

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW:

8/5/80

Mr. TED K. PEASE
105 Cherry Brook Lane
Boone, North Carolina 28607
Telephone: 704 - 264 - 3860

(Mr. Pease is a retired landscape architect who worked
for the Blue Ridge Parkway from the 1930's until retirement.)

NOTE TO READER:

This material, in unpolished form, is for an
INFORMATION ONLY usage, compiled with the intent of enhancing our in-
terpretive quality. It is suggested that the large fold-out map in the
Moses H. Cone Fact Book be consulted for orientation purposes.
May you find this as interesting as I did.

Harley E. Jolley
Research Specialist
8-6-81

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

PERSON BEING INTERVIEWED: Mr. Ted K. Pease = Retired landscape architect who
105 Cherry Brook Land worked for the Parkway from the
Boone, N.C. 28607 late 1930's until his retirement
Tel. 704-264-3860 a few years ago. He is especailly
important for his knowledge of the
Cone-Price, Cumberland-Knob/Doughton
park areas.

INTERVIEWERS: Robert G. Bruce, Chief Naturalist, BRP
Harley E. Jolley, Seasonal Historian

DATE: August 5, 1980

PLACE: Mr. Pease's home, Boone , N.C.

SYMBOLS: "P" = Pease. "J" - Jolley "B" = Bruce.

INTRODUCTION: We are talking today with Mr. Ted K. Pease at his home in Boone, N.C.

Mr. Pease was for several years the landscape architect assigned to
the Cone-Price Park areas. We are asking him about looking at a map en-
titled " MOSES H. CONE MEMORIAL PARKS AND TRAILS ", with information
added by Mr. Pease as to who lived where on the estate.

P. There was an engineer from Greensboro who made a very complete map of the
Cone Estate. The Parkway's engineer Cozzani was checking that map for the
land owners adjacent to the Cone Estate and checking for the Park Service to
make sure that there were no inholdings. Eventually that map went into the
hands of rangers and finally came into my hands and when I left I
thought that it ought to go into the office so I turned it over to Andy
/Ketterson, Historian/. The map I'm talking about has property lines
and the ownership of each block of property ...On that map, besides the
owners of all the original tracts, I marked on it as well as I could, all
the houses that Mr. Cone had and the names of the people who lived in them.

J. These in red were built by Cone?

P. Yes.

J: And those in a plain square, not by Cone?

P. Yes.

J. What amazed me, Mr. Pease, were how many occupants there had been....

P. Oh, yes, there were a lot of people.

J. Why such a turnover?

P. Well, from what I was told, Mr. Cone had a lot of apples...a rather large orchard and...we use to have aerial photographs that were made about the time we got the property and it showed those orchard good...If you can't find them, the Soil Conservation Service flew this area, oh, years ago, and they use to have, in fact, that may be where we got them. But....like in front of the Manor House, that whole area in there that now is about grownup, was an apple orchard and they came right clear up to the house there just below the road. There are a few of the old trees left, but not many in there. He used a lot of men to care for the orchard, picking, spraying, pruning, and all like that. And then he had a dairy there, you know. I believed it was the Flat Top Manor Dairy...At one time there were hundreds or thousands of bottle caps... They had a bottling machine - And I don't know what ever became of them. A lot of things like that, they get away. But , the parking area at the Craft Center now, at the far end of it, just beyond the carriage house, just below the fill of the Parking, you can see some concrete there. That was where the sterilizing room was... The cow barn, dairy barn, stood there. Oh they also had chickens, ducks and....

J. : What breed of cattle did they have?

P: I don't know, but do you know Lloyd Coffey?

J: I know the name "Lloyd Coffey".

P. Well, Lloyd managed the dairy.

J. All right! I'll knock on his door.

P. And he lives out on the Shulls Mill Road. And he isn't very well but his mind is sharp. He could tell you about that. I know at one time that Sam Weems /Pkwy Supt./ was interested in a horse concession up there and thought well, the cow barn would be fine, with stalls and all that. But the ceilings were too low: a horse holds his head up to high whereas a cow hold her head down, and it just wouldn't do. So, eventually, the cow barn was torn down along with a lot of the other buildings. Mr. Cone, as I understand it, had a number of permanent, year around employees.

J. That must be one reason why there were some many "permanent" buildings??

P. These other people who lived in the houses, some of them were temporary.

They lived in the house, with the understanding that when Mr. Cone needed them, he had first call. The rest of the year, when he didn't need them, they could take odd jobs or other employment, whatever they could find. And they kept a crew, most of the time I guess, on the maintenance of the roads, some twenty-five miles of road, and it was all hand work. And they were well kept! The men told me that Mrs. Cone would go for a carriage ride, come back and call for foreman or superintendent of the place (They had their own telephone system) and tell him that on such and such a road and such and such place

there was a rock sticking up in the road or a root or what/not and he would very shortly get up there with some men and dig that rock out or cut that road out. And of course, riding those roads in a carriage, you'd notice such things.....And so that took quite a bit of labor. They were kept up better than now!

J: I have a question regarding the orchard which has puzzled me and I still don't know the answer, Perhaps you can help: CHINA ORCHARD"..Why "CHINA"??????

P: Ha,ha, he! Well, to the people who worked there, I think that came mostly from the expression "Down in China". And if you've ever walked down in there to the bottom, that's about like it is. I drove down there, one time, part way, and almost didn't get back up. It was very steep and that was why, to get apples out of there, they had to haul the apples out of there in such small wagon loads that they built that... well, I don't know what you call it. They had an engine and a winch and a track that went straight down into "China ".

J. A little car or a little bucket?

P. A little car affair. And they would load apples on to those little cars there, with the engine and the winch up near where the picnic grounds are on the highway across from Sandy Flats Church. And they would haul them up that way and then load them onto a wagon and take them on from there. So, it was just the local folk who got to calling it " China". The first thing I did was to recom-

mend (Ha, I didn't get anywhere) that all the land on this side of 221 that we dispose of it, if we could. But we can't according to the deed (I didn't know about it at that time). But we don't use it for anything and never have. But, there were two apple barns in there that have been torn down, The State built that picnic ground in there and it connects over to the horseshow, down the carriage road, but other than that we have always thought of the possibility of extending a horseback trail down there. But we already have 25 miles of horseback roads and not much money, so we've done nothing.

