

Joyce Whitaker Interview
with Abby Huggins
June 15, 2018
Blackey, KY

Recording 1 of 2:

00:00 Abby Huggins: This is Abby Huggins. Today is June the 15th, 2018. I'm here at the home of Joyce Whitaker, near Carcassonne, Kentucky for an interview about life here and about dance. So Joyce, thank you so much for meeting me this afternoon.

00:27 Joyce Whitaker: You're welcome.

00:27 AH: Can I get you to introduce yourself?

00:30 JW: I'm Joyce Whitaker. And this house, I was born here when my grandparents lived here. They built part of it in the 1880s. And everyone that's lived here has added on to it. My parents lived here and so I just say I'm halfway between Blackey and Carcassonne. It's on top of Elk Creek Mountain in Bull Creek. They meet up here on top of the mountain here. And, I have lived here since [19]70- No, [19]86. '86. Before that, well, I'm getting all - My husband and I, we worked at Alice Lloyd College. After Pine Mountain Settlement School. When we came back, we built a log house a mile across the hill. And, literally, my husband and my daughters built the log house, the two story log house. And we lived in that. And then, when my dad died, I got this house, and I gave that house to my daughter who lives in it now. So, it's very much home to me here. Because when I wasn't here, my grandmother was here. And then my parents lived here. Don't know if that explains it or not.

01:40 AH: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. That's neat family history.

01:44 JW: Well, I think so. Now, I'll just let you go and you let me know what you're wanting.

01:51 AH: Sure, well can you tell me more about growing up around here.

01:55 JW: Ok. I was born on what we call the head of Bull Creek. It's on beyond Carcassonne. And you can go through that way and come out at Vicco. We go that way a lot when we want a shortcut to Hazard or whatever. But, anyway. I've lost my train of thought now. Ask the question again.

02:18 AH: Oh, just tell me more about growing up.

02:23 JW: Ok, ok. That's where I was born. And the roads were so bad, hardly anyone had cars because the road was so bad you couldn't get over them if you did. And we walked everywhere we went almost. And if we wanted to go to Whitesburg or Hazard, it was a big deal for us then. We walked to Blackey, it was about five miles. And there was no truck you know. And the passenger trains were running then. So you'd get the passenger train, you'd go to Whitesburg. And then in the evening, you'd come back to here and you could walk the five miles back and that wasn't so much fun. But still, that's how we traveled. And then, when the railroad, the passenger train, when they quit working here, the Greyhound bus, Greyhound buses came in. And they literally

drove over [Highway] 7 and there and those roads with gravel, gravel roads. And, they also came from Cumberland to Hazard. All the little towns. And, when we were teaching over on Cumberland River, we could catch the bus there, just flag it down. And Charlie, one time when I was teaching, he was taking some courses at Eastern [Kentucky University]. That's when he was trying to get educated and maybe avoid the draft, which that didn't work. But anyhow, we could hail it there and I could go down to Richmond to have a weekend with him and we'd stop at Hazard, and we'd stop at Manchester, we'd stop at McKee. We'd stopped all the little towns all the way down. And get him the bus there about 3:30, probably close to 11 by the time I got there that night. But still, that was the way I could travel because we didn't have a car then. We hadn't worked long enough to be able to get a car. So, that was the traveling. And I think, you know, where we walked everything, that was probably good for us. Because we walked instead of you know. But anyway, that was, well, everybody walked. And nearly everybody had little, I don't know how you call them, farms. Well, my dad literally is a farm because besides the vegetables that we grew to eat and put up and all that, he had to plant the corn and things for hay for the cattle and the horses. Because the horses plowed the land. And so we had to do that and it seemed like that was a never ending thing, the hoeing the corn, up a hillside and all that. But, you know, we lived over it. It didn't hurt us that much. So that was kind of what that was. And we literally, really ate off the land. We had the meat from the animals. We had the chickens and we had the vegetables. They always put up things to have in the winter. So, it was kind of that kind of thing. And I had gone to Carcassonne School and when I got through the eighth grade, the high school had ceased to be because there was no longer high school. And my dad arranged for me to go to Alice Lloyd College. Knott County High School was at the edge of the campus. And she had dorms for high school kids that needed to go to high school but had to walk and they couldn't have transportation. And so, I went there out of eighth grade and did that and that was a good experience. I mean, I think I really grew up then, you know. And then, I did two years of college and got my teaching standards, teaching certificate so I could teach. And then, after that, summer school, Eastern, and all that until we were fortunate enough, when Charlie finally had to go into service. And, when he got out of that, they said, they didn't have anything for him, I could continue teaching where I was, but they didn't have anything for him. But some friends of ours who were teaching at Pine Mountain Settlement School, they needed a fourth grade teacher and an eighth grade teacher, just what we needed. And we got to go to Pine Mountain Settlement School. Which, it was a public school, but it was affiliated with the Ford Foundation Rural School Improvement Project. And, they did things like, we'd have conferences in the Boone Tavern and get to stay there and eat there and all that. And then, they gave us the money to go to school. They encouraged us to go to Peabody in Nashville, which we did. And so, finished my master's there. And so, anyway. All this roundabout thing, you know how things are. But anyway, he did get his service over after. You know you just had to do those two years. And he was, spent most time guarding the border between Germany and Austria. So that, and then he had a good experience there too because he could hop a military flight and he could go anywhere he wanted to in Europe. But it was a hard time being away from each other because we hadn't been back together long after he got through that. So, that's a roundabout way of some things. And that's, you know, like I said, when we got to Pine Mountain Settlement School, it was just a wonderful place. And outdoor toilets were gone. I had to teach a lot of schools where there was just outdoor toilets. And that wasn't too good. But we did what we could with it, you know. But, at Pine Mountain Settlement School, they were doing the Country Dancers like Berea did and they were affiliated with them. And we hadn't been there a year until the lady that was teaching them, leading the dances, she had to leave for some reason. And they asked Charlie to take over. Neither one of us knew much about dancing. We'd just been doing some with them, you know. But, he

got in and did it. But anyway, the summer after that, we went to Peabody and we had a chance to take dance courses. We learned a little bit more about it before then. But it was all Country Dancers. And so, when we left Pine Mountain then, we were there nine years, we went to Alice Lloyd College. Charlie had been helping them write a program for recreation, and so. We moved there. It was, we took the dancing with us. And they were very strict, you know. You didn't hold hands or anything at Alice Lloyd you know. She didn't want anything to interfere with your education. So just forget about the opposite sex, you know. Sit on different sides of the room and all that. But that, the folk dancing was ok there. We did it there. And just had a good time all over. And then, when we left Alice Lloyd College after, I think we were there fourteen years, our daughters grew up there. But anyway, when we left and moved back here, we got started going to Carcassonne Square dancing. And that's how we got really into that. And Charlie got into calling that. And, we had a lot of adventures. I think the highlight was in [20]03. We were invited to the Smithsonian Folklife Festival at Fourth of July. And we got to go there and they had three tents and we had the biggest tent and it was the fullest. I mean, people were just, they were so proud and they wanted to get in and dance. It was just fun. And we took our musicians with us, Lee Sexton and all them. And most of the ones that was regulars at Carcassonne went too. So that was a three-day weekend. That was just really, really special and very hot. It was outdoors. So, anyway, that kindly brings it up to, you know, I guess the high points of some of the things that we've done.

10:16 AH: Can you remember what year that you went to Pine Mountain?

10:20 JW: Oh yes, yes. We went to Pine Mountain. Like I said, Charlie had just got out of service. And that was in 1956. So we went that year. And it was really, really a good experience. And so different from any of the schools because they saw that we had anything that we needed to work with. And it was just really great. So we went there in '56. And then in 1965, we went to Alice Lloyd. And we left there in 1979 because we thought we better get back to our teaching and think about our retirement. So we came back to Letcher County. And they had, his folks, we called it the old house where he grew up. We stayed in that until we got our log house built. And, so it was special. And then, we moved here in '86 after my dad died. And we added some things. But it still, right now, it's a big old house. You know, I have three bedrooms and I use one and I use the others for other things. But it's home and it's peaceful when I can come back home.

11:34 AH: You said that the kinds of dances that y'all learned and did like at Pine Mountain and carried onto Alice Lloyd were country dances. Can you talk more about that style of dancing, what was that like?

