

Oral History Tape Recording Release

I, Millard & Eunice Snell, hereby give and grant my tape recordings and their contents to Dr. Suzanne Marshall, Assistant Professor of History Jacksonville State University, and authorize her to make them available for scholarly research purposes.

INTERVIEWEE Millard & Eunice Snell

INTERVIEWER David Bush

DATE OF INTERVIEW 3-12-94

NUMBER OF TAPES 1

DATE OF AGREEMENT 3-12-94

SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWEE/DONOR Eunice Snell

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: Millard & Eunice Snell M/F
Address: Rt. 1 - Box 474 - Slocomb, Ala. 36375
Phone number(s): 205-886-3485
Approximate age or date of birth: 8-27-22 & 12-2-23
Mother's Name: Deine Vickers Snell
Father's Name: Mack Snell
Places lived and when: Slocomb Ala -
1902-1985 - father - 1906-1993 - mother
Education: 3rd Grade
Religion: Assembly of God
Business, political and social memberships (past and present) _____
Present occupation: Retired - Free Farming
Former occupations: Textiles
Special Skills: _____
Major Accomplishments: 3 Children - 4 Grandchildren
& 2 Great Grandchildren
National Events in which interviewee has participated: _____
Local Events in which interviewee has participated: _____
National born U.S. citizen? Yes No
Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No Date: _____
Country from which he/she emigrated: _____
Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in the possession of the interviewee: _____
Individuals recommended by the interviewee who might be candidates for an oral history interview: _____
Additional information: _____

Chronology

- 1898- Spanish-American War
- 1903- Wilbur and Orville Wright's first flight
- 1914- Panama Canal finished
- 1914- World War I begins
- 1917- Russian Revolution
- 1917- US enters World War I
- 1919- World War I ends
- 1929- Stock market crashes
- 1929-1933- Great Depression
- 1939- World War II begins
- 1941- US enters war after Pearl Harbor attack
- 1944- Allies invade Normandy
- 1945- Atomic bomb dropped, Germany and Japan surrender
- 1950- Korean War begins
- 1954- Brown vs Topeka Board of Education
- 1962- Cuban Missile Crisis
- 1963- JFK assassinated
- 1973- Vietnam Peace Agreement signed
- 1989- Berlin Wall falls

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- 1902- Mack Snell born
 - 1906- Dovie Snell born
 - 1920- Mack and Dovie Snell married
 - 1922- Millard Snell born
 - 1923- Eunice Hodges Snell born
 - 1926- Noma Assembly of God founded, Mack and Dovie charter members
 - 1941- Millard and Eunice married
 - 1947- Millard and Eunice move to Columbus, Georgia to work in mill
 - 1976- Millard Snell buys all the farm land
 - 1981- Millard and Eunice retire and move back to Slocumb
 - 1985- Mack Snell dies
 - 1988- Land no longer row cropped, trees planted
 - 1993- Dovie Snell dies

Questions for Oral History Interview:

1. What was life for Granddaddy Snell?

boyhood -

marriage - how did he meet Grandmother
w/ child

up to death

Great Depression -

after his legs accidentally saved off - recovery

religious life -

how did he work land

what did he use

what did he grow

did he have any regrets during his life

2. What was life like for you?

Earliest childhood recollections -

Parents -

youth -

teenage years -

Great Depression -

How did you meet Mama -

Early life together -

Children -

Left farm for Columbus -

Life there -

Grandchildren, Great-grandchildren -

What has changed over the years in farming -

What is your greatest regret in life, if any -

Tape Table of Contents

- I. Tape begins, there is no first question.
 Snells and Vickers homesteading
 Mack and Davie Snells marriage.
 - birth

Early marriage life

Birth of son Millard

Trip to Dothan for supplies

Grinding corn into meal

Description of travelling to Dothan

Rolling store (what it was)

Description of schools

- elementary

- high school

- met Millard Snell

Millard and Eunice Snell

- marriage (secret)

- pregnant

- moved in with Mack and Davie

- II. What kind of education did they (Mack and Davie) have?

3rd grade education

Description of the school

- single teacher

Reason for low level of education

- discipline in school

- III. What all did he (Mack Snell) grow when he was planting out here?

