



1987 Junior's sister Mabel Boggs and her son Allen. The family live in a wooden cabin in Kentucky on the edge of a ravine

The photographer *Bertien van Manen* grew up in a Dutch mining community in the 1950s. Later, her fascination with this way of life took her first to Yorkshire and then to the Appalachians. In 1985 she met Mavis and her husband Junior, both miners, who lived in a trailer on a hill overlooking Cumberland, Kentucky. Two years on, she spent four months living among their extended family and neighbours. Since then she has been back many times. Here we publish some of the images and words from her forthcoming book



July 2013 Mavis and her dog with Braden, the grandson of Mavis's sister-in-law

'Mabel, one of Junior's sisters, lives with the Boggs family – miner Red and their 10 red-haired, timid sons – in a ramshackle wooden cabin on the edge of a ravine. No water, no electricity, and the toilet a wooden hut with a hole in the ground.'



1987 This part of Kentucky is "dry" but there is clandestine partying, with moonshine and pot ▶

MOONSHINE MEMORIES

'There's nothing more hallucinating than moons hine and reefers on a hot, sultry summer evening'



1985 Dorothy (centre), who worked as a miner in Tennessee, with two of her grandchildren

'I make friends with Allen, who's 26, and Irving, who has no job and with whom I go hunting squirrels. We roam for hours in the forest, not a single squirrel gets shot, but Irving assures me one day he'll tell his granddaughter about our expedition.'

2007 Megan, one of Junior's granddaughters. Her father is Junior's son Billy



'Billy lived next door to Junior and Mavis on the hill with his wife Sue and the kids, Justin, Chet, Megan, Amanda, the baby Jennifer and, later on, young David. I spend a lot of time at their house. When Jennifer dies suddenly, the photograph I have made of her is the only one Sue has.'

1987 Mabel's neighbour Rodney, with his father and his brother



2007 Red's granddaughter and grandson, with Red's son Irving (right)



1987 Red (far left) with some of his extended family. "Everybody is scared of Red"

'I also go to the Boggs family. They have moved to a public housing project right next to the last mine still in operation. The small house is crowded with familiar redheads. They now have running water and an indoor toilet.'



2013 James and Joshua Boggs, two of Mabel's grandsons

2007 Eddie Lee and Kendra, two of Junior's grandchildren, with their parents Tina and Eddie



'In 1996 in Amsterdam I get a call from Mavis, asking me to come over. Junior has liver cancer and not much longer to live. The door of the house is open. Junior, emaciated to the bone, reacts with emotion when he sees me. He will survive for another few months.'

1997 The female members of the Boggs family gather on the day of Red's funeral



"Moonshine", by Bertien van Manen, is published this month by MACK (£40)