11:47 JW: [To dog:] Hey, hey. Harley. He gets excited and he does - Yes, it was more slow, and they had patterns. The dances had names. And, some of them were circles, some of them were line dances. And, it was more sedate. But fun. Still all the fun, you know. And square dancing is more boisterous, you know. Let's have a good time, you know. And then, also besides the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, the Kentucky, I'm not sure who all works with the Kentucky [Folk]life festival. I don't know if they still have it or not. But anyway, they had that every summer. And Charlie and I, we worked with the kids. Busloads of kids there. And he did dances, you know the ones that they could do with the kids. And that was really a highlight. I know, at one time, this little girl, her bus was supposed to leave at four o' clock. And she had danced with us. She said, "I've just got to dance again." So, she talked her bus driver into getting permission for them to wait until she got another dance in. But, anyway. The square dancing and the country

dancing. They have a lot of the same steps, you know. And they have what they call the buzz step that you have one foot behind you, it's a skipping around. And then, with the square dancing, you just do whatever you want to. You go, just don't stop, you know. But anyway, they still have some of the same steps that the other one has. It's just different pace I guess you'd say. And the country dancers, they are very particular now. They don't want you messing up their - if you're doing the Flowers of Edinburgh, ok, you better get it right. It's a line dance, you know. We did at Pine Mountain entirely on records. And, of course, square dancing at Carcassonne has always been Lee Sexton and others playing their music. So, but it's similar. We just did a lot of different things at Alice Lloyd. I mean, the dancing and then he did recreation. And he had inter-murals. And just different things that students could do. And then they got into a crafts program. He was making dulcimers. So the kids, the students could make dulcimers. And then we had, let's see, what was the other thing there, I'm trying to think. Dulcimers and Charlie always did the scraps of woods he had left over from the dulcimers. He made pens and necklaces. I'll show you some, remind me. And, the students could do it too, you know. To make a dulcimer, all they had to do was pay for the wood. He had kits for them fixed up. And that was in what they called the Old Science Building. Of course, it's a different building now. It's a business thing at Alice Lloyd. But, we just, every night they were up there working, doing something. And I thought that was just really special that they had something they could enjoy doing and make something. And then they got into basket weaving. That was a big thing. And Charlie's sister still does the basket thing. I looked for a magazine I had, *Kentucky Life*. They had a thing with Charlie Whitaker, Charlie Whitaker's life. I may find it before you leave, I might not. But anyway, his sister, she lives over where the, on the family farm. And she has classes. She's a year younger than I am. She's about eighty-six maybe. No, eighty-six, eighty-seven. But she still has classes and does them, you know. They taught a lot of places. You know, the dulcimers, the baskets, the dancing, it was just all something that they enjoyed teaching and students had something else to do. And some of the guys said, boy, I like this dancing. You weren't even supposed to hold hands over there. You could actually kind of hug them when you swing them. They was laughing about that. But, they let up a lot. It's a different place now, it's still a really nice place. And my little great granddaughter goes to the June Buchanan School over there. She's the one that came down and worked with Mrs. Lloyd. She was Mrs. Lloyd's legs so to speak. Because Alice Lloyd had spinal meningitis. And she didn't get around very well, but she seemed to know what was going on there.

17:12 AH: So the, let's see, the dances that would happen, or the dancing that happened, was it mostly with the students that lived at those schools or was there community dances too?

17:24 JW: Well, at Alice Lloyd, yes there was students that lived in the dorm and students that lived on the creek, as we called it. And, yeah, any of them could come, yes. Anyone that lived around there. Because it was just - and then the faculty, most of the faculty get in and dance and have a good time. So, we had a hard time. We didn't have a gym there until I guess the late '60s maybe. Charlie started a boys basketball team about that time. They had no gym, they had no money, they had no uniforms. They had no nothing. And, they practiced on a dirt court and then the high school, it was right at the edge of the campus, the principal let them practice there. And he loaned them the tops of their uniforms because the college guys were too big to fit the high school trunks. And, so what it was, the high school had red and the college's is blue. So you had these blue tops and red bottoms. And you know, all us would hoot and laugh at them, but they didn't care. Because they were playing ball, what they wanted to do, you know. Sometimes they practiced on the dirt court. And then at one time, we had what we called the bubble. Ok, had a

blacktop area and some tennis thing, somewhere in New York, it was a big thing they used to play tennis in. And they gave it to Alice Lloyd. So, it was quite a big thing. So we could dance there and they could do other things there. They had a trampoline and I don't know what all else. But it was just, you know, since we didn't have a gym, it was just very special. And then, sometimes, someone on the creek maybe they sometimes we call them creekers, I don't know what happened, but they put a knife to it and it just blew down. But they patched it up until they got a gym. But now, they have so much over there now. And the people, the president and all, they're very good at getting people to donate money and all that to do these buildings. In fact, the gym that was built in the late '60s is no longer there. They're doing another one there. So they had, you ought to drive over there someday and just see the place. It's just a special place. Well I guess because I did high school and college both there, and then we worked there for all those years. That, it's been very special. So, that was a big part of our lives. At that part. And everywhere you go and do things, you learn and have memories and things that you can carry on when you leave there. So, I treasured that. And my daughters grew up there. I think Susie just turned four and Patty was seven. And they were through high school and college. By the time we left there, the fourteen years. But, it's been nice to be back here in Letcher County and be home again.

20:49 AH: And y'all got involved in the Carcassonne dances when you moved?

20:52 JW: Yeah, when we moved from Alice Lloyd.

20:54 AH: Can you tell more about those?

20:55 JW: Well, we came some while we were at Alice Lloyd. They'd ask us to come and we did. So, when we came back, we started going to them. And I don't remember who was calling at that time. They had some callers and all that. But anyway, it wasn't long until they were wanting Charlie to call. And it wasn't anything. You didn't get paid or anything, you just did it because you liked to do it. And, it helped out. See, we came back in '86. So, late '80s, we were getting involved in the Carcassonne. And then, Carcassonne is a special thing too because, well, at the high school, I mean, there was no place to go. Stuart Robinson, you walked out if you wanted to and catch a bus up maybe or whatever. And Stuart Robinson was a really good school too and same as Carcassonne. They had people, teachers from other places. And I thought, we thought that was good. I mean, local people were teaching and working too. But people that came from other places. And Mrs. Lloyd at Alice Lloyd told Hendricks Caudill, he's the one that got the building started. And, he, I mean, she was interested in it and she told them that if they could get the building, that she would get the teachers and she would get books for them. And so she did. And they had a little library. It wasn't very big. So we had teachers from different places, you know. And, that was educational I think for the students and for the ones that came in too, to kind of get acquainted with each other. But the Carcassonne, besides the school, they had dormitories for men and women. And they had a place where they had their meals. I don't remember what they called it now. And, they had the, just a lot of buildings I guess is what I remember. And of course a ball course. So they could play ball. And so, it was just like a little town really. And it was just really special. And having people, like I said from other places, I think, was educational too. Because you learned about other places. And Alice Lloyd, I remember, they said the ones that she got to come in. They usually came up to Wayland or Garrett one, that's down in Floyd County. And, someone met them with the wagon and a team of horses. And there was no blacktop roads. And I imagine that was not a joyride in that day. But anyway, I know, I have an aunt, well she married my uncle who was a teacher here. But she came down from Newport and she was talking

about riding in that wagon and those horses pulling the wagon. And, so they got an education too of something different than what they were used to. And I thought that was just very good. And they didn't have a doctor, they had a nurse if anything happened, they could do something. And it was just a real special place. So, I did my grade school there. And my sister and brothers and all that did the same. And, like I said, it's a mile across the road where we built the log house and where Charlie grew up. They came in from a place called Campbell's Branch, I guess where Darlene lives. But anyway, they came in, they had to clear the land. It was forest. And, then they got the logs to build the house. And, that was, talk about a real pioneer. That was kind of that way. And that was back in, let's see, back in grade school, I guess that was back in the, what age was it, I'm trying, I have to think back and see what it was. Well, that was, I guess, late '30s and early '40s. So, anyway, it was just, well, when you think about it now, you know. And then, they gave us some land and we built our log house, we had to do the same thing. It was a forest and you had to cut it, had to cut the trees. And we had, several, a lot of the logs. We was getting logs ready. And then, his brother, who lived down at Versailles, knew a guy that, he had bought logs at one of the distilleries down there. And they were the square ones cut, you know. And they were not going to use them and he wanted to get the real logs. So he brought the logs from down there. They were gray and they were very nice. And, I'm glad he did because getting a log ready to use is not an easy thing to do. So, and then, when we'd cut and have pieces that we'd burn, well you could just smell the bourbon and whiskey. And that's where it would drip down in it where they had stored them. So that was, we got a kick out of that. But it's a very nice house and the logs look pretty good. But it was a, kind of a family thing to get it together. I learned to drive nails and pull nails out. And try to not bend too many of them. And our daughters, they and their friends, a lot of them, they thought, that is really a treat, building a house. And we decided to build a two story. That increased the size of the house and you didn't have to have as much roofing and space. So that worked out good. Well I'm rattling, I don't know if I'm telling you anything or not.

