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## Interview with Madge Cardwell Lashley (MSS 707)

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2/23/12

Transcript of Interview of Madge Cardwell Lashley  
Home of Madge Cardwell Lashley

LeSieur: Let me make sure we're, okay I think we're recording. It is the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2012. I'm sitting here with Madge, is it, is your last name Raymer, I know you...

Lashley: Lashley.

LeSieur: Lashley, okay. Becky told me Raymer, so...

Lashley: Everybody calls me...I was a Raymer for a long time.

LeSieur: Okay.

Lashley: But when he passed away then I remarried.

LeSieur: Okay, I see.

Lashley: It didn't last a long time, but, it wasn't worth me going through getting all that name change.

LeSieur: I gotcha. I completely understand that, too. Okay, well starting off, um, let me just ask you, just to kind of get things going what, how were you affiliated with Kyrock, I know you mentioned you...

Lashley: I was born and raised there.

LeSieur: You were born there, okay. So, were your, I'm assuming your parents, did your dad work for the company?

Lashley: Yes, he worked and retired from the company. He, he, first he, the first job that he had there, he worked in the big boiler room.

LeSieur: Okay.

Lashley: And he fired the boiler and then he went to Derrick operator.

LeSieur: Okay.

Lashley: And he, when he retired he was still a Derrick Operator.

LeSieur: Okay.

Lashley: Or when, not when he retired, but when the company went down.

LeSieur: Okay. Now can you, um, you may or may not be able to answer this, but can you tell actually me what a Derrick is, I know I've...

Lashley: A derrick?

LeSieur: Yeah, I've run across the name...

Lashley: Okay, well, its like, um, its a big piece of equipment that has a big bucket on the front...

LeSieur: Okay.

Lashley: and you pick up and you load the truck or etcetera.

LeSieur: Okay.

Lashley: Actually, it's a big loader.

LeSieur: Okay, gotcha.

Lashley: And he loaded the barges...

LeSieur: Okay.

Lashley: That went down Nolin River to Green River and wherever their destination was...

LeSieur: To Bowling Green or wherever...

Lashley: And at that time see, see the rivers were still open to the big boats.

LeSieur: Yeah, you could travel easily on them. Um, okay, well so we got that underlined. So you were born, uh, I'm assuming you were probably born in a co, did you all live in a company house, or?

Lashley: Yes we did. I was born in 1929 in a house on pigeon creek.

LeSieur: Okay, alright.

Lashley: Now Kyrock had lots of little, we called it separate communities, actually it was one.

LeSieur: Okay.

Lashley: But where I was born was pigeon creek.

LeSieur: Okay, so, is the...in relation to, the only ones I'm familiar with are the Ridgedale community and Woodside, so where would pigeon creek be in relationship to...

Lashley: No, there wasn't.

LeSieur: So where would pigeon creek be in relation...

(Phone rings)

Lashley: Pigeon creek is on...I better answer that.

LeSieur: No, its okay, I'll pause it.

Lashley: My children, my children live in Florida.

LeSieur: Oh, okay, well, we'll pause it, we'll pause it.

(Recording stopped so informant could answer phone)

LeSieur: Okay, we're back on the recording now.

Lashley: Okay, you know where Ridgedale is?

LeSieur: Yes.

Lashley: That's where the church was. Okay, when you go on down the road and you go over the hill, cross the creek, up the hill, but right before you cross the creek, there's a road that turns to the left, that goes out to Butch's big spring.

LeSieur: Okay, the Sweet Spring Site.

Lashley: That's pigeon creek, that creek that goes into the river. That's pigeon creek.

LeSieur: I know exactly, I've actually done some hiking back there, its really pretty back there.

Lashley: Okay, well now that's pigeon creek.

LeSieur: So that's where you grew up?

Lashley: No, that's just where I was born. And then we, that started flooding a lot and a lot of the people moved out off of pigeon creek because the water would get up there, and the ones that had families, they wanted to get away from there because of the children. So then we moved up what we called the schoolhouse hill, and lived there until my dad's house burned and then we moved to Bluetown. All in one area, but everything is called different.

LeSieur: Different communities, just depending on where you lived. Okay, um, now tell me just kind of, same thing we did with your affiliations with Kyrock, you know...how were you affiliated with the church, I mean did you, did you go there as long as you can remember, or?

Lashley: From the time I was born, my mother took me to that church. And I went to that church until after I graduated from high school. We had our um, baccalaureate in our church after that and I went away. And I stayed away for thirty years. But up until my 18<sup>th</sup> year, I went to that church. And in the meantime, that church changed from a Methodist to a Baptist.

