

Q Can you tell me where you lived in 1912. Can you describe what the area looked like?

A I lived at Eskdale on Cabin creek. They wasn't very many houses there during that time. We moved to Eskdale in 1910 in September. In 1912 they had been some, what they called the railroad company houses built between our home and the railroad . During the early part of 1912 there was-- that's when the strike began on cabin Creek. That's what you want me to tell you , is that right.

Q Yes sir?

A My father owned and operated a grocery store. What we called a general merchant deal. He had groceries, feed, hay and even had an ice house where we bought ice and sold to the public there. Of course, when we moved there at Eskdale, I was only 9 years old. I was 9 years and 6 months old, rather. Then we had a--our youngest brother was born there in 1911. There was six of us boys at home at that time. My oldest brother, of course he graduated from East Bank high school in 1916. My next brother he went to East Bank High School for awhile and dropped out.

Q Do you recall at about what time the tents appeared and how they came to be. Can you explain about what time the tents showed up and how they came to be there?

A The tents were put on this private property about--well, I would say the early part of 1912, because when the strike began in 1912 people were evicted from their homes where they lived in coal company houses. *we'll call it that* By them living in coal company

houses after the strike come up. They wasn't able to collect the rent from the people that were in their homes. So they put them out of the houses. Some of them they had just taken their furniture and everything and sit it out by the side of the road. Then of course, it was up to them to get--they wasn't any trucks or anything like that up there during that period of time. They had to get people with teams and wagons and haul their furniture to wherever they was going to put up a tent. Their tents were--some of them were about 12 X 14 or 16 foot. Twelve foot wide and about 16 foot long. And some people had--the bigger the family of course they had to have more tent room. Some had to have additional, extry larger tents, put in back behind their cook tent. One tent they did their cooking and eating in there, like a kitchen or dining room.

Q Can we wait one moment.

Can you tell me again what size the tents were and what they looked like?

A Well, they were what we would call not exactly a white but almost a white canves and they would be about 16 foot long, that is one tent would be about 16 foot long and some they would have would be about 32 foot long. That would be there bedrooms. The whole family had to sleep under one tent there you see. The whole family had to cook and eat in one tent. They would be about 8 foot tall in the center. That gave them room to move around through the tent in there and the sides were about 4 foot high. What they called the side

walls. They had to have room enough for a bed to sit right close to the side wall. They were something real nice as far as a place to live in when it was a case of emergency. People didn't have anyplace to go so they had to be a tent provided for the people a place to live in. It was provided by the union, the United Mine Workers, the tents were. Of course, they had there own furniture and they had there own kitchens and dining room furniture and everything. But they had to cook on what we call a coal fire stove. They used, one stove in their tent where they cooked and another stove in a tent where they slept in.

Q Did you ever go inside the tents?

A Oh, yes. I've been inside the tents lots of times. You see the tents that's advertised at the different stores downtown here. Some of them of course are larger tents, but of course, back during that time one of those tents, the big ones, wouldn't cost half as much as what some of these small tents cost down here now.

Q Can you recall what the floor looked like?

A The floors?

Q Yeah. What kind of floor was in the tent?

A Well, they had ordinary wood floors with rugs over them. See they had to have a wood floor put in there so that it would keep them off of the ground when they was moving around there of the night or when they was changing clothes or anything of that sort. They had to take their bath in what we call a washtub now. People had to heat their water on

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a cook stove and all of the water that they had to use they had to heat it on the cook stove and in the resivor tank that was on the stove.

Q Do you recall how long the tents were there?

A They was there over a year. Because it was up in 1913 before the strike was settled. You was asking me something about this boomer train, you called it.

Q Bull Mouse train.

A That was the train that they had--special train that they used up and down cabin Creek there to haul there mine guards and to haul the people that they was bringing in there to try to break the strike. They had a bunch of these New York policeman come in there and--after they found out what they was brought in there for, why they didn't stay long. They left before they was any fights between them<sup>2</sup> and the United Mine Workers Union.

Q How did the people in the tents get their food?

A How did they get their food. They had a certain amount of income coming in, similar to what we have today. Only it wasn't put out by food stamps or anything like that. They would buy their food from the grocery stores around and in buying their food they usually had the money to pay for it when they buy it.

