

WPA Alabama Writers Project  
Short Stories/Sketches by:  
Jennie Sue Williams, Jackson Co

Edgar Walker - Landowner  
Dorans Cove, Alabama  
Jackson County,  
September 30, 1938  
J. S. W.

### THE WALKERS

The Walker farm is located about four miles north of Bridgeport in Doran's Cove. The place contains 145 acres of land, only 87 being in cultivation, the remaining 58 being taken up in mountain land, ditches, fence rows etc.

He has five children. The only one at home is Betty Clyde, thirteen years of age, who attends Bridgeport High School. She comes in to school on the school bus and is in the 9th grade. His oldest child finished high school and took a business course. The other three children would not finish high school, but got married instead. He says it is not his fault the children didn't get any more education, did everything in his power to get them to attend school. He is a firm believer in education and has high ideals for his children. He only attended school through the fifth grade because back in his day they only had three months school out of the year and he did not get to take advantage of this all the time. The only time he got to attend school was when his father did not need him to work. He related with much pride that his father owned three farms.

His earnings have been doubled from the time he first started to work. Says people who complain of hard times now don't know anything about hard times. The trouble is in the people now days. They want too much and are never satisfied. They always had plenty to eat and wear when he grew up, but never had much money; can remember when his father would start

saving money twelve months in advance for his taxes.

He takes much pride in his work, says a person would not get very far along and be much successful in any line of work unless they liked it and took pride in it. Really likes his work. Worked on the railroad for twelve or fifteen years but liked farm life so much better that he returned to it. Thinks that farm life has advantages over all other life as they raise their own meat, have own vegetables, own corn for meal. Milk two cows and has chickens and eggs..Very few items they have from the store in the eating line and they can generally exchange something from the farm for their items. It takes very little money to live like this with exception of money for tax, medicine, doctors, etc. The wife and daughter have been in the hospital, but they are all in good health now from the medical attention they have had. He thinks that "moderate" work on a farm is good for the health. Believes that life on the farm has advantage from any other life from healthful standpoint. As they get plenty of fresh air, sunshine as well as a well-balanced diet, containing plenty of rich milk and eggs, plenty of exercise and good sound sleep.

The wife and children belong to the Missionary Baptist Church. He thinks the children need amusement and recreation, which they receive in various ways, including attending ball games, going to parties, box and pie suppers, singings, almost any kind of amusement they indulge in with exception of attending dances. He never has any time for pleasure. When not working in his crop he is busy cleaning, repairing and improving the farm. Thinks there is always plenty to do on a farm if you will do it. Gets his pleasure from improving his place.

Shows much independence in his voting, says that is about the only privilege a man has and he certainly would not be deprived of that. He is a staunch old democrat.

They have one renter on the place, renting by the share, 1/3 and 1/4. Grows a "well balanced crop"; raises what vegetables they eat in summer and wife cans enough for winter, raises some cotton, corn, hay and also live stock. Doesn't market very much corn and hay as he saves this for own use.

The soil is prepared in early spring by turning and disking. Is through planting and cultivating and "lay by" about the first of July. Harvesting takes place about the last of September.

They are very proud of their modest six-room house, which provides adequate room for the three people at home. Have a well in the back yard.

In general you would say the Walkers take pride in their home, children and all their possessions, and is enjoying a quite peaceful and satisfied life coming from making their own living with their own hands, enjoying freedom and taking pride in their work.

10/5/38

P.B.J.

THE HUGHES FAMILY

Merdith Hughes is a tenant farmer on the S. A. Gentry estate, which is located five miles south of Bridgeport across the Tennessee River. He has 132 acres in cultivation, 110 being in corn which will produce 1200 bushels of corn this year. This is not nearly so much as this same amount of land generally produces, because of an off-year due to the wet season in the early Spring, followed by the long drought in the Summer. His 22 acres of cotton will only yield 12 bales of cotton.

Merdith, with his three grown daughters and grown son, with very little hired help, plant, cultivate and gather the crop. They turn all the ground in the Spring with a tractor and do the planting with mules; all the cultivating is done with tractor and the mules are used again in gathering the crops. He has in the way of equipment tractor, disc harrow, disc turner and cultivator for tractor and two mules. These are not all paid for, however. They have been farming this same place for three years. He stays over on the farm and batches all the time except when absolutely to make a trip to town. When he makes these trips to town his little six year-old daughter, Betty Kaye, is with him constantly. When he goes to town, she goes along with him and if he buys her a pair of shoes she is very particular in getting the kind she wants. When he goes to the table to eat she is in his lap. The grown children stay with him across the river and batch while making the crop and gathering.

They own their six-room, unpainted frame house and six lots. These are paid for. Florence, the wife, and the small children stay home and make a garden on these lots. Merdith of course,

she adds, plows the garden for her. She raised enough beans this year to eat during the summer and canned 74 half-gallon cans; other vegetables in proportion, she adds.

The house was in a run-down condition when they bought it, but they have repaired and added two rooms to it. They have planted a few flowers and have set out some shrubbery around the house. Upon entering the house you will find it clean and orderly. The unpainted floors which show around the linoleum have been scrubbed until they are clean and almost white. They have three bedrooms and two kitchens. If the girls are home they are likely to have the eight-tube Philco radio, which they won at a drawing, tuned on some kind of string music. Merdith says he has always been lucky about holding winning tickets and has won a number of items in this manner.

They kill six or seven hogs weighing from 350 to 450 pounds each, and this does not supply meat for the entire year. They have their own corn for meal, milk two cows, and have about one hundred chickens. With all of this their bill at the store amounted to \$448.00 this year. This included clothing for the family and what extra groceries needed, but did not include fertilizer bill for his crop. The tax on his home amounted to \$15.00 for the year.

The grown boy got into a fight this summer and got cut up badly. The doctor's bill for this, was \$136.00 not counting the drug bill. Merdith says he has all of this paid except \$16.00. His oldest daughter had an operation last winter for appendicitis which cost \$600.00. Most of this bill has been paid. Merdith says this has been a bad year for them with all the doctor bills and bad crops. He laughingly says that he owes more people than

he does not owe, and that all his pockets are full of bills and holes. Then in a more serious tone he adds that he has not ruined his credit in spite of all his hard luck and that he can still get whatever he needs in town because everyone knows he will pay his bills.

Florence and Merdith appreciate the girls and boy helping to make the living and praise them very highly. They believe in letting them have anything "in the bounds of reason" that they want. They are a proud and happy father and mother of nine girls and three boys, ranging from twenty-eight to six years of age. They have lost two of their farm hands by the marriage of two of the girls.

Merdith says the reason he bought a place over here in town was so his children could go to school when they get through gathering the crop. The children are in school from the primer to the ninth grade. He says he thinks so many parents make a mistake by living in some out of the way place to make a living and depriving their children the privilege of going to school.

The girls enjoy going to the picture show, skating rink, and parties. They also like to go to church and to singings in the nearby towns.

Merdith has worked some for the government, doing construction work on several locks and dams but all during this time he still made a crop even though he hired help to make the crop. He seems to think that farming has become a hobby as well as a livelihood with him and couldn't think of doing anything else to make a living. Says you can be independent on the farm and not worry about strikes or anything of that kind.

12/20/38

L.H.

Tom Geer, Tenant Farmer  
1 1/2 Miles Northwest of Bridgeport, Ala  
Owner, Louise Jones.

### "THE GEERS"

The Geers have ten children, the oldest being 21 and the youngest 6 years of age. The oldest boy is attending David Lipscomb College and the oldest girl attending Florence Normal. They have four children in grammar school and three in high school. These seven children walk in to Bridgeport to attend school. They generally start school a month late as they help in gathering the crop even with this they manage to stay at the top of their classes. Mrs Geer says she cooks a peck of sweet potatoes at a time for the children to have when they get in from school. The children in college have borrowed money to go to school on. The parents cannot give them as much financial aid because of the seven children at home going to school. This puts them in a financial strain. All the children are ambitious to go school and the parents do all they can to encourage them. The children do not like to spend the night away from each other. During the winter they gather around the large open log fireplace and pop corn and make molasses candy, talk and sing. The four oldest children at home formed a quartet and sang the following songs for me

#### " SWEET SUMMERS GONE AWAY"

There's a purple tint on the woodland leaves  
and the winds are up all day  
There's a rustling heard in the yellow sheaves  
and it seems to sadly say;  
Refrain

"Sweet Summer", " Sweet Summer", "Sweet Summers  
gone away" .  
"Sweet Summer" , "Sweet Summer", "Sweet Summer  
gone away" .

There are loving arms for baby dear.  
Tho the chill skies are chill and gray; and a  
cozy home nest all the year, and sweet  
kisses every day.

*Jennie S. W. W.*

"A BEAUTIFUL LIFE"

Each day I'll do-a golden deed-By helping  
those who are in need;my life on earth is but  
a span-and so I'll do the best I can.

Refrain

Lifes evening sun is sinking low-a few  
more days and I must go-To meet the deeds that  
I have done.Where there will be  
no setting sun.

While going down-lifesweary road,I'll try to  
lift some travlers load;I'll try to turn  
the night to day,make flowers bloom,along  
the way(the lonely way).

