

Interview with Eula Arnold, 11-30-04

Interview with Eula Arnold, 11-30-04

Born Lumber City, moved to Hazelhurst, Jeff Davis Co., age 11, Kirkland Still. Father was stiller. Brother, Jesse Watkins, ran cooper shop, Emory Watkins, elder brother William C. turner Watkins drove turpentine truck. Took barrels to Helena, GA and sent it off.

After married in 1936, husband became a turpentine worker. Once a month they would dip turpentine, put in barrels, bring to still. They would cook it, my father, and then ship it. Husband stayed on turpentine farm about 6 years, and then we moved to a farm right off the quarters, and we ran the farm. I was the mother of 8 children, 4 dead, 4 living. We stayed in Hazelhurst until—we used to take the turpentine, we had it for medicine. When you had a soreness, you put a drop of turp. In spoonful of sugar, that would help all sort of soreness in your body. For worms, but turpentine around their navels, and that would more than likely kill the worm. Put a little plate of turpentine under bed and that would help your fever. Can't take it any more—they put so much chemical in it you can't take it anymore.

4:37 That was what you did with your children? (yes) what about when you were growing up?

Yes, that was what I was raised on. That was one of medicines my mother gave me. T was used for lots of thing. Put in waters or something like that, it would help you. Good for any type of disease. Put a drop in for cold or something. I know it worked for soreness, you know if you if you worked and your body, bones get kind of sore or something. For a cold, it would clear you up. It was a medicine. ...Everybody used turpentine. Even take a drop when you took castor oil. A little drop of turpentine in there and that would help you. It was a real good medicine.

LKS Gets artist data sheet.

Eula Lee Watkins Arnold

Born 12-22-1917 in Wheeler Co. @ Lumber City, GA

Baptist

After moved to Valdosta worked at laundry and then did private duty sitting in hospitals and homes until 2001.

Organizations: deaconess, sing in choir, secretary of the missions

Husband Jimmy Lee Arnold

9:00 before age 11, lived on a farm. Moved to turpentine farm at age 11.

10: 04 LKS earliest memories, what was it like?

Interview with Eula Arnold, 11-30-04

EA It was kinda lonely to me. We moved from a big farm, all my schoolmates, but we moved on the turpentine. It was kinda lonely, we had to walk to school. About 4 miles from Kirkland Still to Old Piney Grove School.

LKS Under segregation

EA We wasn't allowed to be at the white school. They had school buses. We had to walk those miles in the rain, cold.

LKS Was that because you were living out in the woods that you didn't have a bus?

EA No, black people didn't have buses. Later on, after I married in 36 and I had 4 children. My brother Emory, he made a bus out of those cabs. He was dedicated to making things. My father cut his (brother's) leg off when he was 5 years old with a mowing machine on the farm. ....(explains the accident) that days and times they didn't have no doctor, they couldn't but the leg back on, so they had to cut it off. He suffered for many years. Every time he had a little tip on there they'd have to cut it open again. They didn't have any shots, all they had was Para got (sp?) and ether. When he got in that rage my daddy had to take him 5 miles, way in the night some time, in the wagon and take him to the doctor, and they would put him to sleep with ether. And that would last sometimes about 3 or 4 months. And if he touched that tip on there he'd go into a spasm again. . He grew up, and he could make a car, he could make cars.

LKS School bus?

EA Yeah, he take one of the cabs that didn't have no seats in it, and he put benches in it, and he took over taking the children around from school to school. Then finally, when it come, they granted him a bus and they paid him. Started the first school bus down there in Jeff Davis Co.

LKS All the time you were growing up you had to walk?

EA Had to walk to school, I didn't make it only to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Then I married in 1936. I was just 15. I married my husband in 1936. 15-16 when I married. I thought that was the life, because out in the country that was all we knew. And I married.

LKS How did you meet your husband?

15:28 EU (Laughs) Well when I met my husband, my mother and father they didn't let us go nowhere. My one and only sister, my mother had got burned real bad one night, and my sister came from FL. And we had big old fire places. And we had worked all that day trying to clean the house up and clean the fireplaces out. And my brother, he could go, my father would let him drive around. And he was going over up in a big field where they had a jook. People, they had parties all night on Sat. night. My sister asked my daddy could we go. Emory said no, my brother said no. My daddy said take em on and go. We were so happy to go we didn't even take a bath. Wasn't no shower then, you

know, foot tubs. WE just put on our clean clothes and went on over there. And my husband, he was sitting up on a high stool, that he could play a guitar. The boys and he were playing. And I was so glad to get out there, and we talked. And from then, he come, I wasn't even courting, my mother and them wouldn't let me court. But he said, he didn't know it. So he came that Sunday to see me. And another girl, she was with him. They didn't know if he was with her or with me. So we talked, took him about six months or something before he asked me to marry him. I went. It wasn't all easy but it went on. We stayed together for 53 years.

LKS 17:41 Tell me about the courtship. Here you are in the turpentine camp. How far were you from the nearest town?

EA Hazelhurst was 12 miles. WE didn't hardly go to town. Well every Sat. we might would go. My mother would always go early to town. She would come back. My brother and my father would go late in the evening but I wasn't allowed to go with them. I had to stay with my mother. Then every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, every Sunday we had to go to Sunday school. We didn't have a preacher at old Piney Grove but once a month. Missionary Baptist Church. So then—

LKS Courting you husband then---did you just stay in the camp?

EA We just stayed on Kirkland Still. He was at another camp, he was a sawmiller then. But they was up to another quarters, the St. Clair Quarters, where he was. And he would come down, about 5 miles,

LKS Did he walk?