Q Did the union send food to the tents?

A Yes, they was a good bit of food sent in by the union up there during that time. In 1922, was another time when they had a big strike up there on cabin creek. That's when they

had their Mingo march, they called it.

Q What do you remember about the Mingo March?

A Well, I hadn't been married very long the first time when the Mingo March was. I was married in September of 1921 and the Mingo March was in 1922. People just took advantage of every groceryman that they entered their stores and took just anything they wanted. Not what they needed. Of course, that wasn't approved by nobody, being the right way to do things. They would tell you that they wanted in the store now they come to my father and told him that if he didn't open his store door they was going to open it themself, they was going to knock the door down and get in and get what they wanted. They carried stuff out of there. Carried shells, and childrens clothing and they was going from-- on Cabin Creek to marmet and across Lynns Creek mountain and go over in logan County. They called it going over there to organize those people. Of course, when they got up on<sup>2</sup> Blair Mountain that's when they had there trouble and that's when they was turned back because they said the strike had been called off when they got up on Blair mountain. I don't know just how long that strike lasted up there. I think it was from in the late 1921 till about the middle of 1922 when that strike was settled.

Q Do you recall what the weather was like in 1912. Do you recall what the winter was like when the people were living in the tents on Cabin Creek?

A What the what?

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Q Winter was like? Was it a cold winter back then, do you recall. Much snow?

A Yes, it was. They was lots of snow. They had to have a double top put on there tents. During the winter time in order to help to hold the snow off and keep from breaking down there tent and by them having a double top on their tent it came over this way and was fastened down here. It wasn't staked down you see, like the tent was.

(Pause)

Q Can you tell me what the winter was like in 1912 back then?

A Yes, it was awfully cold. I know my brother and I use to have to get out on the one horse wagon and do all of the hauling of the freight from the freight house to our home with a one horse wagon and we had to make several trips and it was cold weather during that time. You had to wrap up awfully good and they was ice that was froze down about half a mile from where we lived at. They would be as many as--oh, sometime they would be as many as 40 and 50 people skating on that ice one time of the night, evening. It was really cold. The people of course, was very fortunate to have good tents to live in and had a good supply of fuel to keep their tents warm.

Q You were talking about they put a second top on the tent?

A Well, it was just a--you know what I mean it was an extra piece of canves that come across the tent to help to protect the top of the tent and to keep the inside of the tent warm. The <sup>double</sup> installation you see, that was like having installa

tion put in anything. When they had one tent already up there and they brought this other piece of canvas across there in order to hold some of the cold out and the snow off the main tent, body of the tent.

Q How many people were living in the tents that you could see?

A Well, now there was one family there--my uncle that lived in one family. He had about 5 or 6 girls and 2 boys. Him and his wife and I would say they was about 8 children and the man and his wife, living in one tent. They was other tents there that I can't recall just how many they were in some of these tents. They would be as many as 4,5, and 6 in the majority of them though. Because they wasn't hardly any tents that was put up but what all of them had a family that they had to take care of in these tents.

Q What did the people think about the tents? What did you think about the fact that these people were living down there in tents?

A What did we think about it. Well,

(Pause)

Q What did you think about the people living in the tents?

A Well, we thought in a sence that they was very fortunate to have the tents to live in. After they had been put out of their houses where they lived in where they worked for the coal company. Then of course, by having these tents to live in--it's like I said they was fortunate to have that because they wasn't know houses were they could rent.

Q Do you recall the Baldwin-Felts agents. Do you recall the men that the coal operators hired?

A No, I don't. The only--let's see, they were the coal operator

Q They were called Baldwin-Felts, do you recall that?

A The what?

Q Baldwin-Felts agents?

A I can think of the name the coal company.

Q No, the men that the coal company hired. They were called Baldwin-Felts agents, do you recall them.

A No, I can't because you see they didn't mix with people and never tell you what the name was

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Daniel Scott

A The name of the coal company.

Q No. The men that the coal company hired, they were called Baldwin-Felts agents, do you recall them?

