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Interview with William M. Cecil (FA 107)

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WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY FOLKLIFE ARCHIVES

INFORMANT/FIELDWORKER DATA FORM

I. INFORMANT

NAME: WILLIAM M. CECIL
(Include fullest possible name -- first, middle and/or maiden, last)
(For example: John James Smith; Mary Ann Franklin Smith (Mrs. John))

ADDRESS: 1236 WOODBRIDGE TRC., OWENSBORO, Ky. 42301

PERSONAL DATA: Age 44 Date of Birth 9-28-45

Place of Birth OWENSBORO, Ky Sex M

RACE/NATIONALITY/ETHNIC BACKGROUND: CAUCASIAN / AMERICAN

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: (Include education, occupation, places of residence, religious affiliation, etc.)

FARMER UNTIL AGE 23
EARNED ACCOUNTING DEGREE IN 1973; WORKED IN
ACCOUNTING PROFESSION & BUSINESSES SINCE GRADUATION.

II. COLLECTOR

NAME: Jeffrey Brian Hagan
(Include fullest possible name as described above)

ADDRESS, LOCAL: 2104 Apt 2 Rock Creek Rd. Bowling Green Ky 42101

ADDRESS, PERMANENT: 2301 Parrish Owensboro Ky 42301

PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE INFORMANT, SUCH AS COUSIN, FRIEND, EMPLOYER, ACQUAINTANCE, ETC.: girlfriend's father, friend.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Jeff Hagans: When did you start farming?

Bill Cecil: I was born a farmer

J.H.: Was it expected of you to farm?

B.C.: Whenever you're born into a farm family

you're expected especially being the oldest son.

J.H.: Was it just the boys that farmed?

B.C.: The girls usually helped around the house.

Canning, cleaning and yard work were the usual duties. While the boys worked in the fields and the dairy.

J.H.: How many boys were there?

B.C.: 4 (four)

J.H.: What were some of your duties as a farmer?

B.C.: Planting + tending to the crops and milking

cattle were the primary duties.

J.H.: When was the best time to plant? were there

certain signs that you looked for whenever planting crops since that was a main source

of income.

B.C.: We didn't look for signs much. we usually

looked at the time of the year and condition of the soil.

J.H.: When did you start to wean young calves

Turn no.	Outline of contents--verbatim material in quotes
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B.C.: We had a standard # of Days that we would leave a calf with the cow. So we could continue to milk the cow and sell her milk commercially. Generally a cow has more milk than a calf can take. Afterwards we would give the calf a milk substitute until it was a proper size.

J.H.: Would you plant the same thing every year, how would you decide on what to plant?

B.C.: Usually we planted corn because it is used for feed for the cattle. we started planting Soy Beans in the 60's & only if we had enough corn for the cattle. we also grew Tobacco, Soybean, some wheat and have had Barley and oats,

J.H.: What age did you start farming?

B.C. My first farming experience with equipment was when I was 5 years old.

J.H. when you started school how did your day begin?

B.C. I got up at 4:30 and spent from 4:30 + 7:00 A.M. at the barn. And we had to get back to the house by 7:00 to get ready for school. At 3:00 when school was out we worked in fields until 5:00 pm. And started milking until 7:00 pm. Afterwards we studied, ate, and went to bed.

Turn no.	Outline of contents--verbatim material in quotes
	<p>J.H.: What were some noncommercial remedies that were used around the farm?</p> <p>B.C.: Coal oil was used several times for minor cuts to dirty cuts to clean the wound.</p> <p>J.H.: It seems that you from a large family were most farming families large?</p> <p>B.C.: Yes, because the families didn't want to have to hire outside help & they wanted to have free labor.</p> <p>J.H.: Was it expected of you to remain in the family farming? Or were they wanting you to go out and make for yourself.</p> <p>B.C.: No, I was to stay on the farm and what I wanted to do was to go to college. I felt that I met some resentment when I finally made my decision, because farmers don't think it was necessary to have a college education.</p> <p>J.H.: Did your other brothers continue farming.</p> <p>B.C.: All of them left the farm except one. He was the youngest and farms full-time. He had more of an opportunity to choose.</p> <p>J.H.: How many years did you farm?</p>

Turn no.

Outline of contents--verbatim material in quotes

B.C.: I farmed full-time until college. And arranged college hours around farming conditions because I still lived at home. until age of 24.

J.H.: Were there any superstitions or wives tales that farmer use to say about weather or planting.

B.C.: I can remember my parents and Grandparents speak of "Sun-dogs" and "Ring around the moo". and whenever you saw one it means a change in weather. And it seems that it was usually true. I can also remember my dad relying on an Almanac for what to do & what not to do.

J.H.: what were some changes that you saw on the farm according to equipment use?

B.C.: I could remember at 1st we used horses and mules. But started to use more machinery as we increased our production and increased in acreage.