EA Oh yes, there wasn't no ride. He would walk, come down on a Sunday evening, when mother and them got to let me court a little bit. My mother was on one end of porch And I was on this end. Before 9 o'clock he had to go. He was 2 ½ years older. Born 1914. Died in 1988.

LKS Were you ever allowed to go back to the juke with him?

EA No no., just that one time. We wasn't allowed to go to those things, because they was drinking, they had what they called whiskey still and buck, all kind of stuff like that. That was back there in those days. ...Juke was just up in a field, a plantation like. After the quarters, you was still on t he quarters like, but it was up on a field like. Peoples'd go there. It was a building, I man run that. His name was Uncle Bud. Friday nights and Sat. nights and things, people would gather there. They was kinda I would say unsaved like peoples. There wasn't much for younger people to go. Sometimes we would go around. They'd let us, my mother never, I wasn't allowed t do that. Mother was burnt, she was on the sick side. We had to wait on her, my daddy. My father was just a love thing, he was so good to us, he never could say no. He asked my brother to take us 'cause we had worked so hard around there that day, cleaned the house. My sister lived in JAX, FL. She was up there helping me take care of my mother. She wanted to go. She

Interview with Eula Arnold, 11-30-04

liked to party. I had never been to one. I could do my dancing. I was so limber in dancing.

LKS What was the dance at that time?

EA Charleston, 2-step, black bottom, and things like that.

LKS How did you learn to dance?

EA At school, we'd have our little things at school. Just playing and dancing. My father, he would always like to show me off. I had my little patent leather shoes. He wasn't a bad person, he'd be drinking a little bit. And he'd tell his baby to dance for him. And I'd dance. And he'd give me a nickel. In the house with the old gramophone turned on. Have that playing?

LKS 24:19 You had a gramophone in your house?

EA Yeah, we had a big old gramophone, with those wide things, and you had to turn it. Spirituals o there. Had some blues. Bessie Smith and all. Oh, that's been way back. ...

LKS Was that unusual for someone in quarters to have a gramophone?

EA Yeah, everyone didn't have one. That was a nice instrument that peoples was lucky to get.

LKS What about radio?

EA Not until later on. I didn't get a radio out there until I was married. Me and my husband got one. Round about the first out there in the country. It was so new out there. People thought there was a record in that radio. They didn't think it could be—you know. It was new and they couldn't understand how a radio could be picking up somebody way yonder. They said, in the back of that radio lots of people thought it was a tape of somebody in there they had made. But it wasn't. Only station we could get was Douglas, WDMG Douglas GA. And I didn't get a TV until I moved up here. 57 or something.

LKS 27:08 You mentioned you were on a farm before you moved to the Kirkland Turp. Quarters. Was your family sharecropping then?

EA Yeah, sharecropping. Worked tobacco, chopped cotton, picked cotton,

LKS You worked in the fields—

EA with my father and them. We worked in the fields \_\_\_\_\_ tobacco, stringing tobacco. Be had a 'bacca farm, 2 acres of tobacco, 3 acres of cotton, 3 or 4 acres of corn.

Interview with Eula Arnold, 11-30-04

My dad would raise that. He shared cropped. And at the end of the year, ? it was pretty rough then.

LKS You said you were lonesome when you first moved, you missed your friends. Was the way you lived, type of house in farm vs. camp, was one better than the other?

EA Not too good. We really was blessed with the house on the Winship Farm out there. We had a big nice house. It was good. ...We stayed there until I was raised up to 11 years old. Me and my brother we would go to school. My father had a T model Ford, and my brother worked on that Ford. And we shared corn on a on a Sat., 50 cent a bushel, and he'd let us have that to put gas in the car. Gas was 25 cent a gallon. That would last us all the week. My daddy, if it was real cold he would get out there and get a big wash pot, black wash pot, put water in and heat it real hot and pour it over the old car. And he would crank it up. ...And he'd back it up. And me and my brother would go to school in it.

LKS 30:45 How old were you when you started going to school?

EA 5 or 6.

LKS Did you go only in the wintertime or?

EA Most of the time we started in Sept. and go till around March. March or May. When they turned April 1, more like April school would be out.

LKS How old were you when you started working in the fields.

EA I don't know. Lord, I was little. Cause he trained us to start to working. I was the baby. I started to chop cotton. Me and my brother, we were little. ....I was about 7, we worked in the field with my mother—

LKS So the whole family was out?

EA My mother worked some, but not as hard. She worked part of the day and then went home and cooked for us.

[describes move to turpentine farm so could afford an artificial leg for her brother, \$250. Mother didn't want to see him walking with a peg leg. Wasn't making nothing on the farm. At still he could get more. Bossman was Zeen Kirkland. Wife Nora Kirkland. Father didn't have experience as stiller, he learned. Easy for him to learn that.

EA Commissary was right in the quarters.

LKS Also on farm?

EA Yeah, it was a commissary on the farm out there.

LKS Was there a difference? Did you grow more of your own food on the farm?

EA Yes. We just had a big garden on the quarters. But on the farm we had peas and corn and watermelons and everything, you name it, we had it on the farm. I didn't ever think I would be eating out of paper sack. And after then, after we moved and I got married, me and my husband moved on a farm and I had everything. And then we moved to Valdosta.

LKS Tell me about the garden in the quarters, what would you grow?

35:15 EA Potatoes, white potatoes, cabbage, collards, turnips, peas, okra, it wasn't as much. It was everything we had on the farm but not as much. Two or three rows of corn, two or 3 rows of peas, and collards. We had a bed of turnips and mustards. In the season we had cabbage. Everything was in the season. And we canned food.

LKS Did you grow any plants for medicine?

EA No.

LKS You were 11. Your sister by now was married and had left?

EA my sister was 20 years older than me.

