

Everett Porter (s/o Jasper, s/o Alex, s/o Andrew J. Porter) (Track 5) May 18, 1980

JC: What is this, the 19th?

Everett: 18th

JC: 18th of May, 1980.

Everett: 18th of May, 1980

JC: Tell me about this old log house that is burned down now. You say it was just one room? Was it two story?

Everett: I don't remember.

JC: You don't remember it too well?

Everett: It was a log house. **Will DeBord** (h/o Lucy, d/o John C. Porter, s/o AJP) used to live there. I don't know. That is where Uncle **Boone Walker** lived when **Warner (Walker, s/o Boone & Arabelle, d/o Alex Porter, s/o Andrew J. Porter)** got shot, went hunting and got shot. That is where that is.

JC: That's where that is then?

Everett: Uh huh.

JC: Did they buy it from **Will DeBord**?

Everett: They never bought it I don't reckon. They just let them rent it. I don't know how come they just moved in. They didn't live there long.

JC: What kind of a house was it? Do you remember the house?

Everett: Big ole log house.

JC: Was it two story?

Everett: No, I don't think so.

JC: Just a little house?

Everett: Small log house. It may have had a little side kitchen. That one up there where we lived was a little log house that had a little side kitchen on it.

JC: How did you get to it?

Everett: Right on up that holler from that.

JC: Did you have to go past the other two houses to get to yours?

Everett: Ya.

JC: How long did you live there?

Everett: Definitely. I'd say that you'd have to walk up there from that house. I don't know, I ain't been over to that...

JC: Ya, you can get to that first one, on the road, the first one. I don't know about them others.

Everett: Well I don't know either. I ain't been up in that holler for years and years. (1:46)

JC: Well how long did you guys live up in that log house?

Everett: Not very long, I was a small boy when we moved over there. We lived on the Head of **Sinking** over there. Dad (**Jasper Porter**, s/o Alex, s/o AJP) was a logging out there, they called in, uh, the **Gooden Woods**.

JC: They called it what?

Everett: They called it the **Gooden Woods**. He was logging. He had some cattle. He had 8 yoke of cattle. He was logging out there and he didn't want to have to go so far with the cattle, and come back home. He rented that little old house over there, and moved over there.

JC: He was just renting it?

Everett: Ya, he rented that place over there while he was logging out there.

JC: Who did he rent it from?

Everett: I don't know who it was.

JC: Did he still own that other house where you lived before?

Everett: Ya. We moved back over there after he got caught up on his logging out there.

JC: Where was that at, **Leatherwood** you say?

Everett: No, **Sinking**.

JC: The other house, you moved back to.

Everett: That was over on **Sinking**.

JC: Oh, they both were?

Everett: Uh, You and **Scott (Porter, s/o Ed, s/o Everett, s/o Jasper, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)** went around that ridge didn't you, where **Levi's (Porter, s/o AJP)** grave is?

JC: Ya.

Everett: Well you passed right by where we lived there. We lived over, there is two hollers coming up this a way. We lived over on the right at that time, on the **Elliott (County)** side. Then we moved from there right across the hill to the left.

JC: Is that hill the county line? Does that hill divide **Carter** and **Elliott**?

Everett: Ya, the county line, right around that ridge. We moved back over there then, in **Carter**. Then we moved from **Carter** to **Tick Ridge**.

JC: And that was real close to **Levi's** place over there? Where you guys lived, you lived real close to **Levi (Porter, s/o AJP)**.

Everett: It was a right smart piece around this side. About half way around the ridge from where you turn off out there. **Levi's** place.

JC: Ya. Tell me more about **Arthur Porter** (s/o Levi, s/o AJP) **Levi's** boy.

Everett: You mean where he lived?

JC: Well, your dad was good buddies with him? Your dad and him were good buddies?

Everett: Ya, They was first cousins you know. (4:00)

JC Ya.

Everett: Ya, they was big buddies. **Arthur** would come over every once in a while and bring his old muzzle loaded shot gun. Beg dad to go with him a hunting. He didn't have to beg him much. He was ready to go. He would get his, he had an old muzzle loaded shot gun. They would go hunting. They would have the awfulest time.

