

Civics-Tape Session

Interviewer's Tape No. Cox 5/10/75 Skipjack No. 75.1
 Interviewer Charles Cox Address Devil's Den Rd., Paris, Pa.
 Interviewee Mrs. Ethel Long Caldwell Address Devil's Den Rd., Paris, Pa.
 Place of Interview Mrs. Caldwell's home Address Same
 Other people present _____
 Equipment used Panasonic
 Tape: Brand _____ Size Reel 1 mil/1.5 mil.
 Speed _____ ips
 Cassette: Brand Certron 60 C-30/C-60/C-120
 Amount of Tape Used (Side 1) All (Side 2) None

Brief Description of Contents: Mrs. Caldwell gives brief description of her childhood and family and discusses her hobbies including being a ham radio operator.

Chimes on clock rang at 11:30 and 11:45 A.M.	Details of early life. Born in Sistersville, W. Va. Came to Paris as a child.
Mr. Caldwell enters and interrupts interview.	Father owned and operated Long's store. Came from a strict, Christian home.
Recorder turned off during lunch break.	Has ham radio license and converses regularly with other hams all over the world.
Background noise from Mr. Caldwell's radio.	

Date of Interview: May 10, 1975

Place of Interview: Caldwell home, Devil's Den Road, Paris, Pa.

CC: This is Charles Cox interviewing Mrs. Ethel Long Caldwell.

Mrs. Caldwell, what was the birthplace of your parents?

EC: Braxton County, West Virginia down near Sutton, West Virginia.

CC: When did your parents enter this area?

EC: I don't know. My great grandparents spoke German, I know, but it's been so long ago, I don't know when they came to this country.

CC: Why did they come to this area?

EC: I have no idea.

CC: All locations parents lived before coming to this area.

EC: My parents? They came to Sistersville. My father was a teller in the bank in Sistersville, West Virginia, where I was born and then they came to what was then known as Holiday's Cove, the lower end of Weirton and when I was in the first grade, they moved to Paris, Pennsylvania.

CC: What was your father's occupational history?

EC: He was, as I said, he worked in the bank and then he grew small vegetables like tomatoes and cabbage and corn and beans and sold them. We lived here in Paris and he took them over into Weirton and sold them to grocery stores there so they would sell them for produce and I used to accompany him many times and I remember Mr. Forgash had started Forgash's store was one of his first customers. When Mr. Forgash had a grocery store, my father sold him fresh vegetables to sell in his store.

CC: Okay. Did your mother work?

EC: No. After my father's death she did some home nursing. She always liked to take care of sick people. She had no license so she wasn't a registered nurse.

CC: Okay. When did she work at that occupation?

EC: After my father's death. My father was killed in 1932 in an automobile accident.

CC: How long did she work?

EC: Oh, I don't know. She took care of elderly people and stayed with them. I don't know how many years she worked.

CC: Okay. Who resided in household as a child?

EC: I was the oldest and I have two brothers and one sister.

CC: Were they--what port of entry did they come from?

EC: We were all born in the United States--been here for years and years. I don't know how far back.

CC: Did children in the household work?

EC: No they were--well, we always had to do things. We had to help our father out. We'd help him pick tomatoes and green beans and help him grow his farm vegetables.

CC: Okay. What were your parents' views on religion?

EC: My father always attended church and I've been in Sunday school and church ever since I was a baby. At the present time I have thirty-three years of perfect attendance in Sunday school.

CC: Okay. What was your parents' view on education?

EC: My father wanted me to go on to school and be a school teacher but instead I got married just after I finished high school.

CC: Okay. What were your parents' views on values?

EC: Well, I think they put spiritual values ahead and always provided and always had the idea of helping. At Christmas time my father's idea was doing for others instead of ourselves--helping other people.

CC: Okay. What were the particular problems of being second generation?

EC: I don't know what you mean by that.

CC: What was your size of the family?

EC: My father and mother and there were four of us in the family. Of course, I'm married now and have my own family.

CC: Okay. What do you recall of the depression days?

EC: Well, I was married at that time but we got along fairly well. My husband worked part time. We made it through. We were buying our own home at that time and I think my-- we had three children at that time but we managed and my husband was a carpenter.

CC: Okay. This part of the questions will be the occupational history of person being interviewed. That will be you. Did you work as a child?

EC: No, I didn't. Well, after my father bought the store in Paris that is now known as Long's Store, I helped my father in the store and we had a gasoline station at one time, so I helped him. I used to crank and pump the old time gas pumps and fill people's tanks--the gasoline cars and I worked in the store. Put gasoline in the cars, I should say.

CC: Okay. Did your income go to the support of the household as a child?

EC: I didn't work for a living. That was only helping my parents.