27:07 AH: You're good. I was wondering if, did you and Charlie go to school together, grow up together? How did you meet?

27:13 JW: We met in fifth grade. At Carcassonne. So, he walked from this mile, and it was about a couple of miles from here to Carcassonne. And I lived on the other side. But we met in fifth grade. And then, after we got through grade school. He went to Stuart Robinson and I would have had to walk five miles out to catch a bus. And my cousins who lived around me, they were gone. I don't remember if they got married and left or what. And my dad said, you know, I was not going to walk that five miles by myself because it would not be safe. And it would be - so, anyway. We, well, I've lost my train of thought here.

27:57 AH: So Charlie went to high school at Stuart Robinson.

27:58 JW: Stuart Robinson.

27:59 AH: But that's when you went to Alice Lloyd?

28:00 JW: Yes, yes, yes. And we had not seen each other in all that time. And I guess I was about, I think the last year I was going to be at Alice Lloyd. I got a letter from him. He'd been thinking about me and would like to see me again. And, all that. And so, you know, and we wrote back and forth and of course we couldn't really write. We had a post office on campus. But, I had a friend on the creek and he addressed them to her and then, you know, I mean, they were really strict.

And it's kind of funny, when Charlie's side, he wanted. [To cat] What you doing kitty? When, get it straight here now in a minute.

28:45 AH: Y'all were writing letters to each other.

28:46 JW: Yes, yes. We wrote the letters to each other. And then we started, whenever I - and I didn't come home too often because of transportation. But we'd see each other, you know. And he'd gone to a year at Lee's junior college down at Jackson and it was a private college. And it was very expensive. And the summers, he'd work in the coal mines and all to get money for school and all that stuff. And so he came to Alice Lloyd and finished up there. And well, eventually, a year or two or sometime though we got engaged and our rings, we looked at the jewelry store here and there. They were just - and another thing is, this leads us to it. The Sears Roebuck catalog was the everything to go to. I mean absolutely because we didn't have the department stores, we didn't have a Walmart, all this stuff, you know. So, we had chosen what we liked out of Sears catalog and they had a thing to measure the size. And so when he got my engagement ring, I was chicken. You know, we passed what we called three corner notes. You'd write what you're going to write and it's like a three corner triangle thing. And, so, I was going to go by and he was going to put it in my hand. And I got chicken and I had my sister, I let her get it there. And then, I was afraid to wear it. And I had a chain, so I wore it around my neck there for a while. And then, he was almost through Alice Lloyd and I was teaching, I was student teaching. And, so, well, we got married in January '51. Charlie had another semester, he said, "I'll tell you, let's just wait and get married the first of January and if they kick me out, I won't lose anything." So, we got married and it was the nicest day. The 20th of January, I guess it was. And we got married out here, what was the yard. And everyone was in shirt sleeves. And it was just, you know, amazing, you know. And, Charlie said, "Well, they might kick me out, getting married." But he went to Alice Lloyd and talked to her and told her that he was getting married. And she tried to talk him out of it, said, "Your education comes first." But then she said, "Well, if you've got to get married, I say marry a Caney girl. That's a good thing." So he did. And, the thing is that next summer, we both lacked a couple of courses, having our two year certificates. So, we thought, let's go back over there and finish up. And they told us that we could be like the House Ma and House Pa at one of the dorms. Got there, I had to be in the dorm with the girls, he had to be in the one with the boys. And Miss June said, "Well, I was afraid Joyce would get pregnant if they stayed together all the time." So, anyway, it was funny. I've got a picture that I'll show you in a minute. There was a bridge that went across and this way was the boys' dorm and this was the girls', where I was staying. And, there was a nice place to sit, so we'd just sit over there and held hands and people would come by and visit and talk to us. But, Miss June said, "Well now, if you want to talk to your husband, or Charlie you want to talk to your wife, you can come up on Miss Lloyd's porch and sit up there and talk, you know." But all the rest of them got a kick out of it, that we were just sitting there in the grass and all that. Let me get this, I've got this picture over here.

32:35 JW: Out of the way Harley, I move slow when he's around. I don't know what he's going to do. Let me see if I can get this down, I'm not sure I can. Maybe I'll just let you come over here and see it.

32:45 AH: You want help?

32:48 JW: Maybe together we can get it down. This is pretty much a history of -

32:55 [First recording stopped]

Recording 2 of 2:

00:00 [Second recording started]

00:02 JW: [Looking at photographs] Now this is my mom and dad when they got married. It's in the [19]20s, about maybe '25 or something along in there. And this is me and my mom.

00:18 AH: What was your mom's name?

00:18 JW: Ruby. And my dad was named James Fields. I was a Fields.

00:23 AH: You're a Fields, ok.

00:26 JW: Oh here's, well, that wasn't the one where we were setting. Let's see, where is that? See a couple setting and behaving themselves?

00:36 AH: This one down here?

00:38 JW: Yes, that's it.

00:38 AH: That's at Alice Lloyd?

00:39 JW: Yes, there was a bridge and we'd just sit there and we'd hold hands and just talk and visit with everyone that came by and all that. These are my two sisters, Elizabeth and Jean. [Phone rings]. This is my dad. [Recording paused]

00:58 JW: This is my grandmother and my mother. And this is the children. See, there was what three of us there. [Talking about cat] Get off, get off, just toss him in the floor, that's what I do. Well, of course, this is me and Charlie and this is us again. And this is my siblings and their in-laws. This is my sister and this is my sister and that's me. And my brother, he's tall. Two brothers.

01:38 AH: So you had two brothers and two sisters?

01:40 JW: I had one other sister and she died at four of double pneumonia. And I think that was in 1940 and they said penicillin was just being, I think it came into use for the soldiers. If we'd had penicillin, then they probably could have saved her. But that was neither here nor there. That's Charlie down in the cotton fields when he had spent a few weeks in Georgia at that time. Look at these hairstyles here. That's my grandmother and her sisters. And this is my mom and us kids. And this is my dad and my little brother. And this is my parents later on. And this is one of me. That's him in his uniform. And my mom and me.

02:47 AH: There's a picture of a horse like you were talking about.

02:48 JW: Oh yes, yes. Charlie loved horses and my daughter loved them too. And me, I'm just always afraid of them. Afraid they're going to step on me or something. And this is Charlie something or other. Some award or something.

03:10 AH: Who is this woman right here?

03:12 JW: That was my mother.

03:13 AH: Your mother.

03:14 JW: Yeah, when she was in her eighties. And this is me and that's Charlie. And this is my dad. And that's Charlie when he's a little boy. I don't know why we kept that. Our kids always thought it was funny.

03:32 AH: Yeah, this is a neat mixture of both of you at different parts of life and your families, your ancestors too.

03:42 JW: Yes we did. And you know back then, we'd go get perms and that's it with our hair. We just did whatever we could.

03:52 AH: Yeah. That's something in pictures, you see how hairstyles change.

03:56 JW: Yes. And like I said, some of the schools that I taught, you know the outdoor toilet and all that stuff. And that was, when we moved to Pine Mountain, that ended and that was -

04:15 AH: What were some of the schools that you taught at?