J. About the little church there at Sandy Flats. I understand that was a school at one time. Is that correct?

P. That's correct. Mrs. Cone built that to use as a school for children of the families who lived on the estate.

J. What grades did it go to?

P. It was, well in the very early 1900's that she had that built. And I think.... Do you know Clyde Downs?

J. I know Clyde, yes.

P. Everybody knows Clyde! Well, he went to school there. And he can tell you more, including about the spring over near the Parkway where they'd go down through the woods to get a bucket of water. And at that time, the public schools of North Carolina weren't too much. They weren't well organized and all that.

And so she built that for the benefit of the children on the place. Then when the public school system developed and the school in Blowing Rock came on , they abandoned that as a school house and some of the local people, and particularly people who lived on the place, asked her if they could use it as a church and she told them they could. And they did. They organized the Sandy Flats Baptist Church. It was a lease arrangement...a special use permit, and Sam Weems made the verbal commitment. Mrs. Cone told the people that as long as they used it for a church they could have the use of the building at no cost. If they ever disbanded their church or not, then it would revert back to the estate as just one more building. Well, Sam Weems said that if Mrs. Cone told them that (and we're sure she did) that, as far as he was concerned, they would have the use of building as a church. And that's the way it came about.

- J. We were wondering about that and how the transition came about and that's an excellent explanation.
- P. The people...Well, Lloyd Coffey and his family, Clyde Downs, and some of the old timers there had a small congregation but still a church. They would depend on me as a go-be-tween, with the superintendent. They have done a lot of work on that building.
- J. It shows. It shows well.
- P. They put a new roof on it. They put in a new furnace.
- J. It's a handsome little building.
- P. Yes, it is. And the agreement was that anything they wanted to do, they would

approval for it. Well, they'd come to me and I'd call Sam Weems or write him. They wanted to put on a new roof and I called Sam about it. He said, " Just as long as it is not a tin roof! We don't want any tin roof there". Well, they had already arranged to buy those asphalt shingles on their own. They didn't want a tin roof either! So that's the way it happened and I hope those folks are allowed to continue that church.

J. Well, it makes a very nice unit. What I was trying to find out, particularly was the transition from school to church and you've done that nicely. I see also, reference to "sheep"...What number, or what do you know about sheep on the estate?

P. Well, they had a sheep barn on Rich Mountain. Now the Colt house here was one that was not built by Cones. This was the Colt gun people.

J. How/why did they get there?

P. I don't know unless they just came in for the summer home. And one of the Colt children died there is buried out behind the house. The grave isn't marked, but it is out there. Clyde Downs says he used to know where it was and tried to tell me one time. He wanted to arrange to mark it.

J. Surely, yes indeed.

P. But I don't know.

J. So you think they were summer residents?

P. Yes. Now, the sheep; The Cones kept sheep, too. I don't know whether they had the original shepherd there or not. But they kept sheep and, let me see, they built a sheep barn here pointing it out on the map... The Cones built that barn. And they would pasture sheep

and there is quite a bit of pasture and some old fences still there.

J. Was that rail or wire?

P. Wire. And they would bring the sheep down there at shearing time. I don't know whether they wintered them there or not.

J. What kind of number are we talking about?

P. I don't know really, but from the way people around here talk (and not many people like to work sheep) I think there must have been a hundred or more. Again, Clyde Downs will know.

J. Good, I'll ask him.

P. If he's working, he's probably still clipping on the Cone hedge. That use to be his every year job.... He knows everything. Clyde can take you to a corner any corner. If you are looking for a corner, take Clyde and he'll say, "I don't know, it seems to me that corner use to be right around here somewhere." And he'll probably put his hand right on it. He and Lloyd Coffey worked with our engineers when they ran out those lines.

J. So that's how he knew!

P. Clyde is a well of information. And a lot of information will go when he goes. Do you know Charley Coffey? Lloyd Coffey's brother-in-law, used to work for us.

J. No, sir.

P. He lives in Blowing Rock. They used to use him as a fire warden. And finally, they hurt Charley's feelings. He was 72 years old. They found out this when they /NPS/ were signing him up one time, and fearing that a man that age might have a heart attack or something they quit hiring him and that hurt his feelings. But he can still beat most of us climbing the hills if he had to. Lloyd Coffey's wife was a Coffey, too - different branch - but she and Charley were brother and sister. And Charley has a lot of local history in his mind, too.

J. All right! I see reference to the "Colt Still". What was the story on that?

I was surprised to find that on the estate!

P. That was a privately owned still, for home consumption. I think the Cones found out about it. But some people have told me that part of the agreement when the Cones bought the land was that nothing would be done about the still. But there was a still there, apparently.

J. Any remains around that you can see?

P. Not that I know of. A fellow told me where it was but I couldn't find any definite sign of it.... Now, there's a fellow here in Boone, named Shoemaker, he has a heating and plumbing place. His brother still runs it. But he's retired and not too well. He lived on the place for quite a while and he told me about the Colt house and the still.

J. You mentioned about security and fires. What did the Cones do about security and fire?

P. They had in the house, some of them may still be there, some fire hoses in racks, to pull out, but actually they didn't have enough water pressure. They had.... the water was piped down from the big spring and there were, I think, three wooden tanks on posts out just back of the parking area....

J. Excuse me, just a moment. By any chance were any of those tanks moved farther down the Parkway?

P. They were taken apart and sent.... I don't think they were ever reassembled, but there was one at Crabtree Meadows for a while.

J. Bless your heart! You've answered a question! We found the remains there at Crabtree but you wouldn't believe the tales that have been told explaining them. Go ahead, please.

P. That's probably where they came from. They were good redwood tanks but the tanks were just a little, perhaps not as high as the roof of the house, I

guess, but didn't have a whole lot of water pressure so we put in the pump that's down in the field there. But they had that a few fire extinguishers, 3 gallon and what not. But I don't know of anything they had for the rest of the building.

J. That's what I suspected. Very little or none. I have a question to ask about Mrs. Cone and her personality. Did you ever meet her?

P. No. She died in 1948 and we didn't come in until 1950. I never met her. Clyde Downs and Lloyd Coffey would know. They worked for her for many years. They speak highly of her. In fact, Lloyd was mentioned in her will. He has a rocking chair and a bedstead which she willed him.

J. Who has a copy of that will?

P. Lloyd Coffey has one.

J. Was that will filed and probated here in the county, Mr. Pease?

P. I don't know whether that was here or in Greensboro. It may have been here. But do you know Wade Brown, the lawyer here in town?

J. I know of him, yes, sir.

P. Well, his daddy has some connection on the place over there and Wade would probably know about the will.

J. Fine. I was curious about where it was located and also about its provisions. I understand that she specified right down to almost every piece in the house. Is that right?

