

Interview with Nathaniel Myrick,
900 East Avenue,

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Nathaniel first saw Mr. Eastman at Oak Lodge, N.C. when Mr. Eastman bought it from Mr. ^{Overman} Odum of Rochester. Nathaniel was five years old at the time. Mr. Eastman employed Nathaniel's grandfather as caretaker of the lodge, and when he became too old his father took the position. Nathaniel came to work in Mr. Eastman's home in Rochester in 1911, when he was fifteen years old.

He remembers when he was a child, Mr. Eastman often stopped and talked with him and his playmates. Mr. Eastman rode horseback with his friends in the mornings and afternoons, and on the afternoon trip the party often stopped at the School which Nathaniel attended. This small school for colored children was in Ringwood, a town near Oak Lodge. It was called Eastman School and was jointly endowed by Julius Rosenwald and George Eastman. Mr. Eastman made photographs with his Kodak of the school-children, individually and in groups, because he enjoyed their sunny, expressive faces.

Mr. Eastman was more than twice as generous as John D. Rockefeller in his gifts of silver money to children. Mr. Rockefeller gave dimes--while Mr. Eastman gave quarters! Nathaniel says when Mr. Eastman called at the Myrick home near Oak Lodge, where there was a half dozen or more children, he gave each of them a bright new twenty-five cent piece. He enjoyed their delight with the gift

Myrick, Nathaniel

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and probably wished he could be as generous in Rochester, without it becoming so widely known that he would be the victim of numberless young beggars.

Mr. Eastman's mother occasionally visited Oak Lodge, Nathaniel remembers her there when she was about 65 years of age. Nathaniel's father frequently took her for a ride in a "buckboard" drawn by two horses, and she conversed pleasantly with his father while they drove. They went to the nearby town of Ringwood, or drove about the grounds of Oak Lodge (a 2800 acre estate.) At the end of her stay of a week or so, Mrs. Eastman usually gave Nathaniel's father a five or ten dollar tip.

Mrs. Eastman was very friendly and spoke to anyone--whether or not the other person spoke first. She was sweet to persons working in the household. She always had a sweet expression and frequently smiled. She brought a nurse-companion on some of her trips to the lodge and Mr. Eastman occasionally sat and talked with his mother and her companion. Mrs. Eastman talked more than her son, and Nathaniel says his replies to her often would be "Yep! Yep!"

(Nathaniel was called away at this point, and he will be contacted again.)

Myrick, Nathaniel

Interview with Nathaniel Myrick, (Mr. Eastman's relative) 2 / 1 / 4 0
900 East Avenue,

MYRICK ✓

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