

Glenn Webb Interview
with Seth Long and Abby Huggins
Mayking, Kentucky
July 13, 2017

00:01 Seth Long: Glenn, for the sake of our talking today, I just want to, I'm Seth Long, right. We've been buddies for a while.

00:09 Glenn Webb: A long time, Seth

00:11 SL: A long time. And if you could tell me, maybe how - your name and maybe how young you are. And where you grew up and who your people are, type of thing.

00:23 GW: Ok, I'll start. My name is Glenn Webb.

00:29 SL: Ok.

00:29 GW: I was born in Floyd County, Wheelwright.

00:33 SL: Floyd County, ok.

00:34 GW: And, didn't stay over there long. But I've been here all my life.

00:39 SL: What brought you here?

00:41 GW: Huh?

00:41 SL: What brought you here?

00:42 GW: Right here.

00:42 SL: What brought you here? What brought you here to -

00:46 GW: My mother and dad.

00:48 SL: Ok.

00:49 GW: Yeah. I was adopted out. I was adopted.

00:53 SL: I didn't know that.

00:54 GW: My mother, of course, and my brother, he's gone. But, she was a full blooded Cherokee Indian.

01:01 SL: I see.

01:01 GW: And my grandfather was too.

01:05 SL: Oh, ok.

01:05 GW: But, my mother died, I don't know what they call it now, but back then they called it childbirth.

01:12 SL: Yep.

01:14 GW: Childbirth fever.

01:15 SL: Ok.

01:15 GW: I was two weeks old when my mother died.

01:17 SL: Wow.

01:19 GW: And, the Webbs adopted me, I was about a year and a half old. And I weighed a pound and a half.

01:28 SL: A pound and a half.

01:30 GW: I weighed a pound and a half when I was born.

01:32 SL: Wow. How about that. That's amazing. What year were you born?

01:37 GW: Huh?

01:37 SL: What year were you born?

01:38 GW: 1930.

01:41 SL: 1930. Very good.

01:42 GW: 1930.

01:46 SL: Ok. Cool. So how old, or how young would you be today?

01:51 GW: I'd be 86 years and well, I'll be 87 November the 9th. It's 86 years and five or six months or something.

02:03 SL: Very good, very good, very good. Is this home place?

02:06 GW: Yeah.

02:07 SL: This is here.

02:09 GW: Yeah.

02:10 SL: Ok. Yep.

02:11 GW: My dad built this.

02:12 SL: He did?

02:12 GW: Built it 1907.

02:17 SL: Nineteen and seven?

02:17 GW: Seven.

02:19 SL: Ok. Yep.

02:21 GW: And never have a roof on it yet.

02:24 SL: It's the original roof.

02:25 GW: It's still the original roof.

02:26 SL: Wow. That's amazing.

02:29 GW: It's a metal roof, you know.

02:31 SL: Yep.

02:33 GW: But Seth, I don't know what gauge, I couldn't tell you. But, you're a strong man.

02:40 SL: Yeah.

02:40 GW: I don't know whether you could lift it. One of the wefts from there to there because it was heavy. Because I've had the pieces. The pieces stayed here for a long time when they had to cut something off or something, but I'd move a little.

02:55 SL: That's a hundred and ten years ago.

02:57 GW: Yeah.

02:57 SL: Wow.

02:59 GW: Yeah. But the reason I know it's that heavy because there was some scraps like when you build a house. When I got big enough, I get a hold of them. Well it's just like [inaudible] I'll tell you that.

03:14 SL: That's pretty cool. So, Glenn, you told me a little bit about your memories of maple syrup.

03:24 GW: Yeah.

03:24 SL: Of, it's something that I've been doing, you read the story in the paper. I want you to tell me about what you remember about maple syrup. What memories come to you when you think about it?

03:38 GW: We had four big trees, I'd say it was two and a half or three foot, they were that big. One set there and one set there and one set there and one's still alive.

03:49 SL: Yep.

03:50 GW: And my daddy take a brace and bit, a brace, you know, not electric.

03:57 SL: A brace and bit, you turn it and drill a hole.

03:59 GW: And drill a hole. He'd put a stick weed or an elder weed, something, or a holly, you know, and he'd take, I don't know whether you know what I'm talking about or not. But he'd take beeswax.

04:14 SL: Yeah.

04:14 GW: And go around there, what was it, so it wouldn't leak.

04:16 SL: That would seal off the reed or the spiral that he put in.

04:20 GW: Yeah. And Seth, you'll have to tell me, you'll have to - that tree would bleed, I'd say, if I set it right, two weeks. That would be all of it. You don't want it to move, because it quit dripping.

04:44 SL: Ok.

04:45 GW: I wondered, because he'd drill them holes every year. But, I don't remember, I don't remember ever seeing where he drilled before. Because he never drilled the same hole.

05:00 SL: Right. Right. He'd move it.

05:03 GW: Yeah. He'd move it. But I don't remember, I don't think he went over that far in. He never went close to the heart, because if he had, he'd kill the tree.

05:14 SL: Right, you're right. They normally drill about an inch and a half deep.

05:17 GW: Yeah. He could have drilled an inch and a half. But, outside that cellar that's still out there, I've had four, five hundred gallons in that.

05:35 SL: Is that right?