P. Just like that. Lloyd Coffey got the rocking chair, this particular rocking chair, and a bedstead from a certain bedroom. And he showed me the will. It was quite a number of pages long. It was quite an extensive paper. She was very thorough. She assigned things where she wanted them to go. And I have thought for a long time that if the house could be restored and Sam Weems could have handled it and the Cone people contacted, I believe that they

would return most of that furniture if it would be put in the house and exhibited as such. And I'm sure Lloyd would bring back his chair. But all of the relatives were included: one got this and another got that, including the rugs on the floor and everything.

J. Let me go a different direction. Let us go out to Mr. Price's Lake. About what time did you come aboard in that territory?

P. In 1950.

J. What was the stage of Mr. Price's Lake at that time, his proposed lake?

P. Well, they had stopped work there after Mr. Price was killed. They were nearing the point of getting the contract to build the dam, but had not. They had finished I think, their preliminary work and there a number of buildings out there on the Johns River Road: if you drive down the Johns River Road into the dam site, upon the top there is a graded out area there were several buildings there: an office building or an office for the engineers, kind of built right on the edge where they could oversee the whole operation, and a storage building for cement. The gravel would be just piled onto that graded out area. And there were a couple of other buildings there. Prior to the death of Price they had core drilled the entire valley... a real valuable procedure from the engineers standpoint... there were two size cores, one about three inches, and one a little smaller. And these cones were laid out in order in a frame that had built (and everyone in this whole county has a whetstone from one of those cores!). There may be some scraps still around out there. But there it stopped. And since then has just grown over. I wish we could keep the brush cleared out in there so that from our trail on the other side... When I located that trail I took it right around there, purposely, so that our visitors could see the dam site. I had hoped to build a connector just upstream a little ways from where the dam is... a footbridge across the

The river and a connector trail up the bank so that we would have another loop trail over the Johns River Road. Leo and I talked about it a number of times. I flagged it out, even and we talked over every way we could think of to get a bridge in there. It should still be done. It would make a nice extra loop walk there.

J. And with the information you're giving us it would make a nice interpretive unit as well.

P. Yes, I've always thought that where you come out and look right down on that rock, onto the dam site,... that is the place to do the interpreting.

J. Was there a remanant of a logging railroad in there, down that river, on the bank there?

P. Yes.

J. Could you tell something about that?

P. There was a unit which came up the Boone Fork and at Bee Tree Creek there was a branch line that went up where the trail returns and followed it as much as I could up through there. And it dead-ended up near the head of Bee Tree Creek. Then the Tram Road followed the Boone Fork right on up and it wound around under the present Price Lake. It followed the gap and one branch went up the Cold Prong and the other up the Boone Fork, way on back up Grandfather Mountain. It even went out... as you go on beyond the Holloway Mountain Road there's a place or two where, when we built that section of the Parkway, there are remains of little short trestles, where it crossed the hollows. There are some sharp hollows there. And some of the old grade is still there. Just below that little pond out there, there is still some of the old grade that was used. There used to be a house in there and the fellow used that for access. And it went on out, way on up in toward Grandfather Mountain. And that's.... I guess that you've heard

about the geologists from ASU?

J. And their "Glacier stripes"?

P. Yes.

J. Is that the origin?

P. No, but the cable that cut those grooves was probably getting out logs for that railroad.

J. Remarkable! What company was doing the timbering? The Whiting Lumber Co.

B. I don't remember the name but it was the mill down at Shulls Mill.

J. Is that why they call it Shulls Mills? I always thought Shulls Mill was a grist mill.

P. It was a sawmill. And ETWNC railroad hauled out most of the lumber that they sawed. See, Tweetsie came right up through the Hound Ears Golf Course. And the mill was in that big flat right about opposite the mouth of the Boone Fork, between that and State Road 105. There's a flat, I guess with Christmas trees, but that's where the mill was.

J. How long a time are we talking about that they were operating?

P. Well, I can't tell you. But Charlie Coffey can because he was a brakeman on the train. Charlie, if you can get Charlie to talk he has some wonderful tales. He would tell about... of course, the brakeman would ride the logs and he said sometimes they came out of there with their hair standing straight up. If you can remember, there's an old bent rail close to the trail down there.

J. I remember! That's why I asked you about the track.

P. Well, they had a wreck right in there, in that vicinity and that's why the rail is there. They threw it to one side and replaced it. Several people, tourists, have asked if we weren't afraid someone would carry that thing off.

J. No problem!

B. I can't imagine anybody carrying off that heavy thing.

J. How many and how much of those trails did you lay out in the Price Cone Parks?

P. All the trails in Price and of the Trails in Cone ... The Carriage Road, Mr. Cone laid that out. I don't remember ... Yes, we did, too: The Parkway cut across the Carriage Roads and just below the Cone House there's a little overlook that you drive into. And right below that, there's a Carriage road coming in, and we relocated that because the Parkway cut the original carriage road there and we relocated a short section in there to rehook them together. And there's a section up above the Parkway that was just abandoned. It became a dead-end then. It went from the area where our underground water tank is and went out just above the Parkway nearly to the meadow where the big spring is, where our water is, and then turned back and down and that's where the Parkway crossed. So we built a connector from there back to ... as you go down from the Cone House, down toward the Bass Lake there's a sharp curve and the new road takes straight out thru there. That is the only "new" location on the Cone place that I can think of. The rest of it is just the way Cone laid it out.

J. That which we today call the Craftsman Trail, many changes made in that?

P. That was a trail that Mrs. Cone had built just so she could walk around thru there. We made a little connection, maybe a hundred yards, but most of it is just as she had it built and ... it came back by the bowling alley and the tennis court and all that.

J. I've read about the bowling alley and the tennis court. Will you please tell us where they were?

P. That was too bad about that building being taken down. But I can understand. I didn't always agree with such things. There's the bowling alley /pointing it out on the map/

J. It stood right on the Craftsman's Trail?

P. Oh, yes, right by it and maybe some remnants of it. It was upon stone post, sort of.

J. I didn't realize it stood anywhere near that close in. Now, where were the tennis courts?

P. They were right in here /locating them on the map/. And then her flower garden was right out in there. You'll notice a little old building, may still be there, oh, 10' x 12'. That was the gardener's place, where he kept his insecticides, etc. She had a tremendous bed of peonies. And its grown up into woods now. But the tennis court was a grass court and was right in here.