CC: Okay. What was your first adult occupation?

EC: Well, I got married right after I finished high school, so I guess it was a mother and a housewife.

CC: Okay. Did you have any occupational advancements or declines?

EC: No, I guess not.

CC: Did you have to move around in search of work?

EC: No.

CC: Do you have any union activities?

EC: No, no union activities. My husband is retired.

CC: Okay. What was your first job and your last job?

EC: Well, you see I didn't work, so I couldn't say anything.

CC: Do you recall any strikes?

EC: Oh yes. We never went--no, when my husband worked, we had no strikes at that time. We don't think much of striking.

CC: Okay. Were you ever discriminated against for any reason?

EC: No.

CC: What did you think of unions at that time?

EC: Well, my husband belonged to the carpenter's union when the unions first started, but we are not in favor of unions at all.

CC: Okay. Was your job hazardous in the store that you worked in?

EC: No.

CC: What measures were taken to ensure your safety?

EC: None at that time. We didn't have the violence we have today.

CC: Okay. These next questions are going to be like career evaluation for like what you wanted to do in life and that. Okay? As young person, what did you want to do in life?

EC: Well, when I gave up going on to school and got married I guess it was all I could do to take care of my family and rear them to the best advantage I could and I've always had a delightful time taking up hobbies. I'm qualified to do quite a number of things. I've always gone from one hobby to another and I'll explain that a little later maybe.

CC: Did you aspire to any particular job?

EC: No, I guess not.

CC: Was your job, forget that one. How long did you go to school?

EC: Twelve years. I finished high school.

CC: What was your father's last job?

EC: My father's last job was a grocer. A grocery store.

CC: Describe what you did in your work.

EC: I waited on customers in the store.

CC: What job did you feel you were capable of attaining?

EC: Well, that's the only thing I ever did.

CC: Okay. Did you ever want to leave your job for a better one or start a business of your own?

EC: No.

CC: Why not?

EC: It wasn't necessary and my husband provided everything.

CC: Okay. Were you able to pretty much control your own career?

EC: I guess so. I never had any interference from my husband--anything I wanted to do.

CC: What opportunities were open to you for advancement in your job?

EC: Well, right now I'm doing church janitor work. Maybe you would like to call that a job.

CC: Do you feel you have earned respect?

EC: I think so.

CC: Why?

EC: Why? Well, I've tried to do what's right in every way. I've been a Christian for years and years. My main desire is to live a Christian life.

CC: Are you successful in your career?

EC: I hope so. I think so.

CC: Okay. Did your efforts benefit your children?

EC: Yes, I really think they did. I have one son that is a college graduate and a grandson that's graduating with his master's degree this year and another granddaughter in school, so I feel that I have passed the idea of education on to my children and grandchildren. I have one son that's a college graduate and the other son went to school and learned TV and has his own business, so they've made out pretty well, my two boys.

CC: What are you most proud of in your life?

EC: Being an amateur radio operator. Having at the age of 50 learned Morse code and learned a lot of radio theory and the fact that I do hold a general license as an amateur radio operator and I have the ability to talk to people all over the world. I have talked clear around the world even to Africa and just this morning I was on with a group and a man in Kalamazoo, Michigan called my mother's sister, an aunt, and put what they call a phone patch in and through ham radio, I talked this morning with my aunt in Michigan and she is, I think, 85 years old and her mind is very keen and she was rather thrilled to hear over amateur radio and hear our voices. It was a perfect conversation. Each of us understood one another's voices. That's using ham radio connected into a telephone which is legal.

CC: Did you ever have any trouble with talking to people from other lands that talked in different language?

EC: No, they always have to speak English. Now a lot of them will follow that they call CW or that's sending in Morse code. I know Morse code, which I had to learn in order to obtain a license, but I don't use it too much, but I am capable of sending and receiving Morse code.

CC: Is it very difficult to operate the ham radio?

EC: Yes it is. You have to know how to tune your set up correctly, you have to know where you are going on the air, if you are picked up by the FCC. I took a written examination in Pittsburgh under the FCC to get my license

and it is something that not everybody can obtain and it's something of which I'm really, I think that I have accomplished something by getting an amateur ham radio license and my call letters are K3LHH.

CC: Can you monitor police calls and things around the nation?

EC: I could. That isn't the kind of receiver that we have. The amateur band is one all of its own and you can hear everyone that and at one time I could talk to anyone whom I heard but now I would have to get an advanced license. Parts of the band are not legal for me to operate on but I can operate on to get all over the world. I can operate certain portions of every band which is called 80 meter, 40 meter, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. That is how many we operate.

CC: Could you on the ham radio speak to people on a citizen's band radio?

