BB: I have to just say this statement telling you what I’m doing, so the key objective of this interview is to serve as a research tool to document memories of the American chestnut in the southern Appalachian region. Information obtained in these interviews will be retained and made available for further use in efforts to promote a better understanding of the role of the American chestnut in Appalachian culture. So then I have to ask, have you signed the participant identification and release agreement? That’s what you just signed.

HI: Yes, yes mam. Yeah, I’ve signed it.

BB: Ok, it’s official (laughs) so the first thing I like to ask first is will you just tell me your name, how old you are, and where you grew up.

HI: My name is Harding Ison, I grew up on Kingdom Come, and I’m 85 years old. I was borned 1, 18, 23.

BB: Ok so the first question I’ll ask if do you remember seeing chestnut yourself?

HI: yeah

BB: ok, so tell me what you remember just off hand about chestnut?

HI: Well, they’re just kindly like the old, like what we have today, but if I remember correctly they were a little smaller and I think they tasted a little better, were a little sweeter. They were plentiful at that time, they grew on trees in a small, two foot through, 3 foot maybe, large trees. But my recollection is now there’s none here no where, I couldn’t find one no where if I wanted to, I’ve been all over these hills. They say that in certain places they’re coming back, the old time chestnuts. See, people back had a lot of hogs and things that they ran in the hills like these hollers here, and those old time chestnuts were good food for them, like beech nuts and acorns, and things like that. Cause they’d go under those big trees there and those old big hogs they’d get fat on them. And we’d go gather them when we were small, we’d take us a little bucket, and it tickled the little children that you could find a bucket of those chestnuts. We’d bring them in, keep em, and we’d boil them and eat them ourselves. Or maybe roast them over that open fireplace, and we’d take the ashes and lay them under the grate and we’d kindly sift some
of those hot coals out on them to bake them. Yeah, that’s one way we did it, and then
another way we’d boil them you know. Put them in a kettle or something or other. They
were good to eat.

BB: Did you eat them just as a snack, or as a meal?

HI: No, just a snack. We’d get out in the woods and gather them and then we’d be a
sitting around the fireplace, had an open fire, and maybe sing a little song, tell a little
poems and things and then we’d be eating those chestnuts. Now the men, I don’t know
about the women, they probably did too, if we was in the woods and find them we’d get
our pockets full and then we’d eat them as we did our work you know, like we’d work in
the fields, hoe corn, any thing we’d do, get firewood, then we’d have those chestnuts
kindly in between meals you know, get a little hungry. Yeah, those chestnuts were… oh,
people they were important to the farmers because it furnished food for their hogs and
cattle would eat them, and then you know wild game, squirrels. You know, the animals
had more to eat, now that the chestnuts was gone then they had to rely on beech nuts and
acorns which weren’t as good as those chestnuts.

BB: well what about… did anyone ever sell or trade chestnuts?

HI: now that, I don’t know. I’d say probably they have, I can’t verify that. I don’t know
of anybody that ever did. Now I know, like, that if a neighbor would want some a guy’d
get out in the woods and he’d take him like a gallon bucket or something, or a little a
sack, and he’d gather him up a big lot and then he’d take the neighbors

BB: They helped each other out like that?

HI: Some so women who couldn’t get in the woods or didn’t want to. We’d go gather
them and take them to our neighbor. But now I can’t recall anybody selling them, now
they may have. What we would gather we’d give them to our neighbor, you know.

BB: that’s great. Do you remember people preparing the chestnuts any other way than
boiling or roasting them? Did they ever cook them up with ant other food?
HI: Now that I can’t verify, I don’t know. I assume now they have, but now to say that I know that, I don’t know.

BB: ok, mostly they just roasted them or boiled them.

HI: Roasted them, boiled them. But a lot of times now we just ate them raw. Be out in the woods there, find us a big lot and just sit down there, crack them and eat them. Get a little hungry you know.

BB: Did you ever collect them up and store them over the winter?

HI: I...we never did now, some people may have, we never did... oh maybe we’d gather some and have them in, like 2 or 3 gallon pots and things, maybe they’d sit there around weeks at a time, but now to get them and preserve them through the winter I assume maybe some people did, I’m pretty sure they have. Cause, they were plenty of them and if they’d gather a lot of them and couldn’t make use of them, I’d say they did. Right off I can’t verify that but I’d say people kept them through the winter, they’d accumulate a whole lot of them they couldn’t eat all of them accumulate a whole lot in the fall when they get ripe and fall off. Yeah, I’d say they have...

