

TAPE A-110, SIDE A
SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW WITH CHARLES ARNETT

Date: April 2, 1981

Interviewers: Helen Waters and Faye Benway

Charles E. Arnett, father of the narrator, Charles Arnett, was born in 1878 in Batesville, Ark. His wife, Cinderella Tramell was a weaver in a cotton mill in Mammoth Springs, Arkansas when they met. When Cinderella's uncle, a Methodist divinity student, moved to Denver to attend Denver University, first Cinderella and then her mother joined him in Denver. Cinderella worked in a cotton mill on West Evans (now Cobusco).

Charles' father contracted malaria in the Spanish-American war, and when Arkansas proved too damp for his health, he moved to Colorado where he and Cinderella were married. In 1907, they moved into the mountains near Critchell to homestead 160 acres. Charles was born there in 1909.

During harsh winters getting out of the area was impossible. When Charles E.'s horse died, the older Arnett had to walk 18-20 miles into Littleton to shop for supplies and then carry them home on his back. One time they had no food and Charles E. had to use the sole remaining shell in his shotgun to shoot a grouse.

Around 1911, Charles E. and Cinderella decided to give Fayetteville, Ark. a try. But they did not succeed. In 1913 they returned to Colorado, although not to their mountain home because the roads were so bad, several attempts to drive up failed.

Charles worked for Sears, Roebuck for 20 years before World War II and headed the Sporting Goods Department. In 1968 the Arnetts moved up to their Critchell land permanently, but Charles continued to commute to the city,

He remembers the bootlegging in their area in the 1920s and 1930s and how his mother refused to rent land to bootleggers.

Once Arnett found a powder horn that he thought belonged to a black man, Buchanan, who owned land west of the Arnetts "in the early days." Galloway now owns that land.

Asked what his parents did on their homestead, he replied: "Nothing." They lived on \$12.50 per month from the government. When they first arrived his dad operated a steam sawmill. Soon he cut down all the big white pines in Bear Wallow, however.

As a youngster, Charles Arnett visited a silver and lead mine on the Carl Kuehster ranch where he got a big piece of galena. They tried to get Critchell started with the Annie L mine, he stated, but Critchell died when "silver went to pot."