet ever been

done to that property. I mean, she would have been dead now years if they had just let her stay. There wasn't any reason on earth to move her.

MK: What did you say?

FS: [inaudible] You're going to your elementary school. You you've been doing this now since kindergarten. You pass buildings deserted and boarded up, and other buildings all torn down. The rubble, just the rubble remains. There's road construction all around you. You're now totally isolated. Nothing else around you now. Makes for a real stable environment for these kids. These buildings that are here boarded up, this was the historic district of Roanoke.

MK: At what point was it decided that they would never be saved and that all they had to do was catalog them?

FS: Just recent. That was just recent, within the last year that the historic people and the Corps entered into a memorandum of agreement that that would be the case. You see, if this historic resource project had been done in the planning stages of the dam, then something might have been done. They could have changed the plans for the dam, or they might have decided not to go ahead with the project at all. Because so many historic sites would have been disturbed. But it wasn't done until construction was already underway. It wasn't then until they did what they should have done legally back in 1966. So, really, it's to the point now where the historic people felt the best they could do, you know, was simply to catalog these buildings and at least have a written record of them, except for Conrad Park back there. That'll be the only one moved.

MK: The old log house.

FS: [affirmative]

MK: So, these buildings here will all be pushed out of the way?

FS: Basically, they'll be offered for sale to public auction, to any nonprofit group. If nobody buys them, they'll be destroyed.

MK: You mean to tear it down?

FS: Right. If somebody buys them to move, they have to move them or tear them down and resurrect them again. There are a lot of people that still live there, and people still live on the other side of the interstate exchange there. All of them go to – all those kids go to school here at Roanoke. New school's out that road. It's – you can't see. This building's blocking your way. It's right there. Most of these, I don't remember all the details about them now. But it was a combination of their age and the kind of houses they were all grouped together that made the area one that the historic people felt should have been kept intact, as it was. At one time, we had a plot afoot to make the Corps relocate the entire town of Roanoke intact. They'd done that out in Washington for the Bonneville dam project. I mean, they relocated it, you know, phone pole for phone pole, home for home, just like it was. Oh, we didn't get very far with it. Would have been fun anyway. People really didn't want it, you know. If you're going to leave your area,

they didn't want to, you know – back together that one.

MK: So, will the water actually be up here?

FS: Yes. This will be about 8 feet of water.

MK: Right here.

FS: Right here. That's what horses.

MK: It's hard for me to picture that.

FS: Yes, especially when you see the West Fork River. Now, the worst flooding that ever was here in Roanoke is just this road would get flooded some – a couple of times during the year, and it gets flooded pretty good. I mean, now, the water will get up really high. You remember I told you about Freida Fischer? She lived over there. She lost twin boys to a flood one year. They were crossing the swinging bridge here across the river. One boy fell in, and the other one went in after him to try to save him. She lost both sons that day. Really awful. So, it's not like our people don't understand about the water either. You know, it's not like we haven't suffered some from the water either. Now, we're suffering some again. (Doc Whalen?) lived there. I can't remember. There's a nice story about him. I think he was a bit of an alcohol – I shouldn't say this. Because I don't know this for a fact, Michael. You probably shouldn't publish anything like this. I think he was like an alcoholic. He ended up jumping off of that balcony or something, one of them. They were trying to sober him up or something.

MK: Did he have his office there in the house?

FS: Yes.

MK: The river, and that's oil creek, all that big riprap.

FS: Pretty, isn't it?

MK: Yes. I like the green sign that's still up, tell you where the roads used to go. Only it's up to its knees in riprap now.

FS: See, when they started construction, the State Road came in and put all these road signs up where there hadn't been road signs for years. Only trouble was we knew the roads by one name, and they were putting the roads in another name. So, we had to get on them and call them and made new signs, you know. Because they had all the roads called the wrong names. But they did that so the Corps could find their way around, see, as they were going to appraise people. It was a pretty place, all the holly trees.

MK: Holly tree kind of got overpowering.

FS: Did you think about the waste, the monetary waste of these houses? Isn't it phenomenal?

MK: I'm not building houses like this. There's slate roof on that. It survives very much in villages. Korea put in its first *gosogdolo*, which means freeway, high-speed highway. Just before we left Korea, we were coming home from the Peace Corps, we took a bus trip all the way from Seoul to Busan, which is on the south tip of the peninsula. This is what happens. You have these little villages with grass roofs and then this huge new road up on the hill above it.

FS: You see where the new road is now?

MK: Yes.

FS: All right. Can you see just down the hill a little ways? Can you see the line? See the old road there?

MK: Yes.

FS: Look how close the old road and the new road is.

MK: Was the old road underwater up that high?

FS: It couldn't have been underwater, because look, Michael, look where the new road is, just up above it. This is their main recreation area. I'm telling you. This is their big water area, and look where the road is.

MK: So, what are they going to have here?

FS: Boat docks, campgrounds, stables for horses, so you can go horseback riding. I think they are going to put in an amphitheater, no lodges or motels or, you know, stuff like that. In other words, everything that there already is right now. You know, people fish in the river. They go horseback riding. They camp. All the things that we do now, they're just paying \$250 million to do it.

MK: This whole project is completely surrounded by other projects, just like it is, isn't it?

FS: Yes. The Burnsville dam and this dam connect by a trail that started out to be a footpath and turned out to be, you know, wide enough for a two-vehicle road now.

MK: Developed.

FS: [affirmative] Eventually, I think, what their plans are is to take everything from interstate exit to Burnsville exit, and then they'd have one big, massive federal area.

MK: Eastern United States [inaudible].

FS: Right.

MK: Everybody from Washington to New York to Boston.

FS: Right. Do you want to take a short run up before we go over to Vandalia? I'll show you – it's not really far, but it's up the road here. Actually, we could take a loop. Do you want to do that?

MK: Sure.

FS: Won't take that awful long. But there's a magnificent view from the Jacksonville ridge I'd like you to see. It's going to be gone someday. But it's just a magnificent view. Then we'll end up in Walkersville and come back down 19 and cross over to Vandalia.

MK: There's some way you can really get a sense of the scale. Here you have this cute-scale little village, and there you have this monstrosity. It's –

FS: Progress. Bill Adler says that is progress, but there's no more traffic on that road now than there was before, when it was, you know, lower and small. Actually, they didn't upgrade the roads much. They didn't really change anything. You know, one point back in the fifties, the State Highway Department opposed this dam. One reason they opposed it was because they'd already put the roads on the best routes. That's why the roads were located there, and that the new road relocations would – there would be slips, and there would be all kinds of problems that would require so much more maintenance by the road department that they opposed the project back in 1950. So, you can see what a mess that's going to be.

MK: Six rooms?

FS: Well, yes, it's four rooms in the brick building and then the trailer and the pine trees in the back. They have a big playground. The road's safe. Here, behind the trailers, they're not as good as they used to be, but they're all these apple trees. Early on, in the school, kids used to go out, pick apples for the cooks, and the cooks would make applesauce.

MK: Did you say initially who taught at that school?

FS: Yes. Beth teaches at that school. I was talking to her about it. She wasn't really here when, you know, a lot of this went on. She said it would be probably better to talk to like Missy or Matthew about it. Yesterday or Wednesday, Missy had to go into town for school. She goes to those classes. She had a speech contest here Wednesday morning. So, she rode in with a woman, a speech therapist who was one of the judges in the speech contest. The woman said, "Well, I bet you're anxious to get to the new school." Missy said, "No." She said, "Well, just think, when the dam's finished, you'll be able to swim all around it." Missy said, "No. You can't swim in it." She said, "Well, I'm looking forward to it. I'm going to get a boat and find me a little place up here, have a nice place on the lake." I thought, how crass. You know, she asked Missy if Missy had to move because of the dam, and Missy told her no. But she thought that, you know, Missy would be real excited about having a place like this to come play in.

MK: Who was it?

FS: One of the teachers.

MK: Up here?

FS: No, not from here, from town. But I thought, how crass of that woman not to realize that the kids have feelings too.

MK: What are Missy's feelings about it?

FS: I think she's just experienced some feeling of isolation. It was awful having to – I mean, she started here in kindergarten, so she's really been here all through it – through the worst of it. She's probably more aware than most children are of what's going on, because of our involvement, you know. But she watched George and Ruth Post move away. That hurt her a lot. Because she used to go down there. She'd get off the school bus, and Ruth would always have cookies or something for them. Now there's nothing. There's nothing between the school and our house. There's not a single human being between the school and our house. Friends of hers moved away. She hated that. Wondering, she wondered for a long time if they were going to come and get us. That scared her for a long time. Because we lived close to the edge of the project, and she thought they were going to come and get us.