05:38 GW: And I've helped my mother make it, well, you know, when I got grown, we didn't make it no more. I helped my mother make it all her life.

05:49 SL: Now, how did she make it, I mean, once you collected the sap from the tree, you said you put it downstairs under the floor, right?

05:57 GW: I put it outside in the cellar.

06:00 SL: In the cellar, outdoor cellar.

06:01 GW: Yeah.

06:01 SL: And then what did she do with it? How did she cook it down? Inside or outside?

06:09 GW: Inside.

06:09 SL: Inside.

06:09 GW: Inside. We had an old coal, wood burning stove like the old people had.

06:16 SL: Cook stove.

06:17 GW: Yeah, a cook stove with a little bar.

06:23 SL: A warming place. And the water reservoir around it, for hot water.

06:29 GW: Had a, not a radiator, but it set right close to the fire, kept the water hot. But anyhow, Seth, she either used a canner or it was a big bowl. And I want to tell you this. It seemed like to me, and you tell me if I'm wrong or not, but seems like to me when she, when it boils down, you know, the sugar water is what we called it.

07:09 SL: Yeah.

07:12 GW: And, when it boils down, seems like to me she kept add a little, add a little. I'm sure she did. But it was a fire that boil all out, she'd bound to add it. And she knows right. I don't know, but she don't, when we get ready to make syrup.

07:35 SL: Yep.

07:36 GW: And, I told you before, we made sugar.

07:43 SL: Yeah.

07:43 GW: We made sugar. She'd set ten or fifteen or twenty coffee cups in there on the table.

07:51 SL: OK.

07:51 GW: And, we had a cow. She used old cow butter and she buttered every one of them.

07:58 SL: Yep.

07:59 GW: Alright. When it got down, just like making chocolate candy or anything. When it got down and to where she knew it was sugar, she'd pour that cup full.

08:10 SL: Ok.

08:10 GW: They'd set it on that table all night long. Until they hardened.

08:14 SL: Yep.

08:15 GW: And then, the next morning, all you had to do was just turn it up and it fell in your hand because that butter brought it out of there.

08:20 SL: And that was all, that was all solid like.

08:23 GW: Yeah! Yeah, sugar.

08:28 SL: It was a cupful -

08:28 GW: A tea cup

08:28 SL: Full of sugar.

08:29 GW: Yeah.

08:29 SL: Do you remember what it taste like?

08:30 GW: Oh, Lord yeah I remember.

08:33 SL: What did it taste like?

08:33 GW: It taste like sugar, man. Maple sugar, maple sugar. And I'd take a cake of that to school with me every day. And I reached in my pocket, bite it, I'd eat it all day long.

08:48 SL: Is that right? What did you wrap it up in?

08:50 GW: Huh?

08:50 SL: How did you wrap it up? Or -

08:53 GW: I never wrapped it up.

08:53 SL: You just put it right in your pocket.

08:54 GW: I just put it in my shirt pocket.

08:55 SL: Ok. Very good, very nice. That's really interesting. Did she keep any of it as in liquid form, like in syrup, or did she make-?

09:11 GW: Yeah, yeah.

09:13 SL: Or did she make sugar out of all of it?

09:13 GW: No, no, she made. She made, it'd have to boil longer to make sugar. She'd boil until she knew she had syrup, and then she'd, we'd have back then I guess, quart jars or half a gallon jars or something. She'd make maybe two or three of them then make a little sugar.

09:36 SL: Then, how did she use the syrup? Do you remember how she used the syrup?

09:41 GW: How she used it?

09:41 SL: Yeah, what did she use it as? I mean, do you remember?

09:46 GW: We used it, she'd make pancakes and we'd use it. Alright. Back then, if I had oatmeal, or cornflakes, or anything like that. Didn't have no money to buy no sugar with, just drop a little of that in there. It sweetened it.

10:07 SL: Sweeten anything with it.

10:07 GW: Yeah.

10:08 SL: Yeah. There you go. Cool. And then, the sugar, when she made cakes, the sugar, you said you took some to school.

10:19 GW: Yeah.

10:19 SL: What else did you do with it? How else did she use it? Was it a special treat for y'all?

10:23 GW: No, no, she'd give it to the neighbors, you know.

10:25 SL: Gave it away to the neighbors.

10:27 GW: Anybody that come in and wanted a cake, you know, a lot of people didn't know what it was. They didn't know what it was.

10:36 SL: I see.

10:36 GW: But man, now let me ask you one thing.

10:40 SL: Yep.

10:42 GW: Do you think they make maple - I know you do - but, do you think this maple syrup you buy is maple syrup?

10:53 SL: Not the real thick stuff. Not like Log Cabin or Aunt Jemima or something like that. That's not real syrup.

11:00 GW: No, they put that maple flavoring in that.

11:03 SL: They do.

11:03 GW: To make it. I don't believe any is made like my mother made it or like you make it.

11:09 SL: Yeah.

11:10 GW: I don't believe you can buy any of that now.

11:13 SL: Do you still eat maple syrup?

11:17 GW: Oh yeah.

11:17 SL: Do you?

11:17 GW: Yeah, I like it on my - my girl buys it here, but it tastes like maple syrup. It's got some flavor. But, to me, it ain't the maple syrup.

