

Everett Porter partial interview 1979 (s/o Jasper, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)

About eating so many eggs.

Everett: I heard em laughing about him (Jasper) and Uncle Boone Walker (husband of Arabelle, d/o Alex, s/o AJP). They were down in town and bought them a stalk of bananas, that was getting pretty ripe. They were going to have to sell them pretty quick. They just went together and bought the whole stalk. They used to bring them in on the stalk like that you know. They'd just pull them off and they would go to getting ripe pretty quick.

They was coming back, Dad (Jasper) was just peeling the bananas and eating them. I don't know how many he had eat. Dad told this too. Boone said, I guess we better divide these hadn't we? Dad had eaten a whole bunch of them. (Everett laughing)

JC: He had already eaten a bunch of them before they divided them?

He (Jasper) wasn't afraid of nothing. I've been out with him at night. He wasn't afraid of anything, I don't reckon.

J: He wasn't?

E: No, you couldn't scare him. We come along, I was just a little boy, wasn't very big. And we come along at that Sheep Skin school I was telling you about _____ right above there. There was a woods on both sides of the road and there was a graveyard on the right side as you went up through there from the school. County road ran around that way. And there was some graves in there. It was a scary lookin place too, dark. One night me (Everett) and him (Jasper) come along there and we got up there right in that darkest place right in there, the graveyard right over there. Charlie (s/o Alex, s/o AJP), he was afraid to go through there. Charlie Porter was, he was scared to death of that place.

We got up there and we could see something white. Pretty dark that night. Moon shining just a little, out through that timber, _____. Pretty dark, but you could see something white in there. I didn't know it was right in where Charlie had seen some big, he thought it was foxfire. _____ Him and dad came back the next morning. He stayed all night with us that night, Charlie did. Over on Sinkin.

It was that same place where me and him come along there you know, and boy I was scared. And he (Jasper) didn't seem to be scared a bit. I said "Daddy, there's something out there." He said, "We'll find out what it is." And he just kept a walkin right on up there, and there stood a big black horse, standing right across the road. And walked right on up there and there was a man laying there with a white shirt on, drunk. Laying there, and that horse standing there, across the road with that feller a laying there drunk. Dad said, "It's a man." Got right up over him and said, "He's drunk, I guess, he's not dead." He examined him or something and said, "He is still alive."

J: So what did he do?

E: We just went on and left. We never did know who it was.

J: Left him laying there huh?

E: Man I wouldn't have went up there and seen who it was. I was just a boy.

Now that is the same place there, Charlie was coming over, we lived over there on Sinkin...

Grace: You want something to eat J.C.?, before you go to bed.

J: No.

E: Charlie was coming over there, that was dad's brother you know. He was coming over there to the house one night...

G: What time did you say you started this morning?

J: About 7:00.

E: ...after dark, and we was up at the barn, me and him was. That was above the house there. Where the road come around the ridge and down over the hill. We heard the horses feet, and boy they were flying around there. Dad said, "Listen to that horses feet." And we stood there, we had a lantern. We had been up to the barn feeding. And dad said, "Listen to that horses feet." That horse is flying. Man he was running around that ridge. And when he got around to where he seen our light over there, a right smart little piece across the highway from where we was at you know. He screamed, (it was Charlie.) "Stay there with that light," he said. Dad said, "That's Charlie." Said there is something bad wrong over _____ somewhere. He wouldn't be running that horse like that. And lord that horses feet came on around that ridge . He had to come way around that ridge and down the road to where we lived. And that horses feet, man, it was just a hitting that _____, it was flying. He said, "He's running that horse right down that hill!" We got out of the way, out of the road so he wouldn't run over us. He come right down that hill on that horse and the horse went trying to stop and he went right on over his head. (laugh) and hit the ground. He just jumped up and took to the house, and left his horse, and dad grabbed his horse. Hooked his horse up and we went on up to the house and Dad said, "What's wrong." Man, he said, "I seen something back there!, at that graveyard." He said, "It had eyes, oh lord like you never seen!" Dad said, "We'll let's go back and see what it was." He said, "Nooo, I wouldn't go back there for nothing! And he stayed all night. He went to bed and stayed all night. Dad went and put his horse up, he (Charlie) wouldn't even get out. Put his horse up and fed him. He stayed all night, and the next morning, him and Dad , Dad went with him and he said, "We'll find out what that _____ was. Dad said it was an old skunk. Other than it had foxfire on it.