A No. I can't. Because you see they didn't mix with people that never tell you what their name was. Now they was one man that I knew--in fact there was two men that I knew. They was a mine guard before this strike come up. One of the men went out after one of the leaders of the union, they went up what was called Lamont Hollow. He said he was going to go up and bring the men back. When he went up in the hollow--way up in there about 4 or 5 miles going towards Paint Creek, across the hill towards Paint Creek, he found this man back in the hill and they both shot one another and both of them died back in the hills. The mine guard and the man that was one of the union men. I know both of their names.

Q Did you say that in 1920 the tents came back?

A In when.

Q In 1920 there was another strike on Paint Creek and the people went to live in the tents again?

A No, they didn't live in their tents that time because they was so many in houses that they wasn't pulled out of their houses that time.

Q Do you recall anything else about the tents?

A About the tents?

Q Yeah. Anything you didn't tell me that you wanted to tell

me that you <sup>wanted to</sup> ~~ask me~~ tell me about that? 10

A Well, there was two different groups of tents in there right close to where we lived at, one group lived about well, in fact they was living in a vacant lot adjoining our property, that belonged to my father. Then across the creek they was another group of people living in tents over there and they was about 10 families living in tents across the creek there. Whereever they could find a vacant space the people would let them move their tent in on these places, why of course, they would set up a tent and live there. During the time when--well, we called it when the Bull ¶Mouse train would come up there of the night. Lots of times people would be afraid that they might just start shooting into the camp. But they wasn't much of ~~that~~ that done. They didn't do much shooting into the camp. Because the soldiers were brought in up there and to watch over and to keep peace between the two different people. The union and the coal operators. one particular time they was one of the guards, we never did know who he was, he was standing between the coaches on the passenger train that had come up there about 6 oclock in the evening and somebody threw a piece of a brick and hit that man on the forehead and knocked his hat off and when it knocked his hat off the next evening when that passenger train come up through there and stopped there at Eskdale, this guard shot a colored man right between the eyes. A bunch of us people that was standing around there on the platform--it was always

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an excitement there to watch the passenger train to come in of the night. We dropped down in behind the platform there thinking he might aim to shoot somebody else, but that was the only person that was harmed or bothered up there when that shot went off. Just that one person. He went up there the next day and got this guard and took him out--the soldiers did, the soldiers went up there and got this man and took him out and in a couple of days, well of course, he was back up and down Cabin Creek again there. They didn't keep him in the courthouse down ther or put him in jail.

Q So there were soldiers guarding the tent coloneys then?

A They was up there to try to keep piece between the tent coloney's and the mine operators. The mine union you see was the one's that was having the people in the tent and the coal operators, of course, they couldn't do anything about that. And they couldn't do anything about the people walking around, wherever they wanted to walk around too. They never did bother about going back on the coal company property. Until after the strike was settled in 1913. I was down in the bed with the typhoid fever there in 1912 when the Marshal Law was declsred. When they have Marshal Law they have the privelage to go in oyur home and search your home for guns and they would go and search every place they could search and try to

(Tape cuts off)

INTERVIEW WITH DANIEL SCOTT

FR: Beth Nogay

Nogay: Do you recall what the Baldwin Phelps Agents do you recall them?

Scott: No I can't. There was one man that I knew. There were two... They were mine guards before this strike came up and one of the men went after one of the leaders of the union and he said he was going to bring the man back. He went up this hollow toward Paint Creek to find this man and they both shot one another back in the hills. The mine guard and one of the union men. They both died back in the hills.

Nogay; In 1920 there was another strike and the people lived in tents again?

Scott: No not that time because there was enough houses.

Nogay: Can you describe what the area looked like in 1912.

Scott: I lived at S dale on Cabin Creek and there wasn't very many houses during that time. We moved to Sdale in 1910 in Sept. and in 1912 there had been some railroad company houses built between our home and the railroad and during the early part of 1912 that's when the strike began on Cabin Creek and my father owned and operated a grocery store called the general mercantile. He had groceries, feed, hay and had an ice house. I was 9 years old when we moved there. My youngest brother was born there in 1911 there was 6 of us boys at that time. My oldest brother graduated from high school in 1916 my next brother went to East Bank High School for a while and dropped out.