LeSieur: Okay, so they moved up the hill.

Lashley: They and the other church yeah, they built the new church.

LeSieur: Okay, from what I understand, they um, some Baptists got together and they bought the, you know what was left of the church and took a lot of it up there is that true.

Lashley: Mmmhmm, moved it up to the...

LeSieur: Okay, so thinking back to when the church was still operating, in its hey-day, how would you compare the Kyrock Methodist church to any other church in the area, I mean, there was probably a church in sweden at the time.

Lashley: Oh yeah.

LeSieur: Okay, well were they similar, or?

Lashley: Well it was, it was a very active church because at one time there was 100's of people in Kyrock, when I was in a young girl, Kyrock was a nice little town and we had a big congregation and we had some, we had some ministers that that lived in the company houses and um...

LeSieur: Would they have been paid by the company, or?

Lashley: No, they would not have been paid by the company, I'm sure the houses were comped by the company.

LeSieur: They would just take up offerings and stuff?

Lashley: But yeah, they were paid by offerings.

LeSieur: Okay, well, getting on the more of the specifics of the church, you know, can you tell me what year it was built?

Lashley: We did the research on that for the Kyrook book and I think that the best that Lorama could come up with was very early 1900 because I was born in '29 and the church was, you know, the church was going strong at that time because I can remember way back when I was a little girl going. And my grandmother, my dad's mom, she had been going to that church for years before I started so the church is much older than I am.

LeSieur: than you are, okay. Okay, I have a deed here of the church when I guess Kyrook furnished the money for the church and they wrote on the deed "consideration of the sum for the general welfare of Kyrook and the vicinity thereof," so would you think, thinking back about the church, was it a good thing in the community?

Lashley: Oh, yes. It was our social life. I mean I'm sure that you can't comprehend that lifestyle, but we went to school then, but going to church.

LeSieur: That's where you got to see everybody and...

Lashley: That's right, that's where we got to see everybody and it was where the young people met. Where the old people exchanged, it was, the church was excellent. I haven't actually, I have not ever found a church like it yet. I go to Methodist church, but...

LeSieur: But it's not like it used to be...

Lashley: Not like my memories, nothings ever like your memories.

LeSieur: Oh I know, I can kind of remember my grandmother of course they went to goodspring and she always told me that they would have fights and you know people would get together at church and have fights and that just blew my mind, why would you fight at church? (Laughs)

Lashley: Its your social life.

LeSieur: It was the only time you saw people. Okay well, lets, let me get back on track here. I'm kind of throwing questions at you. But do you know about, if you were gone, I mean you might not know about it, but do you know about when the church was abandoned or when did people stop going to that and move to the Baptist church?

Lashley: I do not, I do not know the year, no. Because up until I left the church was still there. But right after I came out of high school I moved to Louisville and I was only in to see my parents and back, I was not active with anything in the community then. But then I know that they.

LeSieur: Did they still go to church there at that time?

Lashley: Yes, and they, my family started going to the other church.

LeSieur: So they, your family, still goes to the Baptist church?

Lashley: They did until they were deceased. But I don't have famiy here now except one sister.

LeSieur: I'm going to ask you a little bit more about this here in detail but just kind of briefly, what did the church look like, just say you're standing in Ridgedale and looking up the hill, how would you describe the church?

Lashley: It was something that would really awe us young people because electricity, everybody didn't have electricity. And then we had the big Christmas tree that was the thing of the year and the way they built the steps going all the way up this rock it was just beautiful. When the sun would hit that church it would I mean it made you feel like it was a church.

LeSieur: Yeah, just gleamed in the light. Okay, well, lets talk about some of your early memories of the church. Do you remember, I guess if you were going there when you were a little girl you might not

remember the first time you went, but you know what, tell me something about one of your first memories at the church.

Lashley: Well my first memories really of the church was getting to be with my little girlfriends and we went to school together, but we weren't allowed to really get together like we were at church. We would go early and we would be teenagers, all the available young guys were there. There was a lot...

LeSieur: So that's where you went courting, too?

Lashley: That's right, and some of the boys would not come inside but the mothers always made the girls go inside. So the boys would stand outside and flirt with us through the windows.

LeSieur: Oh, okay, I see. Would y'all flirt back with them?

Lashley: Oh yes, very discretely! (Laughs)

LeSieur: Wouldn't want to get in trouble in church? (Laughs)

Lashley: There's always a momma there, always a momma there...