36:29 Wasn't nobody home but me and my brother. (who did the canning?) Well my mother could do some canning. We'd shell peas all through the night. And days. Can up stuff. She'd can up blackberries, we'd pick blackberries. She'd can up peaches. Get the peaches, pears. She could can, all kind of ways. We had a big smokehouse with meat. Raise hogs. She had one cow, we called Mary. She would bring some butter, milk and butter.

LKS Just for your family or would people share?

EA Just for us.

LKS Where did the peaches and pears come from?

EA Some peoples'd have a peach arbor, they would give you peaches. You didn't have to buy peaches and things like that. Maybe have a big peach tree.., she had one in her yard. And they, we didn't have to buy anything, people would share. You didn't have to buy anything.

LKS what about the commissary?

Interview with Eula Arnold, 11-30-04

EA Oh yes. For the week we had a \$5 ticket, sugar and stuff. Then you could get a quarters worth of sugar would be a bag, paper bags and they would dip it up. You could get meal and flour. Self rising flour in cloth bags. Didn't have to go to the commissary for so much, only for sugar and maybe a little coffee. Mother would have to grind coffee, she had a coffee grinder. Didn't know anything about this other stuff. Maybe salmon or sardines or something like that we would get from the commissary. Up in the year before hog killing time, they had the bacon, big slabs of meat. Wasn't never sliced, we had to slice the bacon. [got the bacon in the commissary). Yes.

LKS What was your mother's name?

EA Lizzie Watkins. Maiden name Morland.

LKS who ran the commissary?

EA Bossman had a man that ran the commissary and the farm. See, bossman, he didn't work. But he had man named Mr. Sherrity (sp?). He run the commissary, and he was a foreman {farmer?} over all the turpentine workers. He run that, he would open the commissary sometime it would stay open mostly all day.

LKS What did you have to eat on an average day at Kirkland Camp? Like breakfast, lunch, dinner.

41:20

EA Most of time we had a ham, what's in the smokehouse, cured ham. WE had the Bacon for breakfast. We had biscuits and syrup. We had growed cane and made syrup. We had syrup and bread. And sometime in my days, what we leftover from supper. Maybe she cooked greens or peas or something. We warmed that up for our breakfast. We didn't know anything about cereals and all this other stuff. We had butter...We just had, we made biscuits mostly every morning, maybe to sop syrup. We had this gravy off our ham meat. You could smell it a mile (laughs) but you don't smell it nowhere now...After you fry your ham in there and it be ready, you pour you a little water in there and just stir it around. You had gravy.

LKS What time would you get up in the morning during the week?

EA More likely we get up around 8:30. sometime it be around 10. We didn't go by no time. (father and brothers?) They was up early, but that's when they ate. I would take breakfast , they would come to the house. Most of the time I would cook breakfast and take it down to the still for them. They would eat that up in the day, and when they got off around 4:30 in the evening they would have the big supper ready for them.

LKS In the middle of the day?

EA Not hardly. Once in a while they might eat maybe some meat or something was left over, maybe potato or something. Wasn't too much.

Interview with Eula Arnold, 11-30-04

LKS Did they come home for the noon meal?

EA no. I carried that at 10:00 or something like that. They didn't eat anymore.

LKS Did they eat anything when they got up in the morning?

EA Not hardly.

LKS Just two meals a day.

EA My daddy, he didn't drink coffee. He would get up, wash up and go on. And I would bring breakfast about 10:00 and they would sit down and eat.

LKS Did you stay and eat with them?

EA No I'd just go there and give it to them. Sometimes I'd hang around until they get through with the plate. I'd bring it home. (Packed up in a bucket?) In a pan maybe. Sometime have it in pan, carry it to em, a bowl, tray, something like that.

LKS Evening meal?

EA 4:00 or 5. More likely 5 o'clock when they come in and they would eat. We cooked a big like peas, bread, potatoes, and something like that. Meat. We didn't but one meat, and that was in the bowl full. ..All the meat and stuff we ate was in the greens or the peas. Corn bread or maybe sometime mother would have, wasn't too much of desserts. But sometimes, 'bout Wednesday sometimes, she would cook a dessert like tea cakes or some kind of pie or something, and we'd have that rest of the week.

LKS What kinds of pie?

EA maybe a peach, pear, berry.

LKS Tea cakes with sugar or syrup?

EA with sugar. Sometimes she'd make a big pan full. Longer they would be there the better they would be. She'd take one of those flour sacks she'd washed and pack em in there. And some nights she may give us one, and I could have et all of them, but she'd give us one.

LKS Did you help her with all this cooking, what were you doing?

47:20 EA I was just sitting around. Long as we was out there on the farm I didn't try to help cook too much then. (once you got to the turpentine farm?) Yeah, I did, because she had got feverly then. I would cook. But she would get up in the evening time and cook the big meal. But the breakfast I would cook that.



LKS Once you moved to the turp. Farm were you in school?

EA They see that I went to school. See on the farms, in the turpentine, in the wintertime they didn't have that much to do. They sit around the commissaries and talk. Peoples' d go out on the farms, and pull corn for people that run the farms all around. My daddy used to go off and stay and work and cut crossties for the RR, sometimes he'd go out a week and come back. Be out cutting crossties in the winter. It was so cold, they all would be home.

LKS You were in school during the winter?

EA Oh yes. We had to leave about 7:30 or 7. I mean wrapped up, sometime the icicles would be standing up on the road. But we had to make it there on time. Be there by 8, our little hands would be so cold. Had the big pot bellied stove, you know. Those teachers were strict on us. We had to be there on time. When they rung that bell we had to be there in line and march in. ..(school over?) About 3 something. (did it take you an hour to walk?) No, sometime we played...just ball, hop the scot and everything. Boys played marbles. When we got home. We weren't allowed to play on the road. Just play tick tack and running and playing when we coming home. When we got home mostly, the children had something to do, to tote in wood, get round do things at home. When we had spare time it was hop scot. Boys would be playing marbles. Sometimes girls be down playing marbles too. Or ball. Baseball. (girls too) Oh yes. Girls played baseball. Running the base. That's the only kind of ball I know anything about. I don't know anything about football, basketball....