One time he come over there and wanted him to go hunting. They went back up on the hill there. **Arthur** found an old rabbit, said it was cold weather then. Found an old rabbit froze stiff as a bone, he was dead. **Art** shot at him, shot him and went up and seen that he was dead. He just went on around the hill and met dad on up, dad was over above him. Said, "I bet you couldn't hit a rabbit if it you would find one a setting." He said, "You show me one a setting and see if I can't hit it." He said, "If I see ary a one a setting, I'll show him to ya. I'd just like to see if you could hit one." He turned and made a circle and went right back around where it had been. Dad was up above there a little. He went back and he got out there where the old rabbit was and he runs back away from it \_\_\_ on it. He said, "Hey, hey, down here. I found one a setting. He said, "I want to see if you can hit it." Dad said, "Don't get up too close, He will jump out." He know'd he'd done shot it you know. Know'd it was froze stiff as a board. He come down there. He said, "Where's he at?" He said, "See right through yonder, now look, don't get too close." He didn't want him to get close. He might discover that it had been shot. He cracked down on him and knocked that old froze rabbit over you know. He went up to get him. **Art** just fell back, "Ha, ha, ha." It just tickled him to death. "You shot that old rabbit once. You ornery thing, getting ready to shoot that old dead rabbit." (laughing)

JC: Was **Arthur** a practical joker like your dad?

Everett: Ya, he was pretty good on them jokes. About all of them Porters was pretty good on jokes. Them fellers were pretty well alike.

JC: Well what was that about when **Arthur (Porter, s/o Levi, s/o AJP)** died? Your dad was with **Arthur** you said. (6:25)

Everett: Dad stayed all night with him the night he died. He had, I don't know if it was pneumonia fever or what it was. I think pneumonia fever. He was just plum out of his head. Just as wild as you can be. Dad said he just fit all night long. Black winged demons he said.

JC: He saw black winged demons?

Everett: That's what he called them. Dad said he said, "Look a there! Look a there! Right on the foot of my bed there, look a there. Do you see that black winged demon there?" He was out of his head, dad said. He was seeing things of course, in his mind.

JC: Was there anybody else there with him besides your dad?

Everett: I don't know if there was or not. I guess his wife was. I don't know. Dad didn't say. Dad stayed with him that night, and he died that night. Blood, he bled, I reckon his nose and mouth. I don't know where the blood was coming from. There was blood and spit all over the place.

JC: Did they have trouble holding him down? Was he trying to fight?

Everett: No, he wasn't fighting, I reckon. He was just wild. Climb right out of the bed. They tried to hold him down to keep him from wearing himself to death, you know. Couldn't do a thing with him. Then he died that morning.

JC: Did they have a doctor in there?

Everett: Oh I don't know, they might have had, but back then they hardly ever had a doctor. You know doctors was so far away and you couldn't get one, you had to ride a horse. It was hard to get a doctor in. Long way to get em and try to get em in there.

JC: (8:16) What was that about the girl staying with **Levi (Porter, s/o AJP)** and the tombstone deal?

Everett: That was a hired girl they had staying there with them when the fire rolled out from under the tombstone. He made his own tombstone. Had em piled up in the corner out there I guess, at his place, on the porch.

JC: You said he made one for him and his wife, before he died.

Everett: Ya, and she walked up, that hired girl did, walked out and come back just a screaming and hollering. "What's wrong?" "Fire just rolled all over the place out there. A big ball of fire rolled right

out from under that (tomb)stone, fell off, or rolled off into the yard, and busted all to pieces.” They thought she was seeing things, but I guess she probably did see it. Scared her, she was scared of it.

JC: Well who was the girl?

Everett: I don’t know who she was. I didn’t ask who it was. A hired girl.

JC: (9:16) Did your dad buddy around with any of **Arthur’s (Porter, s/o Levi, s/o AJP)** brothers?