Mr Geer sometimes plants winter legumes in the fall and does some winter plowing, breaking up the land and getting it into shape for spring. During the winter months he repairs fences, fills ditches, gets up wood and does all kind of repairing. The corn, cotton and lespedeza are planted in the spring. He has 22 acres in cotton which will produce about thirteen of cotton. They begin plowing this cotton about three weeks after it comes up. It is plowed four or five times during the season, and chopped ~~twice~~ twice, have 25 acres in corn which will produce 500 bushels of corn, it is plowed two or three times, chopped once and thinned four or five weeks after it is planted. They have 50 a - acre in lespedeza which will produce 1100 bales of hay, they mow the weeds off the lespedeza early in the spring and harvest the last of August or first of September. In addition to this they have a sorghum ~~patch~~ cane patch planted the last of May and make syrup the 1st of Sept. making 80 gallons this year. After paying for making the molasses they will have about 60 gallons for their own use. They use this molasses largely for making cakes in the place of sugar, for candy and etc. Raised 100 bushels of sweet potatoes

put 95 bushell in the dry house for future use, raised 30 bushel of irish potatoes. Of course they have their regular vegetable garden ,raise enough chickens fo own use,milk three cows,have 15 yearlings on the place.II hogs,will only kill two or three of these for own use,as only have meat through the wint er months. They attribute their unusually good health to the fact that they dont eat much meat.

The family plant and cultivate the crop with two mules,sometimes hire some help to gather the crop as they hate to keep the children out of school over a month.They rent for one third of corn and one fourth of cotton,one half of hay with seed furnished.They like their land lady real weal.Get their water from a well for the home use and have three ponds on the place for the stock.The house has eight rooms and is kept real neat and orderly.The boy in college plays the guitar,harmonica and mandalon Every member of the family is blessed with good voice and have a good quartet in the family.

Mr Geer finished the eighth grade and can help the children in high school with their lessons.He is working on the T.V.A.this fall,generally works at the cotton gin during the fall before time to gather corn.Has farmed most all his life with exception of abour seven years public works,he likes farming because of feeling of indepedence.

During the rush season they get up between three and four o'clock and retire between eight and nine as they work until eight o'clock sometimes.Don't make a practice of getting up this early all the time.

The most recreation they have is attending church and singings.They attend the Church of Christ in Bridgeport where

he conducts the singing. The weather never gets too bad, the sun too bright or the night too black for them to come to church. They have attended seven protracting meetings this summer, going in wagons or on trucks, all the family go together. When Mrs Geer was asked how she had kept her children together so well she replied she always carried them to church the first place they ever went. She has spent her life working and trying to make them a success. She believes her unusual family is her reward for her life's work. They do not believe in going to parties and the only songs they sing are gospel hymns.

The boy in high school heard two boys on the football field quarreling one day and wrote the following poem.

"BE A GOOD SPORT"

Be a good sport wherever you play  
 never get angry in anyway  
 Just follow the rules and you will find  
 That the players to you will be generous and kind.

Do nothing that will make some one angry  
 Be honest be kind and true  
 Just do your best and you will see  
 That the best will come back to you.

Be a good sport in your work  
 Be a good sport in your play  
 Just always remember these words  
 Be the best wherever you play.

Samuel Geer, age 17.

They are a happy and contented family, doing at all times what they think is right. The following sent to them by their daughter in Florence is a true expression of their feeling toward each other.

"TO THE MOST WONDERFUL FAMILY IN THE WORLD"

With love untiedly they work  
Beneath the shining sun,  
not one of them would dare to shirk  
Before the work was done.

With pride, I call family:  
With love, devotion too,  
and I know I'm thinking soundly,  
When I love like I do.

I love you Daddy, Mother,  
Brothers and sisters too  
I know there's not another  
Family-just like you.

Margaret Geer

S.W.

J. Sue Williams  
Bridgeport, Jackson County, Ala.

MAMIE TURNER

Mamie Turner is the mother of three boys and two girls. The oldest boy, Eddie, being 23 and the youngest girl, Rebecca, being seven. The three boys are married, Eddie, Olga (Eddie's wife) and their two-year old daughter live with Mamie and the two girls. The other two boys and their wives did live with them until they had a family quarrel and moved out to themselves.

They live in an old two-story, dilapidated frame house which has been painted green but the paint is well worn, faded and dirty from the smoke and soot from the passing and switching trains in the nearby railroad yards. There is an old trellis barely hanging to the front porch and both the front and back steps are in need of repair. You will find a few geraniums and ferns on the porch in pans and buckets of various sizes and shapes.

You are met at the front gate and announced by the barks of old Bill, the bird dog, and it is advisable to wait until some member of the family comes to the front door and calls to him before you enter the gate. Mamie will not hesitate to tell you that he will bite and that he is a great fighter and they have refused to take \$75.00 for him. They had another bird dog by name of Max but he ran across the railroad track one too many times and a train killed him.

The house contains six rooms and bath; kitchen, dining room and bedroom downstairs and two bedrooms and one room they use to store hay for the cow and the 350 pound hog that has just been killed and salted away, upstairs. The house is clean but has rather upset appearance due to the number of people in the family. The kitchen furniture consists of stove, table, chair and safe. The paint has all been worn

from around the linoleum from constant scrubbing. The walls are dirty and in bad shape because the roof was struck by lightning on Easter Sunday and the rain ruined the walls before the roof could be replaced. The dining room has table and chairs and the bedroom downstairs has nice bedroom suite and cabinet radio. All the floors have linoleums. They pay \$12.00 per month house rent.

Mamie was reared in So. Pittsburgh, Tenn. and worked in a hosiery mill there until her early marriage to a coal miner from Whitwell, Tenn. She says that he never was any account and that she could not become a christian as long as he lived and she had to be bothered with him. He has been dead almost a year, dying away from home at one of his sister's. Since his death Mamie has joined the church and attends regularly.

Eddie is a mounter at the Jacob's Manufacturing Co., when they are not out on a strike. A majority of the employees of the stove foundry have been on strike for over a year most of the time. He has been working for the last three months regularly. He gets four days work a week and for this he receives from \$12.00 to \$15.00 . Olga started working at the Browning Hosiery Mill while Eddie was on strike and worked until the new wage and hour bill went into effect. Then she could not make her task and was laid off. She says she doesn't believe any girl ever worked any harder than she and had any better time before her marriage. She did a great deal of the housework, all the laundry for the family, had a paper route and went to school. She is a high school graduate. Mamie's other two sons and their wives work at the hosiery mill and make from \$12 to \$15. per week. One of the boys, his wife and baby come very often and spend the week-end. On these occasions you will hear them laughing and talking and the radio turned on as loud as it will play and an occasional cry from

one of the babies. The other son and daughter-in-law do not come there because of the family quarrel.

For several months Mamie kept four T.V.A. boarders and received \$20 a week from them. They have their own cow, which they kept staked out until cold weather and then built a stall for her just out of the back door. They raised some chickens and a small garden, from which she canned several cans of vegetables. They picked blackberries and put them up.

The two oldest boys play baseball and softball and the whole family attend these games. The boys like to hunt and fish and sometimes the wives will go along for a two-day's fishing and camping trip. The girls enjoy going to picture shows, Sunday School and singing. The youngest girl started to school last year and the other girl is in Jr. High School. Eddie has promised to send her to college when she finishes high school as her ambition is to become a teacher.

It is a common sight to see the children running around over the neighborhood to several houses borrowing anything from wash tub to baking soda.

Mamie and Olga are busy from way before daylight until after dark cooking, washing and ironing and doing the house work. They all get cross and fussy but they are a happy family. They are independent, do not receive any help from any outside source.

12/7/38

S.J.

Jennie Sue Williams  
Bridgeport, Alabama

Jackson. 50.

New.

ISAAC SLAUGHTER

Isaac Slaughter said: I wuz borned on March 15, 1845, in Greensboro, Georgia, the slave of John I. Slaughter. This is what my sister, Dasha, says in the family Bible. Sister Dasha, she lives in Dadeville, Alabama, and she is one and one-half years older than me. I wuz on Flint River in Georgia during the Civil War, and lawse, de sights I did see! I seed men and hawses laying all around me dead, and I wuz scared just 'bout half to death".

"How papa, be careful what you tell, you know yo' don't want to be tellin' things what ain't true," admonished his daughter, Rura. With this Slaughter hused his war tales.

"Well, we moved to Dadesville, Alabama, from Georgia with de Slaughters, and dey's a place called Slaughter's Crossing there now, I reclaim, and me sister, Dasha, she still lives there. I'se got two sisters and two brothers living yet, I reclaim. Haven't heard from them in a long time but I reclaim as how some of the folks would have writ if they wuz any of them dead. Me sister, Sophia, lives in Birmingham, but lawse have mercy me child, I haven't seed her in a long, long time."

"Well, Slaughter, where did you come from when you moved here?"

"I'se done moved here from Fort Payne, Alabama, in 1891. I'se worked on de railroad when I'se ever in Fort Payne. I'se worked at de ice plant when I'se first comed here, and den I done started to butchering for Mr. Ciders. I'se lived at de slaughter pen and raised sheep, pigs and cattle for Mr. Ciders to kill. Don't guess you remember Mr. Ciders, but you daddy do. Den I'se butchered for

different ones up to the last few years. But now I isn't able to lift de seat and handle hit."

For many years Slaughter has been a familiar figure around Bridgeport in his ragged clothing, stained with blood from his butchering, and generally about ten or twelve dogs following him, because of the blood and seat odor about him. Since he has stopped butchering the dogs do not follow him as they did. He is familiarly known as "Slaughter." Many people do not know that his real name is Slaughter, but think he derived his name from his profession as a butcher.

"What do you do now since you have stopped slaughtering?"

"Well, Missus, I jest raises little truck patches. I grows all kinds of vegetables, and year before last I growed some cotton; but dis last year I didn't grow no cotton. I don't use no plow for to break my ground, but just digs it up wid a spade."

