OH 5/48

3/06/91

Oral History and Interview with Kenney Neil, and wife Evon Neil, at the Nilgiri Animal Welfare ~~Association~~ Society NAWS at Manimhalla.

We have been here from the 1950s and Manimhalla was a small place when we came here. The NAWS was located at Coonoor and later was shifted here. There was old English women who started this place and ran it. It was a shelter for old and disabled and unwanted animals, and we would keep them and take care of them till they died. Ours is a society and is run purely from donations. In addition we have a dispensary for animals here. Now, we do not have a trained vet here. Earlier, we used to even have people who would pick up distressed animals and bring them here. A cow with a broken leg would be carried and moved from Coonoor over here to spend its last days.

When we came here there were just 4 tribal houses at Mavinhalla. There were no other houses around here. Even till 1970 there were only 4 or 5 houses around here. Then it was we who sold the land to the Gilgal mission and the Quiet Corner came up. They were missionaries from Kerala. And what they run here is only a dispensary. For our medical treatment we have to go to Ooty.

I have rainfall records here from the 1950s. And our records do not show any change in rainfall. However it may be true that the rainfall has become very erratic and unpredictable. The other thing is that the streams around here have all gone dry. They used to be perennial a few years ago. But diversions and pumping out of water has reduced these streams to being very seasonal. And there is no ground water around here. It is only now that we have a check dam here that stores water for some duration of time.

Mattinagudi now has become a big town. It has lost it charm now. Those days there were only 3/4 houses along the road in Mattinagudi. But I think with the dam construction - the Bongara dam and the Moyar dam in 1950s, the place really increased in size. The EB Colony was contracted and built by my uncle. All those houses were in the camp was built by my uncle.

There has been no agriculture here for a long time. But there are plenty of indications that agriculture was practiced in many areas here. Maybe the disease moped out all the agriculture here, or maybe the turmoil and readjustments during Tippu's period destroyed agriculture in this area. Who were the agriculturists here? Most probably it was the people from Karnataka, across the Moyar who came and practiced agriculture in these parts. Because the tribals here do not do any agriculture. When

we first came here, the principal mode of subsistance of the tribals was the gathering of minor forest produce like honey, poochakkai, horns, moss and lichens etc. And they used to do some agriculture. Infact agriculture was introduced to them by my uncle who set up some kind of a cooperative here

There were a lot of pattis around here. And now there may be a 10 fold increase in the number of cattle. The main pattis here were, Chemmanattam, Cadanapatti, Anaikatti, Sivun Bokkapuram etc. And they were all used to manufacture ghee and sell it in those days kerosine tins and sold at Ooty. After the milk collection came, milk used to be collected privately from here and sold at Ooty. It is only since then has the cattle population increased in this area. Previously it was more buffaloes around here. Now, the cattle population has increased. Even I tried collecting milk from here and selling them at Gudalur. It was way back in the

1960s. Then there used to be about 200 cattle at Cadanapatti. I know the number, because I was collecting milk from there. I have an old ford to transport the milk to Gudalur.

When I used to come earlier there on weeks, we took a bus to Teppekkadu and walked or took a bullock cart ride from there if we could inform our farm hire. There was previously a taxi service, Top Tom's taxi service, who used to run Jatkas from Teppekkadu to Ooty. The old road used to go via Bokkapuram, Westbury estate up the Kallatti road to old. There were a few stations on the route where horses used to be changed. Now none of Toms family survive.

The Westbury estate used to be a good coffee estate. Now it is run down mainly because of lack of care, and more money from the sale of timber trees of silver oak that used to provide shade. From the 1970s, the estate has degenerated. There

were many other good estates around here. The workers in the estates were mainly some tribals and ~~we~~ during the peak plucking season, labour would be brought from the Ooty, Glenmorgan and other estates on the hills.

My uncle brought these tribals when we first came here and settled them on the area around here. All the patta lands here of the Marumagudi village was owned by the Europeans here. But around each hamlet, during the revenue settlement, land was left for the expansion of agriculture, grazing and other needs of the villagers. All the patta lands was owned by us.

The vegetation along the stream sides was very thick. There was a lot of bamboo. The bamboo came to flower in 1970s and then the ~~got~~ gout sold all the bamboo in coupes. It is only now that in protected areas like the one around here, that bamboo is coming back.

There were a lot of other big trees too along the streams. Some rosewood etc. They have decreased a lot now. Many of the stream beds are bare now. And the Opuntia used to be very dense and thick in these parts till the australian fungus was introduced to control them. It was a big nuisance for the shikaris, and hunters and sportsmen who came here.

