

Track 1 Nov. 1979 Tape 46

**Everett Porter** (son of Alex Porter, s/o Andrew J. Porter)

Everett: You can't recollect, or I can't. I used to recollect. Pa (**Alex Porter**) would put things up. He got so he couldn't recollect where he had put it. He'd call me to figure out where he had put it. I could go right to it. My memory was good then.

JC: Let me move this (microphone) a little closer. That way it can pick you up better. So you say that she (**Lucy Porter**, d/o Jim, s/o AJP) married a Middleton, right?

Everett: Ya, **Van Middleton**.

JC: And they moved to Idaho?

Everett: Ya, I think it was Idaho. I never did see her anymore.

JC: How did **Ed (Porter, s/o Jim, s/o AJP)** get killed?

Everett: Knife and bullets

JC: Knife & bullets? What happened?

Everett: To tell you the truth about it, I think them fellers were jealous of him.

JC: Jealous? Why?

Everett: \_\_\_\_\_

JC: Huh?

Everett: They thought he was a customer. (1:28) Then he was going with **Jimmie (Farland's?)** (1:37) girl, and started that Saturday evening. He got over as far as **Stark (KY)**. That same little church house was there as it was then, and I guess that old store house, is there yet. There's a little ragged store house there yet. They got him there, **Frank Skeens** and **John Henry** \_\_\_\_\_.

JC: **Frank Skeens** and **John Holbrooks**?

Everett: UhHuh. They kept on till they got him in the ware room, and one a shooting and the other one a cutting. Of course they didn't kill him right there. He died probably in the next two days anyway. They got a doctor out of Louisville come in, I don't know. Doctors was scarce then. They got a doctor out of Louisville to come to Stark. I don't know what it cost them. It was bound to have cost them a lot. But he couldn't save him.

JC: **Jim (Porter, s/o AJP)** had a store in Stark you said, didn't he?

Everett: Huh?

JC: Did Jim have a store in Stark?

Everett: Not in my recollection. **Jim Holbrooks** was running the store. And he come to wait with Ed \_\_\_\_\_ right through there \_\_\_\_\_. (3:07)

JC: He did what?

Everett: Weighed off the scales. He was running the store. **John Holbrooks** was his brother and I guess **Frank Skeens** was his brother in law. (3:20) \_\_\_\_\_ was telling me that they stayed in that old log school house over there above **Harlan (Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)** that night. They was a leaving out.

JC: The boys that killed him did?

Everett: Ya. Went right on to Texas or somewheres.

JC: That was in the **Rock Springs School** House they stayed?

Everett: Huh?

JC: Rock Springs School House, where you went to school? Rock Springs School House where they spent the night?

Everett: Well they spent a few nights. There was a rough bunch come from out there hunting for them. They had a **Angst?** (3:55) or something or other, gentleman, was living on **Greenbriar**. Them **Nickleases**, they was rough. They didn't carry no pistol less than a 44. And they used it too. And they come to our place, on Porter Creek where **Herman (Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)** lived at. The house burned a while back. They stayed there a while. It got dark. Well I think it was dark when they come. They didn't want nobody to see them. So they went around there, and the girls had went to bed. Just one big room, then upstairs, a woman and I reckon it had a \_\_\_\_\_ kitchen (4:37). They said they was going upstairs to search. Old **Sally Jones** said wait until I wake them girls up. You go up the steps with all them young girls laying there, they might be laying up there naked. Well it would excite them, them fellers going up there with big pistols and so on. They might have fainted. (laughing) But they wasn't up there. That might have been the night they stayed in that old school house too.

Course they wouldn't have waited very long with them out a hunting, like they was when **Bob Rose** got killed by **Andy Binion**. **Andy Binion** skinned **Bob Rose** down there in **Beartown**. (5:48) \_\_\_\_\_ how many times they run them out of the store.

JC: Oh ya? When did she die?

Everett: Huh?

JC: When did **Jim's (Porter's)** wife die?

Everett: She died in Ohio. I don't know what year. Her and **Kate (Porter Jackson, d/o Jim Porter, s/o AJP) & Van Middleton's** children, Idaho, I believe it was. \_\_\_\_\_ (6:23), he died. I don't think that was \_\_\_\_\_ his grave. You know Steve lived right down below there.