LeSieur: So, thinking back to those memories, I mean how many, you know you're sitting in church, how many people would be there, you know, would there be a lot of people?

Lashley: I would say most of the time there would be 50 or more and it was not a big building.

LeSieur: yeah, I mean I can tell from the...

Lashley: But it would be full. We had lots of good singing and the young people would compete.

LeSieur: Okay, in singing and stuff?

Lashley: Yeah, and I had a grandmother...it was a shouting church. She would get up and shout and just scare us to death. I mean, scare us to death!

LeSieur: She'd get the spirit then?

Lashley: She had the spirit.

LeSieur: I'm looking down my list here. You mentioned the Christmas tree and I was reading today actually about something about easter egg hunts, so tell me about the special services they had at the church, like you know Christmas and maybe easter, and anything else you can think of.

Lashley: Anytime you know, anytime they ever had a special service, the church would be packed. People would, its like any church, people would come out for special days.

LeSieur: So, well let's talk about maybe Christmas for example. You mentioned there was the tree and it had lights on it, so where was that kind of in relation to the church?

Lashley: Okay, going up the steps, there was a huge big pine tree and the Kyrock.

LeSieur: Would it be on the right or the left?

Lashley: It was on the left going up. After you got up the steps it was setting right on the left. And the company furnished big light bulbs. These were not Christmas lights like you would think about these were light bulbs like the old, but the light bulbs the big ones. And they strung them all over the tree and by the elevation of the church you could see that all over the community. And all the young people came in from Bee Spring, they came from Sweeden, they came from all over for the Christmas thing. They would be lined up it was really something. I can remember us just thinking that was just the most special thing in the world.

LeSieur: And you all used to get some sort of present?

Lashley: At that time it was a bag of candy, it had fruit, candy, maybe two nuts, not much. It was just a little brown bag and the company furnished that.

LeSieur: I was reading today that Mr. Carmichael wanted, he said to somebody, you know even if I die I want to make sur etha t every kids gets a little something at Christmas.

Lashley: He always did.

LeSieur: You know, that to me seems really special. A good way to bring the community together.

Lashley: From everything I knew of Mr. Carmichael, he was just a good man.

LeSieur: From what I've read...

Lashley: He was good to his boys, took care of the sick. See my dad in later years bought the house that was the old company hospital. And at one time four families lived in that one house.

LeSieur: Now tell me what your dad, what your parents' names were.

Lashley: My dad's name was Julius and my mom's name was Lonas. You don't hear those names anymore.

LeSieur: No you don't, those are neat names.

Lashley: We've had a hard time passing those names onto the grandkids.

LeSieur: Yeah, see I'm named after my grandpa but it was easy for me because his name was John, so...Well, what about easter, would y'all have special services about easter, I read something about an easter egg hunt?

Lashley: Yeah, we'd have an easter egg hunt...do you need more light, I have more light?

LeSieur: No, I'm fine, thank you.

Lashley: Okay, at the base of the big rock where the field is now part of that was cleaned and that's where we would have the easter egg hunt was at down at the...

LeSieur: Okay, just down in the field here?

Lashley: Uh huh.

LeSieur: I'm trying to think...were there any other special services other than Christmas or easter like, what about revivals.

Lashley: Oh, we had big revivals. That's when my grandmother got active. Would scare me to death. You know, I never, I was never baptized in that church. I'm baptized in another Methodist church. They would scare me to death. But I kept going.

LeSieur: You had it in you.

Lashley: Oh, yes, we had big revivals. And the great thing about the revivals was like if Kyrock had a revival, people from Sweeden and Bee Spring and now, all these people are walking, they're not riding.

LeSieur: Cause not many people had cars.

Lashley: And they would fill the church. Same way with Sweeden had a revival, everybody would go there.

LeSieur: Alright, let's get into some of the specifics of the church, I'm going to have you, I'm going to ask you some questions about some things that were there then I might have you kind of walk me through, we'll think about it then walk me through. Let's start though with the staircase. Now was it, I've heard somewhere that there were 55 steps, I mean that could just be some....

Lashley: That is an approximate. We went through that, we went through quite a thing when we did the Kyrock book over those steps because we did not agree.

LeSieur: On how many there were....

Lashley: In my memory, there was 47. But I'm thinking the book has 50-something.

LeSieur: Yeah, I think that's probably where I read that.

Lashley: Now but see the company did that, and they were good secure steps.

LeSieur: Now one thing I have found up there is some postholes for what I'm assuming were probably for the steps on top of the rock, so were the steps wooden? Okay, so they, they probably would've been secured with these metal stakes in the ground?