Everett: (9:20) I don’t know. See they was older than **Arthur**. I think Arthur was about the youngest one. **Byrd (Porter, s/o Levi, s/o AJP)**, I’ve heard Dad (**Jasper Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP**) laugh about **Byrd** working for Uncle **Levi (Porter, s/o AJP)** when he got married. Dad said that **Byrd**, he got married, and he was helping Uncle **Levi**, and Uncle **Levi** always got up at 4:00 every morning. I went there and stayed all night with him several times. Me and **Harold (s/o Arthur, s/o Levi, s/o AJP)** run around together you know. And 4:00 o’clock in the morning, he’d hit the floor.

JC: **Levi** would?

Everett: Ya, and Aunt **Bette (w/o Live, s/o AJP)** would get up and get breakfast. At daylight, you was ready to leave out. Dad said **Byrd** didn’t get up that morning. He’d been getting up and helping him, but he got married and went in there and stayed all night. He didn’t get up, and Uncle **Levi** hollered, “**Byrd**, breakfast is ready.” And he didn’t come on, for breakfast anyway. Just laid right there. Said Uncle **Levi** just picked up a slop bucket and just went through and emptied every dish on the table into that slop bucket. Emptied everyone up clean. Never left a thing.

When **Byrd** got up he went in to see if there was anything to eat. Aunt **Bettie** always had plenty cooked ahead, you know. He went in there, **Byrd** did, and there wasn’t a thing to eat. **Levi** told Aunt **Bettie**, “Now don’t you go and fix nothing else. He’ll get up. He’ll get up next time. Don’t you fix a thing.” Said he’d poured it all into slop. She didn’t fix nothing else, and **Byrd** got up and went to looking for something to eat and there wasn’t a thing fixed. She said, “**Byrd**, I didn’t fix some. **Levi** said not to do it. He said not to fix nothing.”

JC: So did he get up and eat next time?

Everett: He’ll get up next time. **Byrd** just gathered up his duds and left. Dad said he gathered up...

JC: He left?

Everett: Ya, he left.

JC: He moved out you mean?

Everett: Ya, he went and got him another place to stay. It kind of insulted him.

JC: (12:08) What do you remember about **Arthur’s** sister **Lula**?

Everett: Huh?

JC: What do you remember about **Arthur's** sister **Lula** that married **George Roberts**?

Everett: Married **George Roberts**?

JC: Did you ever hear of her?

Everett: I've heard her name but don't remember who she married or nothing.

JC: Don't know nothing about her?

Everett: No I don't. I've heard of her but I didn't know her. **Lula**?

JC: Ya.

Everett: I've heard of her.

JC: What about, let's see, **Bob Porter** (s/o Levi, s/o AJP), he moved to Wisconsin for a while didn't he?

Everett: Ya **Bob**, I know'd him pretty well. He was a trader.

JC: (12:44) Ya. What about this **Jim (Porter, s/o Levi, s/o AJP)** that was a lawyer?

Everett: I don't know much about him. I've heard of him right smart, but I never did know too much about him.

JC: What did you hear about him?

Everett: I didn't hear much about him. He lived down between here and **Grayson** somewhere or another.

JC: Oh he did?

Everett: I don't know too much about him.

JC: Did he ever have any kids?

Everett: **Jim**?

JC: Ya.

Everett: I don't remember if he ever did or not.

JC: Don't remember if he did or not?

Everett: I don't know enough about him.

(Grace: Is your mom not feeling good Scott? He said she didn't go to Sunday School.)

Scott: No, she wasn't.

Everett: **Jim** was a lawyer.

JC: He was? (13:26) What about **Ed**? Where did he live at?

Everett: **Ed Porter** (s/o Levi, s/o AJP)?

JC: Ya.

Everett: Oh he lived over in that country where they live now, right across from where **Arthur** lived in there. I reckon he is still living there. **Ed** is dead though.

JC: Ya, **Arthur's** brother **Ed**. That is where they used to live?

Everett: Ya, **Ed** and **Arthur**. All of them is dead, **Byrd**.

JC: Did he have a lot of kids did he?

Everett: Who **Ed**?

JC: Ya.