J. One of the fellow's asked you to describe the lighting system, the carbide unit and I want you to do it again so that we can document it. Describe, please, how they used the carbide for lighting. Most folks today don't know anything about it, so, if you would, Mr. Pease, give a good basic description, please.

P. Well, in this building here /pointing it out on the map/... This was the ice house, the wood house, the laundry, and underneath it, the acetylene generator. It was in that building, and a pipe came across through that wall and into the house. Several years after we acquired the place, I found, way back under the porch, two or three canisters of carbide, Enough to make quite a bit of acetylene. But the generator was, well it was a not uncommon sort of thing. It was a drip ... they had a hopper which fed the carbide in and a water reservoir that dripped water on it to generate the gas.

J. What happened when the carbide hit the water?

P. It generated acetylene gas.

J. And that's what burned?

P. That's what burned, yes.

J. How did that get from the tank, to, say, the light fixture?

P. Well, there was pipe from that building, oh, an inch and half in diameter, or something like that, that came straight into the house, through that rock wall back there, and into the house and ... there still are, I'm sure inside all the walls a pipe, or conduit, as heavy as a water pipe,... There ought to be some of it still sticking out of the wall where those wall fixtures are. And it went to every room so far as I know.

J. And this was a vapor or a liquid?

P. A vapor, a gas, and it would build up enough pressure out there in the generator to feed it in through these pipes. And most of the lights had little y-shaped porcelain burners or whatever you call it, and a valve.



J. Alright! So you could adjust it?

P. Yes, They'd light it up with a match and then they'd have a globe on it. Looked just like a lamp only "modern". And we...I expect we lost a few of the fixtures but there are quite a few of them still there. Then in more recent times they ran electricity in and...

J. By " more recent times"... Was this during or after Mrs. Cone?

P. During Mrs. Cone lifetime. And they had one bulb in the kitchen. Just a hang-down bulb. And I'm not sure whether there was one in the dining room we did it. And most of that is surface wiring. She was not for butchering up the house just to put in electricity. There may have been a light up in the attic. And I think there was one down next to the furnace. But she was not a real strong advocate of electricity. And of course, they used an icebox instead of an electrical refrigerator. And unless someone's gotten it, the ice-box is down in the apple barn. And inside the icebox are some of the bowling balls. There use to be some of the pins. Someone has stolen them away. Things like that get away.

J. By the time you came , Mr. Pease , was there still talk of converting the lakes into visitor use units? I've seen reference that these lakes were being considered for swimming and boating by visitors. Was that still current when you came?

P. You know, at first, before we aquired the property, it was offered to the State. He provided in his will that upon her death it would become a public park.

J. "A pleasuring place".

P. Yes, and it was first offered to the State, with as I understand it, a number of restrictions. And the State, of course, knew that the Parkway was going to come through about the middle of it and that would complicate things for them, and they couldn't handle it. So, then, we wound up acquiring it and their contribution toward maintenance.

J. Now, is there an annual contribution still coming in on that?

P. So far as I know, It ought to be renegotiated.

J. Yes, in view of what's been done to rehabilitate it.

P. It's helped, I'm sure.

J. But those lakes?

P. They ...I don't remember any positive proposals that the Park Service ever had for that, other than fishing. And of course, we built the Price Lake. And from the start had public use in mind. But, other than fishing, I don't recall any proposal that the Park Service ever had for the Bass Lake and Trout Lake. (We rebuilt the dam for Trout Lake.)

J. That had washed out?

P. That washed out in the 1916 flood.

J. So you had a major reconstruction project?

P. Well, yes, we spent quite a lot of money there. That was costly. See, there was no overflow, other than the spill way. Well, there was a little landslide up above there from that ridge. It slide down and blocked the spillway. So the waters just rushed over the dam and took it out. Of course,

Mr. Cone was dead and Mrs. Cone didn't want to spend the money to rebuild the dam. It had a clay core. And had the spillway not been blocked, it was a good dam.

J. Who did all that construction for the Cones? Did they bring in engineers from the outside, or just how was that done?

P. By this same engineer that made that map of the Cone place. I think Mr. Cone had retained him.

J. Was he local?

P. From Greensboro. You may have noticed around in a place or two a twelve inch cast iron pipe. on the road, used as a culvert. There's one or two, as you go from the manor house down to Bass Lake, down toward the lake, near where there use to be a house down at the dam there. And one of the Moody boys lived there. Anyway, that 12" cast iron pipe was the original drain pipe in the Bass Lake dam. And Mr. Cone was concerned that this engineer had not made that large enough, so they tore it out and put in a 24" pipe. And that old 12" pipe hung around, so they used it in culverts and what not.

J. Another question, entirely different. I read that Mrs. Cone absolutely did not want that Parkway, that when they were laying out the line, trying to find an acceptable route, that she vigorously objected to that parkway coming through her estate. Anything to that? / There is!/_

P. I don't know. I was not involved in anything like that. I don't know whether at that particular time we had any more than a paper projection through there or not. I don't know whether there had been any one on the ground.

J. There had been someone on the grounds and she had raised the very dickens about.

P. Well, along about the same time, do you remember about the goosberry business? / Ribes eradication /

J. Yes.

P. Well, now, they worked that whole estate and uprooted ...Well, she had beautiful patches of currants up there and they uprooted everyone of them.

J. This was a State.

P. No. this is Federal Forest Service. The fellow who did that I use to know well. He's dead now. He worked for Experiment Station in Asheville... But she didn't object to that.

J. She could see positive benefits. I'm sure.

P. I don't know whether there was anything more than an exchange of letters or not. I was at Asheville when I came back from World War II until 1950 when I moved up here and that would probably have been about that time. / Preceded it. See letter file on Cone Estate /

J. You mentioned the ribes eradication program. Any other outside influences shaping it.

P. I don't know of anything. Well, there's the woolly aphid and the balsam business.

J. Nature's way?

P. But we sprayed and what not. And years ago we... at that time the Cones, the rest of the Cone family, took more interest than they do now. I suspect that Ben Cone now is probably the only one who has much concern. But we were losing balsam trees around the cemetery ... and the early photographs show that planting. It was a nice circular planting and I proposed to Sam Weems since we were losing so many of those trees and couldn't replace them with a little tree--- you'd get nowhere That we should try to convince the Cones that maybe we should do away with that in favor of something else. Sam says, "Well, draw up something and I'll take it to them." Well, I did and he did. And they agreed to about what's there now. That is, an informal group on either side of the road (that we haven't maintained too well!) The proposal was to plant various sizes of balsams and Fraser firs and then every few years plant more of small sizes. So we could keep them coming on. And at that time the woolly aphid was just come to the fore, so I took it on myself, when we bought the balsams to include some spruce, thinking that the woolly aphid might wipe out our balsams but we'd still have a little bit of green there. And we put them in. We've never added anymore that I know of. And then I underplanted with rhododendron. And they were doing pretty well until.... we were fighting the woolly aphid so hard. Went up there one year and sprayed for woolly aphid with lime/sulphur, (some of which is probably still out at the apple barn in a tank). Well, I protested spraying with lime/sulphur, fearing for the

rhododendrons. But we sprayed anyway and killed out the rhododendron.

