

[William Mills]

[?] Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK

FORM A Circumstances of Interview [7?]

STATE New York City

NAME OF WORKER Levi C. Hubert

ADDRESS 353 West 118th St. Man.

DATE December 1, 1938

SUBJECT ANECDOTES — WILLIAM MILLS

1. Date and time of interview

October 29, 1938 Afternoon

2. Place of interview

329 Halsy Street. Bklyn

3. Name and address of informant

William Mills 329 Halsy Street, Bklyn

4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.

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Personal contact

5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

Private house remodelled into apartments. This was a second floor which was renovated into a 3 room and bath. Occupants came originally from North Carolina, living room contained day-couch which converted room at night into bedroom. Potted plants occupied space in front of fireplace. Overheated as usual with such places. The street is one in better neighborhood of Brooklyn.

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

STATE New York City

NAME OF WORKER Levi C. Hubert

ADDRESS 353 West 118th St. Manhattan.

DATE December 1, 1938

SUBJECT ANECDOTES — WILLIAM MILLS BARBER-SHOP SPECIALS)

There was the time down South it was so hot the farmers were compelled to feed their chickens cracked ice to prevent them from laying hard-boiled eggs. %%%%

And another time, right after the Civil War, one of the former slaves actually received his forty acres and a mule. He planted his forty acres in corn. But somehow he used pop corn

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and one day he was using his mule to cultivate the corn and it became so hot, so doggone hot, the sun started the corn to popping and the popped corn covered the field like snow. The mule saw this snow-like blanket covering the field and there on the hottest day of the year the mule froze to death.

The soil down South is said to be so rich that one young farmer sowed his fields with acorns. He started one morning to sow and the acorns took root and grew up so fast that by evening the trees were so tall and large the farmer got lost in the forest.

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Then I came up north and the weather was so cold, so doggone cold, the first year I was up North that the farmers had to put in steam heat in the cow's belly to keep her from giving ice cream.

Why, it got so cold that I tried to talk with another fellow and when we opened our mouths to speak the words froze up and dropped on the ground. Do you know we had to pick up the frozen words and thaw them out so that we could find out what we were saying to each other.

Why, one time in Philadelphia it got so cold that, especially down in the center of the city, William Penn got down off the top of City Hall, put his hands in his pockets, walked in a drugstore and said, "Phew. This is the coldest day I've seen in many a year."

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Man, I live on One Hundred and Thirty-third Street. And that's the toughest street in New York. Why, it's so tough that all the canaries sing bass. And all of the toughest fellows live on one end of the street. And, Man, I'm so tough I have to live four miles past the tough end.

It was a woman who just came to New York from Way Down South out in the country. She stayed in a flat in Harlem with some of her folks. One day they left her alone in the house to watch the children. Soon the buzzer of the dumb-waiter sounded. This old lady opened the dumb-waiter door and she heard a voice. So she shouted, 3 "What d'ya want?"

A voice shouted up the shaft to her,

"Garbage?"

"Taint no Garbage here. This is Johnson's. You got the wrong apartment." And she shut the dumb-waiter door.
