

Everett Porter (1904-1987) (s/o Jasper, s/o Alex, s/o AJP) Track 3 June 9, 1978

JC: Where's the mic at? Right here?

Scott: Ya.

JC: Ok, tell me more about that evil spirit stuff.

Scott: Just start over.

JC: Ya, we want to hear that.

Grace: (laughing)

Everett: Might not want to tell much about that.

JC: What could **Levi (son of Andrew J. Porter)** do?

Everett: Oh, he could hypnotize anybody. He could lay you down, your head on one chair and your feet on another. You could sit down in the middle of them, and you would be so stiff you wouldn't even bend them down.

He'd go to church and say, "I'll try your preacher out for you boy. Tell you what kind of preacher you've got." He'd get right up there in the front and sit down and watch the preacher, and if he could, he would hypnotize him.

JC: He would hypnotize the preacher while he was preaching?

Everett: Ya, if he could. He said, "If my spirit will work on him, he ain't no good." That's what he'd say. Uncle **Steve Porter** (s/o AJP) was Levi's brother you know. He got up there to try Uncle Steve out you know. He was putting his spirit on him, on Uncle Steve. Uncle Steve know'd what he was a doing. He looked right down at him and said, "Levi, if you keep fooling with that Devil stuff, you'll go right straight to hell." He said, "The Devil will get you sure as the world if you don't quit fooling with that stuff." Boy he gave him the awfulest bawling out ever was. His spirit wouldn't work on him. He said if his spirit would work on them, he wasn't no good preacher you know. That's the way he would try them out.

JC: Did you ever see him do anything?

Everett: No, I never did see him, I just heard them talk about it.

JC: Just heard your Dad talking about it?

Everett: I never did see them raise them tables. **Dad (Jasper Porter)** told about him and **Wint (Porter)**(s/o Alex, s/o AJP) raising those tables. Make a table walk, make it knock. Knocking spirit.

JC: How did they get started into that?

Everett: Ah, I don't know. Dad said it was the work of the Devil. **Walter Duncan's** mother, she fooled with it all the time. Way back there you know. Said he come up through there on **Clark Hill**,

they lived on Clark Hill. He come up through there one night, Dad wasn't married then. Said they was raising the table, in there, having a ____ (2:48), a whole bunch of women, wasn't no men there. He sat down right up above the kitchen, got him a big rock, big as his head, and sat there. Thought he'd knock a lick whenever the right time come. They was in there having that knocking spirit to work you know, bang around, they was talking to it. It was hitting and knocking a lick. Directly, one of them, she said, "If you are the work of the Devil, knock a lick." Dad said he about knocked everything off of the wall, he hit the kitchen. (3:26) He said they just run over top of each other getting out, it scared them all to death.

JC: Oh they weren't supposed to knock when she said that huh?

Everett: He said they made that big table. Him and Wint made a big table, they broke the legs off of that table. They made it big enough, out of 2x6's. They'd lay their hands on it, and it would pick up a man on the other end of it, walk away, all over the place. They got it down there, **Wint** lived on **Clark Hill**. Dad was boarding with him. They got it out there in the field, the boys got up to the house there. They took that big table out there, and they just tore the ground all to pieces with it. A big crowd would gather in there to watch them you know.

Said he (**Jasper**) went to town one night. While he was down there, he traded for him an ole pistol, and got about half drunk. Coming back, he always sang or whistled, one, before he went over there at the brickyard. Before he come over there, it was kind of a dark place through there, he sang and whistled. Said he was singing, and **Doug?(4:46) Leadingham**, Wint's brother in law said, "Let's scare him to death." So they got em a sheet and went out from Wint's house up there, out there where they was raising that table at you know. One got under the one end of it, and the other got under the other end of it. They began to moan you know. He got up there, said it was pretty dark, the moon was shining a little bit. He seen that old white thing, it was raising up. One under one end and one under the other end of the sheet, they was raising up, and they was just a moaning. He (**Jasper**) just shot a hole right through the middle of it.

JC: Who, your dad did?

Everett:: Ya. Dad said he heard **Wint** scream just as loud as he could scream, "This is your brother Wint, you crazy thing." He said he just raised it up when he said that, and he just shot his pistol empty, right up over em. After he hollered, he seen it was Wint when he hollered. He just kept a shooting. **Jude (Leadingham)(Wint's wife)** out at the house just a screaming and squalling, she was scared to death a squalling. They went on out to the house, and they got so rough on him that he had to go back to town and get him a boarding house. (laughing) "You are gonna kill somebody."

I guess Dad was pretty rough when he was a young feller. (6:31) Roy? doesn't take after him. He's pretty good boy.

JC: He was pretty young when him and Wint were doing those table raising things?

Everett: Ya Wint was married. Wint was older than Dad.

JC: You Dad wasn't married?

Everett: Dad wasn't, he was boarding with Wint. I think he was working at the brickyard down there. He was boarding with Wint. They was raising that table at night.

Scott: There are some old pictures down there in town that tells of some Porters (7:09), brickyard

markers and stuff.

Everett: I've never seen one of them tables raised, but they used to do that very often. It's evil spirits is what it is. You can buy books. It is just the work of the Devil is what it is. They said that thing would work, tell anybody how old he was. They'd find hen nests with it. They'd find cows. If the cows was in a certain place, they'd say, "Knock a lick." If it didn't knock a lick, they'd say, are the cows over in another place, they'd say, "Knock a lick." When they got right where the cows was, it would BANG, and they'd go right there and get the cows. Cows would be there.

To find a hen's nest, they'd say, "If there's a hen's nest in a certain place?" They'd say, "Knock a lick." If it's in a certain area, "Knock a lick." When it would knock a lick, they'd go over there, and there was a hen's nest.

He said they'd fool with it, and it got so strong they didn't have to use a table. It first started with the table hit a leg down in the floor then it got stronger all the time. They finally had to quit fooling with it. It got so it would bang when they wasn't talking to it, he said. Pound, beat around, kerwang up against the house on the side of the wall.

JC: So how did they get rid of it?

Everett: They just quit fooling with it. Dangerous to fool with things like that.

JC: Was your dad a christian when he was an older man?

Everett: No not then, you know he wasn't.

JC: No, I mean when he was an older man?

Everett: Oh ya, after, but he never did fool with nothing like that no more. I don't reckon anybody ever fools with a thing like that anymore. Back then they did I guess.

JC: That stuff still goes on today. Did Levi ever quit that Demon stuff?

Everett: Oh ya, he never fooled with it no more, I don't reckon, after...see, I never did see none of it. I just heard dad tell about it back there, when him and Wint was young. Wint was married, but Dad wasn't married. They fooled with it then, but they never fooled with it no more. (10:08) (Clock chimes) He didn't advise nobody else to either. Evil spirits, dangerous to fool with.

JC: Levi was up in his 30's or 40's then wasn't he?

Everett: Oh I guess he was. He may not have been that old. He was married.

JC: Nobody else in the family did any of that stuff that you know of?

Everett: None that I heard of.

JC: Wonder how Levi got started?

Everett: I don't know. I don't know too much about how they got started. I know it is a dangerous thing to fool with.

JC: That was recorded June 9th, 1978 of Everett Porter, my grandpa.