

## 1. DEMOGRAPHY/HISTORY

- 1.1. This is \_\_\_\_\_ (person's name), and the date is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.2. And where were you born?
- 1.3. How about your parents? Where was your mother born? Your father?
- 1.4. Where have you lived besides (Location)? How long? How long did you live in \_\_\_\_\_?
- 1.5. How long has your family lived in (Location)?
  - 1.5.1. (If an old family, ask the following:)
    - 1.5.1.1.1. Where did your ancestors come from?
    - 1.5.1.1.2. Do you know what part of (COUNTRY or STATE)?
  - 1.5.2. What are the names of some of the other old families in (Location)?
- 1.6. How do you know so much about your family history?
  - 1.6.1. Do you have a family tree?
  - 1.6.2. Are there any stories in particular you remember about your family here in the old days?
- 1.7. What do you suppose (Location) was like when your family first moved here?
- 1.8. Have you traveled much outside of (Location)? Where? What was your favorite place? How come?
- 1.9. Can you tell me what kinds of things you and your (husband/wife) have done for a living?
- 1.10. Outsiders hear a lot of stories about the mountains in the olden days on (Location).  
What sorts of stories have you heard about that?
- 1.11. What other stories do you know about the (Location)'s history?
  - 1.11.1. Have you ever heard about ghosts in (Location)?
    - 1.11.1.1. Tell me about it?
- 1.12. If a newer family, ask:
  - 1.12.1. Why did you move here?
  - 1.12.2. What was it like, working your way into the community?
  - 1.12.3. Who are the older families in the (Location)?
  - 1.12.4. How were you treated when you first moved here?
- 1.13. Does it seem like (Location) is changing a lot these days?
  - 1.13.1. How?
  - 1.13.2. What sorts of changes do people talk about?
  - 1.13.3. How do they feel about them?
  - 1.13.4. What changes do you notice/what changes bother you?
  - 1.13.5. Do you think the changes are good or bad? Why?
- 1.14. What about building?
- 1.15. Is there a lot of new building here?

1.15.1. How do people feel about this?

1.15.2. How about roads?

## 2. GAMES AND LEISURE

2.1. What games did you play as a child?

2.2. Which ones did you play the most?

2.3. Could you describe your favorite game to me?

2.4. Who did you play with?

2.5. What kinds of games did you play together?

2.6. Did you play sports?

2.6.1. Which ones?

2.6.2. How is (XX) played?

2.7. What do people here do for entertainment?

2.8. Do people watch a lot of TV?

2.8.1. Can you think of one of your favorite programs. What happened? Tell me about it?

2.9. How about movies?

2.9.1. Can you tell me about your favorite movie? What was it about?

2.9.2. What about card games? Do you play any of those?

2.9.2.1. How do you play (XX)?

2.9.3. What about board games?

2.9.3.1. How do you play (XX)?

## 3. MARRIAGE/DATING

3.1. How did you meet your husband (wife)?

3.1.1. How did he ask you to marry him?/How did you ask her to marry you?

3.2. Do most (young) people marry from within the community?

3.3. (If not, ask:)

3.3.1. How do they meet outsiders?

3.3.2. Do they bring their spouses back here to live?

3.3.3. How do the spouses like living here?

3.3.4. Do they seem to fit in?

3.3.5. How do marriages between outsiders and (Location)ers seem to work out?

3.4. Did people used to marry more within the community than they do now?

3.5. What kind of advice can you give someone who's getting ready to get married?

3.6. What makes a marriage work/not work?

3.7. How about the way everybody seems to be getting divorced these days? What do you think

of that?

3.8. How about the way people date now compared to the way they used to date?

3.9. Do you think times have changed as far as dating?

#### 4. WEATHER/DANGER OF DEATH

4.1. Do you think you're getting more storms now than you used to? How come?

4.2. What's the worst storm you've even been in?

4.2.1. What was that like?

4.2.2. Did it do much damage?

4.2.3. Were the roads OK?

4.2.4. Do the roads get washed out a lot?

4.3. Have you ever been in a tornado?

4.4. What was that like?

4.5. Have you ever been in a situation where you thought, "This is it. I'm going to die"?

4.5.1. What was that like? Tell me about it.

#### 5. PREMONITIONS

5.1. In lots of families there's someone who gets a feeling that something is going to happen and it does happen.

5.1.1. Is there anybody like that in your family?

5.1.2. Do you remember anything like that that came true?

5.2. Have you ever experienced déjà vu? What was that like?

5.3. Some people have the same dream all the time. I always have this dream where (XX). Do you ever have the same dream over and over again?