04:17 JW: Ok. The first one that I taught at is what they call Lower Bull Creek. Carcassonne, the creek that runs from there and the other fork is called Bull Creek. And this is Lower Bull Creek. And it's a one room school. I guess it's about three miles from here. After you get off the mountain and it's pretty much level going down. But at that time, the creek crossed the road seventeen times. And there was one or two bridges. Well, in the winter, when it all got frozen, I literally crawled across those log bridges. Because if you stood up, you was going to fall, you know. But anyway, I had these, I think sixteen kids, and I had two of Charlie's brothers and his sister in this. I only had about twenty students out of all eight grades. I didn't have many in each grade. And I had one guy, he was related to my family, but he was so shy. He had been in World War II and he had not gone to school. He was uneducated. But they had told him how to write. He could sign his name. So, when he came back, he got on the G.I. Bill and he came back to school. He was in third grade when I was teaching. He was really quiet and polite and dressed so nicely and the prettiest handwriting I think I've ever seen. And the kids didn't think anything. Some of them there was his nieces and nephews. They just didn't think anything about. I think they called him Bird. I'm not sure if that was his name or not, I can't remember. But, he was a model student. Just didn't bother anything. But it's kind of strange, you know.

06:12 AH: Because he was an adult.

06:13 JW: He was an adult, yeah. He was in his thirties. I was just going to show you this. Yeah. This is the year that we all turned eighty. This is Charlie and this is me. And this is my cousin,

who was married to Charlie's brother. We tended to marry in the same families sometimes. And we have a reunion, we always had a cake for the one whose birthday was coming up that year. And that year, Charlie and Clovis and I turned eighty in the fall.

06:48 AH: Well, y'all don't look eighty in that picture, you look young.

06:51 JW: I know, compared to now.

06:54 AH: Aw, that's sweet.

06:56 JW: Yeah, it was. And then, well of course, I guess maybe a couple of years after. No, turning eighty, Charlie died that fall. Because he died in - we were both turning eighty. I think mine was Wednesday and his was Thursday or something before Saturday. And our daughters had a big celebration for us. Invited the whole everything to come. And we had things catered and all. And we went in and everything was just so beautiful and all. And he had a heart attack right there, as soon as he came in the door. I knew he'd been tired. And I just feel like, I guess a couple years forward they had put stints in for his heart. And they done that again, I guess maybe a few months before he died. And I just felt like if they had done a bypass, maybe it might have made a difference. But then, you don't ever know. But, it was just. I mean, it was just such a shock having it happen like that. And we'd been running around. He'd been driving, you know. We'd go eat and celebrate our birthdays, you know. But that's the way it happened. So, it was a shock all around, for sure. And they had all this food, the catering and everything. And Alice Lloyd was doing it. We had a lady that did a special cake. And so we had them to refrigerate it all and then we used it during the wake. That worked out good. The cake and sandwiches and everything that they did. It came out good I thought. But, it sure was a shock.

09:04 AH: And that was a few years ago?

09:07 JW: Yeah. I said, I can tell how long it's been. We turned eighty and I'm eighty-eight now. So, it's been eight years. October it will have been nine. So, I can kind of keep up with it like that.

09:28 AH: You were talking about teaching in the one room school at Bull Creek. What other schools?

09:40 JW: Yes, yes. Ok. When I got through that, we taught. And Charlie wanted to teach. My uncle was on the school board. We told him that we'd like to teach in the same school because of transportation and all that. He said, "I've got it made for you. You can teach together." And it was over the Cumberland River at a place called Eolia. And so, we went to see it. And it was one big room and two teachers taught in that room. And we didn't know what we was going to do. But anyway, he turned his - he had fifth through eighth and I had the lower grades. So he turned one way. And they had these big wooden seats. There was three in a seat. They were really old furniture. I mean, I've never seen a school like that. So, there was an old lady, she lived within sight of this school and she was going to stay with her sister. She was tired of living by herself. So we could rent her place. And that was wonderful. And about three months, we came back from school to the house and there she was. She said she couldn't stand being with her sister anymore. And so here we were, you know. She said, "Well, you all just go ahead and sleep in here if you want to, you know. And I will too." And then her, one of her nieces that we had gotten acquainted with and really liked her and her husband, they had a house, I guess around the curb from that

that they had been living in. And then they had bought a store up the river, up the Cumberland River that had a house with it. And then, they said, "You can have our house, you can have that house." And it was already furnished. And that was a godsend. I said, for the first payday we bought a stereo and some records to go with it. A stereo record player and a washing machine. It was real funny how we hadn't had a washing machine. But anyway, that was our first purchase after we got our first payday. And then after that year, they let Charlie go back to school to get his degree, get his bachelors. And so, he would do that at Eastern [Kentucky University]. My sister had gotten married and she lived over there. And so, I stayed with her the first year that he was in school. And then he came home one summer and he said, "I'm going to find us an apartment somehow." So somehow he found one down on Cumberland River. It was under Maggard Store. It was kind of the center of the whole thing. They had gas, they had food, they had kind of a little restaurant type thing. And so, we had an apartment downstairs. And that was a nice thing. And then, one summer, I went to, and my friend, we went to Eastern and took some courses and I came back and went in to get my keys. I left them with a woman and she had to tell me, she said, well, her son had gotten married and his wife had insisted that she wanted that apartment. And they had a little house out in the meadow from it that she said that I could have that. And I thought, well, why didn't she tell them that they could have that, you know? And this little house was fine except outdoor toilet and did have water in the house. But the stove for the heat, and I wasn't very good at that. But anyway, I lived there for the last year that he was at Eastern. And then shortly after that, well, Charlie was still here. He hadn't gone into the service when we had the little apartment downstairs. But anyway, he came back and then we found our - I think they were distant cousins, they were teachers at Pine Mountain. And they needed. Everyone over there just seemed so excited about us coming over there. They were just so welcoming and it was just such an atmosphere. And then, having that connection with Berea, they did a lot of things for us too besides the dancing. So that worked out. And then of course when we went to Alice Lloyd we had good housing and all that there. So that worked out. And then we came back. Back where we started from.

14:19 AH: Right. So you, I remember you saying you learned a lot of dances at Pine Mountain. Did you, either one of you grew up around any dancing and music here?

14:38 JW: No, my dad eventually, as he got older, and Charlie's dad both become Old Regular Baptist preachers. If you know Old Regular Baptists. And Charlie's dad, we would work on that house on weekends because we was still at Alice Lloyd. And he'd call it Charlie's Sunday house, I believe is what he called it. We started doing it because we got a camper, would go camping some. I never did like camping, it was too much work for me. Now that was his stuff. And the first time we went camping, we had a cooler and we had steaks and chicken and all the stuff we wanted to grill on the grill at the campground down at oh, this island down near London. But anyway, we had it sitting on the table beside our camper. And the next morning, the cooler was gone. And, I said, "I bet those people thought it was full of beer." Because that's usually what they take, something to drink. They'll be shocked. But, we said, "Well, why don't we just build us a house out here. And the girls had horses. They had plenty of room for horses out here. So that's the reason we decided to build a house there and that's what we did. Some people came by and helped us. And some came by and told us what we was doing wrong. You ought to do it this way, and all that. But, it was just a labor of love, really. To go and do this. Actually, we did it on weekends. We all worked. Like I said, I learned to drive nails without bending them and all that stuff. And Susie, my daughter, we took so many pictures. She's got an album of it. So sometime, maybe, we get together [knocks mic] oops. But it shows us all working. And of course they've got

their horses. And then we had a pond. This pond, Charlie's mom, the boys would slip off and go to the river and swim. She said you could always tell Charlie because his eyes was red in the river, you know. And, so his mom got tired of that, so she got someone to scoop out and they made a big pond. And they had water coming from a spring up on the hill. You know it was good water. But anyway, they used that pond for everything. For swimming and take your Ivory soap out there and have your bath. Because they didn't have water at the house at that time. And so, it was, well it was a labor of love. And we enjoyed being in it until we decided to take this house and a better road and all that. But the county is doing the road now, so it's upkeep for a while, Charlie and his brothers always had to do all the work on it. But, and once you get over there, it's level, almost like a prairie. Here you go over this hill and now it's level when you get there, so.

17:45 JW: I was mentioning the Sears-Roebuck catalog. I mentioned the rings and just the, you know, you could even get houses there, the Craftsman houses. And have it shipped by rail. You know everything got shipped in by rail. And, just everything. And I remember, and this I probably shouldn't be talking about anyway. When we had our periods, we used rags. You ever hear of that? And somewhere, get to looking at the catalog. Here were napkins and sanitary belt. That was wonderful. That was good news. I thought of that again. They were talking about this Indian man that he had. His wife and all of them, they used the rag and you washed them and used them again and all that. And he developed a napkin, I mean a sanitary napkin. And his wife left him. They just disgraced him doing this you know and all that. But, it was successful and he got a lot of money from it. It was different from what they had here but it worked. And I just thought of that. How they, you know, just things like that in the catalog. Also, there was no reliable birth control method. And I found a book there. I think it was put out of the Catholic Church. The rhythm method. So I bought it. My mom looked at it, she said, "It won't work." I said, "Well, we will try it and see." And you know. When you can become pregnant and when you can't. And it worked. So, we didn't have kids for eight years. So, I thought that well Sears Roebuck catalog. If they had anything here, even some people call them the rubbers. You never saw them. They may have had them, but I just never. But I knew that we did not want children right away because that would be a hamper of going on with our education and maybe having a better life. So, Sears Roebuck catalog. There's a lot to be thankful for in that.

