

OFFICE OF FOLKLIFE PROGRAMS

N. C. Dept. of Cultural Resources

FIELDWORK COLLECTION COVER SHEET

Tape Numbers

FP80 - R 110

Informant(s)

Viona Staton

Phone

Address

Rt. 1, Box 39, Zirconia, N. C. 28790

Date Recorded

August 18, 1980

General Subject Description

Time Recorded

11:00 a.m.

Viona Staton was reared on property close to the Kingdom of the Happy Lands, and in the early 1920s was well acquainted with the Kingdom's last two residents, Jerry Casey and Elmira Montgomery. Mr. Casey cooked for Viona's kin-people, and, after his death, Ms. Montgomery moved in with Ms. Staton's grandmother as a housekeeper. Ms. Staton describes how the houses were built, and how the Kingdom was (Over)

Fieldwork Location

☒ Informant's Home ☐ Other:

Comments on the Recording Situation

Oscar at the Tuxedo Community Store recommended that I speak with Ms. Staton's granddaughter, who in turn led me to her mother and grandmother (the two of whom are living together). This interview was recorded in their living room during our first meeting. There seems to be some animosity between Ms. Staton and the Bells (who currently own the Kingdom of the Happy Lands property); throughout the interview, Viona implies that the (over)

Informant Release Form Obtained

☐ Yes ☐ NoRecognition Certificate ☐

Date Sent

Fieldworker

Glenn Hinson

Fieldworker's Address

Rt. 2, Box 479, Durham, N. C. 27705

RECORDING DATA

Number of Reels

1

Tape Recorder

Nagra IV-S

Microphones

AKG C-451EB Cardioid

Tape

Ampex 456

Speed *First portion recorded at*☒ 3 3/4☐ 7 1/2☐ 15 *15*

Reel Size

☐ 5"☒ 7"☐ 10 1/2"

Mode

☒ Monaural☐ Stereo

Tracks

☒ Full☐ Half☐ Quarter

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Correspondence (with dates)

Photographs

☐ Black & White ☐ Color ☐ Slides

Photograph Numbers

Videotapes

Other

See Folklife Research Files -- Kingdom of the Happy Land

General Subject Description: (continued)

largely deserted in her youth; altogether, however, she knows very little about either the origins or structure of the community.

Comments on the Recording Situation: (continued)

Bells acquired the land in a questionable manner.

OFFICE OF FOLKLIFE PROGRAMS

N. C. Dept. of Cultural Resources

AUDIO TAPE LOG-INTERVIEW

General Subject Description

Kingdom of the Happy Lands

Tape Number

FP80 - R 110

Reels Recorded

1

SPEED: ☒ 3 3/4 ☐ 7 1/2 ☐ 15MONO: ☒ 1 ~~1/2~~ track ☐ 1/4 trackSTEREO: ☐ 1/2 track ☐ 1/4 trackSIDES: ☒ 1 ☐ 1 & 2REEL: ☐ 5" ☒ 7" ☐ 10 1/2"

TAPE: Ampex 456

Informant(s)

Viona Staton

Date Recorded

August 18, 1980

Fieldworker

Glenn Hinson

Microphone Type & Sound Source

Left (Microphone 1):

AKG C-451EB Cardioid

Vocal

Right (Microphone 2):

Index #

Outline

OFFICE OF FOLKLIFE PROGRAMS

N. C. Dept. of Cultural Resources

FIELDWORK COLLECTION COVER SHEET

Tape Numbers

FP80 - R 111, part one of two

Informant(s)

Ray & Sarah Jones

Phone

704 - 692-6700 (Nursery)

Address

Route 1, Box 173, Zirconia, N. C. 28790

Date Recorded

August 18, 1980

General Subject Description

Time Recorded

1:00 p.m.

Ray Jones, checker-champion of Henderson County, tells stories he has heard about the Kingdom of the Happy Lands. Only 57 years old, Ray claims he remembers the Kingdom during the Depression, and he relates anecdotes concerning the communal structure of the settlement, the health and primness of its residents, and the occupations of the Kingdom members. Ray also mentions the Mayburn witches, a family of

(Over)

Fieldwork Location

☐ Informant's Home☒ Other: The Jones Nursery

Comments on the Recording Situation

I met Mr. Jones in the trailer which serves as office for Jones Nursery on old Highway 25 near Tuxedo; it was in the kitchen of the trailer that this recording was made. Though this was our first meeting, Mr. Jones was extremely open and willing to freely answer all questions asked of him. He suggests in the interview that more info. could be obtained from Mr. Sam Bennifield, whom I visited later the same day. Mr. Bennifield, in his upper 80s,

Informant Release Form Obtained

☐ Yes☐ NoRecognition Certificate ☐

Date Sent

(Over)

Fieldworker

Glenn Hinson

Fieldworker's Address

Rt. 2, Box 479, Durham, N. C. 27705

RECORDING DATA

Number of Reels

1

Tape Recorder

Nagra IV-S

Microphones

AKG C-451EB Cardioid

Tape

Amper 456

Speed

☒ 3 3/4☐ 7 1/2☐ 15

Reel Size

☐ 5"☒ 7"☐ 10 1/2"

Mode

☒ Monaural☐ Stereo

Tracks

☒ Full☐ Half☐ Quarter

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Correspondence (with dates)

Photographs

☐ Black & White☐ Color☐ Slides

Photograph Numbers

Videotapes

Other

See Folklife Research Files -- Kingdom of the Happy Land

General Subject Description: (continued)

witches allegedly exiled from England in the early 1800s who settled near Tuxedo, N. C.