11:30 SL: I'm going to bring you a jar of maple syrup by. I'll give you some.

11:33 GW: Well, I'd sure enjoy that, bud.

11:37 SL: Might bring back some more memories.

11:38 GW: Yeah.

11:41 SL: So, when you were younger, how old do you think you were when you remember your parents -

11:46 GW: When I remember them.

11:47 SL: Yeah, I mean when they were making maple syrup.

11:50 GW: Oh, I was six, four, six years old. See, I was the only one. I was the only kid they had. And, my dad got out doing something, I was right with him.

12:04 SL: Right.

12:04 GW: If my mother was doing something, I was right with her. I learned a lot of stuff. Now, they could, homemade soap. I helped them make, we had our kit, it was about that square, about that long. And she'd make - I know how she done it. We had hogs, you know.

12:36 SL: Yeah.

12:36 GW: If a fly rolled one of the shoulders or hams or ribs, she'd take that and she'd slice it up and put it to make soap out of it.

12:54 SL: Oh.

12:54 GW: Ok. You had to have lye, you know.

12:59 SL: Lye.

12:59 GW: You had to put lye. Well, lye was a dime a can. About like a drink can you buy now. A dime a can. A lot of times, we didn't have a dime to buy it. And I took wood ashes and made the lye.

13:19 SL: Yep. The ashes of hardwoods, right? Hardwood ashes.

13:22 GW: Yeah, yeah.

13:23 SL: How'd you do it?

13:24 GW: Well, I put the water in it I guess. I believe you just put the water like you would with the lye.

13:33 SL: Like the lye, yep.

13:34 GW: Yeah.

13:36 SL: And then, what did she do, how did she make the soap from there?

13:40 GW: Well, it had to cook so long.

13:41 SL: Ok.

13:42 GW: Until it got done and then she took a big bushel of I guess that long and she cut it in cakes, you know. And then let it cool and then got it right out.

13:59 SL: Yep. And then what did she do with the soap?

14:02 GW: Well, what my mother done with it is we had an old washing machine, the old washing machine. If she doesn't have no powders to put in the wash, she'd take a bunch of lye and she'd shave that, she'd shave it and put it in that washing machine to clean the clothes. And, my pair of britches didn't last long because that lye soap was - if it was red, it'd make them white, buddy.

14:40 SL: It was hard on the clothes, wasn't it?

14:41 GW: Yeah boy.

14:42 SL: Yeah. Probably hard on the skin too.

14:44 GW: Oh yeah. Oh, but we washed with it, but you couldn't use much of it. Because man, it'd burn your skin.

14:53 SL: Well.

14:54 GW: It'd burn your skin.

14:55 SL: Interesting. You know a lot's changed over the years.

15:01 GW: Huh?

15:01 SL: You have a lot of good memories about -

15:02 GW: Oh yeah.

15:04 SL: Making stuff at home. And you know your soap and maple syrup. And the way of other things you made for food to preserve. What other kinds of products did you make?

15:16 GW: Well, she made blackberry jam, raspberry jam, and huckleberry. We'd go, you buy them out of the store, but a fellow told me the other day, you buy the blueberry. And the blueberry looks like to me a huckleberry. But he said, the fellow I talked to said they're different from the blueberry, the huckleberry. I don't know that, but -

15:39 SL: Yeah, I've heard that there are differences.

15:41 GW: Yeah. But -

15:45 SL: You said you had hogs.

15:46 GW: Yeah.

15:48 SL: You killed those too, right?

15:48 GW: Yeah.

15:51 SL: Yeah. Did you render the lard?

15:52 GW: Yeah, yeah.

15:52 SL: How did you do that?

15:54 GW: Well, on the stove. On the stove. And let me tell you something else. We never had no wares, you know like you buy where they make the hot dogs out of.

16:12 SL: Ok.

16:12 GW: Alright, she'd take the small entrails and she'd wash them out, I don't know how many times she'd wash them, maybe once, with the lye too you know. But anyhow, she'd wash them out and make sausage. And, tap it in that, she cut them off about that long, tie one end. She tied it like she'd do a balloon. And then she'd tap that full of sausage and then tie the other end and that was a weenie wrap.

16:47 SL: What'd you call it?

16:49 GW: Weenie.

16:50 SL: Weenie wrap. Yeah.

16:53 GW: Where you get a hot dog.

16:54 SL: Yeah. Nice, what did it taste like?

16:56 GW: Oh it taste good. It tasted like sausage, you know. But it was actually a weenie.

17:05 SL: Nice, very good. How about, like, when I think of butchering a hog, there's not much that goes to waste, right?

17:17 GW: No. My mother, the only thing that was waste is that hoof. You know the hoof. My mother would cook that hogs head.

17:31 SL: Yeah.

17:30 GW: She was the only one that would eat it. But she cooked it and keep it for two or three weeks. She'd take a butcher knife and slice or peel it off and eat it every day.

17:41 SL: Wow.

17:43 GW: Nothing went to waste.

17:44 SL: Yeah. What about the oink? The oink? The squeal. Did you eat the squeal?

17:53 GW: No, no. Just the head.

17:57 SL: I'm joking you. Very good. Nice. Did you have sheep?

18:04 GW: No.

18:05 SL: Cattle?

18:05 GW: We had a cow.