Rinderpest was a common occurance here. Every year in the Summer the local animals used to suffer from rinderpest. The calves if effected would die surely. The older cattle used to be treated here, but there was no effective treatment. You could clean the hoofs and do some dressing, or make the animal stand in sand and slush for days, and the animal may be get well. But once the disease spread in the month, it was difficult to save it. It is only at

at certain times that the disease spread to the wild population here. It happened in the 60s and 70s, and the bison was badly affected. But now they are coming back and rinderpest is more or less controlled.

In the 1950s malaria went out of this area. The Jungle warfare training centre was located here during the 2nd world war and they did intense spraying of all the streams in the area and thus malaria was eradicated from this area. Only after that, this place being free from malaria, the human population increased.

Sloth was common here. Sloth was controlled by the Nilgiri Wildlife Association and it was really a spot. Only species our male were shot. There were

a lot of tigers around here, and each year 4 or 5 tigers were shot. There was of course Phytheon Adams who hunted here and there was R H Storey an Engineer who built the Mettur dam. He was a keen sportsman. Then there were also many Zamindars who who came up to the this area for shikar.

Other people, old residents of Nilgiri are no more. But one Bea Wakshore, w/o Edward Wakshore who ~~lit~~ lives in Nadunattam Crompton Estate would have some interesting books and records of this area. Nondi Iyer of Masinagudi was the local contractor of MFPs. He still lives here in Masinagudi in the two storied house there.

9/- Lecture.
10/- Cover up.
11/- Bonus

2220 } Anaikatti.
2281 }
16/11/90.

1.0 Oral Histories & Notes

Closed on 12/12/90

ORAL HISTORY

OH.1

7/11/90
Vattavayal.
Kudumbai taluk.

Personal profile

Velu Chetti. 41 yrs of age
Resident of Vattavayal. house name Maritikuli.

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Vegetation

Forests were much less earlier; Every ~~monsoo~~ year during the dry months the forests would burn and your visibility was very good. ~~For~~ from here you could see for miles. Now-a-day these line right inside the forests, they have allowed the forests to grow so much around them, and that is not the way for us humans to live.

Climate & Rainfall

Rains in our time was good. There used to be rain for 6 months. This month Nov is the beginning of the dry months - sunny months. (ie June - Oct) Now is the season for the paddy to ripen with the sun and the rain will cease

Previous to this month, the last 3 months there would be a lot of rain for doing good agriculture (ie Aug-Oct) there would be a lot of water. Now-a-days it has been raining when the grain should be ready for harvest. It rains whenever it pleases these days. There are no ponds these days. earlier there would be channels of water all around.

Climate & Rainfall

There has no flood or other calamities here. Human diseases as minor fevers do occur - would not a simple fever come. But in these forests no ~~epi~~ diseases of epidemic ~~disease~~ orders would occour.

Myth & Culture

They have been living in these forests from ancestral times. They do not know where they come from. From his father's time they had been here.

Forests were not any lesser ; But in the summer time the forests would burn and visibility used to be very good. Now-a-days they cannot

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Vegetation

set fire to the forests. In fact last few years we have gone into the forests to put off fire. The forest officials come and take us into the forests to put out fires. All the villages would be taken into the forest in huge numbers to fight fires.

We want an alternate site to farm, but they are not giving an alternative site. Schooling is a big problem here. The teacher does not come regularly.

Gun-licenses were given earlier for crop protection. In those days there was not ~~sout~~ so much of elephant problem. We all had licences and even now I have a gun licence. Gun was kept only for crop protection, and for self-protection. The guns were not given so much for elephant crop raiding, but each had a gun, just in case. Anyway guns were not allowed to be taken inside the forests. They were

Wildlife : conflict

only used occasionally to scare away elephants. They would also burst crackers to scare away the animals.

The nearest market was at Gudalur during their childhood. They would sell some grain (paddy) at Gudalur or Devarshola. Often the tea estate people would come to the village and buy up the surplus paddy.

Markets

Gudalur was the shopping centre for cloth, oil etc. Paddy and grain never used to be bought from the market. The road that comes to this village was laid about 10 years ago.

Communications

Before that there was only a trek path going to Bospara and thence to Cheramulli. Around was all forest. The only markets around were a Gudalur and Devarshola. There were forests till Bospara and after that scanty patches of forests till Gudalur. The population of the area has grown only recently. In my childhood there used to be Mandakarai 1 house; etc, etc

Habitations

Only 5 ~~s~~ or 6 houses were there in his childhood days. No goats; each household used to have about 10-15 cattle that used to graze in the forests nearby.

Habitations

Paniyas have also increased in population. They have lived here a long time. Then there used to only about 1/2/3 houses of Paniyas and Naikens, and today there are about 15-20 houses. Paniyas are there only at ~~Ho~~ Mandakarai and Panankuli. Naikens are there around ~~Mandak~~ Nagampa-lli.