JC: Is that old house still standing that **Steve (Porter)** lived in?

Everett: Oh ya

JC: Is it that old two story house that no one lives in? Or does somebody live in it?

Everett: **Roy Parish** stays there, him and his wife.

JC: It used to have a porch upstairs didn't it?

Everett: It used to have a double porch \_\_\_\_\_(6:59)

JC: But it don't have that now does it?

Everett: I believe he built a long porch. I wouldn't say for sure. Hardly ever over there. My father in law, (**John W. Porter**) that's where I got my first wife at.

JC: Oh, that's where he lived?

Everett: That's where he lived.

JC: He was that **J.W. Porter**?

Everett: Huh?

JC: He was **J. W. Porter**?

Everett: Ya.

JC: Where was he from?

Everett: Way back in Elliott. He married a Mobley. He married **Tom Mobley's** girl. I thought there was two **Tom Mobley's**. \_\_\_\_\_ (7:38) Kids married anyhow.

JC: He wasn't related to you, huh?

Everett: Huh?

JC: He wasn't related?

Everett: Oh, could have been way back, but we didn't know it if there was any relation at all. Same name (**Porter**). See we all come, our foreparents from across the water? And if a feller wasn't an Indian (laughing)\_\_\_\_\_ (8:11) his foreparents come from across the water.

JC: Ya.

Everett: One of the youngens, **granddaughter**, married a part Indian. He said his mother was a full stock Indian. \_\_\_\_\_ (8:47) \_\_\_\_\_(8:39) The grandma, he married it.\_\_\_\_ (8:50) He wrote her, and they gave her up. There come here a day and a half before she died. And then they stayed here. He

come down there to Olive Hill. He didn't know nobody. And he didn't know nobody up here. \_\_\_\_\_(9:20) Granddaughter, she brought him up here. \_\_\_\_\_ (9:28) He bought him a knife, had \_\_\_\_\_ on a spring to open and shut. Had a little holster on his belt. \_\_\_\_\_(9:45) Seemed like he know'd her all of his life. They went Yay a ya ya. I finally got to talking to him a little. \_\_\_\_\_ (10:03) I guess he is a nice turned feller. He said he was a half Indian, and his mother was a full stock Indian. But he didn't say about his daddy. Probably never knew him. He didn't know where his daddy was at.

Ethel: Aw Everett, his daddy was here.

Everett: He brought his knife, and \_\_\_\_\_ sharpen. (10:31) I had a little \_\_\_\_\_ (10:46) I We got it pretty coarse. He said, "I can't get an edge on my knife? \_\_\_\_\_(11:21) an edge on your knife? Oh ya. He was wanting it good and sharp. \_\_\_\_\_ (11:25)\_\_\_\_\_ walking down there where this woman lived. It is a rented house. (11:32) \_\_\_\_\_ (11:40) My opinion, he had spouted off about something. They had never seen him before. (11:47) \_\_\_\_\_

Everett: (12:00) Harlan's got a picture, just exactly like that.

JC: Oh does he?

Everett: And I aim to go down there. If you ever get to be 87 years old, you will know what I am going through. (laughing) Can't recollect nothing, Can't hear nothing. Unless I'm right there \_\_\_\_\_(12:30) Pick up the phone, hear it ring, I picked it up, holler hello \_\_\_\_\_ (12:52) There is a feller from Morehead, a man. I don't know why \_\_\_\_\_he talked to me just like a whisper? (13:03) I never heard it over the phone any plainer than \_\_\_\_\_(13:10) \_\_\_\_\_(13:18) It is just like they was standing right there in front of you. \_\_\_\_\_(13:25) They've got a phone up on the hill where they live. A telephone out there. (13:30) Two phone bills is a little hard to pay. They discontinued it. This party liked to change hands, I don't know how many times the building, store and all has changed hands since we come here. We've been here about 20 years. I don't know how many times. But the feller that was there when we come was feller that built that. **Bengie? Leadingham.** (14:02) \_\_\_\_\_ His brother lived in the trailer on the other side. His brother died a couple of years ago. Bengie, he went out there in person and bought him a trailer, and a lot. First bought him a trailer. Single, never was married. I reckon he didn't like that trailer. It looked like a nice trailer. \_\_\_\_\_(14:48) He was an awful nice feller.