Comments on the Recording Situation: (continued)

was hesitant to be interviewed at that time, so I told him that I would return in the Fall if possible.

OFFICE OF FOLKLIFE PROGRAMS

N. C. Dept. of Cultural Resources

AUDIO TAPE LOG-INTERVIEW

General Subject Description

Kingdom of the Happy Lands

Tape Number

FP80 - R 111 , part one of two

Reels Recorded

1

SPEED: ☒ 3 3/4 ☐ 7 1/2 ☐ 15MONO: ☒ ~~1/2~~ track ☐ 1/4 trackSTEREO: ☐ 1/2 track ☐ 1/4 trackSIDES: ☒ 1 ☐ 1 & 2REEL: ☐ 5" ☒ 7" ☐ 10 1/2"TAPE: Ampex 456

Informant(s)

Ray & Sarah Jones

Date Recorded

August 18, 1980

Fieldworker

Glenn Hinson

Microphone Type & Sound Source

Left (Microphone 1):

AKG C-451EB Cardioid

Vocal

Right (Microphone 2):

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Outline

OFFICE OF FOLKLIFE PROGRAMS

N. C. Dept. of Cultural Resources

FIELDWORK COLLECTION COVER SHEET

Tape Numbers

FP80 - R 111, part two of two,
and FP80 - R 112.

Informant(s)

Joseph O. Bell

Phone

Address

Date Recorded

August 18, 1980

General Subject Description

Time Recorded

4:00 p.m.

Joe Bell, current owner of most of the property that once comprised the Kingdom of the Happy Lands, describes in much detail his understanding of the origin and history of the Kingdom. Joe apparently was a major source for the articles written on the topic by Sudie Paton and Frank Fitzsimmons, and as such his discourse on the communal structure, physical layout, etc., is a valuable referent. He (over)

Fieldwork Location

☒ Informant's Home ☐ Other:

Comments on the Recording Situation

Joe is a college-educated businessman whose comments reflect his academic historical background as well as his oral historical knowledge of the subject. This interview was my second meeting with Joe, and is peppered throughout with references to our first conversation. On some matters, such as the alleged bottling of HL Linament (of which Joe denied any knowledge in our first meeting), he apparently has re-read the written histories and

Informant Release Form Obtained

☐ Yes ☐ No

Recognition Certificate ☐

Date Sent

(over)

Fieldworker

Glenn Hinson

Fieldworker's Address

Rt. 2, Box 479, Durham, N. C. 27705

RECORDING DATA

Number of Reels

2

Tape Recorder

Nagra IV-S

Microphones

AKG C-451EB Cardioid

Tape

Ampex 456

Speed

☒ 3 3/4 ☐ 7 1/2 ☐ 15

Reel Size

☒ 5" ☒ 7" ☐ 10 1/2"

Mode

☒ Monaural ☐ Stereo

Tracks

☒ Full ☐ Half ☐ Quarter

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Correspondence (with dates)

Photographs

☐ Black & White ☐ Color ☐ Slides

Photograph Numbers

Videotapes

Other

See Folklife Research Files-- Kingdom of the Happy Lands

General Subject Description: (continued)

comments freely on aspects of the Kingdom's story which he considers "wives' tales."

Comments on the Recording Situation: (continued)

changed his descriptions accordingly; in this interview, he "remembers" hearing of the linament from oral sources. Such instances of dependence on the written accounts are generally recognizeable in the interview. The first of these two tapes was originally recorded onto the end of the previous interview, FP80 - R 111, due to a tape shortage. It was subsequently wound onto a 5-inch reel. — cannot locate 5" reel - DC 3-27-81

OFFICE OF FOLKLIFE PROGRAMS

N. C. Dept. of Cultural Resources

AUDIO TAPE LOG-INTERVIEW

General Subject Description

Kingdom of the Happy Lands

Tape Number	Reels Recorded	SPEED: ☒ 3 3/4 ☐ 7 1/2 ☐ 15 MONO: ☒ ~~1/2~~ track ☐ 1/4 track STEREO: ☐ 1/2 track ☐ 1/4 track SIDES: ☒ 1 ☐ 1 & 2 REEL: ☒ 5" ☐ 7" ☐ 10 1/2" TAPE: <u>Ampex - 456</u>
FP80 - R 111, part two of two	1 of 2	
Informant(s)		
Joseph O. Bell		
Date Recorded	Fieldworker	
August 18, 1980	Glenn Hinson	

Microphone Type & Sound Source
Left (Microphone 1):AKG C-451EB Cardioid
Vocal

Right (Microphone 2):

Index #

Outline

OFFICE OF FOLKLIFE PROGRAMS

N. C. Dept. of Cultural Resources

AUDIO TAPE LOG-INTERVIEW

General Subject Description

Kingdom of the Happy Lands

Tape Number

FP80 - R 112

Reels Recorded

2 of 2

SPEED: ☒ 3 3/4 ☐ 7 1/2 ☐ 15MONO: ☒ ~~XXX~~ track ☐ 1/4 trackSTEREO: ☐ 1/2 track ☐ 1/4 trackSIDES: ☒ 1 ☐ 1 & 2REEL: ☐ 5" ☒ 7" ☐ 10 1/2"

TAPE: Ampex 456

Informant(s)

Joseph O. Bell

Date Recorded

August 18, 1980

Fieldworker

Glenn Hinson

Microphone Type & Sound Source

Left (Microphone 1):

AKG C-451EB Cardioid

Vocal

Right (Microphone 2):

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