Hunting / Scavenging

They never used to hunt in the forests. They never used to go inside the forests. The ~~f~~ white men used to come and hunt; the Paniyas also used to go inside the forests, but the Chettis never used go inside the forests and hunt. But occasionally when a wild dog killed a spotted deer or sambar, we would bring back the kill and consume it.

17= 0 18= 86 19= 1 20= 20 21= 3 22= 24 23= 0 24= 0
25= 0 26= 8 27= 3 28= 10 29= 0 30= 61 31= 0 32= 0

They never used to hunt ever. The Chettimar are scared - they are scared of the forest staff. They had to get a specified amount from the forest. For each house, the forest department would permit. They used to be troubled by the forest staff. They were stricter in those days. & Even today there can get some materials from the forests with the officials permission, but previous they could get much more from the forests. Timber and bamboo for building their houses, timber etc ~~could~~ would also be given free of cost. But since the area become a sanctuary they do not get timber from the forests.

Vegetational Resources

Agriculture is not the same too as it was. ~~But~~ Because of lack of rain, agriculture has ~~not been too~~

1= 73 2=11106 3= 27 4= 0 5= 27 6= 31 7= 8 8= 4
9= 0 10= 3 11= 70 12= 66 13= 0 14= 1 15= 1 16= 71

suffered. Ginger has been introduced into the area about 5 - 10 years ago only. Previously it was only paddy agriculture. But because of poor and untimely rains agriculture is not soo good as you can see in the fields today. In fact these days even drinking water is difficult to get for 6 months of the year.

Agriculture

1= .61 2= .21 3= .18 4= .12 5= .00

Oral History 13/11/90.

OH 1.2

Beguran 63 years old.
Resident of Masinagudi Agriculturist.

Personal Profile

For 5 generations ~~they~~ we have been here. We came ~~for~~ from Karnataka near Tumkur and settled down here. One generation would be means about 150 to 200 years ago.

Climate & Rainfall

Before ~~Since~~ 1937, rainfall was very often and there used to be enough water all around. ~~From~~ June to Nov there would rains frequently and agriculture used to be prosperous. Since then rain can be said only to be decreasing and can never be said to be increasing. Although during certain years, there has been excessive rain

25=	0	26=	1	27=	0	28=	1	29=	0	30=	10	31=	0	32=	0				

and surface flow.

Drinking water is usually got from a well in the village and in olden times there were only about 50 houses in the Masinagudi hamlet. There is only one perennial well in the area and that used of suffice for all of us. After 1948 due to the hydro electric project, water supply facility came to the village. 1946 was the Moyar Hydro electric scheme. Singara scheme was from the period 1924 to 1932. I do not know about the 1932 construction. I only know 1939, 1947 schemes. Singara power house and winch etc were erected by Germans. The labour consisted of a lot of Punjabi labour and Germans who come to fit the pipes. Menial labour and coolies had come from T. Nadu, Karnataka

Water Resources

Artifacts & Immigration

and even from Andhra. But mainly T. Nadu, Karnataka and a few from Kerala. They all emptied the place after the project was completed. After 1951 ? when the project was completed most of them left the place. During the peak of the construction period there must have been 10 to 12 thousand people in Moyar, Masinagudi and Singara. It was during this type onwards, since 1947 that there was piped water supply. In Singara even in the 1932, there was piped water facility. In Moyar and Masinagudi, was supply was provided since 1948. It was only in 1948, that the Masinagudi - Moyar road was laid.

Artifacts & Immigration

During those periods rainfall was adequate and a lot. There used to be rains in August. June onwards, the skies would always be clouded. During August there would be heavy rains. Often time, once or twice during my service,

Climate

the T. Kadu Mastnagudi road ~~would be~~ had been blocked for 2/3 days. This has happened during 2/3 times during my service. the Aykara river and streams flowing down from that side would flow torrentially. After the many dams that have built a, these rivers are not so big even during the rains these days. The bridge over the Moyar at T. Kadu has never been submerged, because the river flows way below the bridge.

Climate & Rainfall

Earlier when the village was small, all around the village there used to be a lot of Lantana Opuntia and other ~~the~~ thorny scrubs. As the village became bigger and bigger, these bushes and weeds have receded. They were not really cut back, but as people started ~~no~~ smelling and moving around Lantana decreased. The trees are as they are ~~the~~ today. The same trees and

Vegetation

the same density. Anogussis dominating and very little Teak. Eastward from here, the whole place is after all "Vyanadaya Kadu" - agricultural areas and from here eastward till Tengumarada & Hallimoyar, it has always been "quasi agricultural lands. And there were not many trees. Only around Manradiyar towards the foot hills of the Nilgiris, along the Karimaca hole river there used to be some dense forests and big trees. The British had an estate around those parts - called the Morgan estate. Even now that site is discernable, and there are remains of the Coffee curing machinary there. There is a patch of Evergreen forest on that hill and that is the area that was the Mogan coffee estate. Infact there is a 3 foot road from this side that goes right to the estate from Manradiyar avenue. The estate

was closed down even before my period and I do not remember any activity there. It had already become a forested area. Maybe during my grandfather's time the estate functioned.