18:08 SL: A milk cow.

18:08 GW: Just a milk cow.

18:08 SL: Ok. Did you used to milk her?

18:12 GW: Yeah, Lord yeah. I milked all my life. I had a first cousin lived out of Laurel County and they had a lot of cows. And he was about the same as I was. He came up wanted me to stay and I was milking. Seth, the only way I was to milk is with one hand.

18:40 SL: Ok.

18:41 GW: He told me, he said, "Glen, let me show you." But you know, a cow won't give the milk down to you like it will me. I mean, if I milk her every day and you try to milk her one time, the cow won't give her milk now. He sat down there and used both hands. And got that bucket full. Then I learned to use both hands.

19:11 SL: Ok, yep. That made you strong, didn't it?

19:13 GW: Oh yeah. Well, that [inaudible].

19:20 SL: Very good.

19:21 GW: But, Seth, you probably don't believe this, but I killed my first hog when I was four years old. I was four years old.

19:32 SL: Is that right?

19:33 GW: Just me and my dad. My dad bought two boxes of 22 shells every Friday evening. For a dime a box, that's what the price was, dime a box.

19:45 SL: A dime a box for - wow.

19:48 GW: And me and him would shoot a gun Saturday and Sunday shoot all them shells up. Well. The hog was almost where the new road is over there. And the snow was about that deep. And he took me out there. Well, he took a shovel and shoveled a place for him to squat down. Come here, put my coat on, put me on his back. Had the 22. And it had, and he squatted down, otherwise set down, I guess. And, I laid that gun barrel over his shoulder. And back then, when you kill hogs, they were seven, eight, maybe twenty that would help you scrape it and get rid of it right quick.

20:44 SL: Everybody worked together.

20:46 GW: Yeah, everybody worked together. And they hollered to my dad, they said, "Jarius," that was my dad's name. Said, "What are you going to do?" He said, "This boy's going to kill a hog." Well, they all, "No, no, no." My dad hollered down there one of his nephews. [inaudible] He had two of them, had a sow and a boar. Well, the boar had been clipped. I asked him which one he wanted and he told me. With that coming out of there, I cracked that thing. I was shocked. I never will forget.

21:41 SL: Well, then you had a lot of work to do.

21:44 GW: Yeah, yeah.

21:48 SL: Right? Yeah. That's funny.

21:49 GW: [inaudible] Every time he killed a hog, if some young person come, "You want to measure its tail?" They stick the finger up the rear.

22:11 SL: They'd have your finger there and they'd push it.

22:13 GW: They'd grab my hand. [laughs] But it was a hard tail. Yeah.

22:24 SL: They only do that one time, right?

22:25 GW: Yeah. One time [laughs]

22:29 SL: That's funny. Goodness.

22:30 GW: But, Seth, I've had a wonderful life, bud. I have. I helped my dad. Helped my mother. I never drunk a drop of liquor in my life. I never smoked. I may have smoked a pack of cigarettes. But I smoke [inaudible] tobacco and leaves and corn tips. I ain't took no medicine. But, I been chewing I guess about sixty [laughs]. I wish I could quit. If you set your head, you do anything you want to. But, my head won't set that far.

23:29 SL: It won't set that rule. Yep, that's right. Yep.

23:34 GW: But, you know, my grandkids, my girls, say dad, "Why don't you quit that?" I said, "Now girls, I'll soon be 87-year-old. It ain't hurt me yet, if it does," I said "I'll just go on out." It was, I've had a wonderful life.

24:03 SL: You raised your family right here in this house?

24:03 GW: Oh yeah.

24:05 SL: So you were raised here and your family was raised here.

24:07 GW: Yeah.

24:10 SL: What year did the road go through?

24:11 GW: Huh?

24:11 SL: What year did that road go through? Do you remember?

24:14 GW: Bud, I can't. But right there is the main road.

24:17 SL: That was right in front of the house here.

24:19 GW: That was the main road. That went into Virginia. That's the road right there.

24:25 SL: Wow. Sure is a lot different, isn't it?

24:28 GW: Huh?

24:29 SL: A lot different.

24:30 GW: Oh Lord yeah. Yeah.

24:33 SL: Did you have a garden?

24:34 GW: Yeah. Yeah.

24:35 SL: Where was the garden at?

24:37 GW: On the other side of the house there.

24:39 SL: I see.

24:41 GW: We raised, well we raised peanuts. We raised corn, beans, cabbage, lettuce, onions, taters, all of it.

24:54 SL: Ok. Did you ever raise bees?

24:58 GW: Raise beets?

24:58 SL: Keep bees? Honey bees.

25:01 GW: My dad had two sets. Two, what do they call them, hives.

25:07 SL: Gums.

25:07 GW: Yeah.

25:11 SL: Ok. Interesting.

25:12 GW: But, you know, Seth, I had an uncle that lived right down there. He had about eight or ten hives [phone rings]. And he went into them, I guess you know how he get the honey out. Alright, he'd go into them without a veil, sometimes he would take a smoker. But not all the time. They'd cover him up and they never sting him. They never sting him.

25:55 SL: Never got stung.

25:55 GW: Well, he might have got one or two you know.

25:56 SL: His bees knew him, didn't they?