5.4. What about nightmares? One time I had this nightmare where (XX). What about you?  
What are some of the really scary nightmares you've had?

#### 6. COMMUNITY

6.1. Do people here get together a lot?

6.1.1. What are some of the things they do with neighbors?

6.1.2. Who are they friends with? What kinds of things do you do with them?

6.2. Who have you been friends with the longest?

6.2.1. How did you meet?

6.2.2. What makes him/her so special?

6.2.3. What about some of your other friends? How would you describe the type of people you are friends with? (Ask for names)

- 6.3. What do you think of the old adage, "Make new friends but keep the old; one is silver and the other's gold."
- 6.4. What kinds of opportunities do you have for making new friends here?
- 6.5. Who are some of your neighbors?
- 6.6. What other neighborhood groups are there?
- 6.7. Do you think that there are some of the differences between these groups?
  - 6.7.1. What sorts of people are in (XX) group?
- 6.8. Do these different groups ever do things together?
  - 6.8.1. Special celebrations or events?
- 6.9. What about in hard times, like storms? What sorts of stories do you remember about people working together during/after a bad storm? Tell me about it.
- 6.10. How about leaders in the community?
  - 6.10.1.1. Why is he/she a leader?
  - 6.10.1.2. What do you think makes a good leader?
- 6.11. Do you think this is a good place to live? Why/why not?

## 7. CHURCH AND RELIGION

- 7.1. I notice there are a couple of churches in (Location). Do you go to one or the other?
- 7.2. What are the differences between the churches?
  - 7.2.1. Do you think different kinds of people go to the different churches? How come?

## 8. SCHOOL/EDUCATION

- 8.1. Did you go to school on (Location)?
- 8.2. How many grades did they have here then?
- 8.3. (TACTFULLY ask the following):
  - 8.3.1. How many grades did you get a chance to finish?
- 8.4. Do you think you got a good education here?
- 8.5. What would you change?
- 8.6. Did you like going to a small school?
- 8.7. What was good about a school like this?
  - 8.7.1. What things weren't so good?
- 8.8. What were your teachers like?
- 8.9. Do you remember a favorite teacher? What was he/she like?
  - 8.9.1. How about a teacher you didn't like? What was he/she like?
- 8.10. Were there groups of kids in school that always did things together?
  - 8.10.1. How would you describe some of these different groups? Would you say they were

cliques?

- 8.11. What are some of your best memories from in school?
- 8.12. Did the kids used to play pranks? What are some of the pranks you remember?
- 8.13. Do you think the schools have changed since you were a child? How?

## 9. LIVING CONDITIONS

- 9.1. What sorts of jobs do people have around here?
- 9.2. What do most people do?
- 9.3. How's the economy here? Does it seem to be in bad shape like the rest of country, or are people doing pretty good?
- 9.4. What about people who have tourist businesses?
- 9.5. Where do people go shopping?
  - 9.5.1. Where do you buy your food?
    - 9.5.1.1. Where does it come from?
- 9.6. Where do people buy clothes?
  - 9.6.1. How do people dress around here?
- 9.7. What sorts of things do people here like to eat?
  - 9.7.1. Do people here plant gardens?
  - 9.7.2. What about the restaurants?

## 10. TOURISM/CHANGES (optional depending on the location)

- 10.1. What do you think about all the tourists that come around here in the summer?
- 10.2. What sort of people are they?
- 10.3. Can you tell a tourist from an outsider just by looking at them? How?
- 10.4. What sorts of problems do tourists bring?
- 10.5. Do they ever do stupid things that the locals wouldn't do.
- 10.6. Have you heard any stories about some of the things they've done?
- 10.7. Do you get many new people moving here to stay?
  - 10.7.1. What are they like?
  - 10.7.2. Why do they move here?
  - 10.7.3. Where do they live?
  - 10.7.4. What sorts of jobs do they do?
  - 10.7.5. How do they seem to fit in with the older families? How do the locals treat them?
  - 10.7.6. Are there some people who move here who just never seem to fit in? Why? How do they act that keeps them from fitting in?

## 11. GOVERNMENT/REGULATION

- 11.1. Are there ever any conflicts between the government and locals? Maybe about who can use which land for what purpose?
- 11.2. Has the government brought in jobs for people who live here?
  - 11.2.1. What sorts of government jobs do some of the locals do?
  - 11.2.2. What about when the government first came in? Do you remember what that was like? What happened?
  - 11.2.3. I've heard that there have been some problems here with taxes being raised a lot.