And I guess we've already lost the balsams or soon will.

J. Yes, they are in the process of going now.

P. That's a modification that we have made to the estate.

J. That's the sort of thing we were asking about and I appreciate your comments very much, because with our constant turnover in interpreters, each season we have to start from scratch and that's hard. That's why I am asking these questions.

P. I understand. There should be in the files somewhere the small plans I made for that Cone grave modification. And we rebuilt the tower on the top, too. It was a wooden tower when we got the place, made out of chestnut. I've climbed the old tower. It was very shaky but it was still there when we got the place. We tore it down and as soon as we could replaced it with the present day steel tower which was built as a fire tower.

J. But it serves another purpose: its a nice place to take a hike group in there. And they enjoy it.

P. We wrangled among ourselves a little bit about the height of it, as we probably would if we were rebuilding it now, but I think we wound up with a pretty good thing. It gets your eyes above the trees.

J. Right! Without being too obvious itself. You did well.

B. How about the rock work on Rich Mountain?

P. That...Originally Mr. Cone had ^amason work for I don't know how long, or several of them. Those walls were all dry walls, built without mortar, which isn't done anymore. It's about a lost art. If properly done they are durable.

Well, all that wall down around the Bass Lake and all those others are the same kind of wall, built in the same period. We repaired that wall on Rich Mountain but it was a "repair" rather than a "reconstruction." It was there originally, built by Mr. Cone.

B. Just as part of his carriage road?

P. Yes. He... you can't help but wonder what it would have been like had he lived.

J. Oh, Yes!

P. He had the means and the vision to really do something.

J. And evidently when he died Mrs. Cone just held on.

P. Yes, she was quite conservative.

J. Was she Jewish?

P. Yes, I guess they both were. She and her two sisters lived together. One was Clementine and they are both buried up at the Cone grave yard, two stones back there in the corner. You've heard the story of the breaking into the Cone grave , I guess?

J. Yes, but for the record, would you tell that, please, because unless we have it recorded...I've heard it and you've heard it, but it soon goes without record.

P. Mr. Moody, who was the superintendent of the Estate when we acquired it, told me that Mr. Cone had been buried about 15 years and there was a rumor that went around Blowing Rock from time to time that he had been buried with a fortune in jewelry and cash money, or what not. And he / Mr. Moody/ said, " Of course no one believed it but everyone kept listening to it." And apparently that was originally from the fact/

that when they had the funeral--- Mr. Cone was a Jew --- but he may have been leaning toward Christianity. Any way, Moody says that at the funeral one of the clergymen there, before they closed the coffin, stepped up and slipped a New Testament into the coffin with Mr. Cone before the coffin was closed, and he thought that was what gave rise to the rumors that ^{his}fortune^s jewelry had been slipped in. Anyway--- I don't remember the date ---, but the grave was broken into. The vandals wrenched off one support brace from the bronze fence around the grave(and it's still gone. They never found it.). And they used that to break into the coffin. And Mr. Moody says he went up there and the open coffin was still there and he " rearranged the bones". so he said, and covered it over. And then Mrs. Cone got quite upset.

J. Oh! I could well believe it.

P. Yes, and she instructed him to fix it so that it could not be broken into again. So he said he got several teams of horses and they hauled the largest, big flat stones they could drag with a team of horses and after the casket had been filled in around they covered , as he told me, "a great, large area" over the casket, then poured concrete on top of that, and then soil back over it, and reseeded it, and didn't mark the exact spot of the grave (and it still isn't marked).

J. That makes sense

p. Of course, Clyde Downs could tell you exactly where it is because he was involved in it, in, some of that work. That was the story Mr. Moody told me, and he ought to know!

J. Is he dead, Mr. Pease?

P. I don't know, I heard sometime back he died. But he lived down in the Globe community and had a farm down there. He had been invalid for, oh, quite a few years, in the hospital or nursing home most of the time. Mr. Moody lived in a large old two story house just below U.S. 221 at Sandy Flats. And when I first met him I was sent up from Asheville to meet with him on some problem or other about the Estate and he was quite a character. He smoked constantly, a real chain smoker -- lit one cigarette off another and threw the old one down-- never put one out, just threw them down and the floor was covered with those cigarette burns, just all over the whole floor. And when he took me in to the room where where he said he was living by himself (his wife was living down in Globe), and he unrolled a map of the place -- probably the same map we were talking about , and went over some of the things so rapidly I was lost. Then we got in his pickup and rode around. I thought "no telling where we are", but we weren't far from Bass Lake area. We went down some of the carriage roads. And I think there were just some dead trees and some windfalls that he wanted to take out, and knowing that the place had changed hands, he wanted to be on the safe side before he did anything. But he had two sons who lived on the place. One lived down in the house at the Bass Lake dam and part of his responsibility was that if we ever had another flood he was supposed to get out there and open the gateBut Mr: Moody claimed that he, personally, owned a lot of the tools that were there on the Estate, told Mr. Weems that most of those tools were his. And Sam

Weems told him, " Any tools that are your personal property, take 'em, no problem. If it's yours we don't want it. So Moody started hauling. He took every hand tool on the place. He took oh, they had a whole lot of picking ladders-- He took all those He took all the picking bags. He claimed that they were his, that he had bought them. He claimed that Mrs. Cone just wouldn't buy anything like that. So, all the spray equipment, all the farm machinery, all the plows, mowing machines...everything. And finally, well, he was hauling lumber that was stored in the ---there was a large building out there, in the near neighborhood of the carriage underpass as you go up to the Cone Grave. And they hauled logs in there to cut up into wood that they took into the house and they had quite a lot of lumber stored there, probably chestnut lumber. It would have gotten gone, finally anyway, but some of us protested to Mr. Weems that this was going a little bit to far. So he wrote Mr. Moody a letter and gave him a deadline saying " by this date all your personal property must be removed from the Cone Estate and anything that is left we will consider as part of the Estate." So , Moody made a final clean-up and got about everything that was loose.