EC: No. Citizen's band radio is entirely a different portion of the air and we do not hear or receive and you spoke about talking to people in other countries. They speak English or we wouldn't be able to talk to them. They have to speak English. One time I had a man in Mexico wanted to talk to me real bad but he hardly knew English and it was really amusing. He said, "Well, can't you speak Spanish?" It was one of the very interesting conversations. He wanted to talk to me so bad but he couldn't speak English hardly and I couldn't speak Spanish.

CC: Is there different channels that you can turn to like on a radio almost?

EC: Yes, there are five different channels. I called them 80, 40 meter bands like that. There are different channels but I don't have the channel for police calls and citizen's band. I do not have the channels for those bands.

CC: This is about your family history, these next questions. Did you feel close to your mother or your father?

EC: My father was my closest.

CC: Was your relationship with your parents intimate or were they distant?

EC: Intimate, I guess.

CC: Were either of your parents strict?

EC: Yes they were. They were strict and I have tried to be that way with my own children and I think it has paid well.

CC: Were either of your parents away at work a great deal of time?

EC: No, their work was locally where we lived.

CC: Were you anxious to leave your ethnic neighborhood?

EC: When I--I never liked Paris but when I moved out of Paris and got married I moved into West Virginia, but now I live out on a farm out from Paris and I like it here. No, I never, I was always contented where I am.

CC: Did you ever have to sacrifice your own aspiration to family need?

EC: No, I haven't.

CC: During the depression?

EC: No, we got along really well, thank the Lord for that.

CC: Okay. Which of your parents wanted you to work?

EC: Oh, I don't know. My father wanted me to go on to school. He wanted me to be a school teacher.

CC: So your father was the one who stressed education the most?

EC: Yes, my father always thought that education was very important. I do too.

CC: Did you say he wanted you to---

EC: He wanted me to go---

CC: He wanted you to go on to be a teacher?

EC: Yes, he wanted me to go to college, but I didn't.

CC: Did he want you to be a regular elementary school teacher or to teach any certain class?

EC: He just wanted me to have an education, that was about it.

CC: Okay. At what age did you begin to work?

EC: Oh, I don't know. You see, I have never held down a job really, just helping my parents. I didn't really have a job.

CC: Did you help your parents like at what age did you help your parents?

EC: Oh, I always did help them when I could until I finished high school and I got married soon after I graduated from high school.

CC: Okay. What per cent of your earnings did you turn over to your parents and what did you keep?

EC: I didn't have any earnings, I just helped my parents.

They didn't give me any, pay me for it except to give me spending money for what I needed in high school.

CC: Did you differ with your parents on how much your earnings you could keep?

EC: No, my parents, we had very little--my parents were poor.

We didn't have much and so my mother made my clothes at that time and we didn't have much money to spend.

CC: These next questions are on residential history. How many different places have you lived?

EC: Well, since I've been, I lived in Paris, I recalled that earlier. When I got married, I moved over to Weirton, West Virginia. We owned the property where WEIR is at the present time. In 1950 we sold that and moved out here where we live now on Devil's Den Road out from Paris. Those are the only two moves that I have ever made since I've been married. I came to Paris when I was $6\frac{1}{2}$ years old. I was in the first grade. So I've never moved around very much.

CC: Do you live in an ethnic neighborhood?

EC: I looked that word up in the dictionary. No, I don't think you would call us that.

CC: Do you ever leave your neighborhood because of your job?

EC: No.

CC: Do you live near your work?

EC: Yes, I work right here.

CC: Okay, now these next are unstructured questions. You know, questions to take up time and things that I think

I would be interested in.

EC: Okay.

CC: Okay. Is there anything that you would like to discuss that is especially knowledgeable to you?

EC: Well---

CC: Your hobbies or anything.

EC: Well, I don't know. I have always had lots of hobbies. One thing--I had a few piano lessons when I was a girl and I have developed piano playing the last, I would say, five years and I keep on reading. I like to read and learn everything that I can. I keep myself occupied and keep busy.

CC: Is there other hobbies that you have liked for a while and gotten rid of?

EC: Yes, those fish, if you remember. I used to raise African violets quite a bit. I used to crochet and knit and now I, being older, I sort of laid those aside and now what I can learn in music. I've been a Sunday school teacher for years, in fact, for around thirty years I've taught Sunday school class and if I do those things, I don't have much time for, if you talk a ham radio and playing a piano and studying and reading, my time is fully occupied.

CC: How about some other things about your ham radio?