MK: What did she say about it? Just asked about it?

FS: Just asked. She was afraid. The dust and the dirt, you know, from here – from the school to our house, been under construction from us for years, and the dirt and the heavy equipment, you know. We wouldn't let her walk down to the mailbox or ride her bicycle because the place is full of construction workers. You don't let a little 10-year-old kid run around amongst construction workers, heavy equipment. So, she wasn't free to go down ride her bicycle or go down to the mailbox or anything like that. I don't know. It's not that any of them are anything major. It's just that, you know, you live in an area like this because it's a good place to raise your children. You put up with all the inconveniences for that reason. Then the government comes in and changes the whole complexion of the area. So, you're still living with all the inconveniences, but you've lost a lot of the other good reasons why you're living there.

MK: I guess most Americans would wonder why you don't just pick up and move.

FS: Yes, I suppose. We could probably sell our farm and just make an absolute fortune. I mean, it really is on the lake of this – on the edge of this wonderful lake project, you know. I suppose if we were concerned about, you know, the money end of it, we wouldn't have been fighting it. Matt's a contractor. He would have made a fortune working on this project close to home. But to quote one of the other fellows who lives around here, he said, "I'd never make – I wouldn't make my living on somebody else's misery." That's pretty much the way we feel about it. I don't know why. You know, the farm we live on has been in Matt's family now, six generations. Matthew's a seventh-generation there. Now, I think you owe them a debt. You owe the people that came before you. That's the debt you owe them to take care of it and pass it on to somebody else who cares. Not somebody who's going to take it and divide it up in lakeside campsites.

MK: Sort of a tenancy, kind of a thing.

FS: It is really. I mean, the ownership of it doesn't make any difference. That's one of the things that you owe your kids. Bring them up in a safe environment and the school – this is safe. It's safe for them. You feel comfortable with your children here. Then they're not out in traffic. They're not playing ball out on the street at recess like they do in Weston.

MK: Not too many drug dealers up in the pine here.

FS: No, you don't have to worry about drugs. When they get older – you give them a stable environment when they're young. Then they get older, and they've got the foundation, go from there.

MK: You give them the best.

FS: Right. But that's all you can give them as a parent is a good foundation. All of this is all rubble. They did dozer all of this over, but you see the difference it makes now to the kids, rather than looking out your window and, you know, seeing all that mess. Maybe it's something the kids can't really verbalize. I mean, they don't say it's awful seeing all of that, necessarily. But it's the sense of impermanency, you know, if there's such a word. It's a sense that nothing's forever around you that they don't need when they're little. Those kinds of concepts come later on in life.

MK: [inaudible]

FS: Well, they said that were no significant historic sites here.

MK: Yes. They made that judgment.

FS: He said that in their environmental impact statement.

MK: Corps engineers made that [inaudible].

FS: Right. That was one of the points we could have won if we could have litigated that issue on environmental impact statement. I mean, it took them well over a year to do this historic survey. You know, we could have held the whole project up just for that. That's what a lot of our tactics were aimed at was, you know, buying time, holding things up. It worked for a long time. If Byrd hadn't moved the whole construction schedule up like he did, we would have a whole another year. But to most congress people, you know, once construction on the dam itself is underway, that's it. Because for years we could argue, look, you can – the government can get back a lot of the money that it's already invested by selling back the land. But, you know, once dam construction itself started, then it's – you know, that kind of money, there's no way to get back again. To a lot of congressmen, that was it. They wouldn't stop a project after that. Byrd knew that and so, advanced construction on the dam. Makes you wonder how safe it is done.

MK: Yes. There's a lot of things to wonder about. Pete Carlson was telling me the makeup of people on the Appropriations Committee too, how all of them are all involved in water projects.

FS: Right. Yes, the whole water project system is just horrible, symbiotic relationship between the Corps and congressmen. They depend on each other.

MK: Who was it you were with?

FS: (Bret Blackburn?) He pearls. He said, "God, don't say anything about a mall." Because I was joking. But he was just as serious as a heart attack. Just turned pale. I told you about selling the square yards, you know. Well, we took Carter. He has a square yard. We dug up a square yard of sod, put it in a big plastic bag, and had a big meeting with one of Carter's aides and presented him his square yard. We walked in the – it was in the old executive office building, I think, is where we were sent to, took the doggone thing in, and the guards, I thought they were going to have a heart attack. I'd left my pocketbook in the car. At first they weren't even going to let me through because I didn't have any identification. It turned out the guard was from West Virginia. A lot of them were from West Virginia. He let us all through carrying this monster – it took two men to carry it, I think, really heavy. Anyway, we gave it to Carter's aide. I figured somebody went home and planted it in their backyard. I tell you there wasn't anything we didn't do. I mean, I went to the forest festival one year, you know, and had a float with live pigs on it, the year Carter was there. Kate was with us. We had some old Tommy singing in the back, and we had this big barrel built in the front full of five pigs, five little, tiny pigs. Matt wanted to let them loose in downtown Elkins. We thought we'd really get publicity that way, but we didn't. Some of our other people were scared to death we were going to do it. They just kept nailing the mockup of a barrel, put more chicken wire on it. They thought for sure Matt was going to turn them loose during the parade. That was a nice float. I mean, you have to admit, who else would have – Matt thought of one of these parades, but who else was fighting a dam project would think of having a float in the forest festival? We were in this only to get national attention, which we did get Carter's attention. Anybody who was of national prominence was there. We were there with signs. One of the better things we did was to get old Jennings. He came to the civic center for something, and we were there with our Stop the Dam signs and anti-Jennings signs. He got out of his limousine backwards like, you know, his back was turned to where we were. We hollered, you know, something about, "Hello, Senator Randolph." He turned around with a great big smile and saw it was us with our signs. Just about crashed. We followed him to all his fundraising dinners. I hate to think of the money that if you counted every individual person, you know, spent fighting this dam, I bet it would close to what they got some to build the thing. There'll be other shots along this line, probably of Walkersville.

MK: Walkersville all boarded up too?

FS: Parts of it, yes.

MK: Is it going to be condemned completely, Walkersville?

FS: A part of Walkersville was taken. A part of Crawford was taken. All of Roanoke was taken.

MK: Is the water going to get up?

FS: Is the water really ever going to get up to you? I mean, I don't believe that, when you think about Tigard Lake, and you think that Tigard has half the surface acres of Stonewall and has more than twice the amount of water.

MK: That's an interesting [inaudible].

FS: Yes. It just gives you an idea how shallow this thing is. I'm going to take you up to – it's called Jacksonville Ridge. You can look down, and you get a panoramic view of some of the country. It's hard to tell from down here, really, what the area – how vast an area you're talking about.

MK: Are you sort of excited about getting into the school building?

FS: Oh, Lord, no. I mean, all they're giving us is an old cinder block – you know, a modern cinder block monstrosity. We had a nice old brick school with hardwood floors, big, wide windows. This school is going to be up on a hill. You know, I told you school property and our property border on the bridge. So, you're going to have to climb up a horrible high narrow road to get to it. It's going to be up to your right here.

MK: Up there?

FS: Up in there somewhere. Clear way up. This is Arnold. Old Jack Arnold, at one time, owns thousands and thousands of acres here. Pretty soon, we're going to be bearing off to the left up the hill. You'll see the road. Up here, Michael, to your left. His mother-in-law lived up near where I live, and she's in her 80s. Because Jim had to leave, she had to leave. Because, you know, they would be too far away from her. So, she had to move. She moved into a trailer on Jim's new place, which is down there, Jackson's mill. This is Jim McLean. He's a fellow that farms this farm.

MK: It's called the McHugh place [inaudible].

FS: Right. So, now he has to drive all the way from Jackson's mill up here to do his farming. But nobody ever counts those kinds of costs. Of course, Jim was at that age. He's in his 60s, too young to retire and old enough that it's been a horrible hardship on him. Jim testified in one of our Elkins – in the Elkins case that (Geldon?) handled. He just broke down and sobbed.

MK: He did.

FS: Just sobbed.

MK: What did he say?