LKS How may kids in the quarters?

EA Hmm. I don't know. (you had enough people to play with) Oh yes. Or me and my brother would play together. We weren't allowed to be playing everywhere. Bat balls and run. Marbles, and we used to have jack stones, we played the jack stones. Sit down in the house and play a little jack stone. We had, we called it they soda bottle lids, and we'd take it and throw up the lid and pick up one. Throw up the lid and pick up one. Until you drop one and then you was out—jack stone. (anything else inside?) No we din't have too much more inside.

LKS Did you ever have a doll or any toy?

EA Oh yes. I had my playhouse out there. I had a wonderful playhouse outside with dolls and things. Out in the woods. But not in the wintertime. I had dolls. They bought us dolls for Christmas. We made dolls out of grass or whatever it was. It was real good.

53:48 LKS Tell me what your home was like. You rented your home I assume.

Interview with Eula Arnold, 11-30-04

EA See, we was on the sharecropping. They furnished our homes, we didn't know nothing about paying no rent. The sharecroppers, if you was on his farm they furnished a house for you.

LKS What about on the turpentine farm?

EA Same thing.

LKS What was your house like on the turpentine farm?

EA it was real nice, it was good. We had a nice good home. Two rooms. Outhouse in back.

LKS anything on the walls? Bare boards, newspapers?

EA Yeah, we used to put up newspapers like it was wallpaper. When the wintertime, we'd mix up flour and my mother would be up on a ladder and things, and she had us smear all of that stuff on the paper, and she would stick it up on the wall. That was wallpaper.

LKS Your furniture belonged to the bossman?

EA no, no, that was our furniture. Everybody had their own furniture. We din't no nothing about no settees or sofas. We had one big room for the fireplace and my mother, we had beds, me and mother mostly slept together and my father and brother slept together on the other side. That was the big, two beds in there, that was the big company room. Like ministers. We didn't go in there. [Note: at some point in there she starts talking about the farm, not the Kirkland Camp]

56:05 We din't go in that room too much. She kept it, those big beds and things. They had nice wooden beds. [what did you sleep on?} Wooden beds. Most of the time I slept with my mother. Sometime I didn't, when I got a little older I had my bed, a big wooden bed. (mattress?) They was made out of cotton mattress, quilts in the wintertime. She made quilts after they'd get though picking cotton, a bunch of people, two or three of the womens and things, they'd have a quilting day. They'd have big frames across the room and they would sit and make them big nice quilts. In the winter.

LKS Did women do that in the turpentine farm also?

EA Well some of them did, most of em did. [your mother became more frail. Did she quilt on the turpentine farm?] Not as much as she did [before]. We didn't need it. She done made everything. We had a big clothes closet full of quilts and things. They didn't get together and quilt. Sometimes they did. Every once in a while they would put up a quilting frame. [in the turpentine farm. Yes]

LKS How close were the houses?

EA In the quarters was real close, but we stayed out by the road. The houses they was pretty close together. Neighbors across the road from us. Down the street. The commissary was sitting not too far from us. About 3 houses near us. Quarters wasn't far.... It was a bunch of houses down in the quarters. [7 or 9 families] We kinda lived out of the [main] quarters. It was called quarters but we was living kind of out ..on the road.

LKS Why were you in a different place?

EA Just the way the houses was made up. ... It was quarters was kinda back down, you come out of the quarters up to the commissary and our house was sitting on the little road that goes through. Cross the road was a house, then another house. That was 3 houses there. And on further down there was another house. All that was Zeen Kirkland's quarters. ...

LKS Was your house the same as the ones down in the main part?

EA No it was made a little different. White peoples had lived in this house. My daddy was the stiller, we lived in a nice house, kinda fixed up pretty good. [roof?] A tin roof. A little porch, wasn't too big a porch. [furnishings?] We had benches, a little room, had a wooden bench made up like a sofa, made out of wood, had the fireplace, and my mother had a one of those rocking chairs.

1:01:44 WE had wooden chairs sitting all around. Our kitchen, we went into the kitchen, we had the wooden table and wooden benches. Big enough kitchen, we had a bed back in the end of it. Kitchen table and wooden stove up in here, window there, back to the back, back door. We had our bedroom, two beds in this bedroom. Build a little more on to it. ...That big bedroom, what I was telling you, That was when we stayed on the farm at lumber city, we had a big nice house, big rooms, two beds, one of the beds was the company's. No body mess with that bed. Maybe her sisters, the minister would come and stay.

EA turpentine quarters, we didn't have no special room. We could give up some of our bed when company comes. [in quarters, how many rooms?] But two. A fireplace room and a back room with two beds, and that kitchen, we had abed back there.

In turpentine farm, it was a nice house. In the quarters, it was mostly shanties. Our house was nice because one of the bossmans had lived in that house. It was pretty nice.

LKS ...Why do you think your family got that nicer house? Was the stiller---

EA No, no, they just didn't have no other houses in the quarters at the time we moved. That house was there. We luck to get that house. It wasn't that much over, but it wasn't a shanty. It was a nice house.

Interview with Eula Arnold, 11-30-04

LKS Did windows have glass, shutters?

EA We had windows, little windows in it. {so down in the quarters they didn't have glass?} No, They didn't.

LKS 1:05. Were the houses smaller?

EA Some of them. They had big old houses for a big family, but they were almost made together. Rooms wasn't too separated.

