

INTERVIEW WITH ANNIE DAVIS

Ferraro: Tell me that story about a - tell me how old you were and what you were doing when the miners started coming in and what happened with your sister and brother-in-law.

Annie: Ah well, at that time I was about seven years old and a my sister was good bit older than I was and when they marched and come through we lived on down the road here from Bandytown. ^{:30} Down here to what they call it Westville now and the house that we did live in is torn down now and when these men come through they stopped and my sister was on the front porch a sweeping and they asked her for a drink of water. They told her they was a what they were doing that they they were ^{1:00} marching trying to organize a union and told her where they was a going to the Blair Mountain and asked her for a drink. So she went in got em a water bucket got em a dipper and we had an old timey spring and she told a the man that she married but she wasn't acquainted with him at at that time. She told him take the bucket and the dipper go down ^{1:30} to the spring and drink all they wanted to and a he he thanked her alot. Well, each one of them thanked her and they told told her you know, how tired they was, how far they had walked and everything and so bout one year from that day, my sister went across a hill from where some of these men were from and a she met up with ^{2:00} the the man that was in the march, Howard Perry, and a they got to dating and married. So that subject between them was brought up you know, quite often and I remember hearing them talk about it and I can remember the men seeing ^{2:30} em but as far as knowing em a we weren't even acquainted with the man that my sister married at that present time, but one year from that day we were.

Ferraro: I suppose - What a what do you remember about the men that came to your house? How did they look?

Annie: Well, they just a they didn't come in. They were a whole gang of em. ^{3:00}
They stayed on the outside till she brought em the water bucket. Well, they just they look dusty, tired and worn out.

Ferraro: Tell me that last part again.

Annie: Ah well, they just looked real tired and dusty you know, from all that walking they were doing and when they asked for their water and she gave ^{3:30} them the water bucket and a dipper and they went and drank alot of water and they'd come back brought the bucket and the dipper and reach it to her and thanked her a hundred times.

Ferraro: Ah, do you remember what was going on to you mind at the time? Were you afraid with all these men were there?

Annie: Oh, it was a little bit shocking when we saw em a coming. ^{4:00} Yeah, it was.

Ferraro: Do you remember a did they...how did they behave? Were they polite?

Annie: Nicely, real polite. Yeah, they were.

Ferraro: So you weren't - you didn't feel threatened at any time at all?

Annie: Oh no, no they were they were trying to organize em a union. ^{4:30} No, we weren't afraid of them at all.

Ferraro: Was a...do you recall any of them saying why they were going to Blair Mountain and what they were going to do?

Annie: Well no, not at the best of my memory. Uh, the only thing ^{5:00} uh the one man that my sister married one year after that uh he told her that they had a march that they was a marching out on the Blair Mountain when he asked for the water to drink and he told her that they were trying to organize em a union and that was rough. They had a ^{5:30} long walk. They was real tired, hungry and thirsty.

Ferraro: Is there anything else that a you can remember your sister - brother-in-law telling you about that trip?

Annie: Well, now I imagine my brother-in-law told alot but I was so young a that the most I remember about it.

Ferraro: Do you remember hearing anything else ^{6:00} about the fighting up on Blair Mountain as a young girl?

Annie: Well yes, I did I remember hearing talk about em a a fighting up on the mountain and about scars a being up there on some of the trees. They they claim there some the trees now that have scars up there you know...from where they were ^{6:30} at. I can remember that.

(Homer talking in the background)

Ferraro: Ok, well that was a real interesting story. I have never heard anything quite like that.

Annie: Well

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