Even Opuntia or prickly pear has decreased over the years. When the BFOs used to tour the area, they would take 'cactoblast' fungi, the white fungi from an infected plant ~~and~~ with their walking sticks and transfer them onto ~~the~~ non-infected plants. They would even advise us to do the same if we say the Opuntia need proliferating. Only if this plant was destroyed that things would be better - they would say. There used to be a lot of Opuntia earlier. Much more ~~that~~ and many time more than you see in any area today. Infact in those days, the Adivasis

Vegetation

would simply survive on the fruit of Opuntia and buttermilk, both of which was plentiful in the area. These days there was not much of coolie work available and so, the adivasis just survive on Opuntia fruit and buttermilk. It was not the British who brought this plant to India, but it was they who attempted to destroy it.

Personal history

I was a forest guard from 1947 to 1950, and I just stopped going to work after that. I used to get a salary of Rs 15/- + Rs 3/- as malaria allowence. Because malaria was very prevelant here those days. A lot of us were affected by malaria. In summer, if we drank water, there used to be a ~~cyst~~ internal cyst on the left side and we would not be able to walk or do any work. We could not climb a hill. All people

Human diseases

were affected including adivasi's and many died because of malaria. Before 1946, ~~malaria~~ before the dam construction started malaria was very prevalant. But after good water came to the area after the dam constructed, there has been no malaria. Malaria come ~~sometime~~ when you drink water and there is a malarial insect. When the army was here from 1943 1944, ~~they~~ the anti-malaria people used to spray some oil into every ~~pond~~ pond and tank in this area. Even water holes inside the forest were sprayed. In addition ~~of~~ to the anti-malaria people, even the military used to spary oil in water holes.

The Army was here from 1942 to 1944. It was a huge camp here. They must have been more that 10,000 people. There were Europeans, Panjabis and Nepalis. They had

their HQ at Kargudi and spread from Thorapalli to Kekkanhalla + Masinagudi. It was the Jungle warfare training centre. They had pitched up tents and were all over. In Kargudi there were bunkers and a regular establishment with a bakery, a hospital etc, cinema, etc. They must have been here for 3/4 years?! They were here to train for war. There was not hunting etc in the forests by them. Being in the military they were under strict discipline and if they ventured out into the forests they would be looked. They did not destroy the forests. Infact in my younger days, a major shot a chital. We were apprehensive because they were the army, but we reported the matter. They immidiately came by jeep and took him away, and auctioned the deer off. By the range officer.

It was on the T. Kadu road. The military could not

interfere and do any other activity privately. It was only then at DDT was sprayed and malaria reduced. Before that we would get "Kayna" tablets if we got malarial fever. It is so bitter and inconsumable. The post office had these medicines, & and the forest dept. was supplying it too. There were also some Malayalees who used to come and sell these tablets to the local people. They were also available free. These tablets were so bitter that it was better to suffer the fever than consume the medicine. The malaria disease would affect everybody including the Adivasis. Malaria was prevelant even during our grandfather's times. It was very common during our father's time at least. Malaria was prevelant all over - wherever water was stagnant. It was even there on top of the plateau.

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Human Diseases

89.00	7116	54.00	.00	36.00	31.00	18.00	4.00	.00
89.00	8116	55.00	.00	33.00	37.00	16.00	1.00	.00

In all these stagnent pools, plant material would fall and it would smell and from such ponds, malaria would spread.

From the forests timber would be removed and auctioned. The Adivasis would remove honey, rockmoss, tree moss, kadukkai, puchakkai, gum & resin from the Anogeissus tree that exudes it during the summer months, seevakkai. They used to be a contractor from Methupalayam who would come and collect it and take it to the market. For this he would have taken a seperate lease from the forest department. The forest department would auction these lease right for collection of these MFPs. By public auction for each range. Say Sigur range, and who ever is the highest bidder would take the rights. The adivasis would then be paid on a rate basis of

Forest / Vegetational Resources

So much per pound of material collected. Honey used to be 4 anas per bottle of 16 oz. Moss used to be 1/4 anas or 1/2 annas for 1 pound. Moss is used they say as some kind of medicine to cure them of some nail disease. It is mixed with 'pudina' and eaten they say. The Market for moss was at Virudhnagar, but the final usage was in Andhra.

Agriculture those days mainly consisted of Ragi, All the land was leased. Many acres would be planted with Ragi. The whole Singara estate was owned by one big landlord named Maddanna. He would give each family - one pair of cattle/bullocks, 5 acres of land; 7 kandugam ie 560 Seers should be given to the owner intern for the land and bullocks that the family would cultivate. The area from Singara to Masinagudi and Moyar was their lands, and they would thus lease it out. All the land was owned by this person Maddanna.