LKS Did someone make your furniture, did you buy it?

EA They bought those old timey wooden beds. And then they had iron beds. She had her big wooden bed for her bed. The other three beds was iron, that's what we had. We had cotton mattress and things, we had to make up.

LKS Where was the still and the cooper shop in relation to where you lived?

EA It was right down to the quarters, in the quarters like, back over there. There was a little branch, then the quarters and the still was right there. You'd go by the cooper shed. Go right on down to the still. The bossman house was sitting kinda up like that, Mr. Kirkland's house. And the man that run the commissary, he had a nice house behind there. They had a big houses

1.07.12 end of CD 1

BEGIN CD 2

LKS WERE there white people living in quarters?

EA just black.

.40 LKS so you didn't play with the white kids?

EA sometimes we did. It just wasn't an everyday thing. ...

LKS Church, Piney Grove.

EA That was my church. It was about 5 miles. That's where we went to school, went to school in the church. Went to church, we didn't have but one building. Finally they did make a little school. Just one big room for the school. ...One teacher. Every once in awhile they would have a substitute would come in.

LKS Church met once a month.

EA Once a month, but had Sunday school every Sunday.

LKS Who was preacher, where did he come from?

EA The minister was from Moultrie, GA...He stayed, he would come once a month. He would come Saturdays and stay until Monday. My mother used to, he would stay with some of the people. [who did Sunday school?] My father, he was the superintendent. There was an elder man named Uncle George Peterson, they stayed up on the hill by the church. Wouldn't be many at Sunday school, but we had to go. My father and mother made us go to Sunday School. Sometime we walked there. and my father would keep this old car, and we go in this old car every Sunday morning. Sometime it would be aright smart, and sometime it wouldn't.

LKS so were you free to come and go from the camp?

EA Oh yeah, you could go anywhere you wanted to. Go anywhere. Quarters, you didn't have no special place. You go anywhere, stay anywhere you wanted to go. Do what you want to do.

LKS Your father had his own car?

EA My brother would keep us a little car. He could work on a car, he could make a car. He started out when he was about nine years old...Old T-model ford, he tell you what's the matter with it if he just hear it running. And he would fix it. And would get to be the best mechanic in Jeff Davis County.

4:33 LKS So was that unusual for a family in the quarters t have their own car and be able to come and go?

EA Well, lots of people just wasn't able to get one, but we somehow were able to get a car. After a while everybody had their own way of going. But most of them, when we went to church, Sundays, the turpentine truck would take em all, put em on the truck and go. But we never did have to because my brother would keep us up an old car to go with.

LKS I know you were young, and you might not know the answer. Did the stiller make more money than the guys out in the woods chipping?

EA Well, I think it was a little more than that, because he didn't have to go in the woods and chip the boxes. He just on a straight salary...what he made. Either, if I can recall, maybe it went by how many things he did a day. Had to put so many barrels in that big vat and cook it. Maybe that's what it went by, I'm not for sure...I believe it was how many vats a day...My brother was the cooper, made the barrels for them...

7:25 LKS Your mother became frail, she was burned, what about the other mothers, women in the camp, what do you recall that they did, work, work in the woods?

EA No, when cotton picking time come, or bacca season, they worked, peoples' some by and picked em up and they worked on the farms. [when their men were out in the woods]

Interview with Eula Arnold, 11-30-04

Yeah, they worked on the farm. Working in the tobacco, pick cotton, some women folks pulled corn, but when cotton picking season was over, the womens didn't do anything, would be home.

L KS Domestics, like the bossman's wife?

EA Well yes, one or two worked for him, be just one worked for them, some ladies would go up there and cook. We didn't have no job, din't have to go. They had a cook and a house cleaner. I often wondered how the poor peoples would go in there, they would cook, clean that house, do things and wash in a day. And those big houses were real nice. But as we was black peoples, we couldn't go in the front, we had to go in the back of the white folks.

LKS Did Nora Kirkland's wife do anything for the folks in the quarters at Christmas?

EA No, on July the 4<sup>th</sup> they might have a big eat out or cook out for the people. {what do you remember about that?}

10:13 EA They had barbecue, Goats and beef, sometimes they had a hog. Lemonade and stuff like that. That was about it.

LKS Anything about holidays, special times of the year?

EA now Christmastime, we had big Christmastime. Just thinking about cooking for Christmas. Everybody cooked so much food. So many cakes, so many people go from house to house and eat and enjoyed Christmas. They were none of no slavery, they had freedom to do anything that they wanted to do. Some would be drinking, some would be happy, going to churches. Real nice, peoples were real good. They were just off to themselves. There wasn't no, wasn't mix wit the white. They was-we wasn't qualified to be around with them. But we had a nice time, peoples loved one another. Went to church, had socials. We had our revival meetings. Our prayer meetings. We had one big dinner a year, [at church], that was the big meeting. Had running revival meeting from first of the week until that Sunday, that's when everybody would come together and have food, and have it spread out under the shade trees. Trunks, wagons, mule and buggies and everything would be parked out there. Was real nice then. [missionary Baptist church] Um hmm. All I ever been is a Baptist.

LKS On Christmas, did they just get one day off from work?

EA There wasn't much anything to do long about Christmas time. They had weeks and everything, because it wasn't hot enough for the turpentine to run, chip boxes. They had to wait, the menfolk, they had all the days off. ... Lessen they maybe had a job doing something like, I said, going public jobs or something. Most of the mens was around home, maybe planting a garden or getting something ready like that.

LKS were Sat. payday?

EA Some of them did. See, everybody had a crop of boxes, once a month mostly, that turpentine would yield, they'd dip turpentine with big buckets. And how many buckets of turpentine they'd dip and they'd get paid by the month. That'd go on their sale. They'd be borrowing money through the winter, and when they'd come summertime, some people'd be looking to pay all that money back, sometime they wouldn't. Keep going, they stayed in debt.