FS: It was just, you know – I think Geldon asked him, you know, what it was going to be like

for him, you know, leaving, what effect project had on him. He just couldn't even talk, Michael. That was hard for him. Then for a long time, for weeks, maybe months, he bought a place, a house down at Jackson's mill. In some ways it was better. I mean, his wife has arthritis real bad. It was all on one level, you know, rather than the two-story house. She moved. They moved Mrs. (Kearns?). Jim couldn't make himself leave for months. He lived in his old house, you know, almost all the furniture was gone, but one room and a bed, a little bit of stuff in the kitchen. He stayed there for a long time, until he could finally bring himself to, you know, actually leave. Rockefeller signed the recreation contract. He said there were a few farms affected, and he was sorry for those few forms. I could figure maybe he grew up out west, you know, where things were flat all over. But to get this much flat land in areas of West Virginia, especially out the Skin Creek, where, you know, they've got such a big, wide bottom, it's not easy to find in West Virginia.

MK: How would you describe this to somebody from Nebraska?

FS: Gently rolling hills? I don't know. Generally, if anybody comes and drives on our roads, they get upset, you know. Think some of these small hills, they think, you know, horrible mountain roads or something. On down the road, there's one more spot, I think.

MK: Hard to see the river and get anything.

FS: They only raised, though. They didn't raise them very high. That's how a little bit of water would be – this area would be affected by. I don't know how big this farm was. It was a sizable farm. Then you see, in this area, you can't – it's hard to tell driving around, but some of these roads we passed, you could go up a little narrow road like mine, like if you would go to the end of Canoe Run, it opens up, you know. The Lingers have, like, a 350-acre farm or something. It's big. You go up each one of these little roads, and then they open out. 250-acre farm is a sizeable farm for West Virginia, certainly been enough for a lot of these men to make a living out of all their lives.

MK: This is pretty. This looks a little bit like some of the Clinch Mountain country I've seen in East Tennessee, a little humpy.

FS: All the hills are clear. There's flats on top of the hills. Ten the sides of the hills are in timber and then the farm, the bottom. It's all the filth. You know, people cut filth every year, all the brush out. But they've still made hay on this, and that's all they've done. There's not been any maintenance on it for a long time. I always felt that the person that farmed that piece of land ought to have the right to make the hay on it and use that land until it was needed for water. We've never gotten a Corps to agree to that. There isn't any reason why these farms can't be used up to the very minute. You try to make them understand that, you know, maybe five more years in somebody like Jim McLean's life, that'll retire him. It's really important to them. But the DNR wants the farmers out, and it doesn't make any sense to me why. You know, if it weren't for the farmers keeping these meadows up, there wouldn't be deer here. The deer here to come feed in the meadows, not eating the woods. That's why Lewis County has such a big deer population, and the deer are big and fat here.

MK: Why did the DNR want them out so far in advance?

FS: They consider us undesirable encroachment.

MK: But you're not encroaching on anything yet.

FS: We are, according to the DNR. They want this all to grow up.

MK: They want it to grow up.

FS: They want it to grow up.

MK: Just because they don't understand deer.

FS: Right, because they're totally ignorant. Then later on, when the deer – you know, like over Holly River project down Burnsville, the deer gets small. They're starving. Then they have to hire the dozers and brush hogs to come in and clear everything off. Then they have to plant it in grass again for the deer, come perpetuates themselves that way. Got in an awful fight with the DNR. It doesn't make any sense to me. For years, the DNR and the farmers really worked together to increase the wildlife in this area. You know, they turned turkeys loose. You know, there weren't any turkeys left in the county. Years ago, they turned turkeys loose. So, the only reason these turkeys live is because the farmers looked out for them and protected them, you know and didn't hunt them themselves and wouldn't let anybody else hunt them, watched over the land. The same with beavers. They turned beavers out, much to the chagrin of the farmers, I have to say. The DNR doesn't manage the land for people, and they don't want people around, period. It's ignorance.

MK: The second most destructive animal.

FS: To farmers, yes. Although, see, there's a lot of areas that you have, or you have areas on a farm where you could put beavers, and they wouldn't hurt anything, you know. But the farmers of the – you know, in some ways, not all farmers, but the kind of farmers that we're talking about, I mean, I'm not talking about agribusiness, but the farmers know what the carrying capacity of that farm is, you know, in cattle and in deer and in beavers or anything else. But the DNR is too ignorant to use their best resource, you know, which is the people that live that land, you know, and gain information from them. But the farmers know, if there's a lot of deer, they let more hunters on. If the deer population is scarce, they don't let so many people hunt. The same with the rabbits and the growls and the turkeys. There have been turkeys up where we live for years now, but we've never hunted them and never let anybody else hunt them. Letting the population grow up until now there's enough turkeys that they can be hunted. But because of this project, that same attitude has disappeared in a lot of people, including Matt. You know, the hell with it.

MK: Well, the Corps, basically, as I understand it, is just going to operate this land right around the dam.

FS: Right.

MK: Then [inaudible] area, the DNR is going to –

FS: Right.

MK: Which is mostly for honey.

FS: Right.

MK: Well, who's going to manage the campground?

FS: They'll concession it out. The DNR will concession it out like they do at the other state parks.

MK: Just like Canadian Valley.

FS: Right.

MK: Except a lower scale private company.

FS: What I didn't understand in this project, and it's not been like this in any of the other projects, but in this project, the state is paying half of the cost of recreation, and that includes the lands, right, and that includes, you know, building the concessions and building the campgrounds and everything else. But the state doesn't own anything. They have it on a lease, and the Corps can terminate that lease whenever they want, with written notice. So, we're paying half the cost of this thing, and we're not getting half the ownership.

MK: Are we really paying half the cost of the land?

FS: Half of the cost of the recreation, and that includes the lands that were purchased solely for recreation, not half of the cost of all the land, but of the recreation lands.

MK: That's that \$50 million figure.

FS: Yes. It'll be even better, really, than \$50 million. Because we pay it at – the interest rate slipped my mind now – 5.68 percent interest, something like that. So, you know, the payback, it doesn't include the interest. I mean, you can compute the state's half of the recreation cost. Then you've got to add on the interest on top of that. You're talking about a lot of money for something that we're not going to own and that we could be evicted from, just like any tenant could be evicted from. You know, if, say, the federal government decides that these areas are too expensive, or they want them done away with, like they have in other federal projects, they could close this dam. We've invested all that money for nothing. It's just a waste. So, if they just took part of the farm where the water would be affected, it would cost them almost as much as to take the whole thing. So, why not just take the whole thing? Because they don't want the farmers using the park. They admitted that to the state legislature. They don't want people using

the roads in the park to get in and out. So, for that, they take it all. [inaudible] The area down there is [inaudible]. The road then eventually would end up the dam's side, except for Brownsville.

MK: I saw a road – that same house that had a grocery store or something in it. You keep on following that road. It went all the way down and crossed the river on a bridge. That was the old roads farm, I think.

FS: Right. That's on the historic – old railroad grade. The train I was telling you that went down through that Matt's dad's – turn to the right, you end up in Matt's dad's farm.

MK: What does the sign say? No trespassing?

FS: No trespassing. That's the old O'Hara place. People left and moved to the city. The heirs left. He's a doctor in some city or another.

MK: What's this road we're on now?

FS: So, it was then that a lot of the younger people started leaving the farms, like I said, like they did everywhere else. [inaudible]

MK: What did you say happened to him?

FS: He got ill. He had problems anyway, to be real truthful about it. But he probably could have gone along just fine, but the added pressure of the dam, and he was trying to save his house, trying not to have to leave, couldn't deal with the Corps. He just couldn't cope with all of it. I don't even know where he is now, Upshur County, I think. He and his wife separated and –

MK: This is really hard on families.

FS: God, it is, Michael. It's awful hard on families. It's really hard when it's airship, which is the –

[talking simultaneously]

– the dam, so they can take their, you know, roadside place here and divide it up. Most people, I'm sorry, maybe three or four years ago, you didn't talk to them. You would have really enjoyed talking to (Biden and Selena Calger?) that had this little general store in Crawford, potbelly stove, just, you know – I think it's cheap there in [inaudible], just difficult. They have an accent. They came from the Holly River area. You know, they've got a bit of a Swiss accent. They invested their money in the stock market. You walk into that general store, there's all these [inaudible], you know, these little, old, gnarled, real old people, how they can get around this potbellied stove and dust everywhere. Yes, down the road here, it was. Properties down the road to the right and up here, were almost – one up here on the left, you'll see our claim – our one claim to fame up there is our mansion. It's called Annamede. It's the Davisson family mansion.