Everett: Ya, I think he did. I don't know em.

JC: What did he do for a living, just farm?

Everett: He worked the rock crusher as long as he lived, as long as he was able to work, I guess. Load stone and worked in the shop down there for them for a long time. Run a shooter, drilling the holes, loading the holes, shooting them.

JC: (14:15) What happened to your brother **Wint (Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)**. I mean your Uncle.

Everett: Uncle.

JC: Ya, Uncle **Wint**.

Everett: He died. (14:21)

JC: What did he die from?

Everett: Huh?

JC: What killed him?

Everett: I don't know what it was that killed him.

JC: Flu or something?

Everett: No, he lived through the flu. He had the flu but he lived over that. He died after that. I don't remember just what was the matter with him.

Grace: Was he sick a while wasn't he?

JC: (Talking to Scott) Did you load it yet? Do you think it will take? Did your meter say it would? It might be registering that light out there.

Scott: It was. It was just the first one. I don't think it would take anyway.

Everett: **Wint** was older than dad (**Jasper**).

JC: (15:05) What about **Isaac (Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)** his brother? Did you ever hear about him?

Everett: I never did know him. He died before I was born I guess. **Ike** they called him.

JC: They said he died the same year as your grandma (**Laura Fulton Porter**), somebody told me that.

Everett: Well see, I didn't know grandma. She was dead before I...she must have died before I was born.

JC: Ya, they said 1894. Was there a flu that went around then I wonder?

Everett: I don't know about that. That was back before my days. I wasn't born until 1904.

JC: (15:40) How did **Millard (Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)** die?

Everett: He got killed in the mine.

JC: In the mine? What happened?

Everett: Roof fell in on him.

JC: Oh it did? Where did that happen at?

Everett: Over here, right above **Lawton** there.

JC: Ya, what kind of mine? Coal?

Everett: It was a mine they was getting up there, it was kind of a clay mine of a thing, I mean stone, limestone. What they make cement, let's see, basic, they called it a basic mine. I think they made cement out of that stone. I think they crushed it up and made cement I believe, carbide, cement.

JC: He was killed in the mine then.

Everett: Ya, he was killed in the mine.

JC: (16:40) What about your dad (**Jasper Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP**)? Didn't he get hit in the mine with a rock or something? (16:43) Your dad.

Everett: He didn't get killed in the mine. He got hurt there, and never did get over it. A timber fell on his leg. It was all black.

JC: Oh a timber did?

Everett: The timber fell away from a post, in the mine fell and hit him right along there on the leg, and oh it was just black, awe...Took him to the hospital.

JC: Never healed up?

Everett: Ya that did, but that stroke. He had a stroke before that got well.

Grace: He had two strokes. He had one stroke in 41, January. Then in 3 years, in 44 he had the other one that took him home.

Everett: Ya, he had the stroke, but I think that lick he got there in the mine, falling on him there, he never did get over that. He had that stroke before he got well. Then he lived about 3 years and had another stroke. It killed him, he died.

JC: (18:00) What happened to **Sam (Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)**? He just died from old age didn't he?

Everett: No, he wasn't old when he died.

Grace: He was sick a while.

Everett: He was sick a right smart bit. I think he had cancer.

JC: Oh he did?

Everett: I think he did. I'm not sure about that.

JC: Where is he buried at?

Everett: Right at the back of the house up there.

JC: At their old house?

Everett: Where he lived. You know where he lived up there don't you?

JC: I'm not sure.

Grace: **Ernest (Porter, s/o Sam, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)** is buried there too, his son. Him and his wife and his son and his grandchild. Four graves I think.

Everett: Right there by the school house, where the school house was.

JC: (18:43) And **Herman**, he...

Everett: **Herman (Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)** got killed on a bulldozer. Bulldozer run over him. He was working a bulldozer down there, and they said nobody was there with him. And nobody know what happened I don't guess cause some men over on the other hill seen the dozer coming over the hill and they said, "I don't believe there is anybody on that dozer." It hit a tree down there, and I think it killed

that motor. And they come over there then. Come over there, wasn't no body on it and they tracked back up the hill and found him up there.