J. Remarkable!

P. And of course, he had a big farm down in the Globe and the farm

machinery and all that he just took on down there. And his two sons, who worked on the place, helped him locate everything. Some of us were a little bit irked about it. [Looking at the map] I don't know whether that building will show or not. Yes, there it is: "wood storage building". And they had in there, too, a fellow, who during the winter time he was caught up would turn spare spindles for the Apple Barn -- but he turned them replacements. And ---I keep thinking of modifications that we made: another one was right in front of the house, the Manor House. At that time the balustrade out in front of the house was 20' farther out than it is now. There was one proposal to let people park up against it, but the grade, on the other side, was too steep and one of the carriage roads went right in below it so we couldn't flatten it. I recommend^d that we move it back closer to the house, since we didn't need that parking area (we weren't going to let the general public park in there anyway) so that would let us flatten that slope a little bit. Which we did, and shortened it. Oh, it was in bad shape. I guess I took out a panel on each end. I know Sam Weems was aware of it but he never said anything because he knew it was quite a job to maintain. It had been the bottom pieces of those balustrade panels and one or two had rotted and had been gouged out & filled back with concrete and daubed over with white paint. And Mrs. Cone didn't know about it or was never told.

- J. Let me ask you about some place names, also. I asked about the China Orchard... I see such names as " The Duncan Road".
- P. I think most of those were named for a family - for people, as I understand it.
- J. Were those the Cone names or were those give afterwards. i.e. would the Cones have known this as the Duncan Road?
- P. It was known as that when we aquired it.
- J. What about " Flannery Fork"? Who was Flannery"?
- P. That I don't know. There was a road, The Flannery Fork Road" that is still in use and the " Flannery Fork ", is the creek that runs out of the Trout Lake.
- J. I'm curious also about such names as " Sandy Flats" . Did it have that name when you starting working there.
- P. It was Sandy Flats then. I don't know why. Clyde Downs or Lloyd Coffey could come closer to telling you about that.
- J. Again, " Black Bottom" ? Strange name.....
- P. Yes. Those were all there when we came. That brick house was an interesting house that I hated to see torn down, over in the near neighborhood of where the town water dam is now. It was a large square, two story brick house that was never completed, built out of homemade, homemade bricks. It should not have been torn down. I don't know just what we'd have used it for but it was a pity because it was an interesting building. I don't know who built it ... Not the Cones. I don't remember much of the history of it.

- J. Let me ask the process ... How were all those houses removed, Mr. Pease? Looking on the map I see something like 20 to 30 houses, none of which are there now. What was the process and how were they removed?
- P. They were sold on a bid basis. The bidder would pay, say a dollar, and they would tear them down and remove the material.
- J. What period are we talking about now?
- P. In the 1950's.
- J. So much of it has grown up now that you can hardly reconize that there had ever been a house there at all. Remarkable!
- P. Most of those places you would overlook unless you knew that there had been a house there once . Or you might see some house plants, a hydrangea...
- J. Or a rose. We even found a portion of lighting rod ^{at} one site.
- P. Well, there are lightning rods on the house or used to be. Mr. Cone was apparently afraid of lighting or aware that lightning struck frequently because the majority of his building were protected. And soon after we got the property Mr. Weems had a lightning rod company to make an estimate on the cost of repairing and replacing them.
- J. By what period would they have been removed? / i.e., the houses /
- P. By the 1960's, I believe.

- J. Leaving basically, the Manor House , the Carriage House , the Apple Barn, and a very, very few other buildings. Remarkable.
- P. Yes, the Manor House, the Carriage House, and the building that is presently out beyond the Carriage House was one of the houses that was right back of the Cone place and we moved it down across to there and remodeled it. The other one was torn down.
- J. In another direction..."SIMS POND": Was there ever a pond there or was this one that you fellows made?
- P. No, that's there now.
- J. But was there a pond on the site, originally?
- P. It's always been artificial.
- J. So the Park Service put that one in?
- P. No, it was there, originally.
- J. It was designed for what purpose, originally?
- P. That was, I guess, Mr. Price's. If you'll go , walk up that trail around the Sims pond, up in there two or three hundred yards on your right you'll see a little concrete weir and about a 3" pipe that runs from it down to that area (and its covered by Parkway fill) but the end of one of them still sticks out, I think. There were some trout rearing pools there. And then, in that field, you know from the Parkway in the wintertime, you can see the smoke house over in there, Just below Sims pond on Parkway left there use to be a big old two story frame house , a barn....
- J. So that's what stood there!

- P. That was the Sims house. And the ^SSmokehouse was a little log building and it's still out there and you can still see it. Watch yourself out there, because there are trout ponds in there all grown over with weeds and brush.
- J. Well, I didn't know that! We appreciate your help!
- P. That ^{are} are there still. And there used to be a good spring right under the road. I think that there is a gate there now .
- J. There is a gate, locks it off.
- P. Just before you get to that gate, right below the road by a big tree was this spring. It used to be a big bold spring, as folks would say, and originally it was used to feed those ponds but then it wasn't enough water so he ran on up Sims Creek and put in this little weir and brought this 3" galvanized pipe down there and then built those other compartments out there that the Parkway filled & covered up. You can still see the end of one of them, I think near the upper end of the pond, sticking out where the fill didn't quite cover it all .
- J. That information helps, very much.
- P. Most of those old pools are probably still out in there. Like I say, it's grown over with goldenrod and everything and you could step off, poof, just like that.
- J. Was that part of the estate or was that separate?
- P. That was part of the Price estate. Price had bought the whole thing. I don't know whether he was the instigator of the trout rearing thing or not. I sort of believe he was because I don't think that Mr. Sims had that kind of money. Sims was, I guess, quite a character. He lived in that old house and he built his own coffin and kept it in his living room and when anyone came to visit him he'd get in it and let people

see how he looked in it. And folks say he was a wicked old gent. Someone asked him why he built his coffin out of chestnut (you know chestnut , when you burn it, pops and cracks and splatters). And he said, " Because I want to go thru hell a poppin'!" But there was quite a nice barn there. The foundation is still over there in the field, at the foot of the hill.