20:09 AH: All kinds of things you could find.

20:10 JW: Yes.

20:15 AH: So you were saying earlier both of your dads were Old Regular preachers. So you didn't dance growing up?

20:28 JW: We didn't then. Well the first dancing that we did, both of us, was at Pine Mountain.

20:35 AH: Yeah. Ok. That makes sense now.

20:37 JW: Yes, and I want to show you another book here. [Goes to get another photo album] Out of the way little doggy. Well, I'll look for it in a minute. My granddaughters did this for -

21:19 AH: That's another photo album.

21:20 JW: Yeah, that's when Charlie died. And, so they put that together for us. Yeah, there's a picture.

21:35 AH: Caney Days, June 1951. Yeah there's several pictures of y'all sitting in the grass, holding hands. That's sweet.

21:45 JW: And this is the first time I'd gone, I'd never seen the ocean. And Charlie came back. There was a couple that needed to down in North Carolina and they were going to go on the bus and we told them that we would take them, whatever the bus fare was and I could see the ocean and we'd have a little trip. And so, this one and this one. And this obviously was winter time when I was going to work. And you know, another thing, women, until the [19]70s could not wear pants to work. So, you wore the big heavy coat. And when we were in grade school and all that, we had these stockings you could get from Sears-Roebuck, cotton stockings. They were ugly and we didn't want to wear them, but you know, we did because we'd freeze, I guess, walking all that time.

22:38 AH: What happened so that it started to be ok to wear pants?

22:42 JW: Well you know, I don't know. See, I was teaching and all and we always had to wear pants and suddenly it was ok. And I don't know who did it, maybe the women decided we're tired of this and we're going to do it, I don't know. Let's see. Here's some wooden flowers, he made a lot of them. And I guess, yeah that's dulcimers. And when we went to a conference in the Bahamas, we liked to not got out of the Nashville airport because it was such bad weather.

23:22 AH: Did you do any of these crafts?

23:23 JW: No, no.

23:25 AH: The basket making or -

23:27 JW: The only thing I ever did, I learned to knit. And I learned to crochet and that's about it I think. Charlie was the one that did all the good stuff.

23:39 AH: Or did either of y'all play the dulcimer?

23:41 JW: He played enough so they could tell what it's like. I think he learned to play "Go Tell Aunt Rodie" or something. These roses, my daughter had them out here in a bed and they would turn come pink and they kept turning colors. I've got a thing on the wall in there that shows them too. And they were the ones that weren't supposed to ever freeze out, but one winter they did. I mean, they just died out. Let's see, this is some Carcassonne things here.

24:07 AH: I see.

24:09 JW: The dances.

24:09 AH: Yeah, I recognize some people in these.

24:11 JW: Yeah.

24:13 AH: So these were when Charlie would have called at Carcassonne?

24:14 JW: Yes, yes. He got, finally he got a head thing [head set] so that his hands were free, you know. And he'd get in and dance a lot.

24:26 AH: How long ago was this?

24:28 JW: Let's see. Not too long ago.

24:33 AH: I see Randy Wilson and I see, that looks like Shawn Stamper's daughter that plays the bass. Whitney.

24:41 JW: Yeah, Whitney. He had two daughters that came. The whole family came.

24:46 AH: They still play up there a lot. Yeah, can you talk more about what those dances were like when you started going. Or what your memories are?

25:03 JW: Well, there was a lot more people coming then. Because there was nothing else to do, I guess, a big part of it was. And, they had some of the older people that was just the best dancers. I mean, such good. And they would do in between, they'd do what they call the hoedown. You'd have music and everyone just do their own thing. Older people, I mean, it was just fascinating to watch them, you know. And, I'm not very dexterous. I can't do this stuff. But anyway. I love to watch them. And whole families would come. And it was just really a big crowd. So, and then you know, maybe the roads got better and there was other things to do. [Referring to cat] Just push her off the thing. She's a, my daughter found her walking through the ditch and she's a -

25:59 AH: So there were lots of people that would come. Talk more about the way people would dance at the hoedown.

26:09 JW: Well, I don't know. It was just real fast dancing. And I don't know exactly what you would call it. Part the Charleston and other things.

26:22 AH: Individual dancing.

26:22 JW: Yeah, individual. And then sometimes, they'd face each other, you know. Maybe two women, two men, or someone else. And they seemed to like to do that, have someone in front of them. Have company while they was dancing.

26:34 AH: People kind of danced different styles, different rhythms?

26:37 JW: Yes, each one did their pace or what they wanted to do. [Talking to dog] Harley, get down now. And, that was a fun thing to see. You know, they would play for that. Randy, I almost didn't know him without his hat the other night, when we was over there. That hat is such a - I wonder if he's going to be at the Cowan Music School this year.

27:04 AH: I think so probably.

27:04 JW: Yeah, that's the last full week in June.

27:11 AH: Yeah, so you and Charlie have been involved in the Cowan Music School?

27:15 JW: Oh yeah. Charlie, he helped. Charlie and Beverly May and probably Randy. They all worked together at it.

27:25 AH: So Charlie taught dance calling?

27:29 JW: The dance and the calling. Yeah. And then, afterwards, and then, one year, some of them wanted to make dulcimers and he helped them with that.

27:41 AH: Who did he learn to make dulcimers from?

27:42 JW: He did that at Alice Lloyd with a professor there called Albert Stewart. He was a literature professor. And, he was really good. I think this [referring to a photograph] is when he was alumni of the year one year and I was too. But anyway, Al Stewart taught him and he was a good one to do because he was perfection at it. So, and then he started. And I got Mary Kay cosmetics. And I won awards there. And he's pinning me here, one of the things we had. So, I guess I went to Dallas, probably half a dozen, I don't know, ten or twelve times. At first, you had to go to classes and all that stuff.

28:46 AH: Is that after you retired from teaching?

28:49 JW: The Mary Kay? I took time out. I took five years out. And I became a director. And I earned a car, but it wasn't the pink Cadillac though, it was a Dodge something. It was pink but it was the Dodge. Charlie took this picture. I think I was washing dishes and he came in and said something. He, I mean, he never passed me anytime without touching me somewhere. He give me a hug, give me a kiss, give me a pat. And I mean, I appreciated that. And at his wake, everyone was talking about him. And my grandson, he was about fifteen then. And he said, "He was always a hugging on Granny and pinching her butt." I thought, Susan, did you have to say that? He said, "Well it's the truth." I said, "Well it is." But he was just very affectionate to everyone. I mean, he just give some of the best hugs. I miss that more than anything I guess. Because he sure just give good hugs. But, anyway. Memories carry on sometimes. And I do have good family. But I lost a daughter just before Thanksgiving in [20]16. My oldest daughter. She was a nurse practitioner. We thought she was healthy and just worked one day and started to get up the next morning and had a massive heart attack. And before they could get the ambulance there, she was gone. I don't think we ever get over that. But it happened. I still have one daughter, though. And, the daughter that died, she had Charlie's coloring, the black hair, the darker skin and everything. And Susie is like me, she's blonde and blue eyed and fair skin. And their fifth grade teacher called them Rose Red, well, now wait just a minute, I thought I'd never forget that. Let's see, Rose Red and can't think of it. Well anyway. They looked, you know had same features, a lot of them alike, but they were just such different color. Snow White and Rose Red, that was it. Snow White and Rose Red. I thought I could think of it after a while. But this little book, this *Appalachian Dance* is really good.

31:18 AH: Yeah, you pulled that out. That's by Susan Spalding. Yeah. And why did you pull that out?

31:24 JW: Well, because it just had, I thought it was something you ought to have and I didn't know if you had it, if you would have found it or not. It's been out maybe three years, three or four years or something, I can't remember exactly. She sent me one right away.

