

[Marshall Hill]

S260 DUP

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 23 So. 20th

DATE October 1, [1938?] SUBJECT American Folklore

1. Name and address of informant Marshall Hill, 244 So. 9th
2. Date and time of interview Oct. 1, 1938, 5 p.m. to 7:10 p.m.
3. Place of interview Residence of informant
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant Personal acquaintance
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you None
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. House is small bungalow, about five rooms. Rather shabby, and sits in middle of block.

Front room, where interview took place, shabbily but neatly furnished with old fashioned piano, radio, old time over-stuffed set, and additional rocker. [????]

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 23 So. 20th

DATE October 1, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

Library of Congress

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Marshall Hill, 2449 South 9th, City

1. Ancestry Negro
2. Place and date of birth Obion, Tennessee, 1876
3. Family Wife
4. Places lived in, with dates Kansas City, 1908-11, Lincoln, 1911-38 Previous to 1908 roamed around the country.
5. Education, with dates Cannot read or write
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Worked in saw-mills of Tennessee when a boy and followed that at different times. At present is an extractor in laundry.
7. Special skills and interests Likes to fish and listen to radio
8. Community and religious activities Methodist
9. Description of informant Large, muscular, real black, with hair inclined to be coarse, partly straight.
10. Other points gained in interview Grandmother on father's side was full blooded Indian. He said she did not know what tribe she belonged to because when she was a little girl the soldiers drove her out of the Tennessee hills and some white people found her and raised her.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So. 20th, City

DATE October 1, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

Library of Congress

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Marshall Hill, 2449 So. 9th, City

I was born in [Obion?], Tennessee in 1876. I ran away from home when I was thirteen and went to [Idawell?], Georgia. I got a job with the Bell Telephone Company; they were running a line. My job was to set poles. I stayed on that job about four months and quit. I then went over to Paducah, Kentucky and worked on the extra gang of the I. C., that job was sure tough. The foreman, a big Irishman named Woody, took a likening to me and gave me a job breaking on a gravel train. I stuck on that job until they sent me over to Jackson. I had pretty good money so I thought I would quit. My money didn't last long so I got a job hauling rock from a rock quarry town to a place where Uncle Sam was building a fort. I happened to go into town one day and I seen a fellow from home, and he said the folks had heard that I was dead and they were all feeling bad. So then I went back home and the folks were sure glad to see me. I stayed at home until after Christmas and then went to Birmingham and worked for the Pioneer Iron Works. I don't recall just how long I stayed on that job but it was quite a spell. I [bummed?] around the country for awhile and then landed in L. A. I went up in the valley to cut logs but they had too many men so I came back to L. A. and hung around until I got a job on a boat going to the Hawaiian Islands and stayed over there six months. When we got to L. A., I went back up the valley again and met a fellow who wanted to go to Alaska but he hadn't been around much and he was kind a scared to go up by himself. We teamed up and went up to Seattle and then over to Dawson, Alaska. There wasn't much-a-doing at Dawson but they told us that Whitehorse was just opening up, so we went up there. Frank got a job in a drug store because he could read and write, but I didn't get on right away until a saloon-keeper asked me one day if I wanted to put a bootblack stand in his place. I sure made good money on that job. There was an army fort across the river and when the soldiers came in town they all wanted a shine; it was \$1.00 a shine, never nothing less. Then when the miners came in town it was nothing to get \$5.00 just to shine their shoes. We stayed up there for a while and Frank got tired and wanted to come back, but I didn't. The white people were friendly

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and you could have a lot of fun with the Eskimos, but he coaxed me so we came back down to Seattle.

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

Mr. Hill is natural born conversant and it is his delight when anyone will listen to his stories. His present work as contractor or washerman at Evan's laundry is extremely heavy work, but those familiar with that work say that he can do the work of two men in that particular line.