- J. That I can find! The miserable thing has been ^{to} lead walks out in there and know absolutely nothing about the families who lived there.
- P. I can sympathize with that, yes, and I just thought of another improvement on the Cone Estate: that trail leaks over onto Cone land ... the trail that starts out at Sims pond and loops up under the bridge there, then up and back, well, we built that.
- B. How many entrances were there to the Cone Estate?
- P. Well, every entrance had an iron gate, like the one at Bass Lake. There was that entrance and there was one there at Sandy Flats. And it had an iron gate that is now up above where you go into the ranger residences. But it used to be right out next to the road there. And the road that turned in there, went right on out into the field and forked, then went down to the right to Flannery Fork and to the left to Shulls Mill. But that was the only two entrances. Down at the Flannery Fork Road, at the sheep barn, people could get onto the estate of course, and at several places, but it was not open to the public.
- J. What would they use for security?
- P. Well, I don't know Mr. Moody kept a 30'30 rifle at his bed with him.

J. He may have been the security!

P. I think that at one time he was concerned with dogs getting into the sheep. I don't know that they had any security other than a lock on those gates. But those were the only two ways you could get in. At one time there was another access, I guess you'd call it , at the Bass Lake Dam. Mrs. Cone was good friends with the people who owned the adjoining property...I guess it was Mrs. Snyder...Its a development now. But Mrs. Cone would get in her carriage and ride down, and she'd call on Mrs. Synder and they'd have tea. And then Mrs. Cone would come back. Then maybe the next time Mrs. Synder would get in her carriage and return the visit. So they were good friends, visited back and forth. Well, then they fell out. I don't know what over. But the next time you go down to the Bass Lake, as you come down from the highway, that entrance, right at the end of the dam, you'll notice a road that goes straight on there and right about...close to the boundary line---there's a stone wall, about so high, that goes up the bank and across the road. Mrs. Cone had that built and she terminated the friendship right there.

J. Very good!

P. I don't know what their trouble was. But that is the way it was told to me.

B. What about ^{the} maze? Anything of particular interest there?

P. The maze ...Mr. Cone built that because he wanted a pleasant place to ride. He rode horseback a lot, but she rode in a carriage. He used a carriage, some, too. But he just wanted a pleasant ride through the woods.

He wasn't going anywhere. And that was just a way of getting more length without just going around and around. That was the purpose of it.

J. Let me go in another direction: what about CCC?

P. Well, when I came to the Parkway in June of 1938, we were just getting a CCC camp at Bluffs, there where the maintenance area is now. That was a CCC camp. Then there was one in Virginia that I wasn't too familiar with.

J. Where was the one in Virginia?

P. I'm not sure but I believe that it was at Rocky Knob.

J. Yes, there was one there.

P. I don't know whether there was any more or not. So far as I know that's the only CCC camp on the Parkway in North Carolina.

J. You worked with the one there at Bluff?

P. Yes, at that time I was Living in Galax, VA, and was sent to Sparta. And at that time Sparta wasn't much of a town. If you wanted fresh meat it came from Elkin and that once a week in the back of a flat truck with mosquito netting over it. And you met the truck. You couldn't buy fresh vegetables in the grocery stores because everyone had a garden. And besides that we had all sorts of trouble, trying to find a place to live. So we'd go to Galax to buy our groceries, anyway. So we found a place to live in Galax and moved. But I still worked in North Carolina. That camp at Bluffs worked mostly starting on section B. On section 2-A the Bureau of Public Roads had landscape crew working at that time and Granny Liles was the foreman. He had just come to work as a foreman for the Bureau of Public Roads. They did a lot of planting on Section 2-A, planting mostly. I don't think they did much other work. And the Bureau

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had their own Landscape Architect and I'd have to get with him. We had no problems working together.

J. Do you remember his name?

P. Holley. We had no problem. He understood the situation and recognized that the Parkway did belong to the National Park Service and not to the Bureau. The camp at Bluffs worked back to 2-A and then on down. Oh, they got as far as Deep Gap but did less and less beyond that because of the transportation time. And we had work enough to do further north. The early sections of the Parkway that were just being completed when I came in '38 (first contract was let in '35, I guess), the cuts were pretty steep and the fills were pretty deep. They were built by , then , highway standards and so a big part of the work that the CCC camp did was flattening those slopes. And we flattened slopes great guns. And with the material we generated there we flattened the fills. And then planted on a good many of them. That was the principal work. We had two superintendents then. One was a Canadian and he went back to Canada.

J. That's remarkable that a Canadian should become a CCC camp superintendent;

P. Yes, but he became a park supt. in the Canadian Park system. He loved the Gaspé Peninsula.

J. I can well understand why. It's beautiful.

P. I can't think of his name. And the other fellow...his name... His home was at Gold Hill, N.C.

J. "LAND", by any chance?

P. No. He became an Alcohol Tax man after the camp was closed. And we had a landscape architect assigned to that camp, on the CCC payroll, along with foremen , most of wh^m were local men.

J. I'm particularly interested in the type of planting done.

P. What we plant^{ed} was... well, we had a pretty hard & fast rule that... well. the landscape architect designated WHAT & WHERE on the planting, as well as the size. And our objective was to move the surrounding landscape on down to the parkway. First, we had to flatten th^{ose} slopes enough so we could plant on them. - some of them were pretty steep.

J. Are we t^{alking} about hand labor?

P. Well, we had a little bull dozer, but mostly hand labor, because the CCC was mostly set up for that purpose. We... the Little Glade Mill Pond up near the State line, we built that with our own people and I guess some of th e CCC labor. And it has held up remarkably well. That was largely

due to the efforts of Malcolm Bird ?L/A?. You'll see his name in the records.

J. Yes. I've seen his name several times.

P. Malcom was in charge of landscape development.

J. From the correspondence he seemed to be very knowledgeable and ambitious.

- P. He was. He was a good man. He had training. He was not as knowledgeable about some of our local kind of material as some local people would be. But, he did a good job. He was a little inclined to bog down in detail. Malcom would... stake a planting on a bank, and he was very meticulous. He worked out a system of stakes out of wooden laths. And we'd paint them, say, with purple band on top... That represented a purple rhododendron of a certain size. Another band, the next size, and so on. The stake was such a length that the planting crew could use it to measure how deep to plant the item. That was Malcom bird! We had thousands of lathes. I used to carry big bundles of them in my car all the time because it kept you busy, you had to put a stake wherever a plant went. That was Malcom Bird! He planned things that meticulously. No detail was too small for him and of course, no day was long enough. He'd come down from Roanoke and work with me, and all of a sudden he'd say, "Gee, its almost dark, almost quitting time. And in the summer time that would be around 8:30 P.M.!" He was not a clock watcher. Malcom had a lot to do with setting up our planting system, including general standards of design and that sort of thing. I started him on our land use maps.-
- J. So you had an in-put into that, too. Did you devise them?
- P. No. Malcom....We worked it out pretty much together. He came up with very definite symbols but unique ones. You may see some of the maps that are covered, literally, with symbols for trees.
- J. Yes, sir. I've seen them.
- P. Well , that was his system, there, beside the stakes; correspondence to each one of the stakes would be a symbol that you ^{could} ~~cut~~ put on the plans. And I

got behind!