LKS 14:58 Did your father get out of debt?

EA Not hardly, not much.

LKS were they able to buy the leg for your brother?

EA they had to pay that back. Had to buy it. ...He never did get out of debt, because that was the way they had it. Peoples back then they give you such a little, and they claim this with that, the people didn't hardly get out of debt when the year come around they'd be still in debt. Then in the wintertime they'd have to borrow some money for winter clothes, first one thing then another. They just stayed in debt. Once in a while some people might come out of debt.

LKS How would you say your family by the bossman>

16:00 EA They was treated all right long as they do the work. Had to be, in my daddy's time. They wasn't mean to them, they just had to do the work. ..They didn't get paid good for all the work that they did. But they just had a home and somewhere to stay. But they wasn't mean to them.

LKS There wasn't cruelty—I know some bossmen were bad.

EA some of them were, but where my daddy and them were, they wasn't mean to them on the farm. Wasn't mean at all. You just had to stay your distance, you weren't allowed to do too many things. [like what?] you know, just allowed, you had t stay in your place, not go with them. You had to walk your chalk in line and not be too much around with the white. Stay in your place, stay back. Like you and me sitting here talking, we wasn't allowed to be like that. Every once in a while, you'd find some good folks that would come, white folks that would be together. My family and white folks would go to my brothers house because he worked on their car. If you go to Hazelhurst now and ask if they know Emory Watkins, everybody know him. ...Long back then they didn't visit too much.

LKS 18:01 so the main holidays you remember are Christmas, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and the things with church, big meeting and the revivals.

EA Those were special days with us.

LKS Did you have a midwife or anyone with special medical skills.

EA All I had was a midwife with every one of my children except one. Except two. The midwife would come to me out there in the country. Her name was miss Celie Newton. They would jump in the car, my brother always kept a car, me and my husband did have a car at the time. We were staying in the quarters when I had my first child, so my baby was born on March the 14, and I had wooden shelters and things. My mother didn't let me go out when I had a baby. I had to stay in a whole month before I come out. I didn't have no doctors or nothing. Midwife lived way down in another resettlement called the St. Mathis settlement. They had to go, my brother had a car, my husband and to go and get him, and go get the midwife.

LKS I assume she was black?

EA Yes.

LKS The doctor you referred to

EA He was a white doctors. There wasn't no black doctors then. The real doctors, physicians in Hazlehurst, they was white. But the midwives, out in the country, she was black.

LKS So a lot of the doctoring you did yourself. Turpentine...

EA The doctors, they didn't go for stuff like that cause peoples out in the country, they never did go to no doctors. They did their medicine themselves. When colds come up, they had a weed they'd go to in the woods, it was the fever grass. It was some other some other kind of weed and stuff. We took medicine like that. Black Draught. Castor Oil, and used the turpentine and make plasters, like tar jackets and things for your chest ..Every once in a while, like my brother when he had his leg cut off, he had to go to the doctor....When my mother, when we were still over in Lumber City, she fell out with high blood pressure. The doctor came to her then, he come to her about ever other day. He would come to your house. When I was growing up I was on the sickly side, caught pneumonia three times. I stayed down lots, and the doctors come to me every other day, too. Other than that, when you got sick you doctored yourself. Went into the woods, got some kind of roots, or weeds for a tea, or tallow, something that comes from the cow, all that old white stuff. That would cut up that cold. 'Bout the nastiest stuff you ever tasted.

23:19 LKS You did mention, other things during the year, like hog killing, boiled up syrup. Just with your family or other people?

EA When we was on the farm everyone had their own. Big cane field and they had their own hogs. No refrigerators, cold storage, my father could go out and look in the sky and say, Oh tomorrow's going to be a good hog killing day. And he would get friends and they would, I would know then to kill 7y or 8 hogs a day. And they would all get there before daylight and boil water in the big pot and scald them hogs, and cut em and hang



em up. They work all day and people would clean the entrails and clean em up, the womens would be clean em up. Some people would be in the house cooking up the fresh meat and greens and everything, potatoes. While they was out there fixing the hogs, the chitlins and entrails and stuff. They had a big hole where you had to --- the entrails and cut em up and put all that stuff, and they would clean em, scrape em, and they made sausage. Wasn't no plastic entrails in the sausage. It was just pure hog entrails. They had a knife and put it on a table and scrape them entrails, scrape all that stuff until it was just thin, you could see through em. They had a big old thing that they could grind the sausage up with, sausage mill, some be turning the handle, some be putting the meat in the sausage, put the entrails on the little thing, and it would be pushing it all through the entrails. They had big tin tubs full of sausage. Then they'd take the hogs down, cut em up, put em in the smoke house, they'd salt em down for so many days, take it up, and wash it, have the wash pot and wash it down good. And then they would have pack it again in salt, and stay there for a while. Then they would take it up, clean it up, and wash it and put, dip it in some kind of hickory smoke like, they would call it. And they had this palmetto weed that would cut holes in the leg of the hams and things, and had poles all across the smokehouse. That's where they hung all that meat. They would put a little smoke or fire under that meat, and smoke for two or three days. It kept the way over in the summertime. Mother and them would have, cook up the cracklings, but all the fat in a big pot and we'd have lard cans about like that full of cracklings, and that that's what we used, didn't have to buy no lard. Meats and nothing on the farm like that.

LKS 27:35 What about on the turpentine farm? LKS 27:31 What abut when you went to the quarters, I think you said you had a hog?

EA No, we didn't have no hogs, we just had a garden. Daddy did have one or two hogs, just a hog pen, maybe had one or two hogs to kill in the wintertime.