31:42 AH: And there's a chapter in it about Carcassonne.

31:43 JW: Yes, yes. And there's some pictures in the Carcassonne one my daughter took. They're in it.

31:52 AH: You've got some things marked. And it's also got Pine Mountain Dance in there.

31:58 JW: Yes. Let's see, what is that?

32:06 AH: English Country dancing at Pine Mountain.

32:07 JW: Oh yeah, yeah. Have you met Peter Rogers yet?

32:11 AH: Yes.

32:13 JW: Ok, I had taught Peter in the fourth grade at Pine Mountain.

32:16 AH: Oh.

32:18 JW: And I loved his parents. And I'm very fond of Peter too.

32:29 AH: [Looking at book] Photo by Suzanne Madden. That's your daughter?

32:32 JW: Yeah, that's my daughter.

32:34 AH: And that looks like maybe the same time as those other pictures.

32:40 JW: Yeah, could be.

32:47 AH: It talks about Clifton and Ruby Caudill.

32:51 JW: Yeah, they just took down the beds and everything else to have a place to dance. And his father was an Old Regular Baptist preacher and didn't much approve of it either. But they went ahead and did it anyway.

33:03 AH: I hear a theme.

33:05 JW: Yeah.

33:10 AH: Yeah, so they were responsible for getting the dance going in the school?

33:16 JW: They had the drama, let's see Little Shepherd or Trail of the Lonesome Pine one. That they were in and they did the dancing in it. I'm trying to think which. I know they still do The

Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come up at Jenkins on the hill up there. But they used to do it down here around Isom or somewhere. And Ruby and Clifton were in it and they did the dance in it. And their family also were in the dancing.

33:55 AH: Did you have a favorite dance that you liked to do?

34:01 JW: Well, I don't know. I may have. I just liked them all really, most of them. Some of the English Country dancers were just very pretty. And that was fun. You know, you acted like ladies and gentlemen.

34:19 AH: More formal, elegant? Yeah, the book talks about y'all going to Washington DC. The Folklife Festival.

34:34 JW: That was very special. It was interesting. Charlie's doctor he always went to, his diabetic doctor in Lexington. We went a little after that. And they all had the newspapers, *The Lexington Herald*, half of a page, Charlie's write up about going to the Smithsonian and all that. They were all so surprised. I don't know if they knew he even danced until they saw that.

35:03 AH: Why do you think dancing is important?

35:08 JW: Exercise, fun. Just really mixing with other people. Enjoying doing the same thing. But I think the exercise and the fun part is what it is. I mean, if it wasn't fun you wouldn't be doing it. And if you do it, it's going to give you some really good exercise. So, that part is really good because it's really a work out. Charlie got a headphone and he did a lot of dancing. He done this dance with a headphone. And that freed him up.

35:43 AH: He would call and dance at the same time?

35:46 JW: That freed him up a lot. So, that part. Because if you've got the caller, sometimes you don't ever get to dance with him. Because they're busy. So I liked that he got the head thing.

35:59 AH: Then you could dance with him.

35:59 JW: Yes. That's right. I don't know if there's anything else we've left uncovered or not. If you think of any more questions, I'll be glad to answer them.

36:13 AH: Yeah. One thing, maybe, you talked a little bit about the flatfoot and the hoedown. But how, what makes the style of dance they do at Carcassonne different than other places?

36:27 JW: Well, most English Country dances, they are different things, they are different. But at Carcassonne, it's pretty much the same thing. But, the music is different. And you have different figures that you can call. And people can get it easier. They'll know what they're doing after a time or two, you know.

36:51 AH: You kind of watch and see what other people are doing, pick it up.

36:55 JW: Yes.

36:57 AH: And everybody dances usually one big -

36:59 JW: Yeah, big circle.

36:59 AH: Ring, one big circle.

37:01 JW: Yeah. I remember one night they were dancing. And Charlie said, "Circle left," and they started right. He said, "The other left." It's been funny how sometimes someone will start not thinking which is left or right or whatever. So that must have been someone that couldn't tell, always tell their left and right a part.

37:25 AH: But yeah, the sort of thing anybody can pick up on.

37:27 JW: Yes.

37:29 AH: You didn't have to have formal dance instruction. People could just pick it up and join.

37:35 JW: You know, the dancing that I talked they did the hoedown. It's something called flatfooting. They do that. Just any type of thing that they've ever done. And a lot of the older people in their younger days had done this, you know. It was just fascinating to me to watch them. Even though I'd get out and do some things, but I never did know. I knew I wasn't doing what they did. But it doesn't matter though. If the music is moving you and you want to dance, it's whatever you do is good. But Charlie was always a much better dancer than I was. He was very athletic. He always played sports in high school and all that. So he was just more fluid, I guess. But anyway. I did enjoy it.

38:28 AH: Did you say, do you ever go up there to the dances to watch?

38:32 JW: Rarely. You know, we went so much. And I have been telling myself I'm going to start going some again, just to see everybody. They're always glad to see me, you know. And I know the first time I went back, Randy gave me a big hug. He said, "Come on let's dance." And I said, "Randy, my balance is so bad, I will fall." "Oh, I'll keep you from falling." "I don't know about that now." I do have, my balance is not good. And I have one foot, it drops. And, if you don't lift it, you fall, you know. And I do have a brace. But I hate that brace so I don't wear it much because it makes you lift your foot up. But anyway. You know, I mean, I probably could if I had a good partner. You know. But, it wouldn't kill me to fall. I've had hundreds of falls. I mean, I really have had a lot of falls. And, well, I think a couple of years ago, I fell into my pantry and had a little stool there and my face hit here and I was purple for a week. And I guess in April, we were going to my sister has a girl cousin reunion every year. All the girl cousins, no matter what age they are. And I was going into this place and there was a little bump that I didn't see. And this face hit the concrete. And I was purple again there. And I had my cane then too. But, you know. If you hit, if your foot hits something and stops you, then you're going to fall there. And, I do use, I have a walker that I use a lot when I'm out doing a lot of walking because it frees me up. I can walk normally with it and not worry about falling. But can't use it everywhere. But, anyway. Balance is a big thing.

40:37 AH: A lot of people I think go up to the dance and just watch.

40:42 JW: Oh yes.

40:42 AH: And socialize. Like it's a big thing to see people.

40:48 JW: It is.

40:50 AH: A lot of people don't even dance at all. They're there for the music.

40:53 JW: That's the way it's always been and that's a good thing. You know that -

40:58 AH: So even back in the day, some people would just go and watch?

41:01 JW: Yeah, yeah. I think Jon, what's his last name, my gosh?

41:08 AH: Hendrickson.

41:10 JW: Hendrickson, yeah. Was he up there this time or not?

41:12 AH: He's usually up there.

41:15 JW: Yeah. It just about killed him when Charlie died. Because he was just so in favor of the things that Charlie did and appreciated so much the things that Charlie did to keep things going, you know. And, it just floored him, really. Well it did a lot of people as far as that goes. But he just really, he said, "What are we going to do without him at Carcassonne?" Said, "Well, we'll have to do something." Sure. Well, he just thought Charlie hung the moon as far as the dancing, getting people in, and all that stuff. But, anyway. A lot of things go in to living and all that. And, I'm going to enjoy every bit I can.

42:09 AH: Yeah, sounds like you have enjoyed a lot.

42:13 JW: Yes I have. I've had a rich, full life, I sure have. And there are just some things I don't do anymore. I still drive, but I don't drive to Lexington and all that. You know, it's gotten bigger and faster and I don't go often. So, if you don't, it's just kind of - but I appreciate being able to drive around here, you know. Hazard, Whitesburg, Wise, Pikeville, whatever. And I have a nephew. He just lives down here. He was talking to you there. And he will take me anytime I need to go. And I appreciated that because sometimes I don't want to. One time, been two or three years ago. I usually go over and exercise, Silver Sneakers, and I usually stop at the Mall Restaurant. And get me a cup of tea, have a little caffeine. I'll be tired, you know. When I get through there, I'm hungry and I'm tired. And so, that time I didn't. And one of my friends of mine she said, "Well come on. I've got a birthday cake. You've got to help me celebrate." Well she had milk and she had nothing with caffeine in it. And I ate cake and I just went to sleep. I just turned up Elk Creek and I went over a sixty-foot embankment. The car, it was bashed all over. And I did not get, just a bruise is all I got. And, so, Phillip. He is volunteered to drive me to Silver Sneakers every time. He's afraid I'm going to - I said, "Phillip I just, I try and have something, tea or something that I can drink when I get out of there, just refresh me up." But, I appreciate him doing that. So, I don't know. That little car. I mean, I bought another one just exactly like it because I liked it so much, even the color. My grandson got on the internet and found one in the whole United States that

was available. And we had to go up Cincinnati to get it. So I like it. I used to have big cars, we had vans. My daughter drives it. But, I like my little car. I feel like going off this hill, I got room to get around people. But anyway.

