

ADEN CARVER, BRADLEY FORK, SMOKE MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA, 1939./ Disc 032a, 032b, 033a, 034a, 034b

C: Ready to begin? I was a boy about ten to twelve year old, and my father sent me out in the evening to hunt the sheep, as I come in walking along a ridge, the first thing I knowed a panther jumped right out in front of me, he wasn't over ten foot from me, he braced his feet and schlap his tail, just like he was a-going to jump on me, I backed off, I guess twenty foot, maybe further, and got me a rock, standing there with a rock in my hand a-looking right at him, expecting him to get me at any time, and I made a, a kind of a move, and he started just as straight to me as he could, I throwed up my rock, and he turned just like he was a-going to cut me off, betwixt me and the house, I went down that mountain, a steam car couldn't have caught me, and I never looked back, the fencing wasn't in my way nor nothing, and I jumped out into the field, run out half way of the field, and I looked back, and I seed no panther, I don't know where he went, but he was a main big one.

C: I was borned in a half a mile of where I'm a-talking this morning, it was Haywood County and now it's Swain County, and just after the war a few year I was married, I was married at the age of twenty-two year, and I went to the state of Tennessee, and I was there a quite a while, something like twenty-six or seven year, and I went in that area to trade, and I went in the milling business, mill company, I learned my trade, and I, they moved me to a mill on the waters of flat creek, Tennessee, Sevier County, and there I stayed a year and I never was in such a law-breaking country in life, it was no count, and I decided to leave, and another thought struck my mind and I still stayed, and I went to work cutting the wood to put up a church house.

[DOUBLE RECORDING--INDISTINGUISHABLE]

And all the men that broke the law you wanted and I left that country, when I left and went back to my old home and a man of that country tried to persuade me back, that they'd buy me a farm and give it to me if I'd go back, but I never felt it was my duty to go back, I come back to North Carolina to take care of my father, the old fellow had got old, he couldn't do nothing, and I stayed with him till he passed out, I still stayed in the state of North Carolina, worked, finally I lost the old lady seven year ago last January, and I'm just alone, I've reached the age of ninety-three, three month, a few days, and yet able to go on and get about, getting along reasonable, you might say, while I was in the last year of our war, and I never called out no pension, I went through by my work, and a man will try, they get all get through by being honest and telling the truth and doing their work right, I've never been out of a job, till I've got so in age that I can't keep up with job, and I've quit and come in, that's all I'll tell about.

H: Tell about getting CCC pay working out Mingus mill.

C: What?

H: Tell about drawing CCC pay and working on the Mingus Mill.

C: I went down to a mill down here, the Mingus Mill, the CC, they got me to sign up, eh it was a mill that I helped build, Benjamin Early, and the boss man couldn't get it into his head right that they got me to go there, and I went there and worked a month or maybe a little more, and the government paid me for that, that was more money than I ever made in life on any job, and I'm proud that I helped set up the job again, to work for a man that understands that we have to live by our work,

C: I uh, first located on the Little East Fork, in Sevier County, five mile above Sevierville, I was there a few years and undertook to build a mill eleven mile above on the head of Flat Creek, in Bird Settlement, I went there, I went to work, and they were terrible work about, and they deviled me to death there, and I worked on there and we got the mill up, started, I decided I'd leave that place, wasn't a suitable place to raise a family, I've saw as high as ten to twenty drunk women the same day, and men in proportion, I studied over one night, got up the next morning, I says "Martha, I don't want to stay here till I have to go out," and I went to work that night, began with the association and in seven year I had a Baptist church built there, and that country was all sobered down and seemed like a different country and I left, come to my native land, when I went back over the period, they offered to buy me a place and give it to me if I'd come back, I axed them "what have I done for this country?" and they said, "you've done more than ever man that ever lived here, we've got a good civilized country and a good church."

ADEN CARVER, BRADLEY FORK, SMOKEMONT, NORTH CAROLINA, SINGING / Disc 035b

C: First song I want to sing to you is an old Primitive Baptist [singing - cannot understand the words]

C: Going to sing a song that I sung when the old lady was on her death bed, I wouldn't do, a took a thousand and six worlds for her, but she's gone, she called to me to sing her a song, and I moved up to her head and I sung her this song, and the song is this.