Agriculture

This was the situation when I was small. 80 Seers would be one Kandugam - one Mysore Kandugam. For land one had to give 4 kandugams and then for the cattle 3 kandugam. Thus a total of 7 kandugams or 560 Seers would have to be paid as lease amount to Maddanna. This would be the rate for the year. The owner would thus get 560 seers and the rest of the produce would go to the cultivator. None of us have had owned land around here. Some here owned 1/2 acreage, but most or almost all the land was owned by Madanna owning 1000's of acres. During my grandfather's days itself all our patta lands lands here were taken away - because of non-payment of Kandayam or tax. We can verify it in the revenue records. It would be written "Jodi Rajanama", which meant the land is vacated. Kandayam used to be

Agriculture & Land Use

6 annas or 8 annas per acre and even that could not be paid. It must have been more than 50 years when this happened. But since we were around, we tried our best to pay the Kandayam but could not. Only a few people thus survived with their land. The lands at Chemmanattam is the revenue land of people in Moyar. And today it is operated by his grandson, B. Kalilinge by name. They are from some royal family. They even hold a lot of land in Moyar. This whole loss of pattas since non-payment of Kandayam must have been more than 80 years back. Maddanna and co had 2000 acres and now have only about 1000 acres. A lot of their lands went for construction of the power house etc. Now 1014 acres or so is held by them. Now that land is in the hands of Set ~~Sit~~ Sivalan Malan co (?) hold the lands and he does not give the land to anyone for

Agriculture & Land Use

lease or sale. Because if he gives it, he may not get it back from them. Right now since the land to the tiller rule has come, he does not give it to anybody. Right now one Mangal Chand of Doty controls all that land. He is from Rajasthan who brought the lands from Maddanna. He owns land from Mathagudi behind the Post Office, all the way to Singara. They had 5 acres, 8 acres on this side too, but that has all been sold. He has kept with him only land on that side.

Agriculture & Land Use

Agriculture consisted of Ragi, Cholam, Mochai kottai, Kollu, kottamalli, green gram, groundnuts, etc. used to be grown. but no paddy at all. Coconut trees etc are more recent. Elephant problem was prevalent and so they did not keep coconut trees. Most of the produce is for consumption. but some people would come from Gundlupet sometimes to buy the grain and take it.

Anarai, Ragi, Kottamalli, green gram etc; much would not be kept for consumption, (eg. Kottamalli) and the rest given off to the traders. 2/3 kilos of Kottamalli is enough for a household - the rest would be sold off. Chillies sometimes would be grown and sold. The sale of these would bring some money with ~~with~~ which we would buy cloth, salt, oil, etc. Adivasis would also do very similar agriculture. They would also take land on lease for agriculture. During those days, during the days of Maddonaa, they would go and bring the adivasis to their site and coerce them to do agriculture on their lands for lease. They would compel them to stay, and do agriculture and eat, because they were not inclined to agriculture - they do some coolie work and go away.

Agriculture & Land Use

TO1 NEST MAP SECOND FILE

Forest plantations

On raising Forest plantations, they raised a small plantation near the 16th mile stone on the Ooty Road - before Manjhalla, on both sides of the road. It was a plantation raised as per the working plan. They cut all the trees in the area - mainly Anogeissus and other trees, ~~but~~ there was no teak there. The plantation was near or by the side of Jayadeva avenue. There was/ is even a watch tower there. Surrounding that area, a plantation was raised. That place was clearfelled, according to working plan and given for 'Kumri' cultivation for 2/3 years. Our townfolk were doing agriculture there. They planted trees, but there was no rain for a few years and so the plantation failed. Anyway in this area rainfall is little. We get only the first few

DAYS NCELLS WEGGS NLARVAE NPUPAE ECELL PCELL CELLD EGGD LARVD PUPAED

rains of the season. June rains do not come here at all. We get the first few rains - a few occasional showers afterwards, and then the last few rains.

Agriculture has always been with the plough; the kothu has been used only to sow intercrops in between ragi. eg. beans, etc. Only in teak plantation sites do they cultivate with a hoe or kothu in the mode of Kumari cultivation. In these areas, the standing trees will be clear felled and so you cannot plough. So after digging pits, teak will be planted. Shifting cultivation has usually been done only in the Mudumalai side, not on this side. This side of T. Kadu, 4 miles away for T. Kadu and this side, there has been not shifting cultivation. In the forests there are a few places, where

Agriculture & Land Use

cultivation had been going on. Karimarai pallam, Konimara kattan (karkhani), etc, there are 2/3 places in the forests this side, where in the olden days, cow dung manure was collected and taken to the estates like O'Valley etc. They would be taken by bullock carts to the estates. They were being suppied to the estates on cart load basis. ~~Konimara~~ They were being suppied cow dung from Konimara kattan (karkhani), ~~Kh~~ Kucchimudi ~~karai~~ malla, ... ,

Agriculture / Estates / Land Use

At Konimara karkhani, there used to be a foundry. It is near Northern Hay estate; near heighwood. ~~New~~ Near the tower line there is another place called Badaga gadée. On the Singara, - Thorapalli tower line. There they say, some Badagas used to cultivate land there long long ago. It is near the current Dhodda moyar estate.