"How much ground do you have?"

"I trucks about three lots, and I was 'bout to fergit to tell you 'bout my pigs. I raised me one pig for our own use and sold one little pig, and had one to die. You see, Missus, I gathers up slop at the stores ebery mornin', and one of my little pigs, I knows, got a fish bone and got choked on hit."

"Do you own your own home?"

"My daughter, Tura here, she own dis place."

Tura and Slaughter live in a little four-room frame house, which is painted white, trimmed in green, with flowers and shrubbery around it. When you enter the house you go into the living room, which contains an overstuffed living room suite, wool rug and floor lamp. The walls are papered, and lace curtains, stiffly starched, hang from the windows.

Slaughter's room contains a wicker living room suite, white bed,

round table, buffet and curtains. This room has linoleum on the floor, and a churn of milk was setting by the fireplace on the hearth. In one corner of the room on a couch is a bunch of old magazines and pictures. The daughter pointed these out to me and said, "That is papa's playhouse. He gets all dem books and pictures out every night 'fore he goes to bed and looks at dem." His pipes are among the collection. From my position I could see into the kitchen, and could see an electric stove and a linoleum on the floor, and a porcelain top table. Some one gave a rap at the front door about this time.

"Well, bless your heart, come right in out of that snow."

"I want you to come and work for me today," came the reply from a white visitor.

"Lawse how me, child, I jest can't today."

"Oh, now Tura you just must come and help me out."

"Why, honey, if you could see dem seven shirts I'se got to iron, and a washin' to do besides dat! Wuz you dese be lookin' for company, or what you dese want me to do?"

"I just wanted you to wash my dishes and clean my two rooms for me."

"Well, can't I come 'bout one o'clock and get dat done all right?"

They agreed after some talk for Tura to go at one o'clock and do the housework.

It was finally revealed by Tura that her husband, John Berry, was killed during the World War in France, and she got a pension from the Government. She is one of the best practical nurses in town, and this enables her to live very comfortably.

"Slaughter, what time do you get up every morning?"

"I don't have no special time to git up. Sometimes I gits up 'bout 3:30 and sometimes 'bout 4:30. I jest gets up and builds me

a fire and looks at my picture books until daylight, and den I goes to town and gathers up my sloop, and den I comes back and eats my breakfast and goes up in de field and builds me a fire and starts diggin' in my ground."

"What church do you belong to?"

"I belongs to de Primitive Baptist, but I been a member for ober twenty-five years. I w,ants to say dat my long life, I thinks, has been due to not eating much meat, don't drink coffee or any other kind of strong drink. I neber hab laid at night or exposed myself. The only time I been exposed to de weather is working. Most of my eating is buttermilk and cornbread and some light bread. I won't eat without my milk. I drinks my buttermilk three times a day with sugar in it. If I eats three times a day, de sugar bowl hab to be filled three times."

Tura said, "That's the onliest thing papa is extravagant about is his sugar and candy. Twenty-five cents worth of sugar won't last us a week, and papa kin eat twenty-five cents worth of candy any day, and he hain't got a tooth in he head. I don't think its wasteful though, long as he enjoys it like he do."

"Do you own a cow?"

"No, I'm just milking this one for a neighbor who is away. I'm going to try and buy her if she will let me."

"I guess I'm de oldest person in town," Slaughter said, and can see jest as good as anybody without glasses. Guess I must hab my second eyesight, case I can remember when long time ago I couldn't see so well. My hearin's good too. Most that's wrong wid me is jest old age."

We were again interruted by a knock at the door.

"Why, come right in, Uncle Arthur. Did you have a nice Christmas?"

"Yes, yes, did you all? Did Nora (Slaughter's granddaughter) come

down for Christmas?"

"Yes, she and her old man just come down and spent the day.

Did you find your folks all well?"

"No, two of dem wuz sick in bed."

With this much said Uncle Arthur lapsed into silence and they again turned to me as if ready to resume the conversation.

"Do you have any more children?"

"Yas'um, Missus, I'se got two more daughters, Alice and Mary. Dey done lib in Kansas City, and I'se had one son, Earl. He's been dead for thirty-two years."

"Where is your dog, Slaughter?"

"Well, Missus, since you wuz done ober here before, and made my picture wid Kayo, a car done runned ober him and killed him. I shore is glad dat you made our picture and done brought me one, case I didn't hab no picture of Kayo. I'se still got my old big "Huffy" cat though, and also got me twenty hens."

"Say, Missus, what's wrong wid Alabama dat dey don't gib de old folks no pension?" Here Uncle Arthur chimed in, "Ah done thought dat's what she wuz doing here was to see 'bout you a pension."

"Alabama does pay some of the old people a pension, some of them in Jackson County get \$6.00 per month, but you must make application in Scottsboro for this."

"Lawse how mercy, I wish I could get \$6.00 a month. Den maybe I wouldn't hab to dig so hard in de ground for a living."

"What time do you go to bed at night?"

"Somtimes I goes to bed 'bout 7:30 and somtimes not 'til 8:30 or 9 o'clock."

Tura said "Papa plays in his playhouse ebory night and sets in front of de fire in his chair, dat's his chair specially. See, it's a little low chair, and he's low, see he sets in it all de time. He

smokes his pipe and sings."

"What does he sing?"

"All kinds of songs."

"Could you give me one of them?"

"In a weak voice he murmured the following song:

I'm gonna be on de battlefield  
 I'm gonna be on de battlefield  
 I'm gonna be on de battlefield  
 I'm gonna be on de battlefield

Till I die  
 Till I die  
 Till I die  
 Till I die

I'm gonna keep my father's will till I die  
 I'm gonna keep my father's will till I die  
 I'm gonna keep my father's will till I die  
 I'm gonna keep my father's will till I die

I'm going down the valley to pray  
 I'm going down the valley to pray  
 I'm going down the valley to pray  
 I'm going down the valley to pray

I'm gonna treat my neighbors right Lord  
 I'm gonna treat my neighbors right Lord  
 I'm gonna treat my neighbors right Lord  
 I'm gonna treat my neighbors right Lord

Till I die  
 Till I die  
 Till I die  
 Till I die

"Dat las' am kinda hard to do sometimes."

"I had better be going", I said, "as Tura has so much work to do, she will never get through."

"Don't worry 'bout dat, chile," she said, "I'se sorry I can't think of no more to tell you 'bout papa. I mean to make a trip down to Dadeville and find out all I can 'bout him and see dat family Bible. If I find out any more I will let you know. I shore do thank you for dat picture of papa. It shore do look jest like him. I will hab to send it to his granddaughter, Nora, in Chattanooga to see, and

she can send it back to me."

By this time we were at the front door.

"Well, Missus, I'se glad you done come to see us, but I hates to see you out in dis snow and cold weather. Be comin' back, and if us thinks of anything else I will come ober and tell you. You might go ober and see Aunt Ann and Aunt Molly Kellson and Aunt Becky Reed; dey are all old Negroes and might tell you lots of things dey can 'member a long time back."

1/17/1939

S.J.

The Snodgrass Family (colored)  
Hollywood, Alabama  
Farmers

Jennie Sue Williams  
Jackson County, Ala.

#### THE SNODGRASS FAMILY

It was lamp lightin' time when I arrived at the Snodgrass home. After introductory remarks and my business made known, we were seated around the large open fireplace and King David Snodgrass started telling his life story.

"I's King David Snodgrass; wuz borned below Bellefonte, Alabama, in 1884 on the Texas Snodgrass place. My great-grandmother was a slave of de Snodgrasses. My mother here owns de place here and lives wid us."

"How many children do you have?"

"Let me see here, I'll have to do a little countin'. My fingers done run out. We have eleven livin' and one dead. The oldest child is 33 years old. His name is Floyd and he cooks at de Scottsboro Hotel."

"Did he have any special training in cooking?"

"Just what his mother here learned him."

"Our second boy is 32 years old, his name is John Wesley and he is married and is a farmer.

"Dave Roy is the third child. He is 29 years old and is also a farmer.

"The fourth child is dead.

"Loula Mae is the fifth. She is a school teacher at Fackler and is 26 years old. She is married.

"William Henry is next, he is 24 and is married and is a farmer.

"Horace is 22 and is a preacher.

"Sara Jane is 20, married and lives in Chattanooga.

"King Daniel is 17, he goes to school and is in de 9th grade.

"Martha Beatrice is 15 and is in the 8th grade.

"James Franklin is 12 and in de 5th grade.

"Lucy Imogene is 9 and in de 4th grade, and dat's de end. We hab

Snodgrass Family

seven grandchildren."

"That makes five children with you now, doesn't it?" I inquired.

"That's right and me and my wife and mother.

"I's married Miss Mattie Lou Tolliver in 1904.

"I made de profession in 1889 and wuz ordained a deacon in 1927. I hab been president of de Sunday School Convention for 2 years. De convention 'cludes people from Madison County, Jackson County and part of Tennessee. Dey meets once a year at different places and they're 'lowed from 3 to 5 delegates. Yes, and I has been assistant secretary of the association for 5 years. I thinks dat's 'bout all my church history."

"What is the name of this church?"

"The New Hope M<sub>1</sub>ssionary Baptist Church.

"I's served as worshipful master of de Masonic order for 3 years and represented de lodge at de grand lodge in Anniston, Alabama. I's joined de Masons in 1903 and served as pastor of de chapter for 15 years. Was secretary of de lodge for 15 years. Believe dat's 'bout all my offices in de lodge.