JC: He ran over the edge of the hill or something?

Everett: It just run right over him, the track, the big wide track just run over him and smashed him flatter than ...Oh it just smashed him on into jelly is what they said. Nobody knows whether he was out a working on it, and it started to roll or what happened. Nobody knows. They didn't know whether he fell off and fell under it. Nobody knows what happened. Could have had a heart attack and started to get off or something. There ain't no telling, you never know. Fell off of it and the track just rolled him right under it. (20:16)

JC: (20:20) Oh somebody was telling me that when your grandpa (**Alex Porter**, s/o AJP) married that **Lizzie** (Stewart Williams), said she would always hide her cakes in a box and lock them up. Cakes and pies and stuff.

Everett: They told some pretty hard ones on her. I don't know what all she did do.

JC: They said some of the boys snuck in there and took the box and turned it upside down and shook it.

Everett: Well they might have done it.

JC: Was your dad in on that?

Everett: Well, he probably was. They done everything to her I guess. They was a mean bunch of boys I guess. She didn't like em too well either and I don't guess she didn't treat em too good maybe. They'd do anything to her. A bunch of boys would do anything.

Everett: (21:13) Dad (**Jasper Porter**) said they could not write a letter for **Arabelle (Walker**, d/o Alex, s/o AJP).

JC: They what?

Everett: Said they would write a letter and put it in the box and **Arabelle** would slip and get it before the mail would run. Before the mail carrier would run. She would slip and get it and steam it open and read it and put it back in the box.

JC: Why would she do that?

Everett: She wanted to know how the girl friend and them was getting along you know, by reading all the letters.

JC: Oh the boys couldn't write a letter to their girl friends?

Everett: They could write one, but she would read it. When the mail come and brought a letter, she would get it, steam it open and read it, from the girl you know. She'd get their letters and steam them open before they went out, pretty nearly everyone one. They couldn't hardly get a letter out without

her a reading it, or get one but what she would read it. They said she was the meanest thing ever was about things like that. (laughing)

JC: What made her to be like that?

Everett: Ah Dad said she was the only girl there was in the family. Said grandpa said, "Boys keep your hands off of her. Don't you hit her." Said she was as mean as a hound. "Don't you slap her, don't you bother her." Just let her get by with anything. Said she was as mean as she could be. Said she would just read their letters and everything.

JC: She could get by with anything since she was the only girl.

Everett: Ya, she was the only one. Grandpa would take it up there and wouldn't let the boys whip her. They'd get mad enough to beat her to death I think. (Laughing) He wouldn't let em hurt her. She'd run to him, "Pa them boys are getting mean." Them boys was ready to whoop her. "Don't you bother her. Don't you bother her." (23:01)

JC: Did your grandpa (**Alex Porter**, s/o AJP) build that house up there that he lived in?

Grace: The one that burned down?

JC: Ya.

Grace: I don't know.

Everett: I don't know. (23:08) He might have done it, I don't know. I wasn't here. Ain't nobody around that was here.

JC: He ran a **blacksmith shop** there did he?

Everett: I don't know whether grandpa ran one or not. They had a shop there. I remember an old shop around there when I was a little boy that grandpa had an old shop down there. Now I don't know whether they ever worked on just on the farm.

JC: Oh, Just on their own stuff?

Everett: Pretty nigh every farm had an old blacksmith shop. They'd have an anvil, hammer, vise. Do their own work. You couldn't go to a shop every...Everybody didn't have the blowers and all. Plow, everybody couldn't sharpen a plow if they had it.

JC: He owned a lot of land over there did he?

Everett: Who?

JC: Your grandpa.

Everett: Grandpa Porter?

JC: Ya.

Everett: Ya they owned a big farm there. They've still got it, them boys there.

JC: What all did they raise on it?

Everett: Huh?

JC: Did they have a lot of chickens, and horses and cattle?

Everett: Ya.

JC: About everything then?

Everett: Chickens, horses, cattle, mules, sheep. Way back there he had a lot of sheep. Last years, I don't think...now the boys may not have any cattle at all.