25:57 GW: Oh yeah, yeah. Now that don't sound right, but it is. Because I could get around and they'd just sting the pants off me. His boys had a big goat. A big goat. A billy. And it would get time of year, they'd tie it, let it pick grass, you know. They went over in the yard where their bees was and it drove a stake down and one of that goat could pick grass on it. And, they wasn't

thinking. It got up, got that chain around one of them hives and pulled it off. You know how long that goat lived? Just seconds.

26:55 SL: Is that right?

26:55 GW: Seconds. I mean, it was, I couldn't tell you how many thousand.

27:03 SL: How about that.

27:03 GW: Bees on it. It was a cry just like a baby cry. And there wasn't no body to get around it.

27:11 SL: You couldn't help it, bees everywhere.

27:13 GW: No, no.

27:15 SL: Interesting. Wow. Glenn, I remember you telling me about moonshining.

27:23 GW: I want to tell you, Seth, before we start right in the moonshine. My daddy had a horse, Old Doc, and I was just a small kid. He'd go down the barn, you probably won't believe me, you won't believe me, but I know it's the truth. He'd go down to the barn and put the bottle on the horse. Put saddle on it in its saddle bags. He would put, I want to say four or six or maybe eight gallon jugs in his saddle bag. I don't know whether he told - I know he told the horse where to go. Now the horse would leave out of there and he'd go into the mountain up there where there was moonshine. They would take them jugs and fill them with moonshine and put it back in the saddle bag. That horse would leave there. If the revenue men, if the revenue men was around anywhere, that horse would make another trail. He'd make another trail. He'd come over the hill. And my daddy would go down there and open the barn door. We have seen him stand there for maybe an hour, maybe two hours. And he'd watch that barn door, watch the road. And if everything got clear, he'd take a run, go into that barn, he went under the bar, my daddy went down there, took his whisky out, put it up in the loft, cover it with hay. And, there wasn't nobody that would believe that. I don't know how many trips I seen him do that.

29:35 SL: Wow. That's kind of like a self-driving car.

29:37 GW: Yeah, yeah. But, you know, I wasn't going to believe it. To tell you the truth, I wasn't going to believe it, but I seen it done.

29:46 SL: You saw it with your eyes.

29:47 GW: I seen it with my eyes.

29:48 SL: Yep, yep.

29:51 GW: And he could go down there and have a 38 and he'd show Old Doc that 38, he'd stand up on his hind feet as make that noise. And as long as that 38 was pointing on it, when my dad put it back in his pocket, he'd drop back down. And I go a little further with something else you won't believe. That horse that I'm talking about, has been tried in court down there at Whitesburg. They take a ride to the courthouse and they tried that horse.

30:34 SL: Tried the horse?

30:34 GW: Tried it. Tried it for moon - bootlegging.

30:40 SL: Bootlegging? A horse? Old Doc.

30:41 GW: Yeah. They tried him. And my dad told me that he'd been tried six or eight times and he come clear every time. They didn't have, they couldn't catch him with it, they couldn't catch the horse with it. But, Seth, where they tried the horse down there, they shot it down right there. If he was guilty, if he was proved guilty -

31:12 SL: A horse?

31:12 GW: They killed the horse right there.

31:14 SL: Is that right?

31:14 GW: Yeah, yeah.

31:14 SL: How about that.

31:16 GW: Yeah, they sure did. That's been years ago.

31:19 SL: So your dad's horse Doc wasn't the only horse that was ever tried? [phone rings]. Ok. Well.

31:30 GW: I told my daughter the other night, I said, I'm going to tell Seth all that. And they won't want to believe me. And I said I can't hardly believe it myself, but I seen it. And Seth, they used to, they used to, if you was in town in Whitesburg and you got arrested, they'd search you, they'd search you and if you had as much as fifty cents in your pocket, they'd turn you lose. But if you didn't have fifty cents, they brought you outside in front of the courthouse and auctioned you off, sold you. They'd sell you to me or to somebody else, ever how much they can get out of you. They'd call it a vagrant. They'd call it being vagrant, without any money.

32:33 SL: Well, that's amazing.

32:38 GW: Seth, sometimes you have to go far enough to get my memory going, but I've got a good memory.

32:51 SL: Oh yeah.

32:52 GW: But sometimes I need a little lead off to get me started.

32:57 SL: There you go, yep.

33:00 GW: But, talk about moonshining, I was about oh three or four-year-old and we had a painted fence around the yard.

33:13 SL: Painted fence.

33:14 GW: A painted fence, you know. And there's a fellow that came up the road one evening told my dad, said we're going to run a batch off tonight. Like for you to come up. My dad drunk all the time. He said, "I'd like for you to come up." Well, my dad told him, "Yeah." He told him a by-word you know Charlie or Jeb.

33:37 SL: A password.