"I's served as president of de P.T.A. for 3 years and served as trustee of school for 8 years. We have a new \$8,000 school building that haven't moved into yet, waiting on de inspectors to come and look it over. There is a fight on between Scottsboro and Hollywood, both trying to get the colored high school. All there is now in this county is junior high.

"You must have a good education to have held all these offices in the church, lodge and school."

"I went to de ninth grade. Back in my day dey let dem teach school when dey got to de fourth grade. I helps my children now wid their problems.

"I dreamed of a church but was barred.

"I never cussed or used a bad word or called one of my children a liar in my life. If I's ever caught dem telling a story and whupped dem fer it dey wuz not called liars."

"Do you give your mother credit for your useful and good life?"

"No, the little wife. she look and leave it there," replied themselves.

"When we wuz fust married, one day we wuz out in de field and I told her to give me a plow and she hands me de wrong one and I called her a 'gump'. She run to de house an' I followed her and found her cryin'. I say to her, 'If you'll hush I never will call you no other name like dat,' and I haven't.

"How do you ever get enough food for your family and all your company to last during the winter months?"

I's jest like an ant, busy all summer laying up fer winter. We kills four hogs, milks 2 cows, have our own chickens, potatoes, homemade syrup, can our vegetables. Our cotton is 'bout all we have to market. Our biggest expense is shoeing and clothing these children. Our cotton just 'bout takes care of dat.

"Course I's worked some on public works. I's been a carpenter and a brick mason."

Here the "Lonesome Four Quartet" enter.

"I wuz gittin' worried 'fraid dem boys wuz not comin'", explained King David. The wife replies in a fine tone, "I wuz not 'fraid when I told Preacher to do anything, but what he'd do it." By this time Preacher has his quartet assembled and announces, "The first number on our program will be our usual theme song."

1. 'On the Highway and in the Hedges.'

2. 'Sometimes I feel Like.'

3. 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot.'

4. 'Little David, Play on your Harp.'

5. 'I dreamed of a church had been burned.'

6. 'You got to Walk dat Lonesome Valley.'

7. 'Drive on.'

8. 'Try and hold on to the Lord.'

9. 'My Brother won't you sit down.'

10. 'Take your burden to the Lord and Leave it there,' revised themselves.

11. 'Standing by the Bedside.'

12. 'Do you wanna be my lover?'

#### ENVIRONMENT

Describe neighborhood: The Snodgrass family live in a small Negro settlement known as "The Barrens." A few scattered Negro cabins in run-down condition, Masonic Hall which is located in front of the Snodgrass home and the Missionary Baptist Church about 100 yards up the road from the home, constitute the settlement.

The outer buildings on the Snodgrass farm consists of unpainted barn 30x40, smokehouse and an old-time buggy shed.

Describe house: The eight room dilapidated house contains five bedrooms, dining room, kitchen and pantry. The front bedroom is furnished with wooden bedstead with high headboard reaching over half way to the ceiling. On this bed is placed large pillows and also an iron bedstead. An old washstand with large family picture hanging askew from above, an old dresser, machine and table, two lamps, a large open fireplace and high brick mantel with old-fashioned clock on it. The walls are ceiled and in time have been painted green. Their clothes are hanging from nails on the doors and walls and an old-time large pocketbook and burial insurance policy also adorn the walls besides the many family pictures. One window with ragged lace curtain and shade. There are four doors leading from the room, the little pickaninny heads are bobbing and peeping around the doors. Six or seven straight cane bottom chairs complete the furnishings of the room.

King David Snodgrass is 54 years of age although you would take him to be much older as his hair has started turning gray. He weighs 130 pounds and is five feet five inches tall. Talks in a low muffled voice. Is a black Negro and was dressed in an old pair of overalls and a blue coat.

Mattie Lou Tolliver Snodgrass, wife of King David Snodgrass, tells her life story briefly. "I wuz born in December, 1894. Went to school for 'bout nine years. While de other folks did de farm work I did de housework, sewing and cooking.

"I'se served as secretary of de church for four years and mother of de church for three years.

"I'se served as Matron of de Eastern Star for ten years and has held all seven offices in de lodge. I has represented de grand chapter five times, two in Birmingham, two in Tuscaloosa and one in Anniston."

Mattie Lou weighs 120 pounds, is 5 feet 3 inches tall, is a black Negro, her hair has turned gray and one of her eyes is larger than the other, giving her the appearance of being crosseyed. Her voice is imperative and is easy to see that she is the "boss."

Neatly dressed in a black crepe dress, blue sweater, neat black oxfords, and cotton hose.

Lucy Ray Snodgrass, the mother of King David Snodgrass, was born in Cherokee County, Alabama, in 1864. Moved to Hollywood at early age.

Only had three children, two of which are living now.

Has been married for fifty-five years, husband been dead four years.

Is a member of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church and has been for 57 years.

She will weigh 150 and is a yellow Negro, doesn't look to be as old as she is. She gets around real well for her age. Wears glasses. Has gold earrings in her ears, strand of imitation pearls around neck, print dress and apron. Has a low voice and talks very slow. It is easy to see that

although she is the mother-in-law, she is not the "boss."

Preacher Horace Snodgrass, son of Mattie Lou and King David Snodgrass, is 22 years old. Made profession when seven years old and joined the church when nine years of age.

Attended elementary school in Hollywood, then attended school in Selma for 2 years, went 1 year to Chattanooga and one year in Nashville, Tennessee. Was pastor of First Baptist Church in Columbia, Tennessee, while attending school in Nashville. Had an enrollment of 500 members.

He does evangelistic work altogether now. Is Missionary of Sunday School Convention. Has been all over Tennessee Valley with his quartet.

Preacher weighs 135 and is 5 feet 6 inches tall, wears glasses. Has a nice, pleasant voice. Is a black Negro and dressed in dark blue suit with tie. Is leader of the "Lonesome Four Quartet."

Leslie Grayson was born in Hollywood and finished the eighth grade. Has followed farm work most of life. Takes active part in church work. Sings bass in the "Lonesome Four Quartet."

Leslie is 19 years old and weighs 175 pounds, has broad shoulders and round face. He is a yellow Negro. Dressed in overalls and a brown coat and heavy shoes. Is the l f e of the quartet.

O. J. Henry was born in Lim Rock, Alabama, and moved to Hollywood when 3 years of age. Finished grammar school and has spent most of life farming. Is working in Scottsboro at the hospital now.

He is 21 years of age, weighs 150 lbs., 6 feet tall. Black Negro. Dressed in neat blue sut . Is the baritone in the quartet. Has a clear voice with characteristic Negro brogue.

Charlie Hardrick was born in Hollywood. Has been a farmer until last 6 or 7 years, is working on WPA now.

He is 26 years of age and weighs 160, 5 feet 9 inches tall, light colored Negro. Is the tenor in the quartet. Dressed in overalls, sweat shirt and heavy brogan shoes.

3/29/39  
S.J.

Kelly Family (White)  
Bridgeport, Alabama  
Teacher and car inspector

Jennie Sue Williams  
Jackson County, Alabama

#### THE KELLY FAMILY

The familiar strains of "Home Sweet Home" welcomed me as I reached the Kelly home.

Mrs. Kelly was playing the piano; Joyce, her daughter, the violin; and Harry Lynn, son, the trombone. They rendered several other numbers after my arrival. Among them being "Mericalia Rose", "Oh, Sweet Mystery of Life", and "Once in a While." Mrs. Kelly explained as she flipped the music on the piano, "We were just doing a little practicing. Harry Lynn goes to Jasper, Tennessee once a week and takes lessons.

"Joyce, just got in last night. She attends State Teachers' College in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. That is where I attended school. I have taught in the Bridgeport elementary school for ten years, teaching the third grade. I only make \$65.00 per month, but that helps. Prior to this I taught the sixth grade in South Pittsburgh, Tennessee for two years. Then before that I taught piano lessons for several years. Guess teaching school is just naturally in my blood though, because my mother and father were both teachers. My father was instrumental in getting the high school established here. When he became principal they only had a junior high school. Through his efforts two more years were added and a building erected. He died in Boonville, Arkansas while teaching. Mother has married again but still teaches.

"My brother, Will Eas, and sister, Clara, also teach. Will Eas married a school teacher and Clara has been married twice, both of her husbands being teachers. Her first husband was killed in an automobile

accident.

wreck.

"So you see I came from a long line of teachers." Getting up from the piano bench and bringing some pictures to the divan, she continues, "These are pictures all of my two nephews." Then turning to Harry Lynn, who has been listening to the conversation, says, "You had better run along if you are going to finish that job pouring concrete." Harry Lynn replies, "Well, I guess I had better get along and make my family a livin' and get back and do the dishes."

"You need not worry about getting so good to do the dishes. You can't have the car tonight." As he goes out the door he murmurs, "I think a poor hard working man should be allowed some privileges." After his departure Mrs. Kelly looks proudly after him and then as if suddenly realizes she is not alone, says, "Harry Lynn is a great worker. He picks up any kind of odd jobs he can find when not in school; spray trees, cuts weeds, pours concrete, or anything to make money. Last year he planted tomato seeds and raised plants and sold them to one of the merchants in town. He saves his money and has a nice little bank account. If he gets any money as a Christmas gift he will go and bank it. He does like to drive the car and I don't mind anymore than I'm afraid it will give him the big head at his age. I have an awful feeling about that."

