

Charli Shea Fortney-Heiskell

Where: Scotts Run Museum

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Interviewer: Emily Hilliard

Transcription: Emily Hilliard

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Charli Shea Fortney-Heiskell of Morgantown, WV is 11 years old and the granddaughter of Mary Jane Coulter, the Executive Director of the Scotts Run Museum. Charli Shea is often at the Museum during the Saturday coffee shop.

CH: Charli Shea Fortney-Heiskell

EH: Emily Hilliard

00:00

EH: Okay. So could you tell me your name and how old you are and where you're from?

CH: My name's Charli Shea, I'm 11 years old and I'm from Morgantown, West Virginia.

EH: Where are we right now?

CH: We're in Osage, West Virginia.

EH: Can you tell me about Osage?

CH: Yeah, well, a long time ago there were a bunch of trains that would just run through Osage, and Eleanor Roosevelt came here a long time ago and there were not many buildings and most of the buildings got torn down in Osage and got rebuilt. And when... I've heard stories that when my grandma lived here, there was a bar right outside her house and it burnt down. And my mom used to like be there sometimes and my mom grew up, she moved to Cheat Lake on Cheat Lake and my grandma has never left Osage. Her mom used to live here. And there were coal mines like right below Osage and yeah.

EH: Do you know what your grandmother's family did here?

CH: Kinda. I know that my grandma had 8 brothers and her mom died when she was 16 so I didn't really learn much about her mom. I learned what her brothers did. My uncle David, David Coulter, he worked in the coal mines for 35 years and he used to mine right under this building.

EH: Wow.

CH: And before this building was built, and owned by my grandma, it was a coal mining garage where they would park. They would have all these tools that they need in this building and it was really small. And then it... like went on to a garage like where we'd park our cars. And then now my grandma made it into a museum!

EH: So is that why we're here today?

CH: Yeah. And my grandma built this museum especially for people to come in and learn about how, like... learn about the coal mines and how Osage was made.

EH: And how long have you been coming to the museum?

CH: My whole life! I came... my first time at the museum was when I was 2 months old. Actually no, right after I got out of the hospital, I was in the hospital for 6 weeks at birth, and then I came to the museum for the first time. And it was cool, I can't remember much but now I look back and I see like everything has... a lot of things have changed.

EH: Like what?

CH: Like right behind us--the paintings, they weren't here and that picture wasn't in here.

EH: Do you know who that is?

CH: I can't remember-- my grandma told me once but...

EH: John Lewis.

CH: Yeah.

EH: Who are some of your friends here?

CH: Well, the first couple people that I like know and have known for a long time is John Probst, and George. And I just met Sarah.

EH: Is that George Sahrris, Sarris?

CH: Yes, Sarris.

04:10

Yes. And my uncle David. And I have like a lot of other people that come and it's really fun.

EH: What happens on a Saturday?

CH: Well, the museum's open from 10-2 and a lot of people start coming at about 12. And like it just starts piling in. And then there's like 25-30 people here every Saturday. And it's just cool to see everybody come and have a great time and people like see me outside and they come up to me-- or at my school, and they're like, I heard about the museum. It sounds really fun. I want to go sometime. And it's REALLY cool.

EH: Nice! What are some stories that you've heard people tell here at the museum?

CH: Well. Oops!

EH: Uh-oh [recorder falls]

CH: Well. That (laughs) that when my grandma was little, Eleanor Roosevelt came here. Or no-- my grandma wasn't even born I don't think. But Eleanor Roosevelt walked the streets of Osage and um... and I've heard stories that Albert used to sing, practice singing in the old garage here.

EH: Mmm! That's Albert Anderson?

CH: Yes, Albert Anderson. And I just heard a story today-- some, I think somebody, I forget who it was, but they owned the Al's Shoe Shop. And right when that, when he passed away, Al came in, took his place, and it's become Al Anderson's Shoe... Shoe... Shop. And it's just really cool to look back in the pictures and see how Osage was before and what it's turned into be now. Like in one picture that I looked at, there's like this big train running through Osage, and there was like these tiny cars and Bug... or those` wagons...

EH: Volkswagens?

CH: Yeah, Volkswagens. And it was really cool to... like there's a bunch of books here that you can turn through and look at all the things that Osage was before.

EH: Why is it important to you?

CH: It's important to me because I realize that my family grew up here and my grandma owned this museum but my great-grandma turned it into what it is now. Or helped, before she passed away. So when my grandma can't run the museum anymore, I want to take the privilege of running. And I think it's important to me because I just... I didn't come here when the trains would run or the old cars... but Osage is a really old place and you can see that because some of the buildings are like, you know, like old and it's really cool because like right up the road, it looks like just a normal city, and then when you turn into Osage, it takes you back so far. And yeah.

EH: Cool! Is there anything else you'd like to add?

CH: Um! Oh um, that when I was little, and we had our street fairs, I used to walk around and everything and learn about the different coal mines and stuff but I wanted to share a fact. That right under the street that you ride in Osage?

EH: Mmhm.

CH: There was this whole...there's still... I don't know, a whole tunnel that they used to come through and coal mine. And that school up there, my great-grandma went to, my grandma went to, and yeah, and it's still there.

EH: Wow.

CH: It's really cool.

EH: Do you know what heritage your family is?

CH: Um, no. I don't.

EH: Well, anything else?

CH: Not that I know of.

EH: Thank you so much!

CH: You're welcome!

EH: Well what'd you think of your first interview?

CH: That was awesome!

EH: (laughs)

09:20

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