Lashley: I do not remember any metal, but I do remember posts. And the rail. They were good steps because I can remember us running up and down those steps.

LeSieur: I'd say to accommodate that many people they'd have to be good steps.

Lashley: We had a lot of fun on those steps.

LeSieur: I bet. Now another thing that I've noticed up there that just kind of I thought was odd is that there is a cactus plant growing around where the steps were. Do you know anything about maybe was there a cactus planted there?

Lashley: No, I don't know anything about it, but I do know, I would say that the minister that we had there that was German. I'm thinking that he would be the one that would do that.

LeSieur: And do you know his name?

Lashley: His name was Shonsen Baker. I would just say that he is the person that would do that because he was, he lived in one of the company houses just almost next door to my mom and dad and had a beautiful place.

LeSieur: So where did the steps actually end in relation to say the church right here and the steps are going up, did the steps go all the way up to the church or was there a gap in between?

Lashley: No there was a gap. See how that, see this is before (mumbles) now the steps would've been over here...now see how it levels off over there...when it leveled off that's where the steps stopped. And lets see (mumbles) right over here there used to be I'm sure still is unless Butch had it mined out or Johnny had it mined out, there was like a drop-off. Is it still there?

LeSieur: Yeah.

Lashley: All the mothers cautioned, "stay around here, don't get over there"

LeSieur: There's a big drop off I've noticed on the other side.

Lashley: Okay, now on this side, this all grew up. This right here. Trees. Okay, we did not have a restroom. There was no restroom up there. All the men and boys, they went to this side, and the girls went to this side and I'm thinking this little overhand is still there. Okay. There was like a tree or whatever, anyway, we could go down the side of this and that's where the girls restroom was.

LeSieur: Now another thing we've noticed when we're doing archaeology stuff up there is we've found some coal. Were there, and we also noticed there were chimneys...

Lashley: That would've been for our coal stove. We had one of those, what do they call those, the belly stoves, the big?

LeSieur: Like a pot belly stove?

Lashley: Yes, pot belly, that's what we had.

LeSieur: And that was used for coal, now was that...

Lashley: See?

LeSieur: Okay, I see it there. Yeah, cause there was one on the other side, right? As well?

Lashley: That I do not remember. I only remember one big stove. That must've been right where I set. And we had storms, now I do remember this. One night and I'm thinking it was during a revival we had a terrible storm. And we had, you can't see that (mumbles) we had big double doors, we had. They swung back. The wind blew those doors open. Then my grandmother and two or three more scared us to death.

LeSieur: Yeah I've heard that it was kind of scary up there.

Lashley: Well, the men in the congregation went back there and held the doors. And the women, they're praying and saying lord, you know...do something here for us.

LeSieur: Okay. Now was the church, was it just one big room or was there a back room or anything?

Lashley: One big room. No it was just one big room and it was maybe just one step up in the back.

LeSieur: Okay, so just right on top of the foundation up there would've been the church. Okay. Now another thing that I want to ask before we get onto our next topic, one thing we've found and I find really intriguing because it's also something else I study is the carvings all over the rock up there. What can you tell me about those I know there's a lot of different names...

Lashley: That was a thing that we all did. We all did it. If I were younger, I could take you to where my initials are or a lot of them are, a lot of places. But on that rock its soft. And if you could find a piece of the harder rock you could take that and just chisel it right out.

LeSieur: Okay, cool. So everybody...

Lashley: It was rock against rock.

LeSieur: Was it something that more of the kids did?

Lashley: The young people.

LeSieur: And I'm assuming that was pretty close to the stairs?

Lashley: The stairs.

LeSieur: Okay, so you'd just play around pretty close to the stairs on the rocks?

Lashley: Mmmhmm.

LeSieur: Okay, so that's something that has intrigued me ever since we've been going up there because you know I study that. Mostly what I study is the Native American rock carvings, but I still?

Lashley: You do?

LeSieur: Mmmhmm.

Lashley: Have you been to turkey foot?

LeSieur: Yes, several times. I love the place over there.

Lashley: I hung out in there a lot. After I got big enough to sneak away from my mom.

LeSieur: Well, its quite a climb up there too. Okay, well then the next thing I want to do is kind of draw a little map of the church, so...say and you can help me do this, say we've got our field right here, and we'll call this the Ridgedale field, so the stairs would've been about right here?

Lashley: Mmmhmm, they start there and go up the rock.

LeSieur: Okay so we'll do our rock right here, well just make that the rock. Okay so the stairs would've gone straight up, right?