JC: (15:00) Why don't you tell me some more about your dad? (**Alex Porter**)

Everett: About what?

JC: About your dad.

Everett: My dad?

JC: Ya.

Everett: Well, he done like I've done. He married three times (laughing).

JC: How did he meet his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife? (**Lizzie Stewart Williams**)

Everett: She was \_\_\_\_\_ I reckon (15:26). Of course after she was up there, you never seen her.  
(laughing)

JC: How did he meet her?

Everett: Huh?

JC: How did he meet her?

Everett: How did he beat her?

JC: How did he meet her?

Everett: Oh. She had a sister that lived adjoining farms to us.

JC: Oh.

Everett: Them Clays right up on the hill there, married uh... Seems like that was as good a woman as ever I was around. (referring to **Letitia Clay**?) Then they fell out. My dad fell out with the Clays. I don't know whether they fell out, before I left Fairview? (16:05) Used to live right down under me, **Val Jeffries**? **Mitch Clay**. (16:07) They had a meeting up there at the church house. \_\_\_\_\_ jumped up and \_\_\_\_\_. Uncle Steve was the one who arrested him. **Val Jeffries** took him down to Uncle Steve and said, "We are going to take him to jail." **Mitch Clay** he was a fussing and going on, and grabbed him a rock. Dad had left the church house. We was done gone, Jeffries and his buddy. \_\_\_\_\_ grabbed him a rock to hit my dad. He seen when he thought he could dodge in under it, he come with his knife. He aimed at his throat, but went right across below his throat.

JC: Your dad (**Alex Porter**) had the knife?

Everett: Oh ya. He always had it with him. Not an unlawful knife. It was just a good size two bladed knife. Big blade and little blade. He always kept it sharp like his axe. He cut a pole on the ground, not on a block. He got a patent? He kept his axe sharp. No trouble to cut with it. But you had to have a block, or wish you had had a block. (laughing)

JC: So he cut that guy across the chest, huh?

Everett: Huh?

JC: He cut him across the chest?

Everett: Ya. I don't know whether it cut his clothes. I don't know whether it ripped through to the hide or not. (18:00) Van? used to come, I wasn't very big. Never did get very big. I was smaller then, than I am now. (laughing) **Wint (Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)** come by up there that evening. There was a knoll there that wasn't no sprout or nothing on it, grass. That top of the hill was covered, to watch it \_\_\_\_\_ (18:23) **Millard (Porter)** was one who is in that picture that Harlan's got, and one I had. He was with us. Me and my dad and Millard. I don't remember if **Charlie (Porter)** was along, he is just older than me, or not. Millard was in front. **Mitch Clay**, he was right out there. He was on the inside of the fence. They

had a little old fence right up there, the house off down below. So he got through there. The rotten post was **Millards?** (19:10) I guess **Millard** already had them. There wasn't no rotten posts. Just a sand bed you know. (19:15) No rot to em. There might be when you first dig them up \_\_\_\_\_. **Millard** comes back. He's waiting behind a big apple tree. He hit that apple tree I reckon, to kill his colt? If he hit is so hard it would have killed it. It did die. (19:38) **Mitch** in behind it. He never come out no more. Run him off \_\_\_\_\_ The old man, they had a little old fence that he was standing straddling it. Rail fence, crooked. He jumped up over that fence, got over it some ways, straddled over it. Got up to my dad and said, "He wanted peace." Pa said, "You won't get my peace \_\_\_\_." (20:11) Them **Justices?** one of them up on that knoll watching a feller. They haven't had trouble with them after that. All along, every one of them. I guess sometimes it would be one side's fault, and other times it'd be the other.

JC: How long had your mom (**Laura Fulton Porter**) been dead before your dad (**Alex Porter**) remarried?

Everett: My dad?

JC: Ya.

Everett: Not very long. I don't recollect the first time. And I don't recollect my mother. And I don't recollect when he married the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. All I recollect about it, she had a big old piano, and we lived up on that bank, and they was having trouble getting that up that bank. I recollect that as kind of exciting. (21:16) I reckon that was the first I can remember. No she was ... (car horn) Get out and come in. That is that store there. This is kin folks.

JC: You were talking about the piano, getting it up the hill.