44:29 AH: Yeah, they're narrow roads.

44:30 JW: Yes, and a lot of them just drive like it's a big race track, some of them. And it's not that kind of thing. But somehow they make it ok. They hardly ever have any wrecks on this road. Guess they all know where the bad places are. That big curve, part of it, they may have to do something. It may just keep coming back under there. But, we'll do what we can.

45:06 AH: Well, is there anything I didn't think to ask you about that-? Any other stories?

45:10 JW: I feel like I've told you my life story. I think we've hit the high points. But anyway. I've been. Let's see. I'm trying to think when I retired. I'll think in a minute. I retired in [19]94. And I was 65. I taught until I was 65. So, that was '94 and Charlie did -

45:38 AH: So that was after you had moved back to Letcher County. So you still taught some in Letcher County?

45:42 JW: Yeah. I taught at Letcher. Letcher School. Just a way up the road there.

45:47 AH: And what did you teach there?

45:48 JW: Usually third and fourth grade was my favorite. One year I had the seventh and eighth. And I did not enjoy that group. They're like high schoolers now, what high schoolers used to be. I like about the third, fourth. Fourth, fifth. That's my favorite ones. They haven't got to that age when they know it all and all that. So anyway. I've enjoyed my different things I've done. And I've enjoyed the Mary Kay. And you know, we first moved back here, there were phones. You know they had phones here but they were three or four on a line, you know. They talked over each other and all that. And over across the hill a mile away, there were no phones. And I was in Mary Kay cosmetics. And I had to have a phone. So, what I did, I got a phone and a recorder. And my dad has a house out there, a log house, the top of it. I don't know what it is at the top. But he had a cellar and had a log. And so I put it there and I would check it every day. And there'd be lizards running around the logs and all that stuff. And his little dog, he'd go up there with me and lay while I talked on it. And then, we got permission and stuff. And we put a line across. And I think it cost me \$1,000 just to get the equipment. But you know, my nephew did it. And we used that for a while. And, finally, somehow it just kept on. And they did put one across. But one of them had trouble. I got so tickled. My daughter, she had a step stool. She'd get up and see what was wrong with it. The water was in it. I said it was like Green Acres, you know, climbing up. But finally we did get the phone line over there. And, but it was kind of, they just couldn't believe. And I went to Dallas so many times. We were always sharing things. And they just couldn't believe I didn't have a regular phone line. Well I said, it depends on where you live. And you move out into the boondocks. And we didn't have electricity in this area until the late [19]40s. And that was, what was it where one of Franklin Roosevelt's things that he was working on for everybody to have electricity. And what they did down on Elk Creek, just where you first turn in, they went right up through the forest, the hills, and the line. And it was always troubling because things would grow back over it. And the company, they couldn't, they had to walk to it, they couldn't even take a

four wheeler. So we finally got it so that I think it goes through one of my fields up through here. I don't care where it goes. But anyway, where they can get to it easily. So, everybody does have access over there. And we didn't have city water here until I think it was 2014. So, everyone had a well and was used to the sulfur water. And the house was orange. And it was awful. And so, we finally got that. And they got it through the Abandoned Mines thing. Some of these mines probably caused some water lines to go bad. But there was some people who said, "I'll just keep my well. I don't want to fool with it." But you know, the well can go dry or it can turn sulfur, you know, or whatever. But, I sure appreciate having. Now my daughter, they don't have it over there. I don't know if they ever will or not. There's five dwellings over there. But, water has been a big thing here. I sure appreciate having it here, I tell you.

I never did like the color orange, much. And I liked it less when I moved back here and that's what we had. You take your clothes out to wash them somewhere else. A lot of aggravation. But, we all have it. I mean, even the Carcassonne all that. Have you been to Vicco going that way. Have you? Ok. We used to, my dad worked, there was a mining camp there. And they had the camp doctor. And if we wanted to go see the doctor, we had to walk there. It's eight miles there, each way. So, I remember my sisters and brothers, us walking there to see the doctor sometimes. And then, like my baby sister was very sick, the one that died. But anyway, my dad could take - see he rode a horse. And the horse was white and he was black when he came out of the mines. I always regretted we didn't take a picture of -. But anyway, he would ride that horse to work and all that. And my sister and I, brother, if we wanted a doctor, we walked the eight miles and then we came back. So, we was all pretty healthy then, walking everywhere we went.

51:09 AH: Even when you were sick had to walk.

51:11 JW: Yes.

51:13 AH: So your dad worked in the mines over in?

51:14 JW: At Kodak. Yes, he worked there. I remember during the war when everything was rationed. I mean, shoes, food, all kinds of things. And meats, all meats was rationed. And I remember one time, that the owner of the mine had my dad to butcher a cow, beef. And of course, he, what he did, he walked it over there. And did everything right there. And cut it up and everything. And I guess they had to be in line to get their part. And he said some of the black ladies were catching the blood and made blood pudding. And I had never heard of that before. But they said that was something they did, they were catching it as it came out there.

52:06 AH: Every part.

52:08 JW: Every part was used, yes. And, so that was, you know shoes were rationed. Tobacco was rationed. Well, I think practically everything. I don't know shoes, I guess that was the leather. And only way we could the get news of the war was on the radio, you know. And we had a radio, a battery. Had a big Philco one. So it run on batteries because we didn't have electricity over there. And, so that was something that we could do. It's funny. We'd sit around watch the Grand Old Opry on Saturday night. And we'd get around the radio as if we were going to see it, you know. I mean. And I remember the Renfro Valley showing how people would gather right around it, you know. And, listen to it. And I guess in their mind, they could see what was going on. So, little by little some modern things came through. And, I guess we're all ok now. Except for kudzu. I look

outside this door and see the kudzu climbing all the trees. I reckon the Japanese gave us that to hold the soil. I said we won the war but they won the kudzu thing. It's just, it's really awful how it is there.

53:36 AH: It's everywhere. Especially in the summer.

53:37 JW: See it climbing those trees you know. And it can kill trees, it can cover them up.

53:42 AH: It's invasive, yeah.

53:44 JW: And I don't know what can be done about it. But, if you have the pigs and goats love it. And pigs will root it right out of the ground. But you know, not enough pigs to do anything here. But, some people said you just fence your place in. Then if you leave goats out like this, wild dogs and there are wolves and foxes and things out there that would like to eat them. So, but, I guess we'll live and survive it.

54:23 AH: Yeah.

54:24 JW: So, it's quite a few foreign things that have come in.

54:32 AH: Like the landscape is different than what you remember it?

54:35 JW: Well, we didn't have kudzu.

54:37 AH: Yeah.

54:38 JW: And we didn't have the clear-cut forest thing. That is just the worst thing that ever was. I mean, I know when we lived at Pine Mountain. There's one way we could go, it's called the Laden Trail. And we'd come out between Harlan and Cumberland. And it was the most beautiful with trees and everything. And I went back, once, I mean after I moved from there. And they had clear-cut it. Everything, just didn't leave anything. They just cut everything, whether they could use it or not, you know. And that was the most horrible site I think I ever saw. Just knowing what they had done. But they do that a lot, they just cut everything, leave laying what they don't want, you know. So that, I guess that still happens. But, that was a lot of it a few years back.

55:42 JW: But a lot of authors have written a lot of books about this area. Some good and some not so good. But that's true of anything, I guess. So.

56:03 AH: Are there certain books you mean?

56:07 JW: Pardon me?

56:07 AH: Are there certain books you're referring to that you like or don't like?

56:14 JW: Well, not really. I mean, there was one that wrote about Carcassonne. I'm trying to think of the name of it. And everyone was so mad about it. And I got the book and I hadn't found anything yet to get mad about. So, I don't know. They felt like she took certain characters here and give them different names and they were in it. And I can see why they might be offended.