MK: The same Davisson [inaudible].

FS: [affirmative] Same family. Nobody lives in it. There's a caretaker's cottage, you know, the whole field. They farm it. Rent the farm out. We're out of the take area now,

MK: [inaudible]

FS: Yes, but both of them are real ill and have been in out of the hospital. One of their daughters has come from out west somewhere, where she lives, to stay there. I don't know why they're keeping the store going. She's left her family to come live there. They have one daughter who's in the diplomatic corps at Libya, stationed in Libya. You ought to hear this old lady telling you about going to Tripoli, Libya to see her daughter. It's really something.

MK: So, that's why there can be strip development along 19, because it's outside the watershed. They expect people to come in.

FS: Right. Well, people bought some of the houses, you know, and moved them up here, some of the dam houses, and moved them up here. Other people just taking their [inaudible]. I'll show you the people that bought the farm next to us, and you'll understand what I'm saying. They're on down the road here. You know, her farm in the south wasn't taken, but everybody around her was affected. She's fought the dam really hard for years.

MK: Is she there now?

FS: She lives there now, yes.

MK: How did she spell her last name?

FS: S-P-R-A-Y.

MK: Just Spray. How is she listed?

FS: Joe Spray, Walkersville.

Female Speaker: I talked against this thing, thousands of miles, I reckon, driving to all the meetings. You don't remember, do you? Clarksburg all around to try to talk to them, tell them that anything – that's destruction. That's wrong, in anybody's words. It don't make any difference if it's just an old dress, and you can't wear it. Don't burn it up. Give it to somebody, if you know somebody can use it. That's the way I see it. That goes for anything. It takes time and money, the good Lord's sunshine, to grow all these places, heck, all the years. I don't see it. If you want clean water, go over to the coast, build a desalting plant, and pump it across the country. Now that sounds like that's a big idea, but it's not that – wouldn't cost nearly as much as all this destruction. Of course, when I was a kid, my grandparents used to be concerned with the compressing station down here. Of course, they had people. They work different than what they do today. I used to go down there – he was the supervisor – I'd get down there, and I'd hear them

talk, all these people, came in big folks, so to speak. My grandma's a good cook. She really cooked. In those days, good food was something, you know. Today, you eat junk. They don't know what good food is. They'd talk about pumping out gas from Texas. You can believe that or not. It's gas from Texas relayed through that compressing station. You don't know where that compressing station was down here.

FS: Brownsville.

FS: Yes, Brownsville. But they tore it down now, didn't they?

FS: [affirmative] They built a new one up in Copeland.

FS: That gas was relayed through that station. If they could relay gas then, they could do without this thing, this dam. If they could relay that, they could come [inaudible]. It's not everything. This is gas. I tell you; I wish somebody would rise up and tell them they're wrong and prove it. How about you doing it?

MK: Well, that's one of my ideas with doing all this taping is to get everybody's story.

FS: Well, it's wrong. There's millions of dollars' worth of stuff in here that'll be destroyed. That sounds crazy, but it's true. All right, your farm over there, your buildings and everything, all that, look at that. Then everyone around in the area, of course, there'll be people that will be – will suffer from this thing. It'll destroy their things, indirectly, more – I don't mean that that is completely destroyed, but when you can't use your farm, it's gone, your place of business, isn't it? All right, Weston, that's country town. It's not a city. It's a country town. I don't mean population-wise, but what I meant, it's a country people that keeps that thing going, isn't it? The country people do more than that glass business, wouldn't you say? What's that glass factory down for now? If the city was keeping that going, it would be working people today, wouldn't it? It's closed down for a while. Can't open. Another thing, Weston could have done a bigger business had they wanted to and hadn't been so jug-headed, I'll say. Because they could have sold automobiles. They could have sold tractors. They garages are there, I understand, but they didn't try to sell. Why don't come out here and say? In order to keep us going, wouldn't it be better to sell three or four tractors rather than one and make a big profit? Wouldn't it be like a bigger business? The more they sell, wouldn't that be better than just selling one? You go out here. You raise potatoes. Well, you can raise ten bushels of potatoes than you raise one. Oh, boy. I just boil.

MK: Was this your home right here?

FS: Sure.

MK: Where you were born and raised?

FS: Sure. This has been – all these old places where land grants to start with, and they've come down through the generations. These other things that I could have done, and all these people have these things they could have done, but what would be more attractive than farming? Tell

me that. What do you think?

FS: I'm here.

FS: Right. There are other things I could have done. Probably I could have gone on with aviation. But my parents were here. The year I graduated from high school, my dad, they were putting hay in the barn down there. Somebody came by blabbing, blabbing. We always just put one horse on that – you don't know about how they pull hay up the barn. They were in a hurry, and he just took the whole – the team out there, hooked them on there. When that came by, a squall like that, I don't know, it scared the horses in some way. They were gentle horses, but turned around, caught his leg – he turned around. The chain caught his leg and pulled his knee. He skipped out. For an older person, that's it, you know. Of course, he loved it. Still bothered him. My dad and mother came before other things. I felt that I'd hate to trust them to the hands of people that maybe would do things. So, that's why I stayed on. I'm not sorry about it because they honor thy father and thy mother.

MK: You worked awful hard.

FS: Sure, I worked hard, pitched haystacks, and dug post holes. Of course, John was – he's a little bit younger than I am. He helped too. But it was up to both of us to do it.

MK: But he was away in the service for a while.

FS: Well, after his – yes, he was in the service.

MK: Did you run the whole operation?

FS: Sure, I did. Somebody had to be here with them when he was away. They worried about – that's another thing. We don't have to have war. That's wrong. That's destruction. We need a generation of people to rise up and stop this destruction. What do you think?

FS: Whatever you say, Regina.

FS: Shoot, now you know better than that. Well, I don't like to – as I say, I don't like to destroy anything. If it's nothing but an old [inaudible] that somebody won't use it, I'll have it. Maybe they'll awaken someday.

MK: So, how far back in your family does this place go?

FS: Well, they're land grants. My grandfather taught over at Westland. While he was over there, because he was going to be married to a girl, I reckon it was to them, the grant. She was the only child, I think. They took over. [inaudible] something than to teach school. That's the way I always felt about it. I'd rather do anything than teach school. Well, I just think. That's crazy statement to make. But supposing – like I'm talking here, supposing some little child would hear a statement I make, you remember things that you heard when you were a kid, don't you? Did it ever influence you anyway?

MK: Right.

FS: All right then. Another thing, of course, this is beside the point. We went to one we were in school there around (Knob?), you know. Can you remember [inaudible] down here?

FS: [negative]

FS: You knew the [Lanes?], didn't you?

FS: [affirmative]

FS: Well, that was over around Knob that they lived in.

FS: Oh, right. [inaudible]

FS: Called [inaudible] School. Then they changed it. Named it around Knob. Because that place over there in Jack Langer's field, you know? You notice what a beautiful – now, that's a natural formation there. There's coal in that. It's not a man-made knob, and they named it around Knob. Well anyway.

MK: What was that like going to school there?

FS: Those one-room buildings? We went to school. We didn't go to play. We went there to learn. That was wonderful. Kids did all that the teacher said. You solve this problem and explain to the rest of class. We had to memorize work. We did it. We didn't get by. We want to do it. We knew it was a necessity. We tried to learn. Oh, shoot.

MK: Did you go as many days as they do now? Or was it shorter?

FS: No, the terms were shorter then. They don't go to school day, they go – we went to school at 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. when they dismissed us. But today, what is the school hours?

MK: 3:00 p.m.

FS: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

FS: Do they go to school at 8:30 a.m.

FS: [affirmative]

FS: You mean they're in the building at 8:30 a.m.

FS: Well, they're in the building at 8:00 a.m.

FS: Oh, are they? Oh, when do classes start? 8:30 a.m.?

FS: 8:30 a.m.

FS: I never didn't hear anybody say. Well, how many classes do the kids have?

FS: Six.

FS: Six.

FS: I think.

FS: Reading, writing, arithmetic, all taught to the tune of the hickory stick, huh? There are six classes. But it gives a child some sense of responsibility to feed that thing, doesn't it? They know it has to eat. You have to eat, don't you? You have to feed your lamb.

FS: Tell him what you're telling me about them drinking the water from the lake here, from the reservoir.