BB: Do you remember people logging chestnut trees?

HI: Yeah

BB: Was chestnut wood better, over other kinds?

HI: Now the reason they liked to lumber from the chestnuts, they were softer, they were easier to handle, like to saw and dress them. Now that barn right up there about me is made out of chestnut. They make boards just like a poplar, or a chestnut, or a big oak. They’d saw them into planks that wide, 10, 15, ever how long you wanted. Yeah that barn up there is boxed with chestnut.

BB: Is chestnut wood better than other kinds?
HI: Well, it was easier to work, and more handy. Them big chestnut trees, you could just go up the hill, saw one down and haul it to the mill and you could get a lot more you know, ... It was lighter you know, easier to handle, easier on your saw and axes. Of course poplar and oak were important too, well all the timber was then. They made hog pins and made barns, and their houses. Yeah... But when they all died out that was a big loss.

BB: how did people feel, or what ... did people try to do anything to try to stop it.

HI: I doubt it at that time, that was down that was down in the 30s and... now that I don’t know, but doubt if they did. Maybe science weren’t equipped or something like that to run tests and things. Now they may have... around here I don’t know anybody that did, did but off other places they may have. I can’t verify, I don’t know whether they did or not, I doubt if they did now. They just decided well, you know a blight hit them and they all died out and that was about it.

BB: did you ever feed any other livestock on chestnut, besides hogs?

HI: I would say now, we never did, but I’ would say, we’d let out cattle and things run in like the pastures, like over there is a pasture, and they’d run up in there where the chestnuts were. I’d say probably cattle eat them where there’d be a big lot under the tree. But now we never did, about the only thing we ever... just gather them and eat them ourselves and then let the hogs and that serves them, we wouldn’t have to feed them a whole lot of corn and feed you know. I don’t know if they ever did anything to stop the blight, probably not, at that time people back in the mountains here, they...the scientists or whoever maybe could have they probably didn't know about it or wasn’t equipped to do it. I don't know, that’s something I can’t answer that.

BB: How did the mountain look different? Did it look different when the chestnut trees were here?

HI: no, no. You can see the bloom in on that chestnut yonder. Ok, now in the hills you can see them big blooms, but now looking at them here it wouldn't be any
difference. But you walk in the hills now you could tell one because it was a little, the bark was a little different, and you could see old big ones that big, and you'd see probably squirrels in them eating chestnuts and them old big birds, they'd eat them, like sap suckers, you know them old big birds, like crows maybe. Turkeys, wild turkeys, now I'm pretty sure wild turkeys ate them because they had to have food. Of course squirrels, they did too, they'd climb them big chestnut trees and maybe find one build their home in them, raise their young in them. And it made good fire wood, and it made good lumber to build buildings out of... Like we'd make a sled, that would be lighter than most timber, we could box a sled with it you know. And so on, and you know what I'm talking about, what I'm talking about a sled don't you?

BB: like a Jimmy MacIntosh sled?

HI: yeah, I made one and gave him one up there, he'd got a little one. I got one over here, its not put together much, an old one sitting over there in that shed. We'll look at it when you get ready to leave kindly.

BB: What about fencing, did people build fences out of chestnut?

HI: oh yeah, split to make rails, you know what a rail fence is, oh yeah that was the chief product. It was easier to work, softer and easier on your saw, and it split better. Oh yeah, chestnut rails, Lord yeah. See back then, that's what people used to make their fences around their cornfields and things, they'd split what you call rails. You know what I'm talking about, small, yeah. And they'd split easy. It wouldn't be like splitting a hickory or an oak.

BB: Was there ever any games that you played with chestnuts?

HI: Yeah, we'd play hull go. You know what that is don't you? We'd all have like, 25 or 50 chestnuts and we'd all line around and somebody would have some in their hand or something or other and you'd say 'hull go', well they'd say 'how many'. Like you'd say '10' or '15'. If you guess the number you get the chestnuts, but if, say you missed it, say you guessed 15 and he had 10, you'd have to pay him 5 to make 15. So, and when you got yours you was up, you'd have to drop out.
BB: so you didn’t know exactly how many you had?

HI: no, didn’t know…. Well, the one that had them did, but the one guessing they’d be a whole bunch and another would say ’hull go’ and he’d say ’how many’ I’d say ‘you’ve got 10, 12, 15, 20’ and if he didn’t, if he guessed that many, say he guessed 20 and he had 20 he got his, and first thing you know he’d win the game. He’d break them all. But say he guessed 18 and he guy had 20 he’d have to give him 2 to make 20, and if he bid it too much he’d go broke and have to get out of the game. Your granny I’m pretty sure knows about that.