33:39 GW: Yeah, you holler it when you get close so they know who it was. Well, he come in here and told my mother. Well, my mother said, "I never did see none of that." She said, "I want to see it." Well, he said "That'd be alright." Well, they went down there, Uncle try to get one of his girls to stay with me and they never could get nobody. Well they had to take me with them. See, I went with them. And, we got up there and my dad hollered the by-word that he told him to holler. We went in and the fellow told him, liked to die, he said "I wouldn't have Betty Ann see me doing this at all." He was a good man. But, make a living you know. But anyhow, we went up, my mother wanted to see what was going on. They had eight or ten or maybe fifteen kegs with the barrels, with the I guess beer or making beer or had corn and everything. It was all working, you know how you make, it was all working. She started and there was eight or ten young men laying over there on the bank drunker than horses. They was almost passed out, they were drunk. She started, first barrel she raises up, looks at it, lays it back down. She raised three or four up then she come to the next one. She raised it up and she reached down there with her hands and pulled a big mountain rat, a creek rat, mountain rat, it's way bigger than I imagine. Pull that thing out by the tail and held it up like that. And she didn't hold it up five seconds, the only thing she had was the tail because it already decayed already, rotted. Well, them fellows over there drunk, they wasn't drunk long because man, they got sober right quick.

36:09 SL: Yeah, that would cure anybody, wouldn't it?

36:10 GW: Yeah. They got sober. They throwed up and they left that place a flying, buddy.

36:17 SL: Howdy [to person coming in house]

36:24 GW: Lord have mercy, it was a [inaudible]

36:30 SL: Yeah, lot of good memories, huh?

36:31 GW: Yeah.

36:33 SL: Something I remember you telling me about, I'll always remember it, about working at the RC [Cola] plant down there. You worked down there, right?

36:42 GW: Yeah, I worked forty-five years.

36:43 SL: Forty-five years.

36:45 GW: Forty-five years.

36:46 SL: When did you start?

36:47 GW: I started nineteen and, let's see, I graduated, I started 1950.

36:55 SL: 1950. Ok.

36:56 GW: I worked forty-five year. No. I started in 1945. I worked forty-five years. And Seth, I raised my family. They had, I won't say they had the best. But, I raised them. I worked forty-five years for sixty cents an hour.

37:26 SL: Sixty cents an hour.

37:27 GW: Sixty cents an hour. Now, you know, the minimum wage started raising. But, otherwise, I would go ahead and say, I worked forty-five year for three dollars and a quarter an hour when I quit. I mean, when I retired, I get three dollars and a quarter an hour. I can tell you, I worked for nothing. But, I raised my family. I couldn't have worked for nothing, could I?

37:59 SL: That money went further than it does now, didn't it?

38:03 GW: Oh Lord yeah. Yeah.

38:04 SL: Yeah. So you worked for forty-five years and basically made minimum wage your whole career?

38:10 GW: Yeah. I never was. It was the plant that raised me. I never was give a raise.

38:18 SL: Never give you a raise.

38:19 GW: Other than the minimum wage.

38:21 SL: When the minimum wage increased, you would get the increase.

38:23 GW: Yeah. Seth, but you never got a raise in your life. I never got a raise in my life. You never got a raise in your life because the reason I say that, when it raised, they give you a raise, I know you got raises, but the stores goes up, insurance goes up, everything else goes up. Which you still alright, it just takes your raise away from you.

38:55 Yeah. Costs keep going up. I hear you.

39:00 GW: You never get nothing out of a raise.

39:01 SL: Yeah. I have a lot of appreciation and I admire you for working that many years and sticking to it. Not too many people stick to a job like that. Like you did.

39:14 GW: My daddy was a young boy when I got up twelve, thirteen-year-old, started work. This is crazy for me to tell you this, but when I was an adult, he said, "Son, if you can't get fifty cents an hour or fifty cents a day, work for a quarter." Of course, he had a lot of sense there. Because he

told me, he said when the day is over, you'll have a quarter that you wouldn't have had. You can't do that now you know.

39:51 SL: Yeah. But the point is work for a little bit is better than nothing.

39:55 GW: Yeah. Otherwise. Well, he taught school up a mile from where we're at for fifteen cents a day. Fifteen cents a day, school teacher.

40:10 SL: Fifteen cents a day.

40:10 GW: Yeah.

40:12 SL: Amazing.

40:12 GW: I don't know what year that was.

40:13 SL: And that was your dad?

40:15 GW: Huh?

40:15 SL: Your dad. Your dad taught school.

40:19 GW: Huh?

40:20 SL: Was that your dad that taught school?

40:20 GW: Yeah. My adopted dad was the only dad I ever known.

40:24 SL: Yeah, I understand. Very good.

40:28 GW: But, you know, I say it again, I've had a wonderful life and I've been blessed. I remember, well, I had a hemorrhoid operation, seventy-five years old and I ain't been worth a dime sense. I've had blood clots. But, doctor. You know the doctor in Whitesburg. May not be lung. He went down, I went down there, I had three blood clots. And you know, I was so long inside, you got to go back there for examination to see if it's gone or what's happened. I went to him. And, the nurse took me back in another room. They give you a breathing test. First I ever had that a way. But, she set me down and it was like that clock there. Other words, when you breath, when you breath in there, it goes up so high. And when I took that test, I spun that, I spun that round and round. Well, I asked her, I said, "How'd I come out?" I said, "Was it alright?" She said, "I can't tell you." She said, "The doctor will tell you." I walked back and he said, "Never in my life." He said, "I don't believe I'll ever see it anymore." He said, "I never seen it spun that way." He said, "I can't tell you about your heart or kidneys or liver or nothing," But he said, "You'll be 175, 200 year old if your lungs kills you."

