

Interviewer: Thelma Anest

Interviewee: Mrs. Irene Gray

Date: 11/20/1985

Location: Gray Home

TA: This is interviewer Thelma R. Anest. The date is 11/20/85. I am now talking to Mrs. Huvel "Irene" Gray of Afton Route 1. She lives near the Greene Ridge Church. She is the daughter of Connie and Elton Shelton Lander who made their home and reared their family on Upper Middle Creek near the mountains.

TA: There we are. That ought to get. Yeah, I hear it turnin'. Alright, let me see. Let's go over this front page again. Tell me your full name.

IG: It's Irene Landers Gray.

TA: And your address?

IG: Afton, Box 160.

TA: And your phone number?

IG: 257-2279

TA: And where were you born?

IG: In Greene County.

TA: And your date of birth?

IG: June 10, 1925.

TA: Okay, I already mentioned your parents were Connie and Elton Shelton Landers. When was your father born?

IG: He was born the March the 22<sup>nd</sup> 1903.

TA: And your mother?

IG: She was born December 24, 1904.

TA: Now let me see....

[tape cuts off—1:34—and resumes]

TA: ....and we are on again. Okay, let's finish up more dates and things. Alrighty, what was the highest grade you completed in school?

IG: The 7<sup>th</sup>.

TA: Alright, have you lived within the Hose Creek community all your life?

IG: All but a month or two.

TA: So, you're really a Horse Creek person? Alright, so really, your family has been here now for two or three generations. Your mother and your father both came from around Shelton Laurel in North Carolina, and you live by yourself. And your children were all born here.

IG: Yes.

TA: We kind of went over those hurried. And your husband is deceased, when did he die?

IG: December 17, 1976.

TA: Alright, you still have lots of relatives living in Horse Creek at this time?

IG: Yes.

[2:53]

TA: But two have gone outside of Greene County to make their living. Okay, we talked about the crops and you said that the crops were gathered in the fall?

IG: Yes.

TA: Most of the crops were gathered in the fall? We talked about the kinds of buildings that the crops were stored in, do you remember what we said about that?

IG: We put them in the barn.

TA: And you mentioned a cellar?

IG: And then, I have seen my daddy put his corn in a crib, what they call a crib.

TA: A corn crib.

IG: Mhmmm.

TA: Okay, and, say 50 and 60 years ago, most of the labor was done how?

IG: By horses.

TA: By horses and hand. Did your daddy have a wagon with mule?

IG: He didn't of his own, but he had others.

TA: I remember my dad had a sled and was pulled by one mule, we did that. And you said that you remember your first tractor? And your family still has the first tractor they bought?

IG: Yes I do.

TA: You have it yourself?

IG: Yes I do.

TA: So, farming has been a way of life. And one thing I'd like for you to tell me is the food that you grew in your gardens.

[4:17]

IG: In the garden?

TA: Mmhhh.

IG: Well beans and corn and potatoes and cabbage and onions and cucumbers and tomatoes.

TA: Now I understand something we didn't mention before, but your husband loved to grow flowers.

IG: Yes.

TA: And other plants?

IG: Yes, and he loved his orchard.

TA: Right? And you still have that orchard today?

IG: Yes.

TA: Alright, wasn't he in military service?

IG: Yes.

TA: Yes, I thought he was. What branch of service was he in?

IG: He (inaudible) PVT. He worked at the PET Milk Company.

TA: After he came back from service?

IG: Yes.

TA: And he retired from the PET Milk Company?

IG: Yes.

TA: That's important to know. This tells us what Horse Creek people have done for a living other than just farming.

IG: Yes.

TA: And you said you didn't have any old plows or anything we can make a picture of?

IG: No, I don't that I recall.

TA: Alright, tell me again the cemeteries where your people are buried?

IG: Well, Union Chapel, Horse Creek Church of God, and Cedar Grove, and then some of them is buried in North Carolina.

TA: Okay, and what about a special place within the Horse Creek community that has a lot of memories for you?

IG: The Horse Creek Mission School.

TA: Alright, we mentioned that people go back to the park a lot now for family get-togethers and picnics.

IG: Yes.

TA: Tell me then again, how you see the Horse Creek people?

IG: Well, they're good.

TA: Good in what way?

IG: Well a lot of them will help you if you need some help. And they're friendly.

TA: And we said they were progressive.

IG: Yes.

TA: We find a lot a good homes here and most everybody has jobs.

IG: Yes.

TA: So, how do you feel about living in Horse Creek?

IG: Well I wouldn't want to live nowhere else!

TA: Well I'm the same way and neither would I.

IG: I don't believe I'd be satisfied nowhere else.

TA: And I think once a person has lived here, they always feel that way about Horse Creek.

IG: Yes.

[7:07]

TA: You know Horse Creek is getting a lot more people than they used to have? Much more crowded.

IG: Yeah.

TA: I guess a lot of people like to live out here. Alright.

[End of Recording—7:20]