If after Ragi is sown and there are no rains,

then there would not be any produce. And if it rains when the crop is ripe, again there will be no produce. If things are good, ragi can be harvested in 3½ months after sowing, 120 - 110 days. Ragi needs rain for the first 2½ months. After 100 days if it rains too much, the crop will be destroyed. When the ragi is harvested if there is rain, all the ragi grain will sprout out again, and there will be little grain to be had. This has happened very often around here. During 10 days of harvest if there is no rain, then we can bring in a lot of produce home. After the first few days of sowing rain there should be rain. After that, even if there is some rain every 15 days, the crop will grow well. If the season was good, in those days we would get 25 bags x 75 kgs of ragi in each acre.

Agriculture

Now-a-days, we do not even get 25 pallas (bags) x75kgs for each acre. Elephant problem has been as it was many years ago. But in those days if you flash a light they would run away. But now, even if you burst crackers and shine light, the elephants are not scared. They do not run away. Even then one had to keep watch over the crop to ward off elephants & pigs.

Ragi crop would be sown in May; Aug-Sept-Oct, ragi would be harvested. Then, kollu, kottamatti, green gram would be planted and in 3 months harvested. ie, by January these would be harvested. Then the land would be fallow. If there was an occasional rain or two, the fields would be ploughed and manured and kept ready for the next crop; or next April-May.

Agriculture

The market for the place used to be Gundlupet-

RNRD(N(2,3),K)=N(2,K)
CONTINUE
J=1

not Ooty - because you had to climb to Ooty. Bus service started only after 1946 coinciding with the project. Before that, if you wanted to even see a bus you had to go to T. Kadu. No bus would come to M. gudi. But bullock carts was the there. They would go to Ooty as well as Grundlupet. To go to Ooty, they would tie 4 bullocks. From here, coffee, cowdung etc would be transported up the hill by these bullock carts. Even cowdung used to be transported to the estates around Ooty. Many estates on top of the hill would have their cattle around here and they would transport the dung from here to the estates alone. On the hill itself they may keep one odd cattle for milk, but the bulk of their cattle would be penned here. They would ~~extract~~ collect cowdung and extract Ghee from these cattle and market them in Ooty. Now-a-days of course they sell of the milk itself.

Market & Communications

Livestock

Yes, in olden days when ghee used to be extracted, there was a lot of buttermilk, and the adivasis used to live on buttermilk & ~~psi~~ Opuntia fruit.

On cattle population and pattis, those days there were many pattis. It is not possible to recount all the names, by some of them, I will tell. Myilaratti, Mallāpuram, Dhanatti, Arakadan, Hosatti, Odagarai, Kakamada patti; Basavanhalla patti, on the way to Sigur, Mukatti pallam - beyong Anaikatti, there is a bridge and near that is Mukutti pallam, Chedavapatti, Hosur, now called Vazhathottam. Ask Bantan of Vazhathottam - there was nothing there some time back. The whole ~~ta~~ habitation was destroyed. It was a coffee estate previously, some Major Howard owned this estate and the one at Chokkanhalli. It was then abandoned.

Livestock

Land Use

Then a person called Mr. Collet bought the tea estate. But after than in 1966. First, 9 people bought that land, then 66 people bought land in the area. Now many people have bought that land.

There were no horses here; the only livestock was there local breeds of cattle and sheep. Earlier they must have been about 2000 cattle in M. gudi, and now near 3 thousand. Over the whole of the plateau there must have been about 8,000 cattle. And even now there must be just as much, although these days, human population was much less these days. Buffaloes are normally only on the eastern side; that side or eastward of Vaghaithottam. Sheep used to be there only a M. gudi and no where else. About 2000 sheep then; and just about the same now. Now, there are in addition 2500 to 3000 goats.

livestock

There never used to be allowed here in those days.

~~Easter~~

Earlier, hunting used to be done, on the supervision of the Nilgiri Game association. A shooting license would be issued at a cost of Rs 80/- and with that you could hunt 2 spotted deer, one Sambar, one Bison can be caught. They would hunt in Sigur range and even in M. gudi. Lt. Col. Adams - Physician Adams used to be a very avid hunter. He house is now the house of Mr Radcliffe at Tolakandah. He was a Capt in MRC. He only died about 25/30 years ago in Bangalore. He used to be tall and huge. He was a big hunter. All the Rajas would come here during season time. ie, Only season time: March - April - May. In June when the rains begins everybody will leave the place.