Lashley: Mmmhmm.

LeSieur: Okay, and you said they would've stopped before the church so we'll draw our church...

Lashley: Now coming out of the church, we had, coming out, there was some steps coming down, but they did not connect with these, the big ones...

LeSieur: Okay, so I'm assuming these steps were probably a little, where they even with the doors on the church or would they have been to the left a little bit?

Lashley: Thinking they would've been to the left, because of the rock formation there was smoother than here.

LeSieur: Than it was over on the side? Okay. So our church, we'll put it right here. Does that look about right to you?

Lashley: Yeah.

LeSieur: And you said there was some steps right here too?

Lashley: Mmmhmm.

LeSieur: And we had double doors. Do you know how many windows there were?

Lashley: Okay, well we can count right here. One, two, three, four, five that would've been, six, seven...that would've been fourteen windows.

LeSieur: Wow, that's a lot. Well, we've got our little map drawn. Now is there anything else about the church that you know, we haven't covered or you can think of that you.

Lashley: No, I really don't.

LeSieur: That's a beautiful picture you have there. We've searched long and hard for a good picture of the church and still haven't found one.

Lashley: Have you talked to Billy Gibson?

LeSieur: He is actually somebody that I'm planning on talking to.

Lashley: Well, I think right now they're in Florida. They have a big place in Florida.

LeSieur: Yeah, Becky mentioned that to me.

Lashley: Yeah, in later years, the Kyrock asphalt company had an office in Brownsville and its there I think right, I'm not sure, right there, at the colored church in Brownsville. And when...

LeSieur: Like over there by the fire dept.?

Lashley: And they had when, Billy got boxes of material out of there, all Kyrock material. I know he has a lot of things.



LeSieur: Well, I'm gonna try and get in touch with him next then, because, you know one thing that we're doing for our presentation, I'm doing all the writing stuff and I've got a girl that's helping me and she's doing all the photo stuff so we're going to try to have pictures playing while I'm giving my presentation. Alright, well, lets move on to the next thing I want to ask you about...

Lashley: Is this the best picture you've seen of the church?

LeSieur: Is this an original?

Lashley: You know, I, this was given to me by a Whittinghil. One of the families that were raised in Kyrock, they went to our church. And there's nothing on the back, but by the paper.

LeSieur: It feels and it looks old, too. So, its got to be something, btu the ones we have are the ones we've scanned and what we do is we just scan them into the computer so we can print them or you know, put them on things. The one that we have is from Jean's, but they're just scanned.

Lashley: Jean's book, yeah. I have those, I have her book ,yeah.

LeSieur: Well, lets go ahead and move on. And the next thing I want to ask you about and this is one thing that I've had a lot of troble finding stuff out about is the sweet spring and that's actually an archaeological site that we're working on now, too. So just starting off...

Lashley: Okay, now are you referring to sweet spring on butches property or cold spring...there's two springs?

LeSieur: Okay, I didn't know that, the one on butches property is the one we're working with. There would've been some sort of pump house there...

Lashley: There was, my dad ran the pump house.

LeSieur: Okay, so lets just start off with what, what are you personal affiliation with the spring or pump house, so your dad...

Lashley: My dad ran the pump house.

LeSieur: Now what, what did they do at the pump house?

Lashley: Okay, the pump house had the equipment in there for putting the water into the water tank. At one time there was a tank down there. And there was also a tank, what we call, the Balldiamond hill, a big tank up there. And he would have to, whatever he did to this piece of equipment, he would have to have enough pressure to push water to that big tank on the hill and then the people, you know they got the water. But that's what he did, he did that after for many, many years. He would go there and start it and let it run so long, until the tank went to the level that was at the sweet spring. And then I'm sure he knew when the other one was full, I don't know about that, but then he would shut it off. And then he would check the water levels, go back and start it all again. And fill the two tanks.

LeSieur: So, as far as the pump house goes, do you remember, you know, what it looked like?

Lashley: it was a little green, all the houses were the same color.

LeSieur: The company green is what I call that.

Lashley: Company color. And believe me it was lead paint. Every house down there had lead paint on it. It was just one big room actually, a shelter. It was enclosed and locked.

LeSieur: Did it have windows or anything?

Lashley: I do not have a photo of that.

LeSieur: Did it have windows, or do you remember?

Lashley: Let me think. I'm going in. (Laughs). Okay, go in the door. Mmmhmm, there was one window. Okay, you go in the door here, there was one window to the left that looked out at the water coming out of the side of the hill. Because that water comes right out of the side of the hill.