BB: and what’s the name of it? Hull?

HI: Hull go

BB: Hull gold?

HI: Hull go, I don’t know how you’d spell that but you’d say ’hull go’ and you’d say ‘how many’ 20, 25, 10, 6.

BB: that’s neat, I haven’t heard about that. What about, where there any jokes you remember that mentioned chestnuts?

HI: no, not right off.

BB: or songs you remember?

HI: no, I don’t know anything like that…. now, a lot of times if they had too many, they got a little old, you’d feed them to your stock. Now I remember them well, and I’m pretty sure now they were a smaller than the ones we have today and they were a maybe a little bit sweeter tasting chestnut than the ones we have today, they were a little softer. People would gather them, boil them, sit around the fire and roast them, hull them, and eat them. That game, it’s the only game I know they played, they called it a hull go, I don’t know how they spelled that, h-u-l-l-g-o I guess. Ask your granny about it she’ll probably know what ’hull go’ meant

BB: ok, I’ll ask her.
HI: and they’d play it with different... maybe chestnuts, or maybe they’d gather them little hulls, and with little red berries and they’d play with them sometimes, maybe they didn’t have chestnuts. Yeah, that a game, about the game that I remember they’d just be setting around the fire and they’d play that little game what’s called hull-go.

BB: were there any celebrations that people would have around chestnuts? Would people gather together to go collect them?

HI: Well sometimes they’d have camps, maybe camping out, and they’d, maybe, people’d gather in and they’d roast them or boil them. No, not a great deal of it no. they didn’t have any like that, as I recall now, they may have and I didn’t know about it. Just like, hunters would be out in the hills at night, maybe they’d get a little hungry and find them some chestnuts, and they’d build them up a little fire and roast them and then they’d go about their hunting you know. Possum hunting, coon hunting, or ... squirrels now, people use to kill them and eat them for meat. Well they’d go up to these big chestnuts trees, and there’d be a lot of squirrels in those big chestnut trees and that’d be easy to shoot with a shot gun. They’d bring them in, skin them, cuff them, or bake them, they were good to eat. And a lot of people actually, some families actually needed that meat, like groundhog. They were a little light on food, maybe had a big family, and they’d take them, and that’s serve for things they didn’t have. Yeah.

BB: were there any places where chestnuts would grow a lot, like in a huge grove?

HI: Oh yeah. Now this next holler, up around the curve, and they called it ‘Poplow Holler’, now there’s a place up in there, chestnuts, where there wasn’t nothing but chestnuts much and they called it the Chestnut Flat. Yeah, a whole mountainside there full of chestnuts, just mostly chestnut trees, and they called that’s the Chestnut Flats ...right down below where Donny Gay lives, that’s the holler I’m talking about, that’s how... Chestnut Flat lay in the head of it, there was a family by the name of Yorks, and they tended corn and when they built their houses up in the head of that holler they cleared that ground off and planted corn, had hay. Yeah, Chestnut Flats,
because there was so many chestnuts, they used that by the name. They’d say ‘what you going to do today’ and they’d say well, ‘we’re going to hoe in the Chestnut Flat’. You know, everybody knew where that was at.

BB: wow. So what about when you were a school teacher, Harding, did the kids ever...were there chestnuts around here?

HI: no, there weren’t any, weren’t any. Oh they had them, like out there, but they never bring them to school. I don’t recollect them bringing them any chestnuts, now they may have, I don’t know. But now when I was growing up, got up into grade school, about 10 or 15, years old then chestnuts began to die out. and the chestnuts trees. 20, you know, down in the late 1800s and the early 19 there were still chestnuts in the 30s, and then along about the middle of the 30s all the chestnut trees were dead and there weren’t any. But I remember them.

BB: When you were a kid would people bring them to school for lunch.

HI: no. Not that I know of. Some of the boys of the boys might have a few in their pockets or something, but I can’t recall ever bringing them for lunch or anything, they may have. I doubt it though.

BB: Do you ever remember getting stuck with a chestnut burr?