Hunting / Sambar

And during season time many parties would come to hunt. I cannot say how many teams would come - They would hunt by baiting or driving/beating the animal to a spot. They would also hunt small game by people flushing out animals from the bushes. A hunting ~~exp~~ party would consists of about 30 people. ~~They~~ there would be 4/5 people to shoot the animal. I have seen 7/8 tigers being hunted. One was hit by the Uthakuzhi Jamindar; Walfson darai now called Bob darai used to hunt. He is alive even now. He lives in the Chinese ~~estate~~ hill. It is about 3 km from Gudalur. He has even now many cages in which he used to catch wild animals. He used to catch tigers & leopards in them. He was a very rich man. In British days, we would say 18½ ~~wha~~ O'Valley ~~Wahi~~. And that was his. The whole O'valley was his. He even had a TB in Gundlupet.

Hunting / Shikar

FREQ./AR.UP BEHAVIOUR
AP 1.2000

He had another TB at Pykara. Theirs was the biggest estates around here. Now all that has gone away. O'Valley has now been bought up by someone else. Mr Mafs would now be 90 years old. He is fit ~~even~~ even now.

Hunting / Shikar

I do not know the weed Eupatorium. Lantana has been there for a long time. There used to be another weedy plant here called Kari kaddi. That is there in pockets.

Livestock diseases

On cattle diseases, there was a huge calamity in 1939. Many cattle died. Then again in 1968-69. I do not know whether the 1939 disease affected the bison also, but it was a large calamity. One who had 50 cattle would be left with one, if lucky. Before then I do not know of any disease. Many cattle died in 1939. We did not burn or bury them. The MCP contractors came and used to take away the bones. The farmers would

FOCAL ANIMAL=YTAYR
FREQ./HR OF BEHAVIOUR

come and take the skin. These people made it good during those days. Previously the Muslim tanners used to come from Gundlupet. Now there are 2/3 of them in M. gudi itself.

Earlier there was only 50 houses. Regarding diseases, post 50, when good water came here, there has been very little disease. Only normal deaths occours. Earlier, M. gudi had 50 houses, Maninhalla about 4 houses; Cadanapatti, 1 house; Hossur, 4/5 houses of adinasis; of Irulas; Bomma, Banta etc; Anaikatti, some 10/20 houses; at Anaikatti, the East India Co. had grown cotton. They were growing cotton in that area. They were the people who had constructed the dam there. They had brought horses and had used horses to plough the agricultural fields. Our people ~~ha~~ did their agriculture much later. It was the ~~Bri~~ white men that owned ~~all~~ all the land in the

Population growth

area : Leighwood, Westbury, Northern etc. were all theirs. It would not be available for our folk. The dam as well as the channel to the fields were all their handiwork. In the valley below they had grown cotton. But our folk although have lived since a long time, they never did irrigated agriculture. I have not seen the cotton grown there. It was before my time, I have only heard so. When I was small there were many unused buildings of tin sheets. We went and pulled them out of there and brought them here. The buildings ~~are~~ can still be seen on the road to Sirur on the left. There was a horse stable there. All this was built by the British & not Tippoo sultan. Tippoo only built the Haralatti kottai at Jayadeva Avenue. There is also a fort ~~there~~ at Chemmonattam, near the temple and down towards the stream. The well near the temple was

Habitations / Land Use

NO INTERACTIONS OBSERVED

recently cut by the owners of that land. But there is an old fort nearby. ~~It~~ It is upstream of the place where Chemmanattam folk go for water to the stream. That is called 'Kottai kadavu'.

Sirur had 4/5 houses previously. Adivasis: there used to be Irulas, Kasavas, Sholegas, Kurumbas etc. They used to stay at the current dam site and near the EB camp. They never would stay right next of the village but stay a little further off. They would also do some agriculture. In addition they would do some coolie work as well as collect honey, tubers etc from the forests. The Adivasi population has also increased greatly. Harijans were about 5 families who came here for Karnataka; but now there are 150/200 families here. During dam building activities there were many people here. But they left after the dam was built. After building

Habitations

FREQ./HR OF BEHAVIOUR
PK 2.0000

the dam, the population did jump from 50 houses to about 200 houses. The tea shops here are all only after dam construction activity.