Joyce, the Negro maid and Joyce, the daughter, have been in the adjoining room playing Chinese checkers and listening to the radio. Mrs. Kelly says to her daughter, "You had better go on to town", and to the maid, "You had better finish with the cleaning." After they were removed to the back of the house she continues, "I feel that we have been very fortunate. We have our home and it furnished comfortably and Chevrolet car. We built the house fourteen years ago and do not owe anyone a penny for anything. Besides our home we have a house located in the colored section of town that we rent to a colored family. The reason

we have this house in our possession, Harry loaned the Negro who owned the house money to pay the taxes and took a mortgage on it. After the Negro's death the only way he could get his money back was by paying off some more debts and taking over the house.

We have been lucky so far as good health is concerned. We have never had any large doctor bills.

We have our own cow, chickens, hogs and I have a steam pressure canner which enables me to can anything from spinach to turkey. I often say that we paid for our house by eating soup. We have an electric washing machine and I do my own washing.

"I belong to the Eastern Star, but I don't go because after teaching and doing most of my work, I don't feel like it. I did belong to the Bridgeport Literary Club but resigned as I didn't have time for it either. I'm one of the trustees of the church and Joyce and I play for church services when we're in town but we often go to Pikeville, Tennessee, to spend the weekend."

4/4/39

S.J.

#### ENVIRONMENT

**Describe Neighborhood:** The Kelly home is located on Cunningham Avenue, one block from the business section of town. The railroad runs at the back of the house, between the house and town. On the same side of the street next to them is an old two-story house which has been painted green in time, but is badly in need of paint. Directly opposite the Kelly home is the walls of an old two-story house, the inside and roof of the house having been destroyed by fire.

On this same side of the street but 200 yards up the street is located a frame school building, brick grammar school and a \$60,000 high school building now under construction.

**Describe house:** The Kelly home is a little gray bungalow containing six rooms besides the bath and breakfast rooms.

The living room furniture consists of overstuffed living room suite, radio table and philco radio, piano, whatnot behind the door, and floor lamp. The four windows have nice shades, curtains and drapes over them. There are French doors between the living room and dining room. These two rooms have wool rugs alike.

The dining room suite consists of table, chairs, buffet, and china cabinet, also a large circulator and long cedar chest used for storage of linens and quilts. This room has three windows with shades and curtains.

From the dining room you enter the kitchen which contains an electric stove, wood range, kitchen cabinet, built-in cabinet for dishes, sink with double drain boards, electric churn and desk.

Color scheme of gray and blue carried out with gray and blue linoleum. There are two windows in the kitchen.

From the kitchen you enter the breakfast room. You'll find in here

Name of Interviewed  
Mrs. Juanita Chism Kelly

Jennie Sue Williams  
Jackson County, Ala.

MRS. JUANITA CHISM KELLY

Mrs. Kelly is 38 years of age, weighs 190 pounds and is five feet and 7 inches in height. She has light brown hair, sparkling blue eyes and unusually white complexion. Has a pleasant voice, and talks faster as she becomes excited.

She was wearing a light blue silk house coat and a pair of old white slippers without hose.

5/5/39  
MS

Name of Interviewed  
Harry A. Kelly

Jennie Sue Williams  
Jackson County, Ala.

HARRY A. KELLY

Harry Kelly is 35 years of age, is five feet nine inches tall and weighs 150 pounds; has hazel eyes and his hair has been dark brown but is prematurely gray. He has a ruddy complexion and talks in a very slow loud voice.

He was wearing overalls and a khaki work shirt and work shoes.

In his slow manner Mr. Kelly explains, "I have worked for the Nashville Chattanooga and St. Louis Railroad as car inspector for 17 years.

"Before I started working for the railroad I worked on my Pa's farm in Pikeville, Tennessee where I was born and reared. I did spend about two years in Ohio after I was grown. I'm making \$6.50 a day now but haven't made that all the time I've worked for the company.

"I have two sisters and two brothers. Mildred and Madge are married and live in Akron, Ohio. Mildred's husband makes good money, and Madge's husband does too but he spends lots of it drinking and going on sprees. Ma and Pa sent her to Ohio to keep her from marrying him but he followed her and they married anyway.

"Charlie and his wife and child live in Detroit, Mich. She is his second wife. The first one died. Henson and his wife and two children live in Pikeville, Tenn." Mrs. Kelly halts him here, "Stop talking so much about your family and talk more about yourself." His face turns a little white and then back to its natural color as he resumes his talking.

"I belong to the Masonic Order and to the Methodist Church, being one of the trustees. Yes and I'm a strong republican.

Harry A. Kelly  
Jackson County, Alabama

2.

"I start to work at 1:00 P. M. and get off at 9:00 P. M. This gives me ample time to make a garden or any kind of odd jobs around the place that I need to do. I like this shift better than any of them."

5/5/39  
NS

refrigerator. Six half length windows with yellow curtains.

On the other side of the house is a small sitting room with a French door between it and the living room. This room contains small living room suite, secretary, single spool bed and whatnot in the corner and a small radio. There is a grate in this room and lineoleum on floor. It has three windows with shades and pink curtains.

You enter the front bedroom from the little sitting room. It is furnished with bedroom suite consisting of bed, dressing table and bench and chiffonier. Has a built-in closet and grate in this room. Has lineoleum on floor and two windows with curtain and shades.

The bathroom is between the front and back bedrooms and opens out into a small hall. It has three half windows with about the usual furnishings in a bathroom. Color scheme of orchid and white used in here.

The back bedroom contains an old-fashioned wardrobe, dresser, bed and sewing machine. This room has two windows.

The floors throughout the house are hardwood and ivory woodwork. The walls are all kept freshly papered.

The back porch is screened and used in the summer as a sleeping porch.

The steps and front porch are concrete. They have a glider, porch swing and wicker porch set on the porch which is sometimes removed to the lawn which is well kept, having been planted in bluegrass. The shrubbery and flowers which have been as well arranged around the house are very pretty and unusually attractive.

The driveway is on the left of the house as you enter and garage and smokehouse is located at the back of the house.

HARRY LYNN KELLEY

Harry Lynn Kelley is 15 years of age, has light hair and blue eyes. He is very large to his age weighing 175 pounds and being 5 feet 8 inches tall.

He was dressed in blue trousers and blue sweater with his first football letter being on it.

Harry Lynn is full of life like all boys and enthusiastically tells, "I'm president of the 4H Club in Jackson County. I raised last year as my project a pig, and this year I'm raising a calf. I'll tell you it sure does scare me when I have to get up and make a talk before a large crowd. Part of the 4H boys from the county made a trip to Washington last summer but I didn't go because they went by bus and it makes me sick at my stomach to ride a long distance jolting around in an old bus. The year before we went to Auburn and on to Montgomery.

"I'm a sophomore in high school and enjoy playing football.

"There are six of us boys in town that have a club. We have our club room over one of the boys daddy's store. In the room we have all kinds of games, books and radio. Sometimes we give parties up there but we always have a chaperon when we do.

We do not allow anyone up there except club members. It is a very exclusive club."

JOYCE KELLEY

Joyce Kelley is 17 years of age. She is a platinum blonde; is five feet 9 inches in height and weighs 120 pounds. She can talk faster than Walter Winchell when she gets started talking.

She was wearing an aqua print dress, anklets and oxfords.

Joyce says: "I went to Nashville, Tennessee, the other day with the orchestra from school and we played for the Tennessee Educational Association. We have also broadcast from W.S.M. in Nashville. I like school fine and hate for it to be out."

JOYCE WALKER, COLORED MAID

Joyce Walker, colored maid, works for the Kelleys on Saturdays and after school when needed.

She is 13 years of age, is a black Negro and wears her hair plaited all over her head in little pigtales. She weighs 90 pounds, and is four feet and 9 inches in height. Talks in a slow Negro brogue.

She was wearing a blue figured print dress with white apron which was tied around her waist with little bib in front. She had on run-down oxfords and full length cotton hose.

Joyce says, "I'se in de fourth grade and has 7 brothers and sisters at home. We uns fights sometimes." Mrs. Kelley says, "Joyce, who lives in Aunt Ann's house since she died?" Joyce looks up with a grin on her face and her eyes growing larger, replies: "Don't nobody live dar now. 'Fore Aunt Ann died she told Uncle John if 'n he moved into her house after she died dat she'd come back and ha'nt him. But after she died he didn't pay no 'tenshun to what she had done told him and moved in and slept in her bed. Dat night Aunt Ann done 'peared to him and told him she would just give him four days to move out of her house. He didn't wait no four days though; he moved out de next day."

5/5/39

S.J.

Dock Grant Hill (Colored)  
Bridgeport, Alabama.  
From Interview

Jennie Sue Williams,  
Bridgeport, Alabama

DOCK GRANT HILL

"I wuz born in Miller County, Georgia, in 1868, on de W.S. Grimes farm. I wuz six years old when we uns left dar and we uns spent one year on de way back here, making me seven years old when we uns got back from dat long journey. Mother and dad and de childuns thought they had saved enough money to make the long journey from Georgia to Alabama, but we uns ran out of funds and rations and had to stop down 'tween Atlanta and Rockmart, Georgia, and work 'fore we uns could come on. Yo' see dar wuz eleven of we uns in de party. We uns left dar with two steers and wagon. I kin tell you de name of dem if you would like to put hit down. Dey wuz Ben and Buck. Ben died on de way back and we uns had to swap our two-horse wagon for a one-horse one and Buck brought us on in to Alabama. It shore wuz a sad story of de time we uns had a little bread to eat and part of de time we uns didn't hav' nothin' to eat.