42:49 SL: So in other words, he said you're full of hot air.

42:50 GW: Huh?

42:49 SL: You're full of hot air? You're full of hot air.

42:53 GW: I guess so [laughs]. If you want to say that. Making that moonshine. You might know it's made, I don't know whether you do or not.

43:13 SL: I've never made it.

43:14 GW: Well. It's kind of like, it's kind of like tapping a tree. It's steam or drip that makes that moonshine.

43:28 SL: Ok. The distilling process, the drip that comes out of it. What's left behind.

43:36 GW: It don't run out like a water whole. It drips.

43:41 SL: Drip, drip. Interesting.

43:45 GW: My mother, years ago, back in this holler, right in front of you here was an old water -

44:04 SL: Cistern?

44:07 GW: It was just a spring.

44:09 SL: Spring, ok. Yeah.

44:10 GW: And they made moonshine right where that spring was. And we'd sit down over on that porch there, at dark, and see them carbine lights. We watched them make it.

44:25 SL: You could see them from the porch?

44:25 GW: Yeah. From the porch.

44:27 SL: How about that? They need fresh water, right?

44:30 GW: Oh yeah, yeah. That's why they were where that spring was. And that spring it never went dry no matter how hot it got. We used water, I packed water from there for years and years. My mother, my dad had two pipe that was galvanized. Twenty-one foot, twenty-two feet pipe. Had two together and run it back there where the spring was, you know. I went with her one day back in there pick salad. I don't know what if the young lady knows what picking salad is, picking winter greens you eat.

45:20 SL: Yeah, salad.

45:23 GW: And we went back there and found an old terrapin, was dead in that spring. And we drunk water out of that, I don't know how long. She never would let us go back.

45:38 SL: That dead turtle there did it in.

45:40 GW: A terrapin.

45:41 SL: Yeah, well, goodness.

45:44 GW: As soon as I got old, I remember that stuff. It tickled me because we drunk water over there maybe two year.

45:57 SL: And it didn't kill you did it?

45:58 GW: Huh?

45:59 SL: It didn't kill you?

46:00 GW: No. No.

46:05 SL: Glenn, I sure appreciate you sharing. It's fun.

46:11 GW: Seth, like I said, you fellows may not believe something I've told you, but every word I've told you is the truth.

46:20 SL: I appreciate it.

46:21 GW: I hold my hand and swear it's the truth. Of course I was, you say I was too little to remember. But I wasn't because I remember all that. Because there wasn't a gang of kids in the house. Just me and my dad and mother and I was raised up. I went to, see I had four brothers and I never seen my dad, never had seen my dad. And, I was working at the RC plant and Bradley Bentley, the boss, I kept telling him about me being adopted. He said, "Where's your dad at?" I said, "The last time I know," I said, "he was in the Black Mountain in Harlan County." He said, "We going to find him." So, it was Fourth of July, one Fourth of July, he came up here, he said, "Glenn, change your clothes and get ready, we're going to find your dad." I said, "Alright." But you know, that didn't mean too much to me because he wasn't my dad as far as I was concerned. Because I was raised. But, I'll go ahead and tell you. We went over there and went up towards, I don't know where we were going, but we got way up in there. The way you go to Virginia. Brad stopped the state police. He asked that state police, said, "Do you know where John Burns is?" I was a Burns. He said, "Do you know John Burns?" He said, "Right up there is a Burns." He said, "I don't know who you're hunting for." And, we went up there, Brad pulled over, had to step down, go down a little embankment to get to the house. And I still stood at the road. But, Brad hollered. And, a little woman come out of there. She wasn't that big around. She's an old woman. And, just as quick she come out of that door, she hollered, "Glenn, Glenn." Well, you know, it didn't go over me because [inaudible]/ And she told Brad, said, "When he was born, I was the first one that kept him." And, we went on down there went in and it wasn't my dad. It was my uncle.

49:33 SL: It was your uncle.

49:33 GW: And he had a pair of overalls on. And a white shirt. Chewing like I am now. And tobacco juice running down, dripping off on his white shirt. And, we asked him, "Where my dad lives?" They didn't know. They hadn't seen him in years. Well, Seth, we got in the car. And I told Brad, he'd rather see me turn a quart or pint up drunk moonshine than see me chew tobacco. He didn't, I said, "Now you see where I get my chewing from." [laughs] We left there and come back

toward home. And, Brad said, "We can't go back," said, "We got to find him." Well, another state police come by and Brad flagged him down. He stopped. He said, "You know where John Burns lives?" He said, "No. But I know where a Burns lives," he said, "I don't know his name." Said, "The railroad track," he said, "park your car right there." And he said, "You got to walk a trestle bridge or trestle, whatever you want to call it." And said, "The second house down there is the Burns." Well, just like, I was still skittish, I was still. And Brad parks and a woman come out on her porch, which was dad's wife. She hollered, "Glenn," she said, "That's John's baby boy." Brad said, "Yeah." Said, "Where's John at?" She said, "He's outside behind the house." Seth, we went down there and we met him about halfway around the house. And he got a hold of my hand there, never spoke a word. I want to say a good hour and a half, just stood there. And then thought they were going to have to take him to the hospital. Other words, after that, I went back, until he died, I went back maybe every two or three weeks over to Harlan to see him.