FS: What do you mean?

MK: What it's going to be like?

FS: You know what it's going to be like. You don't drink your bath water, do you, boy?

MK: [laughter] No.

FS: That lake – won't that be impure water?

FS: Yes.

FS: That's awful. It'll be worse than it is now. If you have a string of cottage – I don't know whether that'll ever attract people or not. I doubt it. Don't you, Francine? It won't attract people like they think it will. But you know that water is not clean. If they want clean water, go to the coast and get it. Desalt them. Pump it across. That's no big operation. We pump gas from Texas. We can pump water from the coast. I don't see it. To me, it's crazy.

MK: What have been your dealings with the Corps of Engineers?

FS: What do you mean? You mean, have they come here and contacted us? Well, yes, indirectly, they have. But I suppose you'll have to give it to them. They don't count the years of work that's gone into building these farms. Look, every year you buy fertilizer, don't you? You buy wire, and you take care of your stock. You pay veterinary bills and all of that. They don't realize that that's been the cost to the farmers here in the area. They'll offer you so much for your land. That's it. You won't get enough out of it.

MK: What are your plans if they do run you out?

FS: Oh, well, they'll have to have another. Dog if I'm going to be (penned?) up. Would you? No, we have a location. Matt saw the place, didn't he?

FS: Just today. Today's the first time he's been over there.

FS: Oh, well, I thought he's over there the other day. You've never talked to him since he's been over there.

FS: [negative]

FS: It's nice – it's not home though, doggone it. You can drive over it all with a car. This man has fertilized it, (lobbed?) it. Shoot, he'd even take a sickle, cut the grass around the fence post. Their son got killed. He was – I don't know. He was an engineer, I reckon. He'd come home or come in from work, and they were doing the gas well, drilling a well from the house there. He went out there to talk to the boys that were drilling, and that thing blew up. A piece of that, whatever it was, came out of there, killed him – hit and killed him. It didn't touch the rest of them but hit him. Wouldn't it be awful? So, these people are upset. They just pray [inaudible]. Of course, they're long years. That's why they won't sell the place.

MK: So, that's where you're going.

FS: Yes. Of course, it's a house. Well, it's a model house. They put all new oak floors. Nothing wrong with it. I'd live in a tent out on the hill. Didn't have to leave home. But I'd be all right. I'm all growled up. Dogs growl. I'm growled. What about the dam?

MK: When was this house built?

FS: Oh, close to a hundred years ago, all these little houses in here. One tree, I heard dad say, made the shingles – of course, he didn't know about it. His dad told him – the weather boarding and the shingles of the house, yellow poplar. This is hand-dressed lumber, all this. Look there. That's a wooden peg, takes these doors together, put together like that. That means more to me than the lumber company or the – well, little fellows, they like to do things. That shows how intelligent they are when they want [inaudible], wouldn't you?

MK: [affirmative]

FS: Get back to that old thing that all these houses through here, all of them – (Jack Linger's?) down there. You know, Jack? Of course, old Round Knob, they tore that down, Round Knob School, and the other house there, I guess, they tore it down too, taking it away, this place, (Raffy's?), Aspinall's, all of it, the old – well, I don't know. People were content to do things. It's not like today. Nothing's good enough. They appreciated and enjoyed what they had. Only that time's gone, isn't it? Maybe I'm just nuts, but that's it. I hadn't thought of it. No, but now you just think, if you lived in a house – well, you, you don't live in an old – anyhow, it's come down through the family.

MK: No, but it's an old house.

FS: Well, did you know the people that owned it?

MK: No.

FS: But now, just think, the family that grew up through the years, in these old places, that means something, but not anymore. What do you think of such modern times?

MK: What do I think of modern times?

FS: Yes.

MK: Well, I wish they weren't running all these farmers off the land. Who's going to feed us?

FS: People are going to have to eat. It's one thing. You can't eat chemicals. Do you ever look on the wrapper of a loaf of bread, all them crazy old chemicals in it? There's a clear across that – three cars way across that paper, I was showing to somebody here today. They (stank?) chemicals in there. Of course, they have all this new stuff, but I don't remember studying all that in – reading about it or studying about it in Chemistry class. I suppose they're new ones, aren't they?

MK: I suppose.

FS: We don't need that stuff. When I was a kid, you didn't hear of all these heart patients and all that stuff. What causes that? When the chemicals react in your bloodstream? I don't know. Something.

MK: Well, my wife bakes all the bread we eat.

FS: Good. Well, I'm glad to hear that. You tell her, I'm glad to hear somebody bakes that bread. She don't put all these crazy old chemicals in it, does she? Salt and sugar and butter and that's it. Yes, we used to make bread. But just my brother and I, there's no need to [inaudible] the bread, no more than we use and wouldn't be fit to eat when it lays long. We buy a loaf. [inaudible] how long takes but depends on how much we eat. We don't eat the bread like – it doesn't taste like what we used to make. Mother always made bread, of course. When I got old enough to do things, why I would knead that bread, and she'd go ahead and do something else. I did those things, knew about it.

MK: Did your mother make pretty quilts too?

FS: Make what?

MK: Pretty quilts?

FS: Oh, yes, we made quilts. I've got two here that my grandmother made. I suppose it'd be a

hundred years old. They were handed down through the family, you know. I saw something in the paper about hanging them on the wall for decoration. But I don't think they can – you'd have to clean them, you know. I don't think they just stand that because they're old materials. Oh, yes, we always made wool quilts. That is not all. Maybe you'd get a lightweight one. You put a sheet in it or buy cotton material put in it. We didn't talk of this dam. People disposed of it. Well, tons of milk went out here.

FS: They have to pay now for the milk truck to come and pick up their milk because there's only been [inaudible].

FS: My dad, he worked with the Carnation Company in Colorado. Then his dad and mother got the place. They had to have help. So, he came back here, and he talked this –

MK: You were talking about your dad.

FS: Well, I say that he was always concerned or interested in the milk. He worked with Carnation Company there. He knew it was a good idea for the farmers to make a little – pick up a little extra money. So, he's talked about it all those years. I know these officials of that Carnation Company used to come, and they talked about it. You don't realize how it was then. You had to prove to people anything then. But now, a new idea doesn't mean it's good, bad, or indifferent. They'll pick it up. They got this route started in here. It was a help. Then the next thing, out in Weston, this (Buck Weber?) got to selling raw milk, and people then eventually went to that. Now it's all gone. The Aspinalls and us are the only – we're the only one that sells milk now, just the two. Of course, we don't have near the production we once did, but we're still holding on. Now, it's a disgrace. You want to play.

MK: It used to be what?

FS: It used to be honorable to work, but today it's a disgrace. You want to play. That's why they're building this dam. Play. I want to say, before, this man, when I told her about this dam – oh, boy.

FS: This man here.

FS: You think the camera would record your work. I hope not.

MK: He can read lips with his camera.

FS: Well, you know that it's more honorable for people to work than is to be – to not work and do things. Another thing, the way that travel and transportation and all that, there'll be people coming from other states. Some man will be in another man's way, wait and see. How do they know where they are? He could be going on a business trip. I have an appointment with Mr. Reagan. He'd be bringing somebody else with him. Well, now that sounds crazy, but it'll happen.

MK: I know. Right here.

FS: I've always lived Christian, and I believed it. Our Christ worked. He earned his bread by the sweat of his brow, didn't he? Isn't that what we're told? We aren't any better. I'm thankful for health to be able to work. When you get to the place you can't go, you realize what – how wonderful is to be able to walk. Now, you boys here, able to walk. That's more than a million dollars, isn't it, Francine?

FS: Yes.

FS: Instead of staying home and taking care and trying to build more, they're out there messing around the bear garden. Look at the pictures on television. I think at churches, Francine, ought to stop – have that stopped. How many places – drink a toast. Get them glasses. Well, that makes me so mad I could bite.

MK: Well, the churches ought to stop people from watching television.

FS: The television ought to be house cleaned. Well, now, just look, that little thing will see things on there. She's not old enough.

MK: Not if she comes to my house, she won't.

FS: I'm glad to hear that you didn't – don't you buy one.

MK: No. I have four children.

FS: Just the way you talked about it, yes. We're not going to leave my freedom anyway.

MK: I was real interested in the whole Barbara Heavner [inaudible] too.

FS: Yes. Well, I don't think they'll do anyone else like they've done Barbara. They can get by with Barbara that way, but I don't think they'll really try anyone else like that. Do you, Francine?