Everett : Well it went on, \_\_\_\_\_, **Millard?** I never had a better brother than **Millard** was to me. (22:05)

Other Man: \_\_\_\_\_

Everett: That was just as plain as anything. He was my best friend. Millard was a whole lot older than me. He'd stick with me through thick and thin. Every time I got sick, **Millard (Porter)** \_\_\_\_\_ That flu come around. We lived on Tick Ridge up from Olive Hill. I was working at the Brick Yard. Well, **Charlie (Porter)** was next older than me. We growed up together. If a feller saw us, \_\_\_\_\_ (23:01) We had three children, my wife and three children. Arabelle lived across the near way. You could see across to their house. There was a road going around up to the head of the holler, over there. She never did take it, I don't reckon, that flu. Everybody else did around. (23:30) Charlie never did get it. \_\_\_\_\_ know where it was at. The road had....

Got arrested? (talking to children who were at his house) Get a ride. Looks like he hit a stump or something.

We were a week past there. Well I just don't know how long, It was several days. **Arabelle (Porter Walker, d/o Alex, s/o AJP)** would come every day and bring something for us to eat. We couldn't eat a thing. I'd guess she had a half bushel of biscuits laying in the kitchen. She was coming up there every day and every evening, "Take it." (24:26)

**Millard's** wife had died. She had four children. Two girls and two boys.

Another Person: Can I use your phone Everett? (24:41)

Everett: Know any of them?

Ethel: Ask them boys...

Everett: That is a bunch of Porters. I don't have any idea \_\_\_\_\_ (25:03)

Other person: No. **Ethel**, can I use your phone right quick?

Everett: So I don't know. **Millard (Porter)** had four kids, two boys and two girls. The boy was up there at Wint's house. (25:15) One girl and then one girl was \_\_\_\_\_. (25:35) Finally he come with **Millard** \_\_\_\_\_. **Charlie (Porter)** was just barely older than me. And he come to sit on his horse. Wasn't hardly \_\_\_\_\_. I think he had a aunt? with him there. \_\_\_\_\_ (25:56) I think it was the next day, **Wint** my oldest brother \_\_\_\_\_ (26:24) \_\_\_\_\_ the other one done just exactly the same. He know'd up there just about where that first one \_\_\_\_\_ rode off. And then, probably the next day, **Millard** come a walking. He didn't have no wife to raise his kids with. I asked later. Well now **Ross (Porter)** that was his oldest boy. He said I don't know where the girls stayed, but I know where me and Pa stayed. We stayed up at \_\_\_\_\_ (26:51) And he was talking \_\_\_\_\_ just a short time ago. He lived right down beside of Morehead, on 60. Millard just, he never, \_\_\_\_\_ he never stopped her from going anytime the mail would come in. And he \_\_\_\_\_ her, him and **Martha** \_\_\_\_\_ at the time of the flu. (27:30) \_\_\_\_\_ - somewhere, doctors all had it but one, and they didn't want him. He found an old negro woman over there, that he took care of, and the little girl about 3 ½ years old, she died with the flu. And he brought her to **Old Fairview**, across **Tick Ridge** up from **Olive Hill**, and buried her, him and **Nelse? Jarvis** (28:00) lived there where **Roger Dean?** Lives now, owns that place. Got him a new home there. And buried him, and then this other happened.

**Nelse Jarvis**, he brought the lady up that way (28:22) And he stayed with us a few times, and then he took it, and I took it. **Doc Armstrong**, that was the main doctor. He was up, he had it when I did. So I went, now "Us doctors don't know nothing about this flu. That come from Europe they tell us." And He said "We don't know nothing about it." He come, he gave medicine, he said \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_ Millard was about 3 years and a half old. Millard \_\_\_\_\_ - bring him to **Old Fairview** and bury him. I don't reckon he had a stone. I never did see it. He took it, and I went and got Armstrong. He got along good. Doc \_\_\_\_\_ along the line of a right bad cold, but they didn't know whether it was or not. They just had medicine hoping it would work. Then his kids, he had it worse \_\_\_\_\_ than any of them did.

JC: Who, **Millard** did?

Everett: Huh.

JC: Who did?

Everett: **Millard**. Millard's out of that picture \_\_\_\_\_

JC: Ya.

(End of tape 30:17)