

Louis Silveri

Side 1:

Dr. Louis Silveri is the original oral historian for Southern Highlands Research Center.

[1/4] In 1972 he had a sabbatical from Worcester, MA, and decided to move with his wife and 5 children to another part of the country for the experience. He obtained a teaching job at UNCA, rented a house in Haw Creek and wanted to see what effect the New Deal had on this part of the country. He was assisted by Phil Walker. [Phil Walker]

[1/25] After reading oral histories written by Nevins, called "These Are Our Lives" under the WPA writers project, he decided to interview people in Asheville. [Allan Nevins]

[1/40] After dinner he and his wife met a farmer with a strong southern accent who agreed to be interviewed - (see tape #1001, container #17-7-1). [R.L. Blake]

[1/60] It was suggested he interview a woman who worked with the National Youth Administration and was a poet (tape #1007.1, container #17-7-1). [Marie Halbert King]

[1/70] A student in his class suggested he interview a former sheriff known for busting stills during prohibition. He had worked as a detective on the railroads, was involved in the mountain community, knew his history and took him up to Chuck's to listen to music (- died at 90) (tape #1006.1, container 17-7-1). [Jesse James Bailey]

[1/107] Moser was a graduate of Chapel Hill, served in WWI, taught English, was an amateur painter, collected folk stories and mountain music, built his own house and was buried on his land at age 92 (tape #1002.1, container 17-1-1). [Artus Monroe Moser]

[1/154] Davidson was a descendent from one of the first white families in the area (see Jean Webb tape) and carved birds (tape 6-4-72, container 17-7-1). [Hardy Davidson]

[1/162] Dr. Owl had Cherokee background and spoke on Cherokee history (tape #1008.1, container 17-7-1). [Dr. Fred Owl]

[1/169] He attended a North Carolina coalition meeting of liberal Democrats to elect McGovern in 1972 (tape #1009, container 17-7-1). [George McGovern]

[1/172] He attended a meeting of Christian Harmony (tape #1007.1, container 17-7-1).

[1/176] Mary was a white married to a Cherokee (tape #1008.2, container 17-7-1). [Mary Ulmer Chiltosky, Going Back Chiltosky]

[1/180] Charles attended Chapel Hill with Wolfe and has articles about him in the Wolfe Journal. He told about Wolfe and the songs black prisoners sang on the chain gangs (tape 8-5-75, no container #). [Charles G. Tennent, Thomas Wolfe]

[1/190] Dorothy lived in East Asheville and traced family back to Civil War (tape 8-7-75, may not be completed). [Dorothy Gaston]

[1/201] Mary tells of growing up in rural mountain area (6-17-76, may not be completed). [Mary T. Jones (Mrs. Gwynn T. Jones)]

[1/207] Richard was a moonshiner and had great chases with the cops (6-21-76, completed). [Richard Jarrett]

[1/211] Eugene wrote a book. He was elderly (tape 6-21-76, may not be completed). [Eugene Clark]

[1/216] Lonnie had a large family. He sharecropped most of his life and while he was a Baptist minister he did not make his living this way (tape 6-22-76, may not be completed). [Rev. Lonnie Crawford]

[1/232] Thomas worked in cotton mills but went back home until money ran out. Later he started a store (tape 7-20-76, may not be completed). [Mr. and Mrs. Luther Thomas]

[1/241] Paul made a name for himself in WWI. He is depicted in Look Homeward, Angel and knew all the people in it (7-22-76, may not be completed). [Col. Paul Rockwell, Thomas Wolfe]

[1/255] Harrison tells about the one-room school house and isolated living. He worked in coal mines, copper mines, farmed and detailed the making of good moonshine. Never made a bad batch! (tape 7-29-76, may not be completed). [Harrison Gilliland]

[1/265] Virginia taught at UNCA when it was a two-year college. Dykeman was in her class She won an award in the 80's (tape 8-3-76, may not be completed). [Virginia Bryan Schreiber, Wilma Dykeman Stokely]

[1/275] Cas was a noted old-time singer of ballads. He sang at the White House and is on this tape (8-16-76, may not be completed). [Cas Wallin]

