

KentuckyHistoricalSociety

Kentucky Folklife Program

*Rural Heritage Development Initiative Central Kentucky Cultural Survey
in partnership with the Department of Folk Studies and Anthropology at
Western Kentucky University*

Interview Log

County: Boyle

Technical Note:

Marantz PMD 60 transferred to hard drive and audio CD

Interviewee: Teresa Martin

Date: 11.02.2007

Location: Teresa Martin's home outside of Danville, KY

General Description:

Teresa Martin spoke about her work in quilting, sewing, knitting, and her love for animals. She raises Nigerian Dwarf Goats and chickens and tells many wonderful stories about her love for animals including moles and groundhogs. We also spoke about her 222 year old brick home and her efforts to restore this house.

Audio (archival code) : RHDI.Boyle.11.02.2007.Martin1-4.mp3

Fieldworker: Meredith Martin

Fieldworker's phone and email: Meredith.martin466@wku.edu; 479-957-0551

Additional information:

The interview contains four tracks.

Log:**RHDI.Boyle.11.02.2007.Martin.01.mp3**

00:00---3:00 Introduction; list of all the kinds of textile arts she does and her involvement with Homemakers. Explains that her grandmothers used to sew and later she learned to sew after her husband bought her a sewing machine.

3:01—5:43 Description of her grandmother making clothes for her 27 grandchildren. She sewed without patterns. She feels that she is born with natural talent from many generations. The first thing she made was a sundress. Explains that her family is from Hazard.

5:43---8:41 Teresa explains that her parents grew up on the coal camps in eastern Kentucky, but moved around after Blue Diamond Coal Company shut down. They later moved to Lexington and then all over the U.S. Discussion of her home—oldest brick home in Kentucky. Built in 1785 by William Henry Gaines. Explains how she found the old house years ago when it was abandoned (this is a great story). They have been restoring it for seven years now.

8:41—11:30 Explains how she knew it was the house she wanted and how she talked her husband into it. All the bricks were made on the property. The recently found the kiln where the bricks were made. Explains what she knows about the who owned the house over the years.

11:30---13:03 Explains that they have worked with Brousseaus to help restore the house (see Brousseau’s interviews in Boyle County files). Discussion of the different construction techniques.

13:14—15:40 Explanation of the “challenge quilt” for the Homemaker’s this year (see photo log for a picture of the fabric and the quilt she is working on). The challenge is that they give everyone the same piece of fabric and everyone has to use it in their quilt somewhere. Explanation of her plan for the quilt as a checkerboard. Her inspiration from this quilt comes from her chickens. Explains some of the time frames for her work.

15:40-20:28 Explains that she both hand and machine quilts depending on what she is working on. Explains she puts up 17 Christmas trees in the house (at least one in every room in the house). She usually starts decorating in October. Explains how she decorates the trees. Her family always loved decorating. Explanation of Christmastime when she was younger and how they would pick out Christmas trees behind their house and carrying it in on the sled.

20:28-26:00 Explanation of how she came to own the sled her father used to haul the Christmas trees in. Her husband found the old sled in the old family house. Explains that her son’s favorite holiday is Halloween. Explanation of her grandmother being born on

Halloween. Discussion of her grandmother and her grandmother's struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

26:00-32:00 More discussion of her grandmother and how she is related to Loretta Lynn. Discussion of going back to eastern Kentucky and how much she loves the mountains. Discussion of her accent and how it comes back when she gets around her family from Hazzard. Discussion of her accent and her husband's Michigan accent and how their son has elements of both.

32:00- 36:10 When she was growing up and moving around, people would call her "Tex" because of her southern accent. Discussion of place names in Kentucky, especially eastern Kentucky. More discussion of accents.

36:10- 39:00 Discussion of her the Nigerian Dwarf Goats she raises and 46 Araucana Chickens. Discussion how she got the goats at an antique engine show in Renfro Valley and how they worked all night long to build a house for the goat. She later bought another three goats from a woman in Liberty, Kentucky and soon she had multiple goats. Later she decided she needed to have roosters as well.

39:00—41:17 Explains how she found the Araucana chickens on the internet. Later her husband ordered her chicks and had them mailed. Discussion of how she and her husband wake up the roosters in the morning when her husband gets up early to go to work at the Toyota Plant in Georgetown.

41:17- 45:45 They milk the goats to make cheese for themselves. Discussion of the goats that are being raised for meat. Discussion of how her's are only pets. Discussion of how to get rid of groundhogs...by feeding them. This way they make less holes. Discussion of her groundhog friend and his family that she has been feeding for 6 years. She named the groundhog Chucky after her husband.

45:45- 48:25 Discussion of mole problem in the front yard and how her husband had set traps. It hit the mole, but did not kill it. She thought the mole was beautiful and she wanted to take it to the vet. She explains how she put Neosporin on it and would not let him kill it. Now they have mole holes all over the yard.

48:30—50:50 Discussion of skunk problem and how they catch them and then let them go on their wooded property in another county so they don't have to worry about them on their property.

50:50—51:10 Discussion of her plans to begin spinning her own wool sometime in the near future. There are no spinning guilds in the near area.

51:10—55:20 Discussion of her goats eating habits. Discusses what it was like dating farm boys who always had a cow getting ready to calf and how she hated getting stood up for cows. No that she has goats, she understands because she always had goats getting ready to kid. Discussion of the first goats that were born on the farm during an ice storm and how the babies were starting to freeze. She stayed in bed with the runt for three days

to nurse her back to health. This goat had her first labor this year, but was unable to deliver and had a c-section, but the baby died. The mamma goat is still living.

55:20: 59:35 Her husband named the farm Knee High Nigerian Farm. Discussion of her dog who is now 9 years old and how important he is to her. Discussion of how dogs know how people are feeling. Goats, unlike dogs, are demanding and have attitudes. Discussion of how rough the goats can be sometimes. They hate water, so sometimes a squirt bottle works well when they misbehave. Discussion of how she named her goats after family members and their nicknames. End of track.

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00:00—5:00 Discussion of the awards she has won for her textiles and her ceramics. Discussion of how sewing is her favorite craft. Discussion of how she recently found out about the Forkland Festival, how her husbands brings his single fire engines there, and her plans for next year's festival.

5:00-10:00 Discussion of their old cars and their trophies they have won for the cars. They have an original model-T Ford and recently won an award at the Forkland Festival for the best costume award for the women. She won a copy of the Forkland Community Cookbook. Discussion of her love for the Forkland Community.

10:00—14:55 Discussion of a man she knew who worked in the fabric area of Wal-Mart that recently passed away. Discussion of other greeters she knows. End of track.

RHDI.Boyle.11.02.2007.Martin03.mp3

00:00-5:00 Touring the farm and meeting the goats. Discussion of how the male goats pee on their beards to get the attention of the female goats.

5:00-10:11 More meeting of the goats (there are a lot of goats). Discussion of how long goats can be in labor and the telling of goat labor stories. End of track.

RHDI.Boyle.11.02.2007.Martin04.mp3

00:00- 6:11 Continued meeting of the goats and discussions of the goat and chicken housing. Meeting the chickens and roosters. Points out the building where her husband hopes to place a red tailed falcon. End of track