LKS Did people do it individually or together like on the farm?

EA individually. It was different. We didn't have all that. We didn't have all that stuff t feed the hogs. We did have the barrow (?) and stuff, but people did have hogs and chickens of their own, but it was just a little batch. We had chickens and my daddy had a little place over there where he had sweet potatoes and a corn patch, but it wasn't just like a big farm.

LKS and syrup making?

EA on the farm.[so in the turp. Farm you'd buy it in the commissary?] yeah, sometimes they had it in there you'd buy a bottle of syrup, or go to town and buy a bucket of syrup.

LKS would local farmers sell to people I the turpentine quarters?

Interview with Eula Arnold, 11-30-04

EA yeah they would. Sometimes you could go to the farms and buy you a bucket of syrup or buy you meat from em, or chicken or something like that. But you'd have to buy it.

LKS Did you have peddlers in the turp. Farm?

EA Sometimes you would have peddlers through there. Had a thing come through there called a rolling store, from out of town. He'd come through maybe three times a week mostly.

LKS when you were a girl or after you were married?

EA After I was married. ...

LKS Still a couple things I'd like to ask you, don't want to tire you.

EA What do you want?

LKS 30:20 Special times like hog killing a syrup, and I wanted to be clear of difference between farm outside Lumber City and turp camp. ... Was the livestock kept, was that more---

EA they was just not on a farm, but you could have a little patch like there. You could have 2 or 3 hogs in a little hog pen but not like on a farm. My daddy and em had a place on the side of the house, might have been about an acre of land, and when we moved to the turp. Farm, and they would plant peas, and corn, and vegetables like, but they didn't have no tobacco no cotton or stuff like that. And maybe once or twice my daddy had two or three hogs, but that didn't last long after we moved to the turp. Farm. But the chickens, we had all the chickens he could raise,

Lks for eggs.

EA yeah, for eggs, and for killing, we didn't have to go buy no chickens. The hen would hatch the biddies... We used to eat roosters. That's with my daddy. When me and my husband married, and moved off the turpentine, we moved to the farm. He had two mules, had a big farm, we had chickens and hogs, turkeys, everything then on our farm. After I had most of my children, 4-5 children. We stayed on a big farm. After then he had to go to, we moved then to Valdosta in '55.

LKS if you had to butcher your hogs back on the Kirkland Camp, that would have been just the family, not like it was on the farm.

EA 33:44 Just the family. ... You might, my brother and my daddy might come together and kill a hog. At that time we had to carry it to the cold storage, we didn't have a smokehouse.... We didn't have a smokehouse out there (Kirkland). Cold storage in town.

Interview with Eula Arnold, 11-30-04

And then wrap it up and season it for you. ..they didn't smoke it, they'd just freeze it and cure it out some way or another and you'd bring it home and it would keep.

LKS Did someone make sausage for you?

EA You could make your own sausage?

LKS Did you do that in the Kirkland camp (No). Just on the farm. Me and my husband did. We raised hogs and made sausage for a year or so when we was there.

35:31 LKS Garden in the acre in the turpentine farm. Was putting out the garden women's work or did men do that?

EA Well the womens hoed. My mother and I would get out there and hoe. My brother had a mule, he stayed on a farm. He would come in and help plow it, maybe somebody would plow it for me. My mother, me, my little brother, we kept it hoed down.

LKS That was one of your chores then?

EA um hmm. My mother was a real gardener worker. She would work in the garden and keep everything, kept peas and things like that. Enough to can up. Pick blackberries, can em up. Peaches. We had to buy most of that when we got on (Kirkland).

LKS What about fishing or hunting, to get extra food for the family?

EA they went fishing. Oh, peoples loved fishing. My brothers, well I went fishing a lot then, my sister in-law. We'd get out soon in the morning on the wagons and down by the river and fish, and stay all day long fishing, sometimes we catch something and sometimes we wouldn't. They'd go hunting and fishing. Used t go and kill squirrels. Lots of people then loved the possum and the coons. Used to hunt for all of that. Rabbits and things. Got where it got so much disease in them things. Rabies and people still eat em and I wouldn't. It was good living, you had everything. You could do anything you wanted to do and people wasn't so you could go on anybody's' land and hunt. Now you got where they got it no trespassing.

LKS you and your husband got married in 1936. Did you get married at Piney Grove?

38:31 EA No, I got married on our porch in the quarters. Well, we didn't have anything. I didn't have no big reception or nothing. We just got married that Sunday evening. No honeymoon. We just went on to his sisters house, that's were we stayed. I married in 35. Cause in 36 my first child was born, March. In 38 my second child was born. In 37 my second child was born. In 38 my first girl was born. Then I waited about 6 years, I had my other daughter, Wilamena, and then another year I had Berthenia (sp?) Then I waited about two years I had a son named Carl. Then about 2 years I had a little baby named Yvonne, she died. I waited 7 years for this baby to come (daughter she lives with). I was up here then.

Interview with Eula Arnold, 11-30-04

LKS Did you have a preacher at your wedding?

EA Yes it was a minister, Brother Henry Green.

LKS Did you wear a new dress?

EA Yes, Miss Sadie Peterson made my dress. I had a nice little satin white dress. Didn't have no bride maid. Just had one girl stand beside me. Just one man stand beside him. Was on our porch one Sunday evening.

LKS did anyone bring food?

EA No, didn't have no food nor nothing. Peoples come the yard was full, but I didn't have no serving or nothing. ...And I was young, and I didn't know nothing about the weddings, I was just married. Just young and didn't know anything about having a reception, feeding the peoples, my mother was old, and she didn't do nothing.

41:39 LKS After you got married you moved to another turpentine farm?

