

**Interview with
Mary Medley
by Rose Simms,
June 2, 1983**

**Oral History Interview
West Virginia State Archives
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Mary Medley Interview

Rose Sims: This is an interview of Mary Medley on June 2, 1983 by Rose Simms. Mrs. Medley, when did you first come to work at the Camp?

Mary Medley: I don't know what year it was.

RS: How did you start to work at the Camp?

MM: Mr. Hairston came to the house, and he got me to go out there to work. He came to the house one day, and ask me about going out to work. I went out Friday, and I liked it very well.

RS: Did someone recommend you to him?

MM: No, he and his wife were out there at the time.

RS: Where did you live at the time?

MM: Winona.

RS: How long did you work at the Camp?

MM: I don't know. I worked a long time. I worked for him, I worked for Mr. Jones, and I worked for Mr. Lynch; he was caretaker. I never worked for Mr. Chiles.

RS: What was your job when you were at the Camp?

MM: I cooked part of the time, and I worked in the dining room sometimes. Another lady and I worked in the dining room. Mostly, I was in the kitchen.

RS: What was your daily routine? What time did you start in the morning, and what did you do in the day?

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MM: We would have breakfast around 7:30, and we would have lunch at 12:30, and then we would have dinner at 6:00.

RS: Did you have a lot of campers, and was there a lot of work?

MM: Oh yes, there was a lot of work to be done, but I didn't have it all to do myself. We had plenty of help out there.

RS: What did you do on your off-time?

MM: We didn't have much off-time.

RS: Did you live at the Camp, or somewhere else?

MM: Yes, I lived at the Camp, and I came home on weekends.

RS: Where were your rooms at?

MM: Upstairs.

RS: In the Lodge?

MM: Yes.

RS: Do you remember what your salary was?

MM: At first when we started off, they didn't pay much. When we first started off, it was about \$125 a month; then they raised it.

RS: Did they have any health benefits (health care, retirement)?

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MM: We had a health card; we had all those things before we went in.

RS: Were you paid overtime?

MM: They didn't pay overtime.

RS: How many hours did you say you worked a day?

MM: I don't know how many hours we worked when we started off, but later they started just giving them so many hours. I wasn't working out there then.

RS: How many days a week did you work?

MM: When I was working, I worked everyday, Saturdays and Sundays all. in?

MM: They would stay a week. We had one camp that stayed two weeks; other camps just stayed a week.

RS: Did you work summers or year round?

MM: No, just three months.

RS: Did you get away from the camp very often?

MM: Oh, not too often. I'd go home on Saturdays sometimes. Sometimes, I'd go back Sunday if a camp was going to come in on Sunday evening.

RS: Was the Camp's relationship with the area people good?

MM: Yes, they were nice, just as nice as could be.

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RS: How often did you get a new batch of campers to come

RS: Who ran the Camp when you worked up here? Did you say Mr. Hairston was up here?

MM: Yes, he was the caretaker when I first started to work out there, then Mr. Lynch was after Mr. Hairston. I worked for Mr. Lynch and Mr. Jones; I never worked for Mr. Chiles at all.

RS: The camp had about 500 acres of land. Do you know whether they used it for the Camp, or did they have other uses?

MM: No, they just used it for the Camp.

RS: Did the campers come just from West Virginia or did they come from other states too?

MM: I don't know.

RS: Do you recall any special things that happened at the Camp that you could tell me about?

MM: No, they used to have programs and things like that. They would have a party, they would camp out.

RS: What did it mean to you to work up here? Did you like it?

MM: Yes, I liked it alright.

RS: Do you have any pictures of the Camp? M: No, not that I know of.

RS: Can you think of the names of anyone else that might have worked up here?

MM: Mrs. Choice worked up there, but she's passed; Mrs. Doris Peaks; Mrs. . . . , she's in

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Detroit; Miss Yancy, she's from Edmond, she worked up there. She's Mrs. Jones now. There were several others that worked out there. Lots of them worked out there when Mr. Chiles was caretaker out there.

RS: That's all the questions I have for you. I thank you for your time.