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**Camille White:** [00:00:00] Alright what's your name and where and when were you born?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:00:06] My name Odell Haskett. I was born in 1926. Do you need to know where?

**Camille White:** [00:00:20] Yes, that would be great.

**Odell Haskett:** [00:00:20] Up, up Tuckasegee.

**Camille White:** [00:00:20] What area specifically, like what did they call it back then?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:00:24] There was only two to grocery stores up there. And that's all that were up there. Had a little country school up there. I went to there till high school.

**Camille White:** [00:00:43] What was the name of that school?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:00:49] Rocky Holler. Yeah, Rocky Holler, yeah.

**Camille White:** [00:00:55] What was it like growing up back then?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:00:59] Well we live rough. We lived rough. We lived in four room house. Three of us slept together, three of us boys slept together. Had two sisters they slept in the other bed and dad and mother had a bed in the living room. And they slept in the living room and we had two more bedrooms.

**Odell Haskett:** [00:01:48] My sisters slept in one of the one the rooms and then we slept in the other one. And a small kitchen.

**Camille White:** [00:01:59] How long did it take you did to take you to get to Sylva back then?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:02:09] All day.You rode a... There wasn't no way out of there other than coming out on a wood truck or a log truck to town and we come to town and be gone most of the day just come to town. Back then the mailman got for he...He had a truck and he...he haul people up along with his mail and he...he...he... charge you twenty-five cents to come to town. twenty-five cents back.

**Camille White:** [00:03:06] How has the are you grew up in changed then back then to today?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:03:13] There wasn't any paved roads. There wasn't any gravel roads. Just the old dirt roads. Wagon roads is what there were. It's entirely different than what it was. Yeah.

**Camille White:** [00:03:29] Now were you living back in Tuckasegee when they created all the lakes?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:03:37] My dad, no, we had to move down here in...in 1945 and... they, they built those lakes in fifty-one and fifty-two. At that time I was in service...I was in service and in...from...fif...the larger part of the year...two years...I was...I was...yeah in service. I was, I went to Germany and I was in six six different countries...in... overseas.

**Odell Haskett:** [00:04:35] Need you know who what country they were?

**Camille White:** [00:04:37] No.

**Odell Haskett:** [00:04:39] All right. I was stationed in Germany.

**Odell Haskett:** [00:04:44] And I. Went to France, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland Austria.All those places...all those countries. When I would have three or four days off I'd get on a train and ride and I'd go, we'd ride all night on a train going somewhere, stay couple of days and come back and come back to Germany. We went, I went, we went to Normandy, France, I did

**Odell Haskett:** [00:05:16] I've got a mouthful of this bar was... I've got enough of that were killed in Ireland and he's still buried there.

**Camille White:** [00:05:32] Tell me more about what Tuckasegee was like back when you were growing up?

[00:05:38] There was no cars. Riding around in wood trucks. We'd farm. We had cattle, sheep, horses, hogs and things like that.

**Camille White:** [00:05:55] Now...

**Odell Haskett:** [00:06:01] Plowed with the team of horses, with a turner, you know what that is.

**Camille White:** [00:06:15] Had Tuckasegee started to be developed at all before you guys moved?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:06:19] Before what?

**Camille White:** [00:06:22] Before you guys moved closer.

**Odell Haskett:** [00:06:25] No, no, there was nothing up there till they built those damns.

**Odell Haskett:** [00:06:32] That's what opened that up, in fifty-one, fifty-two They was finishing that, those damns up when I came back out of service in fifty-two.

**Camille White:** [00:06:53] What was like clothing and heating and electricity and all that like back then?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:07:01] The heating of,of our house?

**Camille White:** [00:07:07] Mhm.

**Odell Haskett:** [00:07:07] We had a fireplace to heat the house. We had a cook stove, wood cook stove, that mother cooked on and the house wasn't warm.I don't see how people lived by back then, to tell you the truth.

**Odell Haskett:** [00:07:36] In the kitchen at night during real cold weather, the water we had it in, we didn't have no running water and we had it buckets and it would freeze in that kitchen, it was cold in that kitchen part of the house, away from the fireplace.

**Camille White:** [00:08:01] What about electricity? Did you guys have electricity in the house?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:08:05] No, no electricity. There wasn't anything from Tuckasegee. There was...at Tuckasegee there were stores, there were power there, but out in the country nobody had power. We didn't, we didn't have no power till we moved to Sylva in 1945.

**Camille White:** [00:08:29] Did the flood in 1940 affect you guys in anyway?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:08:35] The flood?

**Camille White:** [00:08:36] Mhm.

**Odell Haskett:** [00:08:37] Yes, it rained and the river washed bridge away, going in there. And we had to come to Tuckasegee in order to get, get out to even go anywhere.

**Camille White:** [00:09:05] Now part of around Tuckasegee were you from specifically? Little Canada?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:09:10] Little Canada,yeah.