After we uns got back we uns made a crop wid old Buck and den swapped him to Frank Hembree for a horse named Dick, Dick wuz a wonderful horse and lived to be thirteen years old. One day he walked up to de front door and locked in and neighed and den he turned 'round and walked off - den dat night old Dick died. I will tell you missus, dat ole horse knowed he was gwine to die and wuz tryin' to tell we uns 'bout hit."

How many children were there in the family?"

"Dey wuz fourteen ov us childuns and dey all liked to be grown 'cept two."

"How many are still living?"

been opened. She comed in and asked who done opened hit and dey told her hit wuz me and she lit in on me and gib me one ov de hardest whuppin's I eber got. I told her after she got through dat she ought not to whup me case I wuz grown, but she 'lowed as how if I didn't hush she'd gib me another one.

"When I wuz twenty-six years old one ob my brothers told me dey would furnish me if I would make a crop for my mother, so I went ober to Long Island, where she be and started to making a crop. One dgy she fussed on me all day without a cause. Dat evening I started packing my clothes gettin' ready to come back to Birminghamport. She say to me, "'What you gwine to do?' I says 'youse has fussed at me all day without a cause an' I'se leaving de crop for you all to furnish and I don't think I will eber put my foot back in your house so long as I lib. In a few days I had to go back and tell her 'bout some taxes and I wondered how I could see her without gwine in de house. It happened dat she wuz out in de field and I told her what I wanted to. She begged me to go to the house with her, but I held a stiff heart but I could see her crying and after I got away I thought 'bout her and de more I thought, de more hit worried me so in a few days I went back and stayed all night wid her. We'uns farmed on many different places and paid fifteen bushels of corn to the acse and one-fourth of de cotton.

After all my hardships my mother died when I wuz thirty-one years old an' I had de honor to honor my sister ov neber giving her a sassy word in my life and when de preacher wuz a preachin' her funeral my sister Mattie wuz goin' 'round and put her arms 'round de different childuns neck and tells what dis one and dat one had done and when she got to me she throwed her arms 'round my neck and patted me on de shoulder and she say, 'Dock here he neber did sass ma in his life.'"

"You never did tell me when you married."

"Lawd how mercy, Missus, I'se been married so many times hit would be hard to tell. I'se been married four times and fixin' to marry again. I'se

"Dey be six living now; four here in Bridgeport and one in Cleveland, Ohio, and one in Calumbus, Ohio. I had a mighty sad story. I'se libed here since I wuz seven years old. My mother, she worked for white folks for to git us childuns sumpin' to et. She'd work all day for little scrappy, meat dat de white folks would throw away, and your dog wouldn't eat it. We uns neber had enuf to et. We uns had a little cornbread and gravy for breakfast and a biscuit once a week. I neber got out ov de fust grade case my mother tuck me out of school and made a lackey boy out of me. She'd carry me wid her when she went to work for de white folks and I'd run errands.

De Lawd done be good to me though an' i'se made a right useful man after all."

"What did your father do?"

"Father bottomed chairs and made horse collars and things like dat.

When I wuz twelve years old I worked for Mr. Will James for \$5.00 a month and board. Dat wuz de fust man I eber worked for. I worked dar for two years and den mother hired me out to Mr. Jeff Haney for \$8.00 a month; dis wuz just for de farming season. Mother tuk dis money to help feed de other childuns while dey wuz a makin' a crop.

When I wuz seventeen years old, I left home and went to South Pittsburgh, Tennessee to work at de furnace at ninety cents a day for ten hours work. I would go back home though once a month and give mother part of my wages. You sees dar wuz four younger childuns danme. De last whuppin she gib me wuz when I wuz twenty-two years old. I got a letter for my sister Mattie and carried hit in de house and she wuz not dar. De letter wuz from a man by de name ov Henry an' it had a picture of him in de letter. Mother told me not to open de letter, she say, "I'll whup de one ov yo' dat opens dat letter jest as shore as Jesus Christ sets on his throne." Jest as soon as she left de room I opened de letter and de childuns started gwine on 'bout hit lookin' so much like Henry and mother heard dem and knowed dat hit had

married de fust time on March 5, 1899, to Miss Louna Lovelady, and we uns libed together eighteen years and had five childuns. De second time I married Mary Kindrick in 1918 and had eight step-children. Weuns lived together two years. In 1930 I married Cora Milliner and had eight step-children and in 1931 I married Edna Snodgrass and had one step-child. We uns lived together for seven years. Do you want me to gib you a love letter from 'membrance what I sent to a girl one time? I neber did see her, but she wuz recommended to me and we uns writ to each other fro a long time. Miss Corina Young, of Fabius, Alabama. Respective lady: Some day ago I was de happiest recipeon of yore most lady like remarks. They found me well and full of joy, and added much more joy, yes these things you call joy and blessings are surround me. I regret so much that I caused you to undergo the pain of sorrow from my failing to send you my picture. I am filled wid great gladness when you say that you cherish so much pure satisfaction in my bold yet mannerly words and my big breast heaves proudly, to know that dey found welcome as dey tapped upon your heart. I hopes dat bright day may come along when I an'you may meet together and look upon each other gently and exchange words of love and tenderness. It comes to me that I might find an interest in you from the circuit tone of your routine of lagnage. My picture I send to you in dis mail. Send me dat plait of hair and I will keep hit as Jesus kept de angels. Often will I look upon hit and in hit see thy fair aspects and even almost hear thy melody of they voice so mock bird like. Let me say here gentle woman the promise you make to me impressed deep upon my heart and so long as life has passions I will forget thee not. How pleasnat it is to be thus delighted wid tender words and bright locks of de maiden's glory so far away. How hit makes de heart beat loud and the eye grow dim with tears of thankfulness to read the words that says you often think of me. Matchless woman my mind, my sould and all my mind shall join to think just so of you. For thine art the gifts of God to guide

the heart of some poor wandering woman. I read pore sweet bye bye. It still sounds in my ear like de golden tip of de harp when dull midnight is made merry with a song. Now let me say bye bye. Hit may not sound so sweet but noble girl, it means as much or more. May angels guide you. Permit me to remain

Yours devoted,

D. G. Hill.

"Say, Dock that's some letter."

"It does pretty well for a boy, what neber did learn his A.B.C.'s.

You knows, Missus, my house burned here 'bout a month ago. I had four good suits, boots, shoes and all my bedding to burn. You know I neber do hab to buy no clothes, de white folks keeps me inclothes. I had \$300.00 insurance on de house but not any on de furniture. I kept \$25.00 of de money and put de res' ob hit on me savings account at de bank. I'se gwine to make a talk at de school house tomorrow on Birminghamport from it infancy. I made a speech one time at de Baptist church one time. I kin gib you hit from 'membrance if you wants me to. De name of hit wuz

#### "A NIGGER IN EDUCATION"

Said once annoble ruler, Thomas Jefferson, by name, 'Since all men are created equal all men are born the same.' God made the nigger equal to any race above the grave. Although once made a capture and sold to men as slaves. If all the crimes recorded in history do not tell of a single crime more brutal than a paderole (?) It was said by men of wisdom, 'No knawledge shall they have, for if you educate a nigger you unfit him for a slave.'

"Fred Douglas young mistress moved by a power divine. She determine she would let the ray of knowledge on him shine. But her husband said, 'It would never do - it will his way to freedom pave, for if you educate a nigger, you unfit him for a slave.' But there is no moral being who can the wheels of progress stave and all wise God intended he should see the light of day, But God's words were not completed since ha had made decree since all men

are born equal then all men shall be free. He removed the yoke of bondage and to them freedom gave. He did give unto them knowledge and unfit them for a slave.

When the nigger gained his freedom of body and of soul he caught the wheel of progress give them another role. He was held near three long centuries in slavery, desolate cave, but now he's educated and unfitted for a slave. He has proved himself a hero of soldier time and brave and now he's educated and unfitted for a slave. We have lawyers, doctors, teachers and preachers brave and a hoist of noble women who have safely crossed the ways. We are progressing on and upwards and for education crave. It is written now in history. We shall never more be slaves."

"Well, that's a good speech all right and I thank you for giving me this information."

"I waz more dan glad to help youse."

3/2/1939

S.J.

"Looks like you got here a little late to help but just me to the house. I'll be through in a little and will be in and get started."

"No, I'll just stay out and wait until you are finished."

"The machine is on probab. I want to get a story of your life with you."

"No problem."

"How is the world with you? I give you that as hard a time as I have had in this old world?"

"I hope you have had a hard time but just go ahead and finish your writing."

"Have you heard anything about the setting up of any kind of work starting up?"

"No, the last time I was talking with the Director of Public Affairs."

"The hell he has been doing everything he has been doing."

Mary Paris, Widow (White)  
Bridgeport, Alabama

Jennie Sue Williams  
Jackson County

MARY ROGERS PARIS

It was on a beautiful February morning that I made my visit to Mary Paris. Before arriving at the little four-room bungalow made of asbestos shingles and tin roof which is painted red, Mary could be seen in the back yard with one of her married daughters, Ween Goss, washing. As I reached the gate one of the grandchildren, Mary Don, ran to meet me with the three months old sister in her arms and another sister running at her heels, telling me that Granny and Mother were in the back yard washing. As I walked around the house Mary looked up from her washing for the first time and in a surprised tone, exclaimed, "Well, look who's here, what are you doing out here?"

"I just thought I would come out and help you a little since you are almost through. Looks like about time you were getting through since almost all your lines are full."

"Looks like you got here a little late to help but just run in the house. I'll be through in a little and will be in and get dinner."