## 12. LANGUAGE

- 12.1. Have you ever noticed any differences between the way people from (Location) talk and the way other people talk? What kind of differences?
- 12.2. You think you can tell if somebody's from (Location) by the way they talk? How can you tell?
- 12.3. How about people from other parts of West Virginia?
  - 12.3.1. What about (nearby location)?
  - 12.3.2. What about the mountains further South?
- 12.4. How about people in Pennsylvania?
- 12.5. Or in Ohio?
- 12.6. Do you think native (Location)ers sound different from each other?
- 12.7. What about outsiders? How does their speech compare with the (Location)ers?
- 12.8. How about the older people and the younger people who live in (Location)? Do you think they talk alike?
- 12.9. Do you think language is changing much in (Location)?
- 12.10. Do you think people who've been here a while can ever learn to talk like an (Location)er?
- 12.11. Do you know anyone who has changed the way they speak?
- 12.12. Do you think people should try to change their speech?
- 12.13. If you could change the way you talk, what would you change?
- 12.14. Is there anything that bothers you about the way people speak?
- 12.15. Would you mind if I asked you about a couple of words that I've heard?
- 12.16. What about the word [WORD]? How do you use it? What does it mean?
- 12.17. Any other words or sayings that strike you about the way language is used in (Location)?

Read This Story Out Loud:

Since it was too cold Saturday to soak in his pool and too foggy to shoot arrows, Sam decided to tour the countryside. His golf partner, Pike, was gone, and his daughter was playing the fife, which made his ears throb. As a result, he wanted to get out of the house, so he dashed to the family car before his wife, Joan, caught him. He still hadn't started washing the dishes from last night. He took off as fast as he could and hit the culvert as he pulled out of his drive. "I can't stay cooped up inside on such a nice day," he thought. Watching the telephone poles zip by, he passed both a school and a hospital. After five minutes, he drove around Hoover Dam, where he saw a sight to behold-there must've been a thousand seagulls eating dead fish. On Friday, all he'd seen were men pushing a boat through the water along the end of the dam. Next he rode through some farms with soybean fields and the ragweed was so bad it made him cough. He'd be a fool if he didn't have the sense to avoid those plants. They made his voice sound hoarse. Not far away, he heard a dog barking loudly. Maybe the ragweed bothered it, too. At least August was peaceful. He enjoyed looking at the hogs, horses, cows, and a bull this Saturday morning, and now he felt refreshed. Even a goat chewing on a tin can looked happy. He headed back to town. There he passed Cooper's Forks, where he'd renewed his medical insurance on Tuesday. Checking his pocket for cash, he stopped at a Gulf station and bought some gas because Joan wanted a full tank. "You don't have any driveway salt, do you?" he asked the manager. "No, but Tharp's tool store ought to sell ten-pound bags cheap," the manager answered. "I only need five right now," he nodded, "plus some hooks, bolts, and a bushel basket." He rushed to the store, which was having a special on light bulbs, and first he bought those things and then, second, two cots on sale. With the spare tire, they were a tight fit in his small-sized foreign auto. On the way home, he saw a guy fixing the roof of his house and thought, "I need to put a fall coat of paint on my own house-it looks dull." The tar on the road had gone from hard to soft, since it had gotten hot, and he recalled that Joan would be hostile if he didn't wash that big, dark cooking pot on the stove. Picturing the fire in her eyes, he took a shortcut down Tuttle Street and got home just in time to hear his other daughter practice the violin. She sounded as horrible as her sister. "Oh, my poor ears," he muttered as he poured out the dish soap. "I guess there's no cure for this."

Please read the following pairs of words. Some of the words appear more than once.

tide...tight  
cot...caught  
pin...pen  
hard...heart  
pool...pull

How's...house  
hoarse...horse  
dew...do  
lout...loud  
for...four

sighting...siding  
tour...tore  
hi...hay  
made...maid  
bite...bide

hem...him  
feel...fill  
pole...pull  
sight...side  
Abe...ape

hill...heel  
cart...card  
hawk...hock  
day...die  
side...sight

height...hide  
sighted...sided  
heart...hard

toe...tow  
how...hoe  
sided...sighted  
peel...pill  
tyke...take

flour...flower  
dies...dice  
ate...aid  
dill...deal  
Harper...harbor

bide...bite  
coal...cool  
fife...five  
sea...see  
bake...bike

tight...tide  
ten...tin  
tote...toad  
dice...dies  
full...fool

card...cart  
shied...shade  
pool...pole  
siding...sighting  
boat...bout

five...fife  
indoor...endure