HI: Gosh yeah. Sometimes, we’d maybe not have any shoes or we’d be barefooted, and we’d go in the hills and you’d have to be awful careful not to step on those big burrs barefooted. Oh yeah, I remember that well. Boy they were sharp. And the thing of it is they’d stick in your foot and they was hard to get out. But we didn’t step on them much, lest we... of course we’d be barefooted sometimes and there’d be some you couldn’t see. Yeah, I’ve stepped on them, yeah. Those burrs were sharp, they...you’ve seen them. Your granny up there might have a chestnut tree or two, I don’t know.

BB: I don’t think there’s any real close.
HI: not, probably not. Them two’s the only ones I know of right up there. We set them out. They bear, I say they’ll have a lot of chestnuts. I see the bloom is heavy on them.

BB: Do you remember when the blight came through this creek?

HI: I remember when... I didn’t know what it was, but I remember when the chestnuts began to die. Then first thing you know there weren’t any. We’d go hunt chestnuts, and there weren’t any trees, there were all dead. Of course they were still standing, you know. Then a lot of them, they’d take to the mill to saw lumber and split rails and make their rails... That was easy to work, and they were light, and they were handy to get. Go up to the hills and you’d go up and you’d get one this thick, and that’d make a lot of rails.

BB: Were people afraid when they started to die out?

HI: well, it worried them, it worried them. Of course at that time you could hear a lot of talk about it, you’d hear them say that, ‘well, the old big chestnut, where we used to find a lot of chestnut, it’s dying, they could see the leaves you know. It didn’t last long, they started dying, two or three years there and they were all gone. you know. That blight killed them all out you know.

BB: did that change the way people lived?

HI: Well, they didn’t have that for lumber, and they didn’t have that to make their rails out of, and we used to use it for fire wood, and we like to play hull go with them. And we could gather them and boil them or bake them, that’d be something to snack on. Oh that was a valuable... I guess that was the most valuable timber in these hills, that chestnut tree. They could use it for lumber, to make rails to fence their pastures or cornfields, so, it was a valuable tree.

BB: what did they use instead once the chestnut was gone?

HI: well they had poplar, and oak. That’s all they had. Walnut, you know. I know where maybe in the woods right now there’s still some old big trees, maybe logs
where they fell, and just lying there. But they’ve all about rotted, its been so long, and over the years, time has just took their toll. There’s still a few big stumps out, you can see a big chestnut stump, not often, they’re all about gone. But that’s been a long time ago. Been over 100 years ago or more now, that’s about the life of them. Yeah, Chestnut Flats back in there right down below where Donny Gay lives, that used to be full of big chestnut trees, they called it Chestnut Flats. Where all these hills used to be full to them big chestnuts. Yeah, that was a valuable tree.

BB: do you remember hearing people talk about it, or do you remember reading about it at all?

HI: no I don’t remember a thing about it. See I wasn’t too old at that time, I was born in 23, I only about 7,8 10 years old. And maybe 12, 15. Now I can remember them though, going and gathering them. I know my sister though, my oldest sister, she was little and they gave her a little bucket. And they took her up in the hills there and… of course they just let her mill around under the tree. She picked that little bucket full of chestnuts, they said that was the best pleased little girl they ever saw getting that many chestnuts you know, picking them up off the ground. Yeah, she remembers it.

BB: So, do you think that when the chestnut was gone, did it have any direct economic impact on people?

HI: yeah, I’d say it did. It was good, they’d sell that lumber you know it was real easy… it was lighter, easier to work. So, that was a big loss when those chestnuts died, like anybody who wanted them a rail fence, they’d just go up there and cut them two or three of those big trees. It was just... say they wanted some to take to the sawmill maybe, want to build them... like that barn up there, they sawed them big boards. But now, now you have to use something else. Oak, or hickory, a little harder wood, harder to work and things.

BB: did you ever hear any sayings that people would have that talked about chestnuts, any old time saying?
HI: no, I can't recall anything. They just playing that hull go game with it.

BB: So do you know anything about how they're trying to bring the chestnut back?

HI: No I don't, I sure don't. I know my brother said he had two, got them somewhere there, he lives at Flemingsburg. They're trying to bring them back, and his are growing off real good. I don't know what he does to preserve them but he probably has some kind of something on them to kill the blight. I never have sent them but he was telling me he got some somewhere. The old time chestnut. And I'd say there's probably more people's that has them, I don't know anybody who has, but I'd say probably somewhere they has. Yeah, these mountains, like Black Mountain, Pine Mountain sued to be full of chestnuts. They used them to make their homes and barns, and so on.

BB: Do you think people in the mountains depended more on chestnut than the people in the cities?