J: What is foxfire?

E: Foxfire is something that shines in the night ya know. In the dark you can see that foxfire. It glistens. He said it had foxfire on it, and that was all it was. He had lost his hat. His hat had flew off just after he had left there. He didn't want anybody to get his hat. Dad said he hat was laying there in the road the next morning when they got down there the next morning.. They went on down there and Charlie said right over in there somewhere. Dad said there was an old stump that had foxfire in it. said he know'd that's what it was. But I don't know.

E: You better turn this thing off.

J: What for?

E: I'm done. (laughing)

J: Your done? I've got to think of some more questions for you.

E: Grandpa Porter. Don (Everett's son) will whoop me if you play this tape for them.

J; He would?

E: Ya. He wouldn't want Peg (Don's wife) to know he was a mean boy up here..

J: Your grandpa (Alex, s/o AJP) had a blacksmith shop at one time you said, didn't you?

E: Grandpa?

J: Ya

E: A Blacksmith shop?

J: Ya

G; Black smith shop. Had a Blacksmith shop didn't he dad?

E: Dad (Jasper) had a Blacksmith shop

J: Your dad?

E: Ya.

J: But your grandpa didn't?

E: Hugh?

J: Your grandpa didn't?

E: I don't know, he might have had one...

G: You want to eat something JC?

J: No, not right now.

E: Dad, (Jasper) he always kept a Blacksmith shop, Dad did.

J: Where did your Dad have it, at his house?

E: Ya, he built it his self. when we lived up on tick Ridge he had a little shop there. And when we come up on Dry Branch, he built a shop up there.

J: Did people come by and have him do work for them?

E: Ya.

J: Did they pay him money?

E: Ya

J: Did a lot of people come by?

E: Ya. Shod horses a lot. I shod horses. I shod em all day long there.

J: You have?

E: One right after another. That was the big thing back then. About the only thing you could get to make any money right quick. blacksmith shop, you would sharpen old plows and drive shoes on horses and _____ livestock, make wagons, just done everything! Feller come along with his wagon broke down, we would build him a wheel or anything. That would give us a little bit of money you know.

J: Where did you get your horseshoes to put on horses?

E: We ordered em. I'd buy em. I bought em by the keg. Different size shoes you know, and I'd buy a whole bunch, maybe 3 or 4 kegs. 100 pounds per keg. They didn't last long, I'd nail them on and _____

G: Then he had a Blacksmith shop right along down here, didn't you.

.E: Right down there.

G: Wood shed of a thing.

J: Why did they have to have shoes on them for?

E: .Well their feet wear out! If you are working a horse with no shoes on him, his feet would roll up and wear out. You have to put iron shoes, nail em on. His hoof wouldn't grow. That shoe would just hold it. He'd have a big hoof on him after a while if you didn't take that shoe off of him and trim it down. We called it resetting.

J: You grind the bottom of the hoof off?

E: We used to take a draw knife and cut it off. Shave it off you know. Got it down to where we could nail the shoe on. And you nail the shoe on, you have a small foot then and we put a new pair of shoes on a horse when the shoes wear half out his foot would be grown way out there we would have to pull the shoe off called resettin, pull the shoe off and trim his foot back again and then nail the shoe back on.

J: They can't feel that?

E: By that time you bout wear them plum out. One time resettin shoe bout wears them out.

G: You know Doris (d/o Everett, s/o Jasper, s/o Alex, s/o AJP) and Royse have been married 27 years in March.