FS: No.

FS: They've never asked us to be out a certain date. They've never informed us of any date. So, we haven't contacted them at all. When they do, we'll say we don't have a house ready, which is the truth. Then when it comes to moving, they'll just have to come and get us.

MK: Meaning they'll have to move you?

FS: Yes. They'll have to take us out.

MK: Take you out.

FS: Yes. They'll have to forcibly move us.

FS: Not in chains.

FS: Not in chains [laughter].

MK: Well, how else would they do it if they didn't put you in chains?

FS: Well, I don't know. Whenever they come to evict you, you know, you have to go then.

FS: Until they're legally evicted, [inaudible].

FS: Until we're illegally evicted, we're not going to leave.

MK: Well, I hope you all get this done.

FS: Yes, that would be nice. Take our house at Dry Fork and move it here.

MK: Francine was telling me you were teaching school [inaudible].

FS: Yes, I did.

MK: Did you have any sense of the impact of this project on the school children?

FS: Well, I had one little boy that every time they blasted, cried. At that time, I wasn't working in a classroom at Roanoke when they were blasting around there. I was working as a Chapter 1 teacher. So, I didn't have the same group of kids all the time. I had them at different times. Then I was working at another school also. So, I was only at Roanoke half the time. But I did have one boy who cried every time he was in my room, and they blasted. My room was in a trailer. Of course, when the blast went off, the trailer would go much quicker or, you know, vibrate more. The windows would shake. He would just literally be scared to death. Let's see, that time he must have been in, I think, first grade. There have been times when the kids couldn't go out on the playground because they were blasting.

MK: How often did they blast on an average day?

FS: I don't have any idea.

MK: More than once?

FS: Yes, more than once. But see, the kids wouldn't be outside that much, you know, for playground. Gosh, it's been a while ago.

MK: But what about the overall psychological effect of the project? I mean, boarding at that time.

FS: Most of our kids don't come from the Roanoke area. Most of our kids come from an area [inaudible]. So, they're shipped into Roanoke for school. The kids have lost their friends that

lived in Roanoke at the time. I think that's affected some of them in some ways. When the friend leaves, it makes them a little bit harder because there's no one around. For example, if a teacher's on [inaudible], we all have to have kids to the school with them. Because if the teacher's on [inaudible] and there's no one in school and she leaves, something happens. Schools locked. There's no place to get to a phone, which makes it a little bit more difficult. It's hard to tell with kids, little ones. At this point, it's been going on for so many years that they're just used to what [inaudible], most of them. At the point where all this was happening, see, I wasn't around a whole lot of them that much, other than just the few that came for special classes to me.

MK: I guess most of the kids in the project area, though, have left.

FS: Yes.

MK: St Patrick's Day.

FS: They were there starting in early May. This is during time when they're rerouting Canoe Run Road, rebuilding Canoe Run Road. The survey crews were always out, and they were always hassling Matt. They're always in his way on the road. Said, long ago, told him that they worked by the hour, and he worked by the job. He went about to stop for him when they saw him coming. If they didn't want any trouble, all they had to do is get out of his way. Most of them did after a while. So, this one morning, we were on our way out of the holler, and there was a survey crew right down here at the end of the road, right before the gravel starts, right about in there where that little gravel road is. There was a survey crew there. They were acting real froggy, and they got real mouthy. They were, you know, throwing the finger and saying all these obscene things. We didn't pay much attention. We went on to the doctor. On the way back, they were right smack dab in the middle of the road. Well, you know, I mean, if you're in a hurry – he was in a hurry to get me home, right? We had a hog bit cut up. He just hit second gear and zoomed. They all just picked up their stuff. Man, they just hit the ditches on both sides. We just came on home, changed clothes, and Matt brought in a quarter of that hog. We started cutting it up. About five minutes later, this Bronco comes flying up the road and down our driveway. Matt had no sooner – we had a shotgun sitting there by the side of the door. He no sooner stepped out the door then this little Robert Redford-looking character with sunglasses, comes flying out that Bronco. He flashes his badge, and he says, "FBI." Matt says, "Matt Snyder, glad to meet you." He said, "I'm going to put you in jail, Snyder." He said, "You're not fooling around with these local yokel sheriffs now." He said, "This is the FBI." He said, "I'm going to put you in jail. You're going to federal penitentiary." Matt said, "Now, wait a minute." He said, "I thought there was a judge and a jury and, you know, a few details involved in this whole thing." He said, "I won't hear any of this." This fellow was just irate, just absolutely out of control. This went on for a while. He kept accusing Matt of all this stuff. Matt said, "Wait a minute. What is this? You know, Federal offense? A traffic violation? I was coming too fast up the road? It's a federal offense?" Finally, Matt said, "I'm just about had enough of this." He said, "I want your name and the name and number of your immediate superior." Just like you just pulled the switch, that fellow just changed, immediately calmed right down. He now was real serious after that, real good old boy, real nice. He told him he was here from Fairmont to investigate this missing survey. All these survey states have been pulled up and wanted to know if Matt knew anything about it. Matt told him, yes, he could account for a lot of them. He said,

"Now, (Woody Prime?) down there got one caught in his baler." He said, "But if I were you, I wouldn't go down there and talk to him about that. Because you'd probably get your face beat in." He said, "I think the (hitter?) boys had lost some of the teeth on their mowing machine hitting those stakes." You know, just various things. He said he did have one report of an old woman who said she saw some groundhogs pulling them stakes out and carrying them down in their holes. So, the fellow pretty soon got – Matt finally asked him. He said, "Look, I just want to know." He said, "Why are you being punished? You know, this is a hell of a job for the FBI to be involved in." The guy admitted, you know, it's pretty petty, really, when you got down to it. Mary Aspinall had pulled survey stakes up that were in her yard and in her way. He says, "What are we going to do, arrest a 76-year-old woman? Come on." Well, finally, you know, this guy's getting chummier and chummier by the minute, and he comes to tell Matt how he's an old deer hunter from the hills of Pennsylvania, loves to bow hunt. So, he's getting ready to leave, and we had a hog's head hanging out here in the tree. This FBI agent looks at Matt, and he says, "Hey, I see you killed yourself a deer, did you?" Matt said, "Yeah." He said, "Aren't you afraid you're going to get arrested for that?" Matt said, "No, don't hardly think so." He just let him go. So, he walked him back to the Bronco. The whole side of the Bronco was smeared with leaves and mud. Matt said, "What happened here?" He said, "Oh, I got that coming across your creek." Well, the creek's nothing but sand and rock, you know, so that even when the kids came home from school, Matthew said, "Daddy, you wouldn't believe it, but somebody was in the ditch down there so bad, looked like he never likely to have gotten out." Here, he just decided to play the *Dukes of Hazzard*, right? He's going to chase us on up the road. Only he missed the turn and [laughter] ended up in the ditch. But he was around. He talked to a lot of our friends after that. He'd come knocking on the door. He's incognito, right? He'd come knocking on the door. One of our friends, (Linda Gray?), answered the door. She looked at him, and she said, "Oh, you're the FBI agent." Now, I don't guess he ever found out anything. Because we never saw him after that. But we'd see him, you know, hunkered down in a car somewhere, parked along the road. Matt will roll his window down and holler to him by name. He didn't last too long here.

MK: So, what did happen to the stakes?

FS: I don't know. [laughter] I tell you, I've heard groundhogs pull them down those holes. I just suspect that they just got in everybody's way. People just pulled them up. You're going to mow your meadow, and you've got 15 of those big wooden survey steaks. Now, you're going to pull them up. I did hear one farmer, not in this project, but another project, who pulled all those stakes up and pulled up those metal benchmarks, mailed them all COD back to the Corps.

MK: I bet they were glad to get them back.

FS: They redid survey after survey after survey here for a long time. Now, this state's just gotten away [laughter]. This old green truck that we have, that used to belong to the Corps of Engineers, you know, bought it at one of those surplus sales. He lives in Huntington. He was at a cocktail party one night, and the fellow from the Corps was there. He started talking about Stonewall Jackson Dam. Of course, my brother-in-law couldn't help but, you know, horn in on it and listen in on the conversation. That fellow was talking about this big, tall, red-headed, bearded fella who drove this green Chevy truck. He was 7 feet tall by this time, you know, mean as a bear. He was just talking about how awful he was and how everybody was afraid of him,

and how he'd done all these horrible things. My brother-in-law just said it was all he could do to keep a straight face. Because, of course, he knows Matt, you know, and he knew what the fellow was saying wasn't true.