Those days they would have to go to T. Kadu by bullock cart and only from there catch a bus. The Bokkapuram - Sholur road is a very old road. It is a pilgrim road to the Bokkapuram temple. From 1947 buses started. Before that bullock cart was the only means. Elephants would not bother them. The cowbells would scare away the elephants. If they started in the night at 7pm they would travel all night and reach Gundlupet the next morning at 5.30. It is 24 miles from here. Similarly returning from there. In a week about 20 to 25 bullocks will go up and down to Gundlupet. It had to come loaded with supplies for all these estates.

Communications

Buses came in 1947. There was a person called

Nanjundian. He was the one who started a milk business out of here. He used to cart milk by the bus and sell it. Only after than in the 1970s, the milk van was operational. There was an RLMS bus service. And there were 2 trips in a day, ~~One~~ one to Gudalur and one to Ooty. Often the bus would be full and one would be stuck at T. Kadu for the night. In 1970 there was a road accident on the Kallhatti road and the P.D. closed the roads for some years, 5/6 years. The Cheran mini buses were started from 1977 onwards. Towards Anaikatti the only means was by bullock carts till recently. People from Anaikatti used to go to Ebnad which is very close by. The ~~road~~ path goes from Malavapatti to Ebnad. If you go to Tengumarada, you must go to Hallimoyar. There is a fort from where Halli rani ruled over the area. It is worthy to be seen - Halli arasani kottai. At Hallimoyar there are now many adivasis residing.

Communications

Kaddemallam is another place to be seen. It has many archeological ruins.

In 1967, Tarzan Goes to India. a ~~Hollow~~ Hollywood team was here in M.gudi and made the film here. I was the local agent. They came and February and were here till April. They shot at M.gudi, T. Kadu, Singara, Mysore palace etc. 60 elephants were involved in the shooting. In M.gudi they staged a scene where the elephants break a dam, and Tarzan builds it up.

Miscellaneous

Elephant capture was done only once in his childhood. They caught it by the pit fall method. One or two elephants would fall. They did not do any Keddah operations like they did in Mysore. Only now the elephant camp at T. Kadu is big.

Misfortune

The tiles of the houses here have been around a long time. They ~~does~~ used to transport the tiles from Calicut. There were only 4 tiled houses those days.

Artifacts

Now-a-days you do not get grass to thatch the houses. Earlier they used to be plentiful in the forests towards T. Kodu.

The short grass available this side is good fodder for cattle. The tall grass near T. Kadu is not very good. The milk production would be good as well as the taste. These days ~~the~~ cattle killed by predators is less than those days. In the summer days, wild dogs are very prevalent and predate on the ~~calf~~ calves in this area.

Livestock / Fodder

Over this area there are many sites where ragi was grown. 'Ragi kuzhi's'. Before the influenza epidemic they were cultivating these sites. The tank near the camp used to be the village and below that ragi used to be grown. There were seven villages from here on the

Habitations / Agriculture

may to Gurumgowdanhalli ie till modern day Moyar. Gundakarimāla ; Chettipura ; Bastipura ; Kabipura ; Grāngonhalli ; Karkanhalli ; Gunankillarai ; kadakundi'. None of them exist today. One family out of these villages is now in Karnataka in Kaniyanapura. They had cattle here, and they keep the same cattle now. In the area called Gundakarimalla, adivasis were in majority. In other areas there were Lingayats and other castes. In Moyar there are mainly muslims.

In 1939, they built the Ari Gowder bridge over the moyar R. at Kekkanhalla ; before that there was a wooden bridge there. There is a walking route to Karnataka from Moyar, and from downstream of Kekkanhalla. In fact there are many tracks across this area. SB

Communications

I can show you these seven village sites that were

Habitations / Human diseases

destroyed during the influenza. I can show you the ragi kuzhi ; the places where they were doing agriculture. They had grown ragi & in those areas. I will show you those area after you come back.!

OH ~~49~~ 5-2

2nd July 1991
Masinagudi.

Mahader Prasad. He had a sweet shop at Ooty during the British Period. He had taken my Periappa ~~to Mysore~~ from Mysore State, a place called Badshalli, near Gundlupet, to Ooty to work in his sweet shop at Ooty. Then his confidence in my Periappa grew. So he set up this place in Masinagudi, built my Periappa a house here and set him up here. Mahader Prasad was a rich man and he had a famous Shop in Ooty. He was from North India

156	C10	PSE	7	LBT--	F	GE	W	SI
157	C10	PSE	8	LBA--	F	BE	W	SI
158	C10	PSE	9	LBTA-	F	GE	W	FO
159	C10	PSE	10	OT---	F	BE	W	SI
160	C10	PSE	11	OA---	F	BE	W	SI
161	C10	PSE	12	OTA--	F	BE	W	SI
162	C10	PSE	13	ST---	F	GE	W	FO

and came and settled in Ooty. So he helped my Ramappa set up this shop here in Mettupalayam. Only after that, did the construction activity in dam building start here.

Here, my father and all his brothers were residing. We were the first traders to settle here.