J: They were?

G; Ya, the 26th.

E: We'd weld a toe on that shoe for wintertime. Course for plowing and working in the field we'd use old shoes you know. In the wintertime, we would take them and weld great big long toes and draw them way out there. For them to pull. they would get right up on them toes and push them toes right down in the ground, and man they would just hang on a slick place. Then we drove frost nails in the plain shoes that didn't have toes on em. We'd drive them there ice nails in each side of them that way. They could walk on the ice.

A lot of people come along, it'd be a cold freezing time of ice, They'd come along, "I want some ice nails in the shoes". You'd go around there and pull about 2 out of each side, and put those big ice nails in there. All around him. He was rough then. He was ready to go on.

J: Did you ever go to church at this Old Fairview Church over hear?

E: Ya when I was just little I did.

J: Who was the preacher then? John? (s/o AJP)

E: Oh different ones, I don't remember who was. That's where Uncle Steve (s/o AJP) preached you know. He built that church I guess. That church that is there now, Uncle Steve helped build it I guess. Uncle Steve, and grandpa (Alexander, s/o AJP).

G; Last time they had church up there was your dad's (Jasper, s/o Alex, s/o AJP) funeral. January (19)44.

J: That old one that is falling apart up there?

E: That was the last service they had up there was Dad's (Jasper's) funeral.

E: I know Charlie (s/o Alex, s/o AJP) put hay in it. It's got hay in it yet I guess.

J: Was your grandpa (Alex) a Sunday School teacher there?

E: I don't remember if he ever taught any Sunday school or not. Might have been.

J: Was he a good Christian man?

E: Ya grandpa (Alex) was a good, a far as I remember he was. I don't know when he got saved, way back there. He was the only feller in that country there that had a buggy. Unless, I don't know of any other buggy that came to Fairview. Rest of them was _____ wagon and riding mules and horses.

(Phone rings) G: Ya, he's here. It's Scott. (s/o Ed, s/o Everett, s/o Jasper, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)

New conversation...

J: How old was he? Was he older than uncle Everett? (s/o Alex, s/o AJP) Ya, dad and him, Bob (s/o Levi, s/o AJP) were close to the same age. Ya, he is older than Everett. I mean he was about the age of Everett.

G: Is Bob (s/o Levi, s/o AJP) Porter dead?

E: Ya.

J: Is he buried around hear?

E: I don't know where he is buried.

G: Did they say that Bob Porter's wife was buried up to Clay cemetery. Weren't we up there one time and Don (s/o Bob, s/o Levi, s/o AJP), the boy said his mother was buried there.

E: I believe he is.

J: How old is that Don Porter? (s/o Bob, s/o Levi, s/o AJP)

E: I don't know exactly, how old he is.

J: Is he 50 is 60 now?

E: He is getting up there.

G; I believe he would be a little bit older than your dad. (Don, s/o Everett, s/o Jasper, s/o Alex, s/o AJP)

G: Arn (Arney) (s/o Everett, s/o Jasper, s/o Alex, s/o AJP) took us up to their house there. They've been down here, when their daddy had died.

E: Bob (s/o Levi, s/o AJP) went up in Wisconsin, stayed up there several years. He moved back down here and lived out there _____ I can't think right now. He was a captain. He'd rather have a big glass of butter milk and a piece of cornbread than chicken or anything else.

Give him buttermilk and a piece of cornbread, that was all he would want.

He used to come to our house, him (Bob, s/o Levi, s/o AJP) and dad (Jasper, s/o Alex, s/o AJP). They'd be together right smart. He didn't want to go to the Barber shop to get a shave. Said that barber just keeps going over your face. Rather shave it himself. Shave it off and be done. Them barbers keep coming back and going all over his face. Said he used to cut it off, and he was done.

J: Any of Levi's grandkids live around here?

E: Not right around here. Arthur's children live around here. I don't know if some of Ed's boys live over around _____.