HI: yeah, oh yeah. They could use it for firewood, they could the lumber and build a barn and build little buildings out of it, like that barn up there its built out of chestnut. It was easier to work for ... people, like you know made their rails, made their lumber. It was easier to saw, it was just a better tree for constructions and building things from it.

BB: well do you think people around here would like to see the chestnut come back?

HI: Oh I'd say they would. A lot of people around here have never seen the chestnut tree like that. Oh yeah, that would be a miracle if they could ever get them to grow again. Yeah, these people would be tickled to death to see them. They wasn't too far from them we have today. I remember them being a little smaller and maybe the trees had a little more quantity on them you know. They were smaller and the trees were larger and there'd be more chestnuts on a tree you know. I never have seen the great big chestnut like them out there, they're about a foot through I guess. About big as that wood there, but them old big chestnuts, they've got, oh great big chestnuts, big tall, squirrels would den in them and I'd say probably hawks and
turkeys. Well I know turkeys would eat them, because they’d be on the ground they’d say that you could see turkeys, they’d scratch around in the leaves and dig up chestnuts. That was a valuable product.

BB: How do you think people would use chestnuts today, do you think they’d use them in the same way they did?

HI: I’d say they would. If they were plentiful, I’d say they would. Of course if they came back right now they probably wouldn’t because they’d want to get a start you know. Well I’m pretty sure they wouldn’t because if they had a tree they wouldn’t want to saw it down, they’d want it to grow and have chestnuts and have little ones you know. Oh I’d say they’d be tickled to death to have those chestnuts back.

BB: Do you think there’d be a way for people to make money off of them?

HI: Oh, I’d say they would in years to come if they could get them growing and be plentiful, I’d say they could maybe sell the fruit off of them, the chestnut. Its real good lumber, its softer to work and its real pretty. You see those big black stripes in them and so on.

BB: Do you think that the people around here, where you live, would be interested in helping bring it back?

HI: I’d say they would. I’d say they would, oh yeah I’d say the county agent and his crew and all these old farmers that own land. Lord, they’d welcome it back, they’d do anything in the world to get the chestnuts growing. Like the government might get a whole load of trees, and say give them to a farmer, and they’d say ‘now you set these out’ and I’d say they’d be welcome, you know, to get a start in the chestnuts. They’d clear them off a place and set them out, and they’d take care of them, you know keep the weeds away from them, maybe build a little fence around them and keep the animals away from them, like rabbits, if anything would ea the bark. Like mush rats, or mush... is that what it is mush rats that lives in the water and cuts trees down to make their dams?
BB: of beavers?

HI: oh, beavers, yeah. I’d say they... well now Kendall Boggs lives up there in Whitesburg right close to the river and he had some apple trees, and before he knew it there were beavers in the river and they killed two or three of his apple trees, skinned the bark off of them, and then he had a guy build a fence around it to keep them beavers out, so they wouldn't kill their trees.

BB: do you think it would be harder to get younger people who live around here to...

HI: I doubt it. I’d say they’d be interested, if they saw the fruit of it, those little chestnuts, boil them, bake them, eat them. Oh yeah, I’d say they’d be willing to do anything to start them a growing.

BB: even the people who’d never ever even seen a chestnut?

HI: I’d say that’s right, yeah. That’s my opinion, and I’m pretty sure that’s right. I’d say your granny, has gone through the woods and hunted chestnuts. Well I know she has because they had chestnut up there on their farm. I know Comis, her brother did, because he’d bring them to school sometimes. We was in high school, he’d have some in his pocket or, at that time, before they all died out. Now they may still be some trees, I doubt it though, I don’t know of anywhere in the woods, I guess they’re all gone. But now up to Flemingsburg, somehow or another they got a hold of some. I don’t know where he got them at, he got two I think, maybe a lot of other people has got them, you know. Kind of a rowan.

BB: what did it look like to see all of those chestnut trees dead? What did they look like?

HI: You've seen dead trees haven't you? Wouldn't be nothing on them, just no limbs, no leaves, well there might be some limbs on them but it'd just be an old naked tree, standing there without any leaves or.... looked..... I'd say probably in the woods somewhere right now probably some of them are standing, I don't know what they
are, but I've seen some places where I've seen some logs where they'd fall down the trees, but I don't know where they are now, that's been a long time. Yeah.

BB: do you remember anybody ever throwing chestnut burrs at each other?