EA No we moved on a farm off of that, but we wasn't on a farm with them. we wasn't on the quarters. [but he was working turpentine for 6 years?] well he did, but after we firs married and I had my children on the quarters, he worked in turpentine. Then he moved off the quarters on the farm. [first 6 years of marriage you were in the quarters?] Mostly.[ he was dipping turpentine, working in the woods.]

LKS Were you living in one of those other houses?

EA Yes, I moved into the quarters.

LKS how did that house compare?

EA Just a straight little old house... It didn't have no bedroom. It was just one room and a kitchen. [warm enough?] Oh yes, we had a big fireplace and everything, it was warm, it would warm you up.

LKS out in the woods all day or did he come home?

EA 43:31 Catch the turpentine truck in the morning and he would come home late that evening.

LKS what time did you get up? Have to get early to fix him?

EA yes, get up to fix his breakfast, sometimes around 4:30 or 5. Cause they had to be up to commissary around 6 or something and go out to the woods....

LKS What would you pack to take out with him?

EA Sometimes I'd have to cook biscuits, fry bacon and sometimes I had what left over. Food didn't sour like it do then. Cook the vegetable that day, before that evening, and sit it in the buckets, I don't know if you ever see tin syrup buckets, pack it in there. Sometimes some kind of peach pie or some kind of pie, fix him a bowl of that and set it down in the bucket. That's what he carried. In sweet potato time, done cook sweet potatoes, or crackling bread. Put in there.

LKS He would take that out and come back, what time?

EA About 5 o'clock in the evening the truck would pick em up and bring em in.

LKS then you had another meal.

EA um hmm. Supper, we didn't know anything about, we had breakfast, dinner, and supper. Now they call supper dinner. ... We had breakfast, after I eat my breakfast in the Morning time, I might pick up a sweet potato, or a piece of bread or meat. But I be cooking, I'd start cooking in the evening round about 4:00 or sometime earlier than that. I'd have a big supper when he came in.

LKS During the day, once you started having your babies, I guess you were taking care of your children.

EA I had to, but see, My mother and father stayed over the hill, and every morning when I got up, me and my babies, we'd go to mama's and stay all day. 'bout time for me to come back home, I'd come back and cook supper. That was with the first children I had..

LKS were you actually working in addition to raising your kids?

EA I did that after I didn't have no little babies. And they stayed with my mothers in the day when I went out. When they got where they could go with me, sometimes I would carry them, and they would sit in the fields and have little places where your children would sit.

47:16 They was getting on about 4 or 5.... In the wintertime when they went to school I'd be home. But in the summertime they'd be out there with me. If I'd be working the tobacco, they had a place the children could sit out there near the barn. [anybody watch them?] You'd be watching them, you could see em. When the sled and the mule came up they'd be out of the way. When they got big enough to go with me they'd work a little with me. I'd borrow money in the wintertime to buy them clothes and things, and then I would work with the people, me and my children would work and pay it back. I'd be paid em up by the time I got through working. They'd get a little bit of money to help me. That's the way we raised.

LKS Did the boys go work in the woods?

eA After they got larger.

LKS so the girls would go work with you in the fields? Um hmm.

EA Now my little girls, Wilamena and Berthenia, they wasn't old enough to go work, but they would go sit out sometime. Or they would stay at my mama's house while I worked.

LKS you said you met your husband playing guitar. Did he continue to play guitar.

Ea No just at the house. He didn't go around, he just kept playing around the house...Mostly ragtime, blues kind of things. Just a different kind of music. We wasn't saved with the Lord then. Just a man, rambling. He was young. He didn't never hardly go. Sometimes he would go at night and play with them and stay [up at the jook] um hmm. After got married. That was just the musician thing to do. Mostly on Sat. night. [you never went with him after married] Oh no. I wasn't raised up to it. And I never did care for em, sometimes they'd be fussing, having all kind of mess up there. I never did go in to it. I never did go party. I wasn't raised to it. I had to stay right by my mother.

50:54 I'm glad cause she kept me straight... We went to church, she didn't go church at night too much cause she said the booger man was out there. But I had to stay with her. After I married, I'd have to stay, my brother and husband would go, me and my children would stay with her. I wanted to go but I couldn't wouldn't leave her by herself. I used to go home at night, I would cook, in the morning time I would cook dinner, my supper and things, for my people in the morning time. At noon time, when my husband would come in out of the woods, I would ask them to take me to my mother's. And I would go up there and cook supper for them. Sometimes I would walk two miles, it'd be hot, me and my two little girls walked back two miles. It was too hot in the summertime....My mother wasn't able. My daddy neither. They had stopped the still then and he was chipping boxes a little bit. I'd cook for them and go back home. My mother had got where she couldn't walk. She was small but she had got so fat we had to pick her up, put her in chair, wasn't no wheelchairs then. I had to yank her across the room back to the bed. I went with my mother until she died. My father lived about two years after then.

LKS Why did you and your husband leave the turpentine farm?

EA He just wanted to go farming. We was sharecropping with another man, done in St. Mathis, black man, wanted help with his mother's farm. So we went down there.

54:36 LKS So if you were in debt and wanted to move on, how did you do that?

EA They was mostly taken care of before we left there.

LKS I want to thank you.....

Interview with Eula Arnold, 11-30-04

EA When I moved here to Valdosta, we had moved from house to house....[talks about places lived in Valdosta] Husband died in 1988. Daughter got rheumatism, had about 4 knee replacement...Rent \$550/mo on fixed income, "Lord led me to call the Habitat people. My house was the first they built here. I'm here thanks to the Lord. I enjoy it. It's wonderful. Its not a big house but we in it, and its ours...." "The Lord has brought us through. Its been trying times through my life, but I thank God that I'm here..."

End 59:03