LeSieur: Oh, and it still runs, too.

Lashley: I don't know how much water I've drank out of that. But that, yeah, that's the way it was.

LeSieur: Okay, so lets see, you told me how it was used...do you know about when that was built? Would it have been as soon as the company got moved over there?

Lashley: I would think yes. I would think when they started building those houses, that they did all that at one time. Because there was an ice house, there was a doctors office, there was the commissary, all of that I would think was built right in one period.

LeSieur: And they all needed water.

Lashley: And every one of them were painted the exact same color and trimmed in white. At one time it was a very pretty community.

LeSieur: Oh I bet.

Lashley: It was.

LeSieur: Now, I've heard that people still used the spring after it closed, do you know?

Lashley: We did!

LeSieur: I mean after the company closed, people would still?

Lashley: People took big containers down there and carried water to their home because its good water.

LeSieur: Oh, I've tried it before, its good water.

Lashley: Good water. And now my dad, too, he I think I believe if I'm doing this correctly, twice a month, he had to take samples of that water...

LeSieur: And test it or what?

Lashley: And I do not remember if it went through the health dept. here or if it went maybe to Bowling Green or wherever, but I know that he did take samples. And there was never any impurity that was found in the water.

LeSieur: So would there have been a pipe running from the actual spring to the pump house?

Lashley: Yes.

LeSieur: Okay, I've noticed that theres a hole in there were there probably was a pipe. And they've actually built a concrete strcutre around it too. Now there's another little spring just to the left of that. People used that too?

Lashley: Mhmm. At one time we had. And I know this sounds very unsanitary, but we had a dipper down there that everybody drank out of.

LeSieur: Oh, I know, Ive drank out of a dipper before (laughter)

Lashley: Oh yeah, everybody drank out of the same dipper. And that's why I ask, because the cold springs now is over on the, on Nolin River. And it has the same water. Maybe not from the same stream, but it has the good water. And we always had this big dipper hanging up there too so when were on the river anywhere fishing or whatever, you could go wherever and have you a drink.

LeSieur: That's how they used to do it back then. I'm just looking through my notes here. Alright, now lets do the same thing we did with the church. Okay, so with the Spring. I'm actually going to let you do this, if you can, kind of draw me the best you can remember...

Lashley: I'm not a....

LeSieur: Oh its okay, I'm not a good drawer... (laughs)

Lashley: Okay, this is the road going down the hill and this is the road going out to the pump house which I think dad said its like .75 of a mile.

LeSieur: That sounds about right.

Lashley: And that would be the, the pump house would be at the end of the road. But it would, the pump house was on the right. The spring, okay, let me think. I'm not doing this correctly I don't think. (Laughter) I don't know how to draw this! But the pipe went from the pump house to the actual water coming out of the hill up here.

LeSieur: Yeah, from what I can tell the spring is over here, so you got that down... So there was a pipe coming down like this?

Lashley: Yeah, that went to the water. But that was all that was out there. Was just this pump house and the spring.

LeSieur: Now where, you said there was a tank down there, too.

Lashley: Okay, lets see...the tank was, house, spring, okay, the tank was between this house and the water coming out. So the tank would've been right here. And the tank was a big round tank.

LeSieur: Well do you know what it was made out of. Was it wood?

Lashley: It was made out of wood. Both of the big tanks were made out of wood.

LeSieur: So it wasn't the same as the big water tower?

Lashley: Oh no. No no.

LeSieur: Okay, it was just a wooden tank.

Lashley: And the tank that was up on the balldiamond hill was also made out of wood. Painted Kyrook color, trimmed in white. They were very pretty. But that's not a good drawing. But um...

LeSieur: No, that actually tells me a lot.

Lashley: But that's the layout of what it was at that time.

LeSieur: Well, let me ask you this, just looking at your map, what is out there now is there's a road going like this that leads up to the pump house kind of like that, so would that be a different road or...

Lashley: The only road that we had out there they, okay, they had a turnaround thing like. Okay the creek is down here, the water's running below here.

LeSieur: So the creek would be down here.

Lashley: Okay the creek would be there.

LeSieur: Okay, I'm sorry I was mistaken, the road does go out like that.

Lashley: it goes out like that. And where the water was coming out there was a place that they kept cleaned for what I really don't know.

LeSieur: Like a turnaround?

Lashley: yeah, it was just like a cul-de-sac there.

LeSieur: Okay, I'm just gonna label everything.

Lashley: Yeah, they kept it clean.