Nogay: Do you recall at about what time tents appeared and how they came to there.

Scott: The tents were put on private property early 1912. Because when the strike occurred in 1912 the people were evicted from their homes when they lived in coal company houses. During the strike the people couldn't pay rent so they put them out of the houses. Some of their furniture was set out beside the road and then it was up to them to haul their furniture to wherever they was going to set up a tent.

Their tents were 12 x 14 ft. and some had bigger according to the size of their families. Some had two tents one to cook in and the other for living. Some of the living tents were 32 ft. long. About 8 ft high in the center. That gave room to move around inside. The sides were about 4 ft. high. The beds sat close to the side wall. In an emergency they were alright. The UMW provided the tents. The people had their own furniture but had to cook on a coal stove. One stove in the tent where they cooked and one stove where they slept.

Nogay: Did you ever go inside the tents?

Scott: Oh yes. Lots of times. Back then one of those big tents wouldn't cost  $\frac{1}{2}$  as much as some of these small tents today.

Nogay: Can you recall what the floor looked like?

Scott: They just had ordinary wood floor with rugs over them. They had to have a wood floor put in them to keep them off the ground. They had to take a bath in a wash tub. Had to heat water on the cook stove.

Nogay: Do you recall how long the tents were there?

Scott: Over a year. Because it was in 1913 before the strike was settled.

You asked me about the Bullmoose Train. That was a special train they used up and down Cabin Creek to haul their mine guards and to haul the people that they was bring in there to try & break the strike. They had New York policemen come in there and after they found out why they didn't stay long because they left before a fight broke out between them and the UMW.

Nogay: How did the people in the tents get their food?

Scott: They had a certain amount of income similar to what we have today only it wasn't like food stamps....they'd buy their food from the groceries stores around and they usually had the money to pay for it.

Nogay: Did the union send food for the tents.

Scott: Yes a good bit was sent during this time.

Scott: In 1922 was another strike on Cabin Strike and that's when they had the Mingo March.

Nogay: What do you remember about that?

Scott: I hadn't been married very long and people just took advantage of grocerymen and took anything they wanted not what they needed and of course that wasn't approved by nobody being right. They told my father that if he didn't open his store they would knock the door down and get what they wanted. They carried stuff to Logan County to organize and when they got on Blair Mountain they had trouble and they came back because they said the strike had been called off when they got on top of Blair Mountain. I don't know how long the strike lasted I think from late 1921 to middle of 1922.

Nogay: Do you recall the winter when the people lived in the tents on Cabin Creek?

Scott: It was cold with lots of snow. They had to have a double top put on the tent during winter to hold the snow and keep from breaking down their tent. Ice froze and 40 to 50 people would skate on that ice at one time. Really cold.  
The people were fortunate to have the tents to live in and a good supply of fuel to keep warm.

Nogay: How many people lived in the tents?

Scott: One family had 5 or 6 girls and two boys. As many as 6 in most of the tents.

Nogay: What did you think about these people living in those tents?

Scott: We thought they were fortunate to have them. After being put out of their houses. There was no houses to rent.

Nogay: Do you recall any thing else about the tents?

Scott: Wherever they could find a vacant space they moved their tents in. During the time the Bullmoose train came during the night the people were afraid they would start shooting into the camp but there wasn't

much of that done. Because the soldiers were brought in to keep peace between the two...the union and the coal operators. One time one of the guards was standing between the coaches and somebody threw a brick and hit that man on the forehead and knocked his hat off and the next evening when that train came through there and stopped this guard shot a colored man right between the eyes. A bunch were standing there it was exciting to watch the train come in at night and we dropped down behind the platform because we were afraid he would shoot somebody else but that was the only person that was harmed. They went up the next day and got this guard and took him out the soldiers did and in a couple of days he was back they didn't keep him long. 4

Nogay: There were soldiers guarding the tent colonies then?

Scott: To try & keep peace between the tent colonies and the mine operators. the mine union was having trouble with the tent people the operators couldn't do anything about that and they couldn't do anything about people walking to where they wanted but they didn't go on the coal company property until after the strike was settled in 1913. I was sick with typhoid when martial law was declared. They had the privledge of searching your home for guns. They searched everywhere.