EC: Oh, well, my two boys got interested in ham radio first-- Charles, the oldest boy, after he graduated from Steubenville College, he took a job with General Electric

in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, so Arthur and I decided to take up ham radio and we talk to him once a week by way of ham radio, so we don't write letters very much or telephone. And then my grandson, he got his license when he was fourteen and he has used it at college. He can operate the ham radio station at the college. And then I have a sixteen year old granddaughter, she has what they call a novice license. Holding a novice license, you can only send code, which is very interesting. I have never talked to her on a ham radio by sending code, which is Morse Code, dots and dashes, but that is what a novice license is. My sixteen year old granddaughter has her novice license. So that makes four, let's see, that makes five of us in our family that have our license with ham radio.

CC: Does a novice license mean that you can only send messages in Morse code?

EC: That's right, only in Morse code. What they call crystal control at a certain portion of the band.

CC: Does it have a little lever that you push like a telegraph?

EC: Yes, it is the same as a telegraph. I have a little hand lever that you push up and down and then there is another that you send on called a bug. One side of it sends your dots and the other side the dashes and that is called a bug. I can operate it. It would take me a little practice to pick it up again.

CC: Does it come in the same way as the telegraph?

EC: Yes, the same way as telegraph--in dots and dashes which I can read and I understand and know the Morse code.

CC: Is it, like when you talk, does it have instead of if you can have it hooked up to the telephone like you said? Well, does it have one of those what-you-call-its that you hold in your hand and you push the button and you can talk into it?

EC: When you use a phone patch, which you mean, you connect it through a little box thing that is a phone patch and you talk through the telephone, you can talk to the person on the telephone and you talk through the telephone and it goes out on the air. So you hear the person on the other end of the telephone, you hear yourself talking on the telephone and both conversations go out onto the air and, of course, the whole world could hear them if they were listening on ham radio.

CC: Is there any way that more than two people can talk on the same channel at the same time?

EC: Oh yes, they have what they call nets and they'll have a net control person in control and they call different ones. Each one is identified by their call letters and, as I said, mine is K3LHH. My son in Massachusetts is K1MRP. The one number in it designates the area of the United States that it is in. You see, three is Pennsylvania and Maryland, and New York is two, and the New

England States is one, West Virginia, Michigan, and Ohio are eight. You see, the numbers are distributed. There is only one number and the number in that call letter designates the area that you are in the United States. It is divided into ten divisions.

CC: Could you like, is it divided into groups that have a different number for each group all over the world?

EC: Everybody has their own individual call number. No one else has my call and each call is a little different but there is--I don't know how to--it is pretty complicated to explain to you, but everyone, I have my call on my license plate. Anybody else that knows ham radio calls could see my car license and know that I am a ham radio operator from my car license which is a special license.

CC: Is it on the same---

EC: My regular license plate is K3LHH. That's the number on my license plates. Anybody would know that I am a ham that would see my license plates.

CC: Is it on all cars that have ham radios?

EC: No, not unless you want it. You have to pay extra to have special license.

(At this point Mr. Caldwell came in for lunch, bringing the mail.)

EC: I'm going to have to go.

CC: Okay, do you want to start a little later?

EC: If you want more, I guess.

CC: Okay.

EC: I have to stop and get his lunch.

CC: Thank you.

(Interview continued after lunch)

CC: On the ham radio that connects with the telephone, is it a separate different kind of telephone or is it just a regular telephone?

EC: It is a regular telephone but you have to have the connections in order to put your telephone, you have to have a telephone there where we have a transmitter rig, we speak of it, just call it your rig, your radio room and your equipment, you just call it your rig and you have to buy or build a special equipment to run your telephone through your ham radio set. Ours is not run through at the present time. I could not receive a call here and let you talk or someone talk to it. I did have that at one time and they call that running phone patches. People want to--our missionaries especially like to pass messages back to the United States and maybe the person there will call their parents or call their friends and people on the mission field like to pass messages back to the United States and it is very, very interesting. I have talked to several missionaries and I had a schedule with a missionary in Guatamala but I have not been able, somehow or other, we have not been able to make connections. I am still trying to get this missionary in Guatamala on Friday evenings.

CC: Is there ham radio waves? Can they get mixed up and receive someone else besides the one that you are calling?

EC: It is just like a radio dial. Sometimes you have to, you can hear other people, other conversations and you just have to find a little spot on your radio dial where someone else isn't talking. You can sort of overlap and they call that QRM or QRMary, they say. That 's just somebody else's conversation that is coming in with your conversation because they are so near the same place that they overlap and it causes a difficulty. Sometimes you can't hear and you interfere with one another's conversation, you know, and overlap like. You have heard that on radio.

CC: Is there, can static be made from the, from some disturbance outside?

EC: Yes, sometimes even a fluorescent light will disturb it. Right now my husband's radio I think is disturbing this conversation but there is static comes on. We call it "land noise."

CC: Thank you very much Mrs. Caldwell.