LeSieur: Alright, well thank you for drawing that for me. That actually helps me out a lot because I found something that's down there its some rocks. And it doesn't, its not really close to the pump house, its not close to the spring and we've just been sitting out there scratching our heads thinking what was this. But I have a theory that its probably where the wooden tanks sat.

Lashley: And the tank had a gauge on it. I remember that, I remember my dad trying to explain it to me how he could tell the water, to me, I knew it was full when the water came over.

LeSieur: But he probably had more of a, I guess if he was looking at a gauge, he probably...

Lashley: You know, my dad was not educated, but he had more common sense.

LeSieur: Well, that's usually how it goes, the way I understand things. And then the last part of my research, which you may or may not know anything about this, is the Carmichael house. Do you have any affiliations with the house, were you ever in the house?

Lashley: Oh, I was in there. See, Johnny. The baby boy, Johnny and I are the same age. And I was in and out of that house all of the time.

LeSieur: It's a beautiful house....

Lashley: At one time, you should've seen it in the hayday. When Mrs. Carmichael had it.

LeSieur: Was it really pretty?

Lashley: The foyer there was all mirrors. All the way around. It was. I was in awe of it.

LeSieur: I've heard that it was something to see back then. I've heard that it was something to see.

Lashley: It really was.

LeSieur: So I guess, can you, you know, what about the outside of the house. Was there gardens or?

Lashley: Oh it was landscaped beautiful. The driveway, I know now a lot of the rocks along the driveway they've been torn out or whatever, but when the Carmichaels lived there, they had, that was just

perfect. And the gate, Butch has a gate there now, but it's not the original gate. They had the two columns there. They had a big swinging gate.

LeSieur: Okay, so they had a gate and everything.

Lashley: Oh yeah, a big rope you'd pull and the gate would swing back.

LeSieur: Yeah, I've heard a lot of people were scared to go back there....

Lashley: Well, we weren't because we were all neighbors, really. And then, and now behind, right behind the. Going into the Carmichael house going over to the right was the servants quarters. And then the swimming pool was back there.

LeSieur: They had a swimming pool?

Lashley: Oh yeah, there was a swimming pool back there. Oh, it was beautiful. They had, the flowers that they had were like are native flowers, like the Martha johnicles, and all the pretty things, the were, it was landscaped so pretty. Oh it was...and they had so much help. And see that house, all the way from the Kyrock plant where they made steam engine, has anybody every told you about the steam pipe that came up there? That house was heated with steam? There was a pipe that was like this big and it, they had it on, these were not metal posts either, they were wood posts, and up, I know you had to be pretty good sized kid to reach up and touch it. But the steam was pumped all the way from the plant, up the hill, across to the Carmichael house. Now I think he still has some of the old radiator things in that house. Well now, it was steam heated.

LeSieur: And that wasn't common in the area?

Lashley: No, he was the only one with, most of us, we didn't know what it was. But my dad explained all of that to me.

LeSieur: So it would've been kind of like a mansion, back then?

Lashley: To us, it was. Seventeen rooms.

LeSieur: it's a big house, I mean, even for, if you think about big houses now, its still a pretty big house. Well, I'm gonna ask you to do the same thing with that. I didn't know you'd know that much about it. I didn't know there was a swimming pool there, so it would kind of be neat if you could maybe draw me a little map and show me where all of that was.

Lashley: Well the house, this was the road going out. And it, when you get inside the big gate, here's the gate, when you get inside the gate, and you go out just a little bit, there's a little road that goes down this way and there's another road that goes out that way, now, where you can go in and park. Do you know what I'm saying, are you following me?

LeSieur: Yeah.

Lashley: Now the house would've been right here, the house, the big house. Now over to the left of that was a small house, servants. They had black servants. And right, okay, all of this was a wooded area and the back, at the back of this was the swimming pool. And right up here is the big bluff. I mean a BIG drop off. And the big water fall coming down off of that that fed this.

LeSieur: The swimming pool? Okay, do you remember, was it like a concrete swimming pool or?

Lashley: Yeah, I'm sure it was concrete. I mean it wasn't like a pool we have now, it was like a big, for the boys. But it was still a swimming pool. But this big waterfall up here, now see, we were living, at that time, I was probably living right about here and all we had to do was walk out the road and, here, and we could go up to this waterfall and we did it all the time. We went up there and took showers.

(Laughter) We'd grab a cake of soap and wash out heads and just have an absolute ball. It was fun. It was fun living at Kyrock, it really was! When I went all through school down there there was 13 of us children within a few months of each other's age. And we all walked to school together, went right on through school. It was a great place to live. We were all very poor, but happy.