"No, I'll just stay out and talk with you while you are finishing, the sunshine is so pretty. I want to get a story of your life when you are finished."

"How in the world could I give you that as hard a time as I have had in this old world?"

"I know you have had a hard time but just go ahead and finish your washing."

"Have you heard anything about the sewing room or any kind of work starting for us?"

"No, the last time I was talking with the Director of Public Welfare, she told me she had been doing everything in her power to get a woman's

project started in the county but had failed so far but she was still working on it."

"All I have to go on is this one washing a week and what little odd jobs my boy can pick up. You know he is not sixteen years old yet and cannot get regular work anywhere. Someone told me the other day that he was large enough to pass off for sixteen, but I'm not going to let him tell a lie if he never gets a job." By this time Mary's son had brought the baby around where we were. Ween looks up from the tub and says, "You take that baby back in the house out of this wind and if she won't let her put her down, or rock her, walk her until I get through here."

"She just squalls all the time and I cannot do anything with her." Then Mary tells Ween to go on and tend to her and she will finish the last jumper. When Ween is in the house and out of hearing, Mary turns to me. "All this washing is not Mrs. Hogwood's; part of it is Ween's. She got her husband to bring it over here this morning. I was doing her washing and ironing for \$1.00 and told her she would have to pay me more. She took it away from me and gave it to another woman and then she got tired of it and tried to get me to take it back but I can't do the work like I use to. I nearly give out before I can get a washing done." By now the washing was completed and the tubs emptied and turned upside down on the washing bench. Then we entered the house. The room where I was seated was the front bedroom and contained two beds which had been enameled blue; sewing machine and chairs. The walls were ceiled and the floor was bare and worn from scrubbing. Ween was seated by the fire rocking the baby. It was 12:30 by now.

"Now I must put a little coal on the fire and get a little bite of dinner. We nearly always have dinner before now, but just thought I'd finish with my washing first." Within thirty minutes dinner was announced. I tried to explain that I had already eaten but this would not do any

good. I just must have a cup of coffee anyway and after my mile hike the aroma of the food was tempting. The kitchen was unusually clean and contained the table, chairs, kitchen cabinet, ice box, old time safe and the stove which was solid white enamel except the top of it which was black. When I commented on it being so pretty and clean she said, "A little girl was here the other day and asked how I kept it so clean. I told her with soap and water and a rag and not the dish rag either. I clean it good about twice a week and doing all the cooking myself makes a difference." The floor was covered with linoleum solidly. The meal consisted of fried Irish potatoes, white beans, onions, corn bread, biscuits, butter, preserves and coffee. She had received the white beans from the commodity truck she explained. The food was all well prepared and did taste good.

"Now, mother you run along and tend to the baby and I'll wash the dishes."

"All right, as soon as I put away the victuals." Then we went into the bedroom and Mary took a dip of snuff, dried the baby and got settled down to talking.

"Now are you ready to tell me about yourself?"

"Just to tell you the truth and to be perfectly frank, I don't know what to say."

"Oh, that's easy, just tell me when and where you were born. I'll help you along."

"I was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on April 1, 1892. There was twelve of us children, eight boys and four girls in the family. All of the boys except one are dead now but all the girls are living. One of my sisters is stone blind but she does all of her own work. She has a special place for everything in the house and knows right where to find anything she wants. She has not been blind all of her life, just for the past few years. One of my brothers committed suicide. He was in bad health and

got up one morning to build a fire and fell over into the fire and burned himself real bad. He was in so much misery that he just raised up and got his razor off the mantel and cut his throat."

"How old were you when you moved to Bridgeport?"

"I was only seven months old. My daddy worked at the basket factory. I worked there for two years."

"Did you make pretty good at that?"

"Yes, I made anywhere from 85¢ to \$1.15 when I worked on piece work. When I worked by the day I only made 55¢ for ten hours' work. I worked there until I got married to Will Paris."

"How old were you then?"

"I was just seventeen years old."

"How many children do you have?"

"I have six living and two dead. The oldest one living is 27. They are all married except the two youngest boys. Bill will be sixteen his next birthday and Hodge is 13. Hodge goes to school but Bill has to pick up a day's work when he can and I just didn't have anything to send him to school on. I had to sell my hog this fall to buy them clothes for winter. The last regular work I had was in W.P.A. Sewing Room which closed two years ago in June. Since that time I've been taking in washings. My youngest girl and her husband have been with me until yesterday and I got tired of them and made them get out when he got a job. I had to get up and make the fires and cook breakfast and then call them for several times before I could get them up. Catherine wouldn't do anything and if she did it wasn't half done and I'd rather it wouldn't be done as to be that way."

"How long have you lived here at this place?"

"I've been here fourteen years. We built this house and thank goodness it's paid for and there is no mortgage on it."

"How many acres do you have in your place?"

"I have ten acres and rent it for one-fourth of the cotton. They just allowed us five acres in cotton though last year and they had to plant some corn. Who is that coming in? Oh, it's the insurance man. He'll think my family increased seeing me with this baby. If I'm not here every week when he comes around, I have my money out where he can find it." He just came to the front door and she carried her card for him to mark and he departed.

"How much tax do you have to pay?"

"Over nine dollars in all; state, county and city. Don't look like we would have to pay any city tax 'way out here. We don't have any conveniences of town except lights and have to pay for those. We don't have city water out here. I have cistern. Oh, my children would help me if they could but they all have all they can do to take care of their families. My married boy and one of my sons-in-law work at the stove foundry, and Ween here husband drives a coal truck and my other son-in-law works for the city. I have certainly had a hard time since I've been left. You know me and my husband were parted for a number of years before he was killed in an automobile, but the last year or so before his death he would come out here and helped me a little. He brought my stove for me. It and my sewing machine are all that I have that's any account. He had several little debts when he was killed and I washed out the money to pay them and his burial. I'm not boasting but I don't know of any other widow around here that hasn't had some outside help and some of them were left insurance too. I got a dun from the principal of the high school the other day for my boy's matriculation fees. It sure did hurt me too, because that's the second dun I ever got and if I had had the money I would already paid for it. I thought one time I would take him out of school and then decided that I would go and explain to the principal

that I do not have the money and can't get it. It seems we just have to live from hand to mouth and tit for tat and everything else. Poor people have poor ways and rich people have mean ways. I never make that expression but what I think about one time before I was left, my husband was working out of town and didn't get in until late at night and I was getting supper and broke the lamp, that was before we had electric lights. I was trying to get supper by an old lantern and made that expression talking to myself. I looked up and saw someone in the doorway and it scared me about half to death. Then I looked again and it was Will. He had got off early and he asked me who I was talking to. It like to have tickled him to death because I was talking to myself."

"I had better be going as it is getting late and I have a long distance to walk."

"Oh, don't go. Spend the night. The weather is getting pretty now and do come back to see me real soon."

2/14/39

S.J.

Dorans Cove  
Dec. 19, 1938

J. Sue Williams  
Jackson County

OSCAR RIDLEY

Oscar and Mary Ridley are the father and mother of thirteen children, nine of whom are living and four dead. They are all married and away from home except one boy who is finishing school this year.

Mr. Ridley's farm and home is one of the most picturesque and interesting places in Jackson County. Having been an Indian reservation at an early date and belonging to Captain Woods an Indian chief. The original reservation contained 640 acres. This he gave to James Doran, an early white settler, to care for him the remaining part of his life. We have different statements as to the date when James Doran came to the cove, according to Kennemars History of Jackson County, he came here in 1815, but Mr. Ridley says he has always heard it was back in 1777 when the old store house was built and says that on one of the plastered walls in the house when he bought it was written "Andrew Jackson, May 15, 1813. As Jackson was the Indian commissioner, it is generally known that he drew up the agreement between Woods and Doran and that this writing was the date the agreement was drawn up. Mr. Ridley says since he has been on the place, he found Woods' grave. The old stone house, according to George Cluck, an old settler 85 years old, was built by a stone mason by the name of Ballard. The house is built of limestone blocks and consists of five rooms and large basement. The walls of this house are two feet thick and after more than one hundred years the house looks like it would be standing for many years. This stone house was originally plastered throughout but Mr. Ridley has ceiled it since he bought it. It has large stone fireplace and one mantel in the house measures  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet. The rooms are used for kitchen, dining room, bedroom, storage room and bath. Have not run water into

the house yet. In addition to the storehouse there is six rooms of wooden structure, including living room and bedrooms. The entire house is furnished exceptionally nice for a country home.

About 75 yards east of the house a big spring comes out of the mountain through a cave and sometimes when there is an extra heavy rain in that section, fish come out of the cave into the spring branch. Some of them are large enough to eat. No one has ever been able to tell where they come from. Near the mouth of this spring is a large spring house two stories high built of round red cedar logs. The water from the spring passes through the lower story of the building and is used for milk, butter, eggs and any kind of vegetables they wish to keep cool. The upper story was originally a cider mill and press. Another very old building is a large log smokehouse with the meat block and salting troughs made from large logs hollowed out and placed around the side of the building. These have been in use far back as anyone can remember.

