

Mrs. Jewel Minton
Interview 0120b
December 9, 1987
Daniel Webster, Interviewer
Dorothy Farley, Transcriber
Retyped by Elaine Lawrence

Abstract: In this brief interview with her nephew, Daniel Webster, Jewel Minton tells about her first date, meeting and dating her husband, and her father's views on dating. She also mentions the CCC camp at Weches.

Daniel Webster (Hereafter DW): This is Daniel Webster interviewing Jewel Minton at her home in Diboll, on Decmeber 9, 1987.
Aunt Jewel, tell me about your first date?

Jewel Minton (hereafter JM): Well, I will tell you. The 3-C camp [CCC Camp] was there at Weches. It wasn't a 3-C [CCC Camp] boy that I dated the first time. It was Sherman Lovell but then I dated a 3-C [CCC] boy. There was a 3-C Camp [CCC Camp] there at Weches. The old Mission Park is there now.

DW: Did your dad have any specific rules that he set for you dating?

JM: Oh, yes sir. He didn't want me to go with anybody or set with anybody at church. See I had to slip off and get married.

DW: How old were you when you had your first date?

JM: I was thirteen.

DW: And your daddy didn't know about this, right?

JM: Right.

DW: What is the 3-C Camp [CCC Camp]?

JM: The tree Army camp where there were boys that went in and they got money. They had rules just like an Army camp back then. They had rules and regulations you had to follow by. They got a dollar a day. They set out trees. They showed a picture in the Crockett Paper here a while back where they set out hundreds of acres by hand of little trees.

DW: What did you do for entertainment on your date?

JM: We had church and then we had party plays.

DW: What are party plays?

JM: Well, they would ring up and catch hands. I imagine Corrie has played them. They sang – I will tell you one of those songs they played was, “Coffee grows on White Oak Trees, The river flows with grandiose, go choose you one that will roam with you, the sweetest lad, this candy-o.” A boy chooses the girl and the girl chooses a boy and they all get in the middle and they go swinging around and around. Everybody would swing now see, Daddy wouldn’t let us dance, because they would turn you out of the church if you danced. Daddy wouldn’t let us dance, but we played those party plays.

DW: Did your daddy know about those party plays?

JM: Oh yes, he didn’t care about us having those party plays. We would even have them at our house some.

DW: Did your daddy ever meet that guy you first went out with?

JM: Oh yes.

DW: Did they like him?

JM: Yes, but he didn’t like for us to go with anybody. But we would slip off and go.

DW: Did you ever get caught?

JM: Oh yes. We got our behind whipped, too. I had to slip off and get married. I married in the Courthouse in Crockett. Papaw told everybody years later – He would always say, “She is the only thing I ever stole in my life and that broke me from being a thief.”

DW: Who was your first date with?

JM: My first date was with Sherman Lovell.

DW: What did you like about him the most?

JM: I didn’t care nothing about him.

DW: What did you go out with him?

JM: Just to have somebody to go out with. Papaw was the first boy I ever liked.

DW: What did he do?

JM: He sniped for Temple. He started sniping on the railroad when he was fourteen.

DW: What did you like about him?

JM: I just fell in love with him.

DW: Did you ever date him?

JM: Oh yes. We dated over a year – about a year and half before we got married.

DW: Where did you go for your date?

JM: We had a few party plays and then we had church.

DW: How old did your daddy say you had to be before you could start dating?

JM: He never did say. See, I wasn't but sixteen when I married.

DW: You were sixteen when you got married. How many times did you go out with that first guy that you went out with?

JM: Oh, just a time or two.

DW: Thank you for your time, Aunt Jewel.

JM: Oh, You are welcome.

END OF INTERVIEW