**Camille White:** [00:09:16] Did you guys go to any of the churches down there at all? Any of the churches down there?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:09:22] Yeah we had a little church in the in the school house, which the building they taught school in the building and then went on...on Sunday we had preaching in the, in the, that same building.

**Camille White:** [00:09:41] Do you remember the name of that building?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:09:45] It didn't have no one. Like I said a few months ago the school was Rocky Holler School.

**Camille White:** [00:09:53] Oh, okay.

[00:09:54] And, and the church was Cedar Baptist Church.

**Camille White:** [00:09:59] Okay.

**Odell Haskett:** [00:10:03] They were about 15 or 20 went to church back than, but not many.

**Camille White:** [00:10:11] How many years did that school go up to?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:10:22] It closed probably in forty-two, about forty-two, 1942. Yeah. They brought everybody, brought us out to Tuckasegee and we rode a bus to Cullowhee High School.

**Odell Haskett:** [00:10:58] Cullowhee High School was...do you know where the McKee building is?

**Camille White:** [00:11:05] Yeah, Baxter was telling me.

**Odell Haskett:** [00:11:06] That was, that was the high school, the graded school was there.

**Camille White:** [00:11:14] Okay.

**Camille White:** [00:11:16] What do you guys do for fun back then?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:11:19] For what?

**Camille White:** [00:11:20] Fun.

**Odell Haskett:** [00:11:22] We didn't...played with each other. There was not much fun going on to tell you the truth.

**Camille White:** [00:11:40] Can you think of anything else you'd like to tell me about growing up in Jackson County back then?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:11:52] What else you wanna know?

[00:12:03] We we grew up there in.. and mother and dad did the washing outside in a big black pot places like..and it did the washing and hung the clothes on the clothes line and dried.Mother made our shirts. But they bought our overalls.

[00:12:35] Mother made shirts for us. She'd get cloth and make us some back then. Can you think of anything else?

[00:13:08] But I'll take you back then nobody had the inside plumbing. People back then didn't know what plumbing was. They didn't have any, any water in the house. They didn't have no bathroom in the house. Had to build a little building out from the house for the toilet.

[00:13:38] And if you if you went to the bathroom at night you went to that little toilet.

**Camille White:** [00:13:48] Is your home still standing today?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:13:50] Pardon?

**Camille White:** [00:13:50] Is your home still steaming today?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:13:52] No. Our house was torn down. And my first cousins live up there at the big barn.

**Odell Haskett:** [00:14:05] They own that now and they tore the house down and built two houses there. My uncles and aunts. My place that I have there, was my aunts place, mothers sister. She and her husband never, never had any children and that's how I got to that place.

[00:14:41] She considered me as her boy and she always and I after I grew up and come back we moved to town and she needed something. I'd go go get her take her to the doctor, take her to the grocery store, places like that and that's...

**William White:** [00:15:08] If y'all needed help or if someone got hurt or anything what did y'all do about a doctor?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:15:17] They were most of the time they brought you to Sylva, to the doctor.

**Odell Haskett:** [00:15:25] But for just cold or something flu or something like that pneumonia. You just they had home remedies what they call you they took white whiskey and and mixed it with something and that's how they treated you for for your aches and pains.

**William White:** [00:15:52] Tell us more about this white whiskey?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:15:56] Everybody made whiskey up there. They made, they sold corn by the, by the gallon. by the bushels. They made whiskey out of thousands of corn. Ground and then they took it to mill and made, made whiskey.

**William White:** [00:16:27] That was a way to supplement income?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:16:29] That's only income there was. There wan't not no jobs. The only thing you did if you worked, you worked you worked somebody else on their job. I mean on their farm.

**William White:** [00:16:49] That land at Shook Cove, was that, did ya'll have cut the timber or clear the rocks or was that a pasture?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:16:57] Back when I grew up, it was already cleared all the way way back on the mountains were cleared and grew corn and cut hay and the cattle they had, we had a lot of pasture for cattle and horses and Summertime that they were in that pasture.

[00:17:40] And in winter time, winter time we field they kept close the barn, we fed them in the barn.

**William White:** [00:17:47] But as a boy you, you walk through what's now Cedar Cliff or Bear Lake because they weren't there then?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:17:58] As a boy. I grew up up there. Cedar Creek, Cedar Lake, Bear Lake, none of that was there. It was just old farm land and little houses that people lived in. We were poor, but we didn't know it. Everybody else was.

**William White:** [00:18:31] So where there lakes are now you played all through it?

**Odell Haskett:** [00:18:35] Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. That was a river down through there and they damned it up. Four different lakes up through there. Yeah. All the way...almost to the Transylvania line.

**Camille White:** [00:18:54] Alright, I think that's good.

**Odell Haskett:** [00:19:01] Is that enough?

**Camille White:** [00:19:06] I think so.

**Odell Haskett:** [00:19:08] I'll answer any question you want me to.