[1/287] Daintry began teaching in a one-room school house in 1914, and in her late '70's was still tutoring students with learning disabilities. (two tapes 7-4-75, container 17-7-2). [Daintry L. Allison]

[1/313] Wilson worked at Enka - (two tapes 7-10-75, container 17-7-2). [J. Wilson Ayers]

[1/320] John knew a lot about blacks in Chunn's Cove. He told about Mary Shuford. [His family was involved with the Webb family - see my Webb tape. He has been involved with the Smith-McDowell House, Preservation Society, YMI. I met him in John Van Alstyne's class (see my tape). He has a vast collection of tapes from the black community and many of us are trying to get him to share them with the library.] (two tapes 8-5-75, container #17-7-2). [John Baxter] (see enclosure)

[1/329] Henry had many blacks working for him (two tapes 6-25-75, container # 17-7-2). [Henry Gaines]

[1/340] John was sent from Holland to start Enka. He was a chemist (two tapes 7-15-75, container #17-7-2). [John D. W. Hubbeling]

[1/344] Peter was a Dutchman who came to work for Enka (two tapes 7-15-75, container #17-7-2). [Peter Paul Kriek]

[1/346] Roy was a mailman in Madison County (two tapes 8-12-75, container # 17-7-2). [Roy Rice]

[1/350] Charlotte has published four books of poetry. She knows her history, is an un-reconstructed Rebel and one of the few remaining daughters of a Confederate veteran (four tapes 6-26-75, container #17-7-2). [Charlotte Young]

[1/365] Reba was a Democrat (7-2-76, container #17-7-3). [Reba Barnard]

[1/367] Gwynn recounts his life (two tapes 6-22-76, container #17-7-3). [Gwynn Jones]

[1/372] William was for years a forester in North Carolina. He was active in preservation and conservation (four reels 7-1-76, container #17-7-3). [William Nothstein]

[1/380] Landon was raised in Buncombe County and worked as a timber cruiser surveying the land for the Great Smoky National Park. He worked as a recreational therapist in the Highland Psychiatric Hospital and was present when Zelda Fitzgerald was there (four reels 1977, container #17-7-3). [Landon "Buck" Ray]

[1/403] Yates was a senator and discussed sales tax (two tapes 6-14-77 and 7-21-77, container #17-7-4). [Yates Bailey]

[1/411] James was a retired Baptist minister and told of the influence of the church on the community (two tapes 6-13-77, container #17-7-4). [Reverend James. H. Black]

[1/426] Harry came from Greece when he was 14 to meet some cousins. He was alone, couldn't speak any English, and never found his family. He tells of his trials. He started a restaurant and made money which was lost during the crash (four tapes 7-18-77, 7-20-77, container #17-7-4). [Harry Chepriss]

[1/436] Lucy, supervisor of a black school in the 30's tells about race relations, discrimination and suffering. An Asheville school was named in her honor (three tapes 7-20-77, 8-2-77, container #17-7-4). [Lucy Herring]

[1/457] James studied at Berea and worked for Asheville schools (7-7-77, container # 17-7-4). [James "Pop" Hollandsworth]

[1/467] Both Thomas and Dorothy (a nurse) worked at the emergency room in a local hospital. They both worked at the Mary Breckenridge Nursing Service for mountain people (7-7-77, container #17-7-4). [Dr. Thomas and Dorothy Howald]

[1/472] Benjamin had been an owner of a Black Mountain hosiery mill (two tapes 7-8-77, container 17-7-4) (see Joynes tape of Hilda Sands describing the experience of her mother as a worker in the Asheville Cotton Mill.) [Benjamin R. Hunter]

[1/476] George tells about doctoring and delivering babies in the 20's and 30's (7-19-77, container #17-7-4). [Dr. George B. Lynch]

[1*481] The parents of Floyd McKissick, a well-known activist of the 60's and 70's are proud of their son. Earnest was a porter at Grove Park Inn but went to Florida in the winter when the Inn closed (8-2-77, container #17-7-4). [Ernest and Magnolia McKissick]

[1/492] McLean talked about his father who was a country doctor and about the law and being a judge (6-18-77, container #17-7-4). [W. K. McLean]