JC: What did they do with the **sheep, shear** them for wool and stuff?

Everett: Ya, that was the way we got all of our clothes back when I was a boy. You didn't go to the store to buy clothes then. You went to that sheep to shear that sheep. Cut that wool off his back and uh, pick the cockleburs out of it and burrs. Card it on cards. You've never seen any of that done have you?

JC: No. That is the only reason they had sheep was just for clothes? (25:00)

Everett: Well, ya, they got their clothes. Mom (**Senia Hall Porter**) used to knit my socks. She knit my socks, Dad's socks and all of them.

Grace: I wore socks that my mom knitted.

Everett: Out of yarn. Spin that yarn on the spinning wheel. I'd set there as a little boy and watch her spin that thing. She just made it fly. Pulling out the yarn that was hanging on her elbow. She'd just keep sticking it right there and pulling that yarn out of there. Rolling that wheel herself. She had sticks she would put in the spokes, and roll that wheel, then she would stick another piece in there. She'd just keep hanking that yarn. Get a big hank of that, then just cut it off and start another.

That's the way they made...then they would take them needles, knitting needles and knit that there yarn. Make socks, make sweaters, things to wear. Make gloves. She made gloves for us out of yarn. Warm.

JC: Make about everything from them sheep, huh?

Everett: That's the way they made their clothes, I remember. They had a loom. They would use that loom for weaving. I've never watched them too much on the looms. I've seen them use them, but I don't know too much about them, too much. They was just about in their last state whenever I come up. They had the loom, we used them some. They done a lot of knitting. Everybody didn't have a loom,

you know. Just had them here and there around over the country. And spinning wheels, they all didn't have spinning wheels either.

JC: Did you guys have a spinning wheel?

Everett: Ya, Mom had a spinning wheel.

JC: What did people who didn't have them do?

Everett: Huh?

JC: What did you do if you didn't have one?

Everett: Well they would have to get somebody to spin it for them, or they would take it to where they had one and spin it. A lot of women didn't know how to spin.

JC: They didn't?

Everett: No.

JC: What did they do? They would have it done?

Everett: Huh?

JC: They would have to have it done?

Everett: Well they would have to hire someone to do it.

JC: Did your mom work for other people doing clothes for them?

Everett: Oh some. She had a lot to do herself at home you know. She'd spin and she'd fix clothes for other people and knit for them.

JC: (27:54) Where was your dad and mom married at?

Everett: I don't know exactly, just where they was married at.

JC: Do you think their marriage license would have been in **Elliott County**?

Everett: I don't know. You see Mom lived over here, you know where the **Albert Mundy** place is?

JC: No.

Everett: Where you turn to go up **Tick Ridge** up there right after you go around past **Griffey Crossing** and you turn left on **Tick Ridge**?

JC: Ya, sort of. She lived over there?

Everett: She lived across there on that **Albert Mundy** place back on the hill there. That is where she was raised as a girl.

JC: And your dad he lived over here at your grandpa's place?

Everett: He lived over at grandpa's place up there. I don't know where he ever run on to her at. Somewhere down there. And they got married.

JC: You don't know where they came from huh?

Everett: Who, grandpa's dad?

JC: Ya

Everett: No, I don't.

JC: I mean you don't know how your mom and dad met since they lived so far apart. Did they go to school together or something?

Everett: No, I doubt that, cause she went to school at **Limestone**. And he went to school, in one of them pictures; you've seen it, that log cabin, **Rock Springs** above **Harlan's (Porter, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)** there. He went there, **Rock Springs School**.

JC: How far did your dad go in school, how many grades?

Everett: Oh, I don't know. Back then they didn't have but 2 or 3 grades.

JC: They didn't?

Everett: I don't think.

JC: What about your grandpa?

Everett: Grandpa Porter?

JC: Ya.

Everett: I don't know much about him.

JC: He could read and write pretty well couldn't he?

Everett: Ya. He probably went to school where Dad did.

JC: You think he did?

Everett: He probably did, I don't know.

(29:46) END OF TAPE