MK: Where was that?

FS: In Huntington. My brother-in-law lives in Huntington. That's where Corps operates out of.

MK: Yes. I guess you could hear some good Matt Snyder stories in Huntington.

FS: They really are afraid of him, and I have to say, probably with just cause. Although he never actually got in a fight with anybody. Because not one of them would ever fight. But many a time, he stopped here and said, "Come on. You want to mix it up? We'll mix it up right now."

MK: What was that point?

FS: [inaudible]

Male Speaker: Is that what you called that? We just called it [inaudible]. It would come down straight down the river and follow the river along and up to this point, then halfway up the holler, down, back up to that point. All that used to be kept clean. We used to graze it. Different people turn in with our stock. There's the twin points, points in between (Harden?) and Watson Hall. This used to be lovely hunting country, but you'd be lucky if you see a deer just shot out.

MK: Had to have been hunted out, huh?

MS: Big time.

MK: Since this has gone public.

MS: Now, you can see. They managed to come and clean up all the trash. There's about pickup-loads of trash. It's going down the swinging bridge.

MK: So, this was all your –

MS: [inaudible] my future. This is my granddad's farm. My uncle's farm.

MK: What were their names?

MS: My granddad's name is George Snyder. My uncle's name is Tom Snyder, his brother. Then there's Alice. She used to live up there. This would have been a pretty good future for everybody.

MK: How do you mean?

MS: Well, everybody was just close together, helped each other. Well, there's the mighty West

Fork. It's up a little bit, full of trash. It used to be good fishing.

MK: Nothing now?

MS: You'd be lucky if you find a creek chub.

MK: Why is that?

MS: Oh, just all the chemicals and stuff and these wells, stuff left over from the strips. It used to be – when dad grew up, used to be – now there's mark left over from the bridge. Can you see it? That's left over from the bridge construction. Just let it wash away. My dad grew up; there's fish as big as he was. When the water dried out and got real dry one summer, people just tubs and tubs took – people took tubs and tubs of fish out down here on the sandbars. One fish had filled up a tub full.

MK: Boy, it's beautiful land in here.

MS: Yes. There's somebody hung their deer up.

MK: Right.

MS: Boy, fell in the river. You get rabbit hunting. [inaudible]

MK: But all these barrels and stuff were mowed out?

MS: [affirmative] Well, until they finally came down and took the place. They were all kept up. We grazed it for a year and a half, two years after that. They told us they were going to haul our cattle away. I told them, go right ahead. If they could get them loaded, they could have them. Well, there's your semi-dump, a couple of deer carcasses and hides down over. That's how many deer had been taken out. There's the mighty gravel bar, probably one of the best gravel bars in the whole river.

MK: A gravel bar?

MS: [affirmative] Everybody used to come down and get gravel over there.

MK: For their road and stuff?

MS: Yes, the driveways. We used to go down and get truckloads. Every time you get down to size, it swings all the way up and all the way down through there. It just fell back up full of gravel. It's good gravel. It's not a lot of sand in it, just nice rocks. This used to be real shallow through here. It looks pretty deep now.

MK: That's not a creek coming in there.

MS: Yes, it is.

MK: What is that creek?

MS: [inaudible] They just called it the creek.

MK: I couldn't tell water went on around.

MS: This one goes up to the bridge, and it forks again. One goes up and goes up that holler. It goes out and forks again. One takes up left and one to the right.

MK: I guess, you know, every inch of this country over here.

MS: Yes. I grew up here. Here's the swinging bridge. It got so bad that old Pete couldn't get across. They were just going to let it fall in. So, we finally had them fix it. These boards are rotting out. People with motorcycles come up running the recreation, was eating the boards live.

MK: Run motorcycles across there?

MS: [affirmative] town, instead of going in the river, getting it drowned out, they just ride their motorcycles. Here's where they used to fall through until they decided to fix it. There's the last string of fence we ever built here, brand new, five-strand barbed wire, new post. Water just keeps taking on – you see the water gets up here, just spreads out over the bottom. That's what makes the grass grow.

MK: It's good for –

MS: It's good for everything.

MK: A little flooding?

MS: I'd say this was flooded maybe once this year, maybe twice the most. It floods up here before it floods down there. Then you don't see any houses down along the river here. You don't see any buildings, anything of any value, besides fences to keep them in – the cattle in. The people around here learned to cope with it. Here's the Corps' answer to keeping people out of the recreation area, gate it.

MK: They want to keep people out of the recreation area?

MS: [affirmative] They don't want them to drive in. These people, they won't go in unless they can drive. [inaudible] That goes up to the farm. You see how they rammed that gate until they just had it torn in pieces.

MK: What kind of recreating are they going to do back here?

MS: Oh, just go out and have parties or go out, shoot deer or whatever they do for recreation, camp, hunt. Well, people have been up in here today. I brought the dogs up maybe last night.

MK: Fox chasing?

MS: I'd say they were [inaudible]. There might be a few foxes, but I doubt it. Foxes would go where they can get a meal. That bench used to be [inaudible]. They run their motorcycles up and down these pipelines. Now, you shoot the locks off. Take the bolt cutter to get the locks off. So, they could drive up in here and shoot a couple of deer, where they bring their four-wheelers and three-wheelers in.

MK: How does it make you feel seeing all these old family farms in government hands?

MS: Worthless, don't have anything now. We were thinking on moving down and building on the farm, someplace where we could have meadows, a lot of places to make hay and a lot of water. Well, we can't do that now. All we can do is clear off what we can in the farm and survive from there, rent places. Nothing will be able to replace what we lost.

MK: How much land was over here?

MS: I think it was about 102 acres on our farm and then maybe 200 acres on doc's. There's the right of way that separates the two farms. This goes up there. You can see the fence line up the [inaudible]. It swings up the ridge and all this on back. Here you can see where they're running their motorcycles.

MK: Yes. I can see all –

MS: All the slash marks.

MK: Tracks all through there.

MS: That's people spotlighting deer in the meadows.

MK: Do you think you'll probably find a way to stay here in Lewis County?

MS: I suppose I will, not much here though. Most everything gone to the recreation. Eventually, they're going to take the farm we have now. You can see how it widens out.

MK: Oh, God, this is beautiful.

MS: It's not too many miles to go up through here. You go up and hit the ridge and go out the ridge maybe 3 miles, and you'll be in the Skin Creek. [inaudible]

MK: Your family's home back there?

MS: Yes. This is a family farm, a Watson zone completely to the head of the hollow. It's all just open ground is ours. Here you can see the surveyors' stakes out. [inaudible] people expected to make hay and not bother them. They put three-quarter-inch rebar down. [inaudible]

high. You can't see it (with your mind?). When you break the bar off, tear the blades off, makes you real happy, when everything costs too much to fix it. Here you've got an old farmer that needs to make his hay. It's been raining for a while. It finally dried up. He's going to make it. He's out and starts running in his meadows. It breaks. He has to call over Buchanan and Fairmont. He's got to call over the place and find what he needs. He has to take time off and drive over there and pay for it, bring it back. There is hardly anything around here for parts. The nearest place is Buchanan.

MK: Now, whose house was that?

MS: This was Doc Tom's house – Peterson. The guy who had all the guns lived up here. Beautiful old house, lots of oak, walnut in it.

MK: It's just a shell now. Who tore it down?

MS: It's hard to tell. I think my cousin and my uncle got most of everything they could use out of it. I think maybe they even just locked them out. You see how Pete's patched his [inaudible], the old bricks. They usually capture that pretty good at times. They didn't. At last, they just let it go. You see, not too many years ago, this was all clear.

MK: Yes. What a job clearing those [inaudible].

MS: Pete had his garden here.

MK: Where is he now?

MS: He's up Wolf Creek now. See, nice little caves. They call that leather bark up on that ridge.

MK: Leather bark?

MS: Leather bark. I wonder why.

MK: That's the name of the ridge.

MS: Yes. This goes back up to them. It's not too far out that ridge to hit in the wolf (den?), just pretty close to Brownsville. All this land is tied together. You just know how to do. There's the old corn crib. But the last time we really headed down here, we took a big loop up through there during deer season and just found deer after deer after deer just lying there, shot to pieces. Here's the old barn where it stood, the corn crib. There's a couple of sheds. There's the coal house. Here's where they backed up to get into Pete's guns. They just backed up along the house. Go break in.