And no one ask them if they could be in it. So, I think that's probably what they was - And I know, we had, until we got electricity, we had coal oil lamps to read. And my dad and mom read, we read. And I guess our eyes adjust to it, you know. One lamp and being around. And I know my dad always Zane Grey Westerns. That was his thing. And mom was Grace Livingston Hill. And then the library opened. There for a long time, there wasn't any library. And she had authors she liked. And she didn't have time to go, didn't want to go to the library. Dad would go and the librarian knew what she liked. And she would just send her a whole box full of books to come back to read. And we would read just whatever we could get our hands on. And the only newspaper I remember us having then was one called *The Grit*. I don't know if you've ever heard of that or not. It was, it came weekly. And it had news and it always had a serial story. And you could read that and then the next week, you'd read something else about it. And we looked forward to that. And Charlie said his dad always read it out loud to them. They could read it themselves, you know. He had to read it out loud to them like they couldn't do it right or something. But anyway. It was a welcome thing. Something new, you know. And it had about happenings that were happening other places. And I don't remember what the stories were but it was something that we couldn't wait until the next week to see what the next part was going to be. And then of course, when they had the library, you'd check out books and have something there. And I still, I've got shelves full of books. I mean, I like having them. And I was so sad when Sue Grafton died. Have you read any of her books? The Alphabet books. It goes all the way. She died on Y. The Y, Y is for Yesterday was the name of the book. And it was as very good book. And we were just hoping she could get to Z. And someone said, we'll just say the alphabet ends at Y then, because that's when she died. But she did the whole alphabet thing. And she's a Kentuckian that lived in California part of the time. But just such a good writer. I like mysteries but I like, I don't like the gory and killing and all that. I like a good story. And, so I belong to a couple book clubs that I can buy when I go to Lexington. I head for the bookstores because I can find what I want there. And I like to keep up on it and just reading books takes you out of yourself and you just enjoy what - but I like getting them and having something to read. It's a pastime. I always have something to read. And then of course, magazines, newspapers. I get the locals and Lexington. And just recently my daughter subscribed to, with the USA Today. I've always liked it. But never - you could find it in Lexington but not here. And it's, I like it, it goes more in depth about the whole country, everything, you know. And, hopefully we're going to survive Trump. I don't know how you feel about him. But, I just feel he's a fool, the way I look at it. And his family are getting rich off of it. And I forgot how many millions of dollars he has spent of US money going to his place in Florida, Mar a Lago and all that. But, you know, the United States has survived a lot of bad presidents. I think this is the worst. He's doing so much that will dismantle some of the things that are part of us. And I thought this was very apt. [Shows a magazine with Trump on the cover] That says it all, doesn't it?

1:01:09 AH: The King. Well, anything else that you want to say?

1:01:14 JW: I can't think of anything else, but if I do, I'll jot it down.

1:01:18 AH: Well, I appreciate it. It's been neat to hear about your life and the different dances that you and Charlie were a part of.

1:01:27 JW: Yes, we had a good time. Just, you know, I mean the going to the Smithsonian was a big thing. Going every year to the Kentucky Folklife Festival was special too. And then, of course,

Carcassonne and the Hindman Settlement School. They still have some, don't they? And I think they and Pine Mountain both always have the May pole, don't they? May Day.

1:01:54 AH: It's a tradition. I think they hadn't done it in a little while.

1:02:00 JW: And the women that came in and got these things started. Pine Mountain, I can't think of her name right off. But she was, you know she was an architect. The most beautiful buildings. The buildings over there. They have a chapel that everyone wants to get married or buried or something at that chapel. I mean, you know, it's just so pretty. And Mr. Rogers, he and his wife were head of it when we were there. And he always played the grand organ. And oh, it was just - and I think they still have the nativity play over there. And, when I was there, of course the school kids were a part of it. And it was just something special. And that organ. Just coming down from all over the place. And, a lot of people I know got married there. My daughter did. It was just a beautiful place. So, yeah. "King Me." [Referring to magazine]

1:03:11 AH: Well, thank you so much.

1:03:12 JW: Well, I'm glad to do it and I don't know if I enlightened you on anything around here or not. But, if you have any questions, just call me. I'll be glad to tell you more if you need to.

1:03:26 AH: Sounds good.

1:03:29 JW: But I'm glad you got this book, it's good. An author, he's local. He has written a thing on the Dixons. My mother was a Dixon. And it was such a good book, telling all the story of the Dixons. And then he's done another one. It's about his mom and dad. But, the country and the times that they lived. And he had a thing to tell all about Carcassonne, the history of Carcassonne. And just very, well, when you know a lot of people in a book, you really enjoy it, you know. He's going to have a book signing on the 24th [June] down here at Blackey.

1:04:14 AH: Who was that?

1:04:14 JW: Charles Dixon.

1:04:17 AH: Charles Dixon.

1:04:16 JW: He's a retired teacher from the Jenkins system. And Jenkins was another place that was, I guess it was kind of founded and grew by coal. I can't think of the name of the, Consolidator [Consolidation] or something. I can't remember the name of it now. But, they did a lot for their schools there and built things up and put the city and the schools and all. And then when the coal went bust, they've had some kind of hard times. Oh yes, [referring to dog] he wants to scratch that. That's his. Usually everything he finds, he'll bring it and put it on that. I know one day, I dropped a grape. And I had heard grapes were deadly for animals. And I, oh my gosh, I knew I couldn't take it away from him. And I don't know, a few hours later, I looked and he'd laid it on top of his mat. Anything that's gone. So, that's his scratching pad I guess too. I just wish he could be out on a farm somewhere where he could just run and scratch all he wanted to. But, he's happy here. And I'll abide, clean up with him. Oh I forgot to show you this too. [walks into other room]

1:05:34 AH: Oh ok.

1:05:35 JW: I've got a bigger picture of it. This is, I don't know how my daughter managed to get everybody together. This is for Christmas.

1:05:44 AH: So that's your whole extended family.

1:05:45 JW: That's the whole family, everyone. This is my daughter. And this is her daughter and her granddaughter. And, let's see. My other daughter now, the one that died. This is her son and daughter in law. And this is Susie's son. And the baby was three weeks old then. And that was in, that's 20th of December. And these are the little grandkids that, and this is a granddaughter. I have five grandkids, they're all in their thirties. And then I have seven little great grandkids. And so they are just kind of scattered around through here. And I know one of Susie's cousins said, I can't see here, she's got down on her knees here. She said, "Down on your knees and you're staying there, how in the world do you do that? I'm impressed." But Susie was always more athletic. She played basketball and all that stuff. She was very active. And, she and my little great granddaughter, I mean her granddaughter are doing some gardening out in my garden.

1:06:58 AH: That's very sweet. Sweet family.

1:07:02 JW: This one was taken at Easter. And the baby's bigger there now. And these are my great-grandkids. This one is thirteen. You can tell his attitude. You know, blah. I'm here but I'm not with you all. That's kind of the attitude. And this is the one I see all the time. This is Susie's little granddaughter. They live, like I said across the hill there and they're here a lot. So, anyway. I'm blessed in many ways.

1:07:30 AH: Yeah.

1:07:34 JW: Ok.

1:07:39 AH: Well, thanks again Joyce.

1:07:40 JW: Well, anytime. And anytime you want to ask me anything, just give me a call and I'll, I think I pretty well covered everything though really.

1:07:50 AH: Well, I appreciate it, so much.

1:07:51 JW: There may be a few little turns and twists I didn't remember. And when I was born, a lot of the women around here, they just had midwives. And when the midwife would usually come a week or two or whatever before the time so they'd be there. They'd just come to live with the family. But, my mother was just always felt blessed that she had a doctor for her kids. I mean, she had six and so I mean, it's just, it was a hard time for women a lot of times. With the, and I know one of my uncles that lived close to me. He was married and had six by one wife and she died. And had ten by another wife. And I mean, you know, just those kids. I hate to say it but she was a wicked step mother. She was like she resented those little kids that he already had there, you know. They had a hard time a lot of them did. But that's neither here nor there. I mean, it happens. [To dog] Now Harley, if you just scratch some more, you'd just straighten that back out, couldn't you? And here I didn't even have you, I was going to pick up something to drink. I was

rushing around this morning trying to get things that I needed to get and do. Before we left on Sunday. And I just, and I had to go to the bank and the post office. All those things you have to do.

1:09:34 AH: Right, right, right.

1:09:38 [End of interview]