Corn, cotton, beans, peanuts

- IV. Did he have anyone help him when he was planting?

Answer

Break in discussion while Eunice

Snell shows me pictures of schools and houses

Hodges farm

- Owner of land went bankrupt
- \$15,000 dollars
- 7 tenants houses
- grew watermelons, cotton, ~~corn~~ pecan nuts

IV. What did the Great Depression do, did it have a great effect around here?

Answers yes and no

- lack of money

Mack Snell work

- payment for work

Depression

- not as bad as in Columbus, GA

First time they had money

- moved to Columbus, GA
- job in Civil Service
- apartment they were renting
- buying clothes in Columbus

Moved back to Slocumb to farm

- war broke out
- ~~and~~ Mack and Davie moved to Akron, Ohio
hoping Millard could stay out of the war
- got drafted at end of war

Lack of money

- why they can save money
- changes of clothes
- learn to adjust

VI. How did they get started with the church at Norma?

Brush Arbor meeting

- religion

- description of meeting
- churches they attended

Kicked out of churches

How they bought the church

- deed to original church
- founding of the church
- dedication to church

How ~~they~~ often they went to church

- description of church pew
- days of meeting (services)
- going to camp meeting

Huey Hinson and his tobacco story

- Prince Albert cigarettes
- hitting Jimmy Dykes in the head

Changing of crops

- boll weevil
- description of weevil
- how they destroy cotton boll.
- went to peanuts and soybeans
- government prices
- problem with soybean
- return to cotton
- reason people change crops
- difference in farming today as compared to yesterday

VII. When did he start buying land, who did he buy it from?

Hodges land

- How they got it
- Pitchers

Mack Snell

- how he first got land
- two mortgages
- buying his own land after he got rid of previous land

Federal Land Bank

Buying land

- buying a little land
- combining of land
- ~~regrets on se~~

VIII. How did they get the Bell land?

Bought from Bell girls who didn't marry

- Mack Snell's popularity with neighbors

~~—~~

Theory on land

- why you should keep land
- regrets on selling land
- government and taxes
- regrets on selling land or not buying land

IX. When did he (Mack) stop farming?

Bad physical condition

- Social Security
- ~~renting~~ land
- year he quit and age
- who he rented it to and for how much
- discussion of land

buying of land (Millard)

- concerns over Mack and Davie Snell's health
- estate tax

End of SIDE A

Side B

X. How long did he rent that (the pond) out for fishing?

One ~~and~~ year

- people sneaking in and out

XI. How long did Dan live and where did he live

Lived with his mother

- until she got sick and died

- he lived with them until the 60s

- born blind

XII. He lived with them (Mack and Davie) until he died

- Yes

Prisoner Story

During World War II

making came into syrup

- late fall

- everyone gone to war

- man came to door looking for work

- got the job

- needed place to spend the night

- dinner

- description of house (where they slept)

- talking around fire

- gone in the morning

- Sheriff came looking for an escaped murderer

- caught him at Hartford highway

Moved to Columbus after he was drafted

- after he was released from army

- Mack went to work in the rubber factory

- got out when they offered to let him go.

- working at hardware store

- went to S. Florida
- got job at textile mill
- worked from 1947-81
- worked every weekend on farm

XIII. Where were your parents from (Eunice Snel)?

Uncertainty about Hodges

Andrews lived in same place

- divorce
- Grandfather moved to Mobile
- killed in car accident
- apartment in Graceville, FL near peanut mill

Grandmother Hodges

- 1/2 Cherokee Indians
- ~~she lived in the house~~
- father farmed his entire life
- eight Hodges children
- granny Hodges died while visiting house

No knowledge of ancestors beyond parents

Great-Grandmother Vickers

- where she lived

Vickers family

- telling about them
- not close to them
- size difference in the two
- sitting by fireplace in straight chairs
- trying to drive truck

General discussion of family

- Vickers children drawing

- getting land from brothers

Tree farming

- quit row cropping
- CRP program in 1988
- grow trees on land
- 2 fields of grass
- when land comes out of program
- getting out of farming

Susan Snell Parks

- husband

End Of Tape