They have a grist mill on the place and grind meal for themselves and people in the cove. They also grow wheat and grind the wheat into flour. They own 600 acres of the original 640 acres of the Woods. His reservation, part of this being in mountain land. He only has about 190 acres in cultivation. They raise more hay than anything else. The land is very poor from having been cultivated for so many years. He says he isn't allowed to grow cotton because there has not been belief, any grown on it in so long a time. However, he did get a permit to grow ten acres, but he says that his back is too old to pick cotton and that it would cost too much to keep anyone to pick it. He raises about 50 or 60 head of cattle, only has four or five hogs and they are not large enough to kill. They milk four cows and have their own chickens. He laughingly tells that for thirty-five years he went in the vicinity. He disappeared very mysteriously and has never been heard of by any of his neighbors. Some said he went West but that was only

around and worked from place to place and he got afraid he would lose his wife because she was so young looking and he had lied and stole enough to buy this place and that he has never made any money since and that all he has is a good drink of water. He taught school for twelve years. They have been on this place for ten years. He grew 70 bushels of Irish potatoes from 100 pound sack of Bourbon potatoes on a garden spot that he said had been used since the time of Adam and Eve.

On this place is located the Russell cave, the odd part of the cave being the water runs into the cave instead of out. The opening is 100 feet across and twenty feet high at entrance to the cave. In the front part of the cave is found large amount of small ferns which stay green the year around. It is possible to go back into the cave three miles. The cave branches out in all directions. The whole mountain you might say, is hollow and made up of caves. The soil in this cave is large per cent lime. Mr. Ridley has had it analyzed. In getting part of it out to go in his soil he dug about four feet and found many bone needles with perfect eyes and pieces of Indian pottery of different kinds. He says he thinks he will use this cave to winter his cattle in.

S. J. For more than one hundred years there has been stories and legends told by both white men and Indians about a lost silver mine in the vicinity of this Russell Cave. One thing added strength to their belief, was a man by the name of Freeman, who lived in that community about fifty years ago and who was an expert counterfeiter, it taking an expert to distinguish his counterfeit coins from those minted by the U. S. government. He was shrewd, close mouthed and very mysterious in his transactions, never taking any of his neighbors into his confidence. It is believed by many of the old citizens that he procured his supply of silver somewhere in this vicinity. He disappeared very mysteriously and has never been heard of by any of his neighbors. Some said he went west but that was only

Oscar Ridley,

neighbors' guess work.

In 1875 a Cherokee Indian chief by the name of Mooney, came back here from an Indian reservation. He was aged and blind. He soon made the acquaintance of four or five of the leading land owners and business men of the community and asked that they assist him in locating the lost Indian silver mine, showing them some old yellowed by age Indian weigh bills of maps with figures and marks that none of the white men could read. He promised them great riches when the treasure or ore mine was rediscovered. He could not get around without assistance. The citizens procured some kind of a litter and placed a chair on it and carried him from place to place with his divining rod he was supposed to relocate the mine with. He spoke very little English and directed them by grunts and pointing out the places he wished to be carried. The search ended after ten or fifteen days and the old Indian chief departed and was never heard of again. But still the natives firmly believe "thar is silver in them thar hills."

12/20/38

S.J.

Alabama

Jennie Sue Williams  
Jackson County  
Bridgeport, Alabama

DADDY MORRIS.

Emuel D. Martz, more familiarly known to his friends as Daddy Morris, was born in 1853 in Frankfurt Am Main, Germany. His father was German and his mother was a Jewess. They died when he was very small and it fell to his grandfather's lot to care for him. His grandfather was a wine maker and didn't have very much money, so he turned Daddy over to the German government to educate. When he was eighteen and had finished school and was ready for military training, he decided he would leave Germany rather than enter Military School. As he didn't have any money, it was a problem: how was he to get away? He would rather starve than stay in Germany and attend Military School. He started walking and kept on walking for many miles. Probably he would not have gotten out of the country if it had not been for a kind and aged Burgermeister's assistance. He was caught and brought up before the Burgermeister. He explained that he wanted to go to America; the Burgermeister asked him what he would do when he got over here without any money. Daddy replied that he did not know but that he would rather starve than stay in Germany. This master took him to his home and told him he would keep him until he decided what he wanted to do. Every day Daddy would go down to the docks to see if there was a boat sailing for America. One day he found there was a boat sailing. The problem that confronted him was how he was to get aboard the ship and become a stow-a-way. He tried in every way to slip away but was not successful. He finally conceived the idea that he could climb the cable attached to the anchor growing more seriously and he took a good look to the anchor and climb through the port hole. He took off his

wooden shoes and left them on the dock because they would be too heavy in his task. He finally managed to climb the cable by hand. When he got into the porthole he was wet because in climbing the cable he would go under the water. It was dark in there but Daddy pulled off his clothes and the large rats started to nibble on him.

After they were way out in the ocean he decided he would make his way up on deck as the rats were rather bothersome. When he arrived on deck one of the mates spied him and carried him to the captain. The captain was very angry at first and told the mate to throw him overboard. After talking for a while he gave Daddy a swift kick in the seat of his pants and sentenced him to the cook. Daddy says he peeled Irish potatoes all the way from Germany to America.

When he arrived in America he didn't have a penny in the world. He started working on odd jobs and stayed in New York for a while and then made his way to Chicago, where he attended the University of Chicago. Daddy has traveled all over the world. He has worked for fifty years as a Mechanical Engineer for two companies. Daddy has been married twice and divorced both times. He is the father of ten children. His oldest son is 63 years old and is a retired naval officer. His next son is 61 years old. He has not seen these children in many years but says he doesn't care or worry about them. If they do not care enough for him to come and see him he should worry about them.

He has grown flowers as a hobby all of his life and in his latter years since he stopped working on public works has turned to his flower growing more seriously and has made a nice little business out of it. He grew over \$500 worth of flowers this

past year. He hybridizes and produces new flowers all along.

He sold less than an ounce of dahlia seeds for \$50 this year.

He belongs to the American Dahlia Association. He sells lots of plants of various kinds in the Spring. It takes him all winter to grow these plants. In the fall before he plants his seed, he sterilizes his soil by heating it in an oven. After he does this he places a thin layer of special white sand on top of the soil; then sows his seeds and places several thicknesses of wet newspaper over the whole thing. He watches the seed closely and when they start coming up he takes the paper off and sprinkles a little more sand over them until they take root. They are transplanted from time to time after this. He sells mostly plants, some cut flowers and does some funeral work. He buys his wreath frames in three sizes and also buys frames for sprays. He used six bolts of ribbon with 40 yards to the bolt last year, which cost him \$36; used \$6 worth of moss. It comes from the swamps of Wisconsin, comes in bales like hay. One bale will take up five bowls of water. He places this wet moss around all his plants and flowers that he sells and also uses it in making wreaths and sprays.

Daddy and his 33-year old daughter, Cora, live together in a four-room house. They have two bedrooms, kitchen and living room. The rooms are nicely furnished. In his room he has a bedroom suite, small circulator, radio, nice library and several tables. The house is clean and in good order. Of course the lawn and adjoining lots are like a picture book with the beautiful flowers and shrubs. Cora has taught in the Bridgeport Grammar School for 12 years and makes \$70.00 per month.

Daddy has made a study of many different subjects, including

medicine. His real study has been of people.

He believes you have life in your own hands, that the way you live determines the years of your life. He doesn't believe much in doctors and says they can't make you live, you have to do that yourself. He doesn't believe you should worry about anything, carry your worries over from one day to another and from one year to the next. If he has any problems to worry about he thrashes these out before he goes to bed and if he can't solve them he will cast them aside. Generally plays solitaire for half an hour or hour before retiring each night and does his going over the day then. He retires at 11: o'clock each night and sleeps six hours. Says this is enough sleep for anyone. "I'll tell you (this being his pet expression) I'm asleep in fifteen seconds after I go to bed."

He has lived here in Bridgeport for more than thirty years. When he first came here people thought he was a heathen, he said, because he made wine and allowed his children to drink it and serve it at parties. He looks forward to his birthday party each year when all his friends both old and young, come and celebrate his birthday. Last year they used five gallons of wine. When you go to visit him he will go down in his basement and fill his decanter with wine. Generally the wine is determined by your friendship-- the better the friend, the older the wine. He has wines that are over twenty years old. He takes it as an insult to try and buy any of the wine.

Daddy believes the only way you can serve God is by serving the people around you and making them happy. The only sin he knows or the one he considers the biggest sin is to harm your fellowman. He is an osteopath and does much good in this line. He cheers the sick by calling on them and tries in every way to help them with

their troubles. Says he loves all the women. He has loved over a hundred women during his life, good enough to eat, but has never let one of them run him daffy. He speaks five languages fluently, Jewish, German, Polish, Bohemian and English. Although his mother was a Jewess he doesn't have any use for the Jews. and believes they are getting what they deserve. He says they are lazy and make their living by cheating others. If they were put off in a colony to themselves they would starve in a short time he claims, as they are too lazy to work and when they get a little money ahead they become insolent. He says he can go into one of their stores and talk their language and they cannot be nice enough to him, and then he can go into another and talk English and they start cheating him like any other Gentile. He doesn't have any use for Germans and Hitler either. He has only made one trip back to Germany to try to locate his mother's grave. All of his people are dead. He told his children if they ever wanted a family tree they would just have to grow one as he didn't want them to have an old country background.

He considers every day of his life important. Daddy says he doesn't worry or consider death important; people had better plan how they are going to live instead of making plans for death, he thinks. Cora carries a burial policy on him. He had a real sick spell this fall and lost 14 pounds but he didn't have a doctor or worry about dying. He is gaining it all back now. He says "I'll tell you the more people fight old age the worse it makes it; if you do not want to grow old you must live while you are young."

Daddy is young and looking forward with much pleasure to his coming birthday party in January when he will be 86 years young. Everyone, he says, would live to be 100 if they would stop worrying and learn to live.

12/14/38 L.H.