LeSieur: Well thank you for drawing that map for me. That can help me when we're out there looking for stuff.

Lashley: It was a beautiful place and they had, have you ever heard of huckleberries?

LeSieur: Yeah?

Lashley: They had, as you go through the gate, to the right, it was like shrubbery, they had it trimmed and everything, this whole row of huckleberries. Oh, we'd go there and pick those things and eat them. Never wash them, just eat bugs and all.

LeSieur: Just have a little snack. I've certainly done that. My aunt used to grow blackberries in her yard.

Lashley: Now they also had mountain laurel. Now that's where Johnny called the woodside hill Johnny named that Laurel ridge.

LeSieur: Okay, and its still called that today.

Lashley: Very few people ever even knew about it, unless they knew about it. Unless they lived there they wouldn't even know about it. But he did put up some signs at one time on a couple of the trees on the ridge.

LeSieur: Well, I'm excited to be out there this spring and hope to get to see some of that because ethat stuff is really pretty. Well, that's pretty much all I wanted to ask you except for you know, one thing that I wanted to ask is what do you think we can do, I mean, how can we preserve the memory of Kyrock, I mean I know there was a book published, and you know my work in a way helps to kind of preserve the memory, I mean how do you feel about?

Lashley: Well, I think its wonderful, and from all I know, the archives at Western have a lot of information and that's the way that it will have to be preserved because you see I'm the oldest woman yet, I mean, I'm a real Kyrocker. There's a lot of families that have lived there, moved away, but I was raised there.

LeSieur: And you're still, I mean I still consider this kind of Kyrock.

Lashley: Okay, a lot of people do, but it isn't.

LeSieur: Yeah, but its not the Kyrock?

Lashley: Its not the Kyrock. You don't get into the Kyrock until you get into woodside, and when you get to woodside then you stay in Kyrock until you get to the church that they have now.

LeSieur: So all of that through there was Kyrock.

Lashley: That was Kyrock. But like I said we had all of those communities.

LeSieur: Was there any other fond memories or anything else you know you'd like to add for me to have in the record or?

Lashley: Oh, I could go on and on, I love to talk.

LeSieur: Well, hey that's good for research!

Lashley: I had a lot of really good memories. The church was a good one, the school was a good one, the people. It was just a good place to be. And at one time we had more population than Brownsville. Sure did.

LeSieur: Course you know I grew up at Brownsville, so that's kind of like the town now.

Lashley: Well, that was our competition, that was the sports competition.

LeSieur: Well, there still was when I went to elementary school there was always still competition.

Lashley: That's right. There was competition. Now at one time, when you cross the creek, down there, on the right that flat area, that was a big beautiful tennis court.

LeSieur: Okay, so that's where the tennis courts were.

Lashley: That's where the tennis courts were, I have a good picture of that.

LeSieur: Now that's, say you've got the river, River row is kind of, there's the bend of the river, the creek kind of comes out here, the plant would've been over here, so the field, is this the field you're talking about here.

Lashley: Well, I'm looking at it upside down.

LeSieur: Okay, well, here's the creek here, theres the river.

Lashley: Theres the river.

LeSieur: So it would've been right in here.

Lashley: That flat area right in there was a real nice tennis court.

LeSieur: Which way did it face, do you remember?

Lashley: Okay, let me look at my picture and I can tell you.

LeSieur: Okay, cause I've wondered and wondered, and wondered where that was.

Lashley: Its right at the foot of the hill. Now that's how we went across the creek before they built the...

LeSieur: The wooden bridge here.

Lashley: That's a derrick. (Laughter)

LeSieur: Okay, I see.

Lashley: Let me get my glasses here. I think that's it right there. Now see the rivers running here, this is the, okay, this is up above the plant to the left, but this is the tennis court right here.

LeSieur: Okay, so the tennis court would've been kind of something probably like that?

Lashley: The river is here, the creek is right here.

LeSieur: The creek would've been over there, about like that?

Lashley: Uh-huh.

LeSieur: Okay, so you got the creek and then the tennis court. So that's probably on what Bill Layne owns now?

Lashley: Bill does own that now. That's where his property starts there. That point where the creek and the river join in.

LeSieur: And he owns everything to the left of that.

Lashley: Right.

LeSieur: Well, that's all I've really got to ask you.

Lashley: Well, okay.

LeSieur: I certainly appreciate it, you've given me more information than I could've ever found just looking through stuff at Western (laughter). I'm really glad we got to sit down and talk today.

(Remainder of recording not transcribed due to irrelevancy to project).