

### **George Newman: Bee Spring Church and 1909 Cyclone**

AS: What about the Bee Spring Church? Do you remem, do you know when it was built and, and how it got its name?

GN: The Bee Spring Church got its name from a spring of water on the hill and a big bee tree that used to be up there. And I understand that there's still a hive of bees up there in a hollow tree. I have not been up to that spring in several years. The original church was over there in the cemetery, Ann, and faced, did not, I don't think faced the road, if I remember right, it faced south if I understood right. It, I guess blew away, I'm not real sure what happened to the original church, and then they built over there where it is now. And it has burned once and then been rebuilt.

AS: Would it have blown away in what they called a cyclone that went through there in 1909?

GN: I think the original blew away before that. It was a log building. I don't think it stood that long. I think it blew away in the 1840's or 50's maybe. The 1909 cyclone did a lot of damage to Bry, to Bee Spring area and to Bryson area too, as well. I've always heard tales about an, an oak straw blowing through an oak tree up there, and said the straw was still hollow, you could poke a thin piece of wire or string through it, it was still hollow, it didn't collapse the string. There are a world of people buried in that cemetery that, that died in the cyclone of 1909.