[1/503] Cordelia and her two daughters talk about their lives (two tapes 6-22-77, container 17-7-4). [Cordelia Waldrop and two daughters]

[1/507] David, a young musician makes observations about mountain life (three tapes 7-6-77, 7-11-77, container 17-7-4). [David Watson]

[1/522] Juanita, a Cherokee black, tells about her tough life without bitterness (two tapes 7-21-77, container #17-7-4). [Juanita Young and family]

[1/536] John was a union official at Enka. It was tough getting an organization started. The whites were suspicious of unions (4-24-77). [John Jervis]

[Silveri, looking over the list of interviews he had done - (48 people and 83 tapes 1975, 1976, 1977) briefly discussed those listed above. His procedure was to have tapes typed verbatim and, I believe, obtain clearance when they were checked by interviewee. In some cases they may not be complete. I, not realizing Landon Ray had been interviewed, phoned and asked for an interview about Highland Hospital (Zelda Fitzgerald and fire). He said he was still waiting for a copy from Silveri. I wrote Louis and he will follow up.]

[1/578] After reviewing his interviewees he discussed his procedure. He covered a lot of area, found people usually willing to be interviewed and ended up with more than he could handle.

[1/601] He used one machine and one mike and found ways to separate people so he could interview one person at a time.

[1/621] With batteries he was able to successfully interview in the car as he drove.

Side 2:

[2/4] He was amazed, as he drove in from the airport, at the presence of the mountains. A psychologist noted how children usually had mountains in their drawings. The mountains have a continuing influence on the city. [Robert Coles, Thomas Wolfe]

[2/17] The first year he was here the family was in Haw Creek. Masters, a painter, knew Sondley and said he was a presence for years. [Foster Sondley, Elizabeth Masters]

[2/29] UNCA was on the quarter system and the course he was hired to teach was cancelled so he began the oral history program for the region. [William Highsmith]

[2/43] Through Stephens he learned about early history - driving him around the area and taking him to a World Federation meeting in Black Mountain to hear Cousins and to his home. [George Stephens, Norman Cousins]

[2/70] He has been teaching 20th century American history, U.S. diplomacy and the Civil War.

[2/76] His wife, Mary, taught nursing. He mentions his children and said they all loved the area and didn't want to go home. [Mary, Ann, Louis, Juliette, Jean, Robin, Catherine Silveri]

[2/90] He had been in Kentucky and was given a grant to work in the Southern Highlands Research Center here. The work was done with the realization that if it was not recorded it would be lost.

[2/112] He returned for the next two summers and stayed on 16 Colonial Place (see Jane Craig tape - I interviewed her for Highland Hospital as Landon Ray was not available - see above). The children have all returned at one time or another.

[2/118] The city has become more cosmopolitan but in the mountains, despite roads and influx of people, traditions are still handed down.

[2/142] With Stephens he visited the Cherokee reservation and tells of a la cross game on UNCA campus which ended in a fight because of drinking and lasted 4 minutes. [George Stephens]

[2/162] He was surprised to find how small UNCA was until he learned how new it was and the limited resources.

[2/187] The Appalachian Consortium was being formed and he urged Highsmith to join but he could not because of budget problems.

[2/196] The N.C. Coalition of Liberal Democrats was formed. Reed showed a lot of leadership (see her tape). [Helen Reed]

[2/221] He describes Highsmith and tells about the discussion about an article in the paper about the KKK planning a meeting in Madison County. "If you think it's a big issue in N.C. you should see Mississippi - the constant discussion about race down there when you get together with a bunch of whites." [William Highsmith]

[2/239] He did his research over three summers funded by a grant from the Hillsdale fund for \$11,000-12,000 total.

[2/240] There was a faculty revolt that lasted for a year or so at UNCA. [William Highsmith, President Friday, A. C. Reynolds]

[2/283] The future of the Southern Highlands Research Center depends on the amount of money available. [Bill Buchanan, John Toms]

[2/303] He has been writing a series of reactions based on his interviews. He keeps in contact with his interviewees and hopes to get his stories published. [Harry Chepriss, Mary Frances (Polly) Shuford]