MK: Pete lived there by himself?

MS: [affirmative] He had a chance about [inaudible] that he ever killed here. He'd just get out,

slip around, couldn't walk very well, but he could walk for miles and miles. He took his 6-millimeter that day. He'd seen him twice and missed both times in the brush. He was just about in tears when we talked to him, when he had everything from 218 Bees, the elephant guns. He'd just shoot them all – every now and then, he'd take them out and shoot them. Every time you came, he'd want you to shoot a new gun.

MK: So, these guys that came to get his guns knew about him?

MS: He wouldn't do that to strangers. But somehow they knew, whether the Corps has been there, the appraisers, or what. Somehow they found out about Pete's guns. They're lucky that Pete would be using bird shots to start out with; somebody would have been dead. They left their flashlight and hat and their gloves. I don't know if they're just trying to get away or what.

MK: Well, can you make any sense out of all this stuff? I've been trying and trying to understand this for years and years.

MS: Well, someone wanting to make a buck, wanting just to destroy the country. I don't see anything that can be made off this, other than farming, making – raising game. But the timber has been timbered years ago. This whole holler has been timbered. Maybe another 20 years, it would be timbered again. As you can see the tracks, people slip up and cut all the decent trees, all the walnuts, anything that they can make, steal anything they can, scavenge anything. You'll be driving around the community, and you'll see carloads of people get out and just go digging through all the trash. Anything that's left, they'll dig through. Just take a board, they'll go out and dig up old people's flowers and their shrubs, anything they can pick up.

MK: Oh, this is beautiful in here. What a nice place to live.

MS: Yes, it was. I remember hunting in here when it was just people around the community to hunt. You'd call everybody else, or they'd call you. Everybody would know where everybody else was. So, they wouldn't go messing up their hunt. Williams used to hunt over here. We'd hunt back on ours. Tommy and his friends would hunt over here. Then a couple of carloads of extra people would come. They'd go back, and they'd bring a couple more, just caught on. Finally, it would be hard to get in here the first morning. It'd be hard to sit down without seeing 20 people walk past you. Not just like most people that like to hunt. They like to still hunt. They'd slip out through there. No way you could do it. The deer would just run to death. They couldn't turn around and take off down over the hill without somebody shooting at them. Then these people get up in here and get lost, just out looking at the country, I suppose.

MK: Sounds pretty dangerous to me.

MS: Yes. That's why most people quit hunting in here. Let these recreationists have it. Let them shoot themselves. Nobody – hardly anybody comes up in here local anymore, except after season. Every now and then they'll take a turn for a rabbit or grouse. Out through there is about the grouse – best grouse woods. There's just certain little places that catch the sun at the right time and have the right food and everything.

MK: Well, maybe we should head back. Did you know this Peterson?

MS: [affirmative]

MK: What was he like?

MS: Oh, he's quiet. He didn't say much. But whenever you'd have a raffle, they could talk you into buying a hundred raffle tickets, even if you'd already bought one. He could talk you into anything if he wanted to. He's quiet. He smokes an old pipe. He groundhog hunts a lot. He loved to go out and hunt groundhogs. You'd see Pete carrying his – he made himself a bipod with two sticks and a piece of inner tube, tied them together, nails in the bottom to stick in the ground. Binoculars, his old rifle, his bipod, and he'd just slip around. He'd sit in meadows for hours upon hours. That's all he had to do. Whenever you want to go look up something about a gun, you went to Pete.

MK: He isn't in the gun business.

MS: He had rooms full of gun magazines. He got up them all. He'd just read. He burnt coal, every now and then a little bit of wood.

MS: Did he have a lot of stories to tell?

MS: Well, he never did tell very many. I'm sure he did.

MK: Who were some of the other people lived over in here?

MS: . Well, let's see. Old (Bob Buffone?), he left that next to (hard red?).

MK: What was he like?

MS: He's nice. His role, he did a lot of trapping when he was younger. He'd tell you anything you needed to know. Tell you about anything. Did a little bit of everything. Then there's my aunt. She was a schoolteacher at the time. She moved from a trailer. A fellow built her house. He told her she'd get more money out of it. She wouldn't listen to anybody else. So, he built her a house. After they took that from her, she went back to Ohio.

MK: They took her house?

MS: A little bit of ground she had there. So, she just gave up, went back to Ohio. I think she'd lost her husband, a year or two before. She lived just back towards the hard road, a little ways, and a big graveyard. When the Corps come around, they'd be over there messing in the graveyard. She had to go for a walk one day. They had this big Black fellow for a while. Because they said he was just a monster. He'd come and visit these old ladies in the middle of the night. Tell them they were going to leave. Wouldn't knock or anything, just start kicking in the door, start screaming at him, hollering at him. What are you going to do when you're a 60-, 65-, 70-year-old woman by yourself? Go get armed. So, most of them started carrying weapons

around with them. That time, a couple of them found him over – that big Black fellow – over in the graveyard, sitting on grandpa's grave. That about did it.

MK: What did they do?

MS: Well, they told him, if he didn't get his Black butt off real quick, he wasn't going to have one carry around. That was about the end of that fellow. They went back to the house to get the gun. By the time she got back, he was gone. This all used to be clean. Hey, it came off that was enormous. Got plenty of water springs out along the bottom of the hill, kept full, grass got tall, a lot of clover in it.

MK: Did they run a lot of cattle in here?

MS: Yes, quite a few. The last couple years, we were the only ones, besides Harris' and a few others that used to turn in. You had to be careful who turned in with you. Some people would buy stock. A bunch of stock would come in from some place, like Pennsylvania, Virginia, and they'd have shipping fever or something. They'd turn in with yours, and neither one of you knew if anything was wrong with them, the whole bunch came down. We had that happen to us. It's when you buy a big bunch of medicine they were selling and start giving shots. We never did lose one. Came close. That's where you'd be out wading in manure and mud all night, soaking wet, and exhausted to get one in. The owners were not tourist-crazy. There were Charolais intermixed, and they were just wild. They'd been running around. These guys thought it – look at.

MK: What?

MS: Deer running wide out.

MK: Damn moose.

MS: Yes. There's a dog. See, these same tracks that went everywhere.

MK: [affirmative] Joy riding, I guess.

MS: Yes. It was fun to run our cattle around in the meadows. Bump them every now and then, just run them as hard as they could get them to run. Hell, if you're the farmer, you'd come feed them the next day, and they just run from you, dead of winter. Pretty bad when [inaudible] can't even get his own cattle in.

MK: How long has this bridge been here?

MS: Years and years, maybe 15. I don't know. It's been a long time, long as I can remember. I don't think the water's ever gotten this high. Maybe when it was like one of the lower cables had broken, and it was sagging way low. Maybe Ken put down from where it's at now. Water had gotten up onto.

MK: Will it ever get over this road here?

MS: [negative] It would fill up back up into here on this lower part. Looking down in here, let's see, Sunday before the opening morning deer season. It was just packed. This whole bottom was full. Everywhere there were campers, people out scouting, Charleston, Beckley, down south, unemployed coal miners. Hell, didn't matter to them what they shot, as long as it was something to eat. Used to be a hell of a bunch of turkey over in here. Used to hunt them. That was Missy's age or younger, dad would take me out and show me what the turkeys were like. But when these Logan – not necessarily the Logan County, but people from down South came up. They just started shooting turkeys instead of deer. That's where the turkeys are. The ones that they didn't kill, moved away. The DNR started bringing more turkeys in. Not only did they bring the turkeys, but they brought the troublesome beavers, beavers that were causing trouble in other places. So, these old farmers would go out to feed, and their meadows to be flooded. Beavers build dams in the creeks, and it overflows in the meadows. Couldn't get the DNR to do anything about it. That's for [inaudible]. (Doug Grant?) lived on the other side of that. That was all Johnny Hicks's up on that hill and on around, Crooked Fork. It was always nice hunting.

MK: Was that where Barbara lived?

MS: Yes.

MK: Bobby? Crooked Fork? How far away from where the dam – the lake will be?

MS: Well, supposedly the (gulf?) is supposed to flood in here.

MK: This bottom here?

MS: Supposedly. It's hard to tell. I never see how they're going to do. Maybe this will just be recreation.

MK: Gas wells, huh?

MS: Oh, yes, gas – well, all this here is brand new pipe. All that's brand new.

[end of transcript]