52:18 SL: Ok. Harlan? Where at in Harlan?

52:20 GW: Harlan County.

52:21 SL: Yeah, but where in Harlan?

52:23 GW: Huh?

52:24 SL: Where at in Harlan?

52:24 GW: Well, it was about a little way. You go through Harlan you come on out towards Big Stone Gap. You go plumb out. I don't know exactly where it was at. But it was Harlan. Well I went back, oh, I went to his funeral. And, all my aunts and uncles and all was just grabbing me and hugging me. They left the others alone because they know all the rest of them. And, it disturbed me. I had to hug whether I wanted to or not. I've made it through a lot. I kept my wife sixty-two year, one month, and three days.

53:22 SL: Is that right, sixty-two years?

53:26 GW: And Seth, I won't leave a tale. But they killed her, they killed her, God bless her, they killed her. See, she had a trach, call it a trach down her throat. Every couple of months, a month and a half, they had to take her to one of the big hospitals there. And they had to pull that out, put a new one in and all. Well, the twenty-second of December, I don't know what they pulled out, but they worked over there. Something about the trach, I believe they pulled it out. But, she died, she may have died, the next morning, early 5:00 they called us and said she's gone. Glenda Ray got some papers, right down there. See they always called us, every time they had to take her to the hospital, Glenda Ray was the overseer. And if they couldn't get a hold of her, they called me to see if it was alright for them to do what they were going to do. That time, they never called no body. They done it right there in the nursing home. But it's probably, we never know nothing about it. You couldn't because they'd be so much against you and you wouldn't have gained nothing no how. Because my girls said, "Dad, if they was to file suit, they'd have to pull her up out of the ground, take her to Frankfort, cut her all to pieces to see what killed her, you know." And they just wouldn't agree to that. They said she's gone and we know she's gone to a better home.

55:34 SL: How long ago was that?

55:34 GW: December the 23rd

55:40 SL: Of this past year?

55:40 GW: Yeah. [20]16.

55:42 SL: Ok. Sorry to hear that.

55:44 GW: She's been dead what seven months, six, seven months or something. Yeah. I still have her right here. And I just tried to take care of her, but she got where she couldn't get up and go nowhere. I could wheel her in and out. I wheeled her in and out I guess for a year.

56:03 SL: Yeah.

56:03 GW: Feed her. I could make her a scrambled egg. I couldn't cook. I hated to cook. But I could get her what she wanted.

56:13 SL: Yeah.

56:15 GW: But I had to give her up. And Seth, I miss her buddy.

56:20 SL: I bet you do. No doubt.

56:25 GW: Now, all the fellows I worked for, with down at the RC plant. They'd follow her every time she went in A&P. She'd have two buggies and she'd fill one buggy plumb full of biscuits. Seth, I don't know how many years, I've forgot, I ate twenty biscuits every morning.

56:57 SL: Twenty?

56:57 GW: Twenty. Every morning of my life. I ate twenty biscuits. That's with sides of gravy, bacon, eggs, and all. Yeah. Twenty biscuits. You know, back then, they was about that long, and they was smaller biscuits. But I ate two cans every morning.

57:20 SL: That's a lot of biscuits.

57:21 GW: That's a lot of biscuits. And I'll tell you another thing, Seth. I was out two days and two nights of driving. Didn't have no money to buy me enough to eat. All I had, four plugs of chewing tobacco, a day's worth cost me a dollar. I buyed me four plugs of tobacco. I set me a case of RC in my cab. And I chewed that tobacco and drank that RC. I come here and you might not believe me. But, I've done it. And I know. I come in here about daylight one morning, walked through the door. She was, I said, "Betty I'm hungry." She said, "What do you want me to fix you?" I said, "Start out with seventeen eggs, scrambled eggs." She scrambled me seventeen with gravy and biscuits and all. I ate that. And I said, "Betty I'm still hungry." She said, "What?" I said, "Still hungry." She said, "What do you want?" I said, "Scramble me seventeen more." I ate thirty-four scrambled eggs, gravy, and biscuits. And Seth, I went to bed hungry.

58:56 SL: [laughs] You were hungry yet.

58:56 GW: I went to bed hungry. But I hadn't eaten in three or four days. I had plenty place to put it.

59:11 SL: That's good, very good. Glenn, we, I probably need to get going here soon.

59:20 GW: Seth, I sure appreciate you coming.

59:22 SL: I appreciate you and we'll bring you, I'll bring you a bottle of maple syrup by.

59:28 GW: I want that.

59:27 SL: I'll do that.

59:29 GW: I want that.

59:29 SL: Ok buddy.

59:31 GW: I enjoyed it, I don't know whether you enjoyed it or not.

59:33 SL: Oh yeah, oh yeah.

59:34 GW: I told you a lot of stuff.

59:35 SL: Oh yeah. Yeah. Some of them I heard before, some of them I didn't.

59:44 GW: I intended to tell you all the truths that I've told you. Every bit is the truth.

59:49 SL: Appreciate it.

59:49 GW: That I've said, happened to me, I've seen everything I've told you. I've seen it.

59:58 SL: Very good. Thanks. Appreciate it.

59:59 GW: Yeah.

1:00:00 SL: Alright bud.

1:00:00 [End of Interview]