HI: no, not, no never. Never did know of them throwing chestnut burrs and things. They'd get, sometimes have a fight with paw paws, you know what a paw paw is. They'd throw each other and hit each other with paw paw. No I never did see them throw chestnuts, they may have, now I kindly doubt it, they couldn't hardly handle them, them stickers and things. The old time chestnuts... Yeah, I want show you that part of the sled over there when you leave.

BB: I guess we're about done, do you have any other memories of?

HI: no, that's about it, they used them for lumber and make rails out of it, do their fencing, fire wood. Made good fire wood, good kindling, where they was dying out they'd take them old big chestnuts and haul them out and saw them up. You know back them they used wood and coal, so forth. Didn't have anything like gas heaters, had to rely on nature to fire their heating stoves or whatever they had.

BB: would you ever heat the schoolhouse with chestnut?

HI: no, there weren't any then. When I started teaching they were all gone. Oh, I'd say probably some, maybe old trees maybe still standing in the woods at that time but I can't... I never did recall making any fires with them, or anything, I know never in the school. Yep, it was quite a loss when those chestnuts died out. The wood I guess was a little softer maybe, and they couldn't whip off the blight and things like hard wood, hickory and oak and things like that. The chemistry probably in the trees just couldn't fight the blight off.

BB: well, do you have any hopes, or concerns about trying to bring the tree back?

HI: I'd like to.

BB: is there any advice you'd give to the people trying to bring it back?
HI: About the biggest advice I’d give people, if some of the government officials, county agents ever inquired wanting them to do something or other that they could do I’d tell them to go, help. Anything they could do to get those things back, if maybe they could get a hold of some, take them, set them out in a good place, tend to them and keep the disease out of them as much as you can, I’d recommend that. I hope they can bring them back. I don’t know anybody around here that’s even a trying, but I’d say probably they are.

BB: There’s a group of people in Virginia who have a tree that they think will be blight resistant, and can grow in the wild.

HI: I’d say right.

BB: and they’re about to try to release it back in the wild, but they don’t have a plan yet for how they’re going to get it back in the woods. So they’re trying to figure out how they can get it back in the woods.

HI: well, that’s a beginning isn’t it, that’s a beginning. I hope they do. Now there’s still some of those old time chestnuts and people’s got them. They may, you know, have a way to grow them and distribute them out to farmers and things and let them, like when they’re small let them take them and set them out and grow them, take care of them. But I don’t know of any project like that’s going on now, I don’t know. Of course I’m not up on something like that a whole lot. But usually if they come up on anything, the county agent or somebody has the resources to tell you about it, what they’re doing and what you need to do. If you can get a hold of a plant or two, you know, to preserve it. I hope they can, I don’t whether they will or not. I’d say eventually they will. Maybe in your day now, in my day they probably won’t. But by the time you get up to be kindly up in the age they may have thing to … blight resistant trees and old chestnuts. Some of these days I’d say science will learn enough about how to preserve them. And they might start them again, I hope so, I don’t know. Just a trial and error I guess, hopefully.

BB: Yeah, I’d say you’re right Harding.
HI: yeah

BB: Ok, I think that was good, that’s great. I’ve never heard of anybody talk about a chestnut game before.

HI: Hull go, ask your granny about it. Well they’d use other things besides chestnuts, but chestnut was a common thing. Like people’d be in the woods and they’d gather up some, maybe have some in their pocket and a group of men would get around the fire or something or other, and let’s play hull go boys, and they’d say… uhoh (microphone static)

BB: that's ok

HI: …yeah you’d take so many out and, have you some in your hand, or wherever, in your hat or wherever, and ‘Hull go’, and they’d say how many, and I’d say you’ve got 17, and if he said 17 then he got them. But if he guessed 17 and he had more than that or less he’d have to give him enough to make the 17. So whenever he lost his’n, he lost the game. And a lot of guys was a little better guesser than some of them. Maybe somebody’d have 25 and that feller’d say 25, Well he’d get them 25, first thing you’d know this guy here’d be out.

BB: that sounds like a good game.

HI: Yeah, ask your granny, she’ll know about it. They played hull go with it, well they had plenty of things they’d play with, I think they’d have jacks sometimes, you know what jacks … I think they’d play and hull go, oh you’ve got 4, you’ve got 6. You tried to guess how many he had and then you didn’t have to give yours away. It’s a pretty good game, I’ve played it. Yeah, talk to your granny about it, she’ll know about hull go. How long you going to be in?

BB: Oh, maybe about a week.

HI: yeah, I may talk to you a little later...