J. I can well see how you could.

P. Malcom had some first rate ideas. He worked on the Westchester Parkway. At that time there were no parkway experienced people. Stanley Abbott, the first resident L/A on the Parkway and

for example, worked on the Westchester Parkway and he knew Malcom Bird there. And Ed Abbuehl, while he was doing graduate work at Cornell, taught Abbott analytical geometry. They became friends and when Abbott was ~~tired~~ to start the Parkway he called in Abbuehl. And then ...I don't know the exact order they came in, but somewhere along there, one of them knew Malcom Bird and they called him to take care of the road side development. Then, the man who headed EODC...I can't remember his name... Anyway he was in charge of parks and it was his responsibility to develop a plan for Doughton Park, etc., along the Parkway. Cumberland Knob, I guess, was the first one. And when I came here they were building Doughton Park.

J. Who was doing the labor?

P. We did some CCC work in there but the grading was included in the road contract.

J. Just what did those CCC boys do?

P. Mostly roadside improvement. We had a little traffic on the road and we had to keep it open and it wasn't paved then and it was continual battle trying to make any progress working. You know, if you can't pile your dirt very far out it slows you down.

J. What about the trail and the trail shelter up at Bluffs?

P. That was built as part of the early development. I don't know whether they were CCC or not. We also had the ERA and then we had the Conscientious Objectors.

J. Tell about them, please?

P. Well, we had a camp in N.C. and originally we were going to put them at Gillespie Gap and those buildings were built hurriedly for that purpose. And first we were going to have a hundred... Then after a few of those buildings were up they raised it to two hundred. But we couldn't possibly house that many there. But there was an old CCC Camp on Forest Service land down below Buck Creek Gap, down toward Marion, and they worked out an arrangement to use it. We used the C/O's for whatever we needed... maintenance, roadside work, planting, and clean-up.

J. Tell me something that they did, for example, please, sir.

P. Well, let me think for a minute.

J. Say around Crabtree Meadows.

P. They worked in Crabtree in the Park area. Let me see, they worked developing campsites, making tables, The original tables were made out of wood, you know: split chestnut logs, put together with pins.

J. Was there a sawmill right near there at Crabtree?

P. Yes. After World War II we had a sawmill at Bluffs.

J. Where was that one?

P. Let me see. I don't know the name of the road... We have a planter shed across the road from the maintenance area. And they use this still for storage. But the sawmill was down on Section 2B. There's a public road that crosses the parkway and on Parkway left we owned quite a bulge of land and up in there the sawmill was setting.

J. I tell you what I want to do... one day let the three of us go riding along the Parkway and let you show us where some of these places are. Can we do that?

- P. Certainly , well, the sawmill in North Carolina,... principally... we sawed the timber for the lodge and coffee shop at the Bluffs.
- J. Bless your heart. I didn't know that!
- P. That was out of those big spruce. When I came back from World War II ... we before the war had built the Parkway into Balsam Gap, that last five miles from where you turn up to Mitchell. We had a gate there. Well, I went in there one day and we had blown down spruce and balsam trees just crisscrossed all along the Parkway. And that's where I got arrested - I was arrested by one of the watershed wardens.
- J. Trespassing!
- P. And walked out at the point of a gun. Although we had a deed to the property! That was the Asheville watershed. I guess that's about over with now.
- J. Yes.
- P. But, anyhow, I called Mr. Weems and told him that there was an awful lot of timber in there that ought to be salvaged. And we were then talking about building the lodge and the coffee shop at Bluffs/. Well, Bob, did you ever know Cozzani, Philly engineer?
- B. I've heard the name.
- P. You know of him then. "Cozy" as we called him. He was a pretty good engineer but ... we didn't always agree. I recommended that we salvage that timber. And Cozy told Mr. Weems that it was nothing but spruce and balsam and that, that was no good anyway. The thing to do with it was to cut it up and roll it over the bank. You know, a typical engineer solution! My Daddy was an engineer - I ought not to talk about them! Well, anyway, I couldn't leave it alone. And at that time the Forest Service had a fellow named Hepting, Dr. Hepting....
- J. Yes, at the Experiment Station.

P. And we used to take our problems to him... about insect infestation, or whatever and he was great help to us. And I was in his office one day -- at that time his office was in the Arcade building. And he said, "What are you all going to do with all that downed timber you have up there? (There had been a terrific wind storm.) And so I said, "Unless I have some help I guess we'll cut it up and throw it over the bank." He said, "That would be criminal!" And I said, "Well, how about you writing a letter to Sam Weems and tell him that you have discovered that we have a lot of downed balsams and spruce and recommend that he salvage it. I've already done that and didn't get to first base." So he said, "I surely will" and he did. And so the next thing I knew I was to get a crew in there and salvage some that valuable timber. So the sawmill was at Bluff. I don't remember whether it was at that spot or another spot. We had it first at the rest room at the trailer camp. at the far end where the rest room is. That's where it was first set up.

J. Good for you!

P. I hit the ceiling at the idea of hauling logs from Balsam Gap clear to the Bluffs and then sawing them because there's lot of shrinkage when you saw logs. So I wrote to Mr. Weems and said why not move the mill down there We can move a mill in two truck loads and then haul the lumber instead of the logs. Well, Sam was a practical man and the next thing I knew it was "Find a place to set the mill." At Big Laurel Gap, if you are familiar with that?

J. Yes, I know where Big Laurel Gap is.

- P. Back in there we had an area that we had built for the ERA and they used it for a headquarters. It had been abandoned. And I suggested that we put the sawmill back in there. It'd be out of sight and out of the way. And not too awful far from the timber source. And we had no other good place to put it. So that;s where we put it.
- J. All right! But I didn't see any sawdust. Where was your sawdust piles?
- P. It has rotted down pretty well by now, I expect. We sawed enough... All the timber was sawed there for the lodge and coffee shop. /Note: Leo Collins says "yes" for the coffee shop; "no" for lodge; that the lodge material came from market purchase in Roanoke, Va./
- J. How remarkable. I didn't know that.
- P. Also, the sawdust pile may have been flattened out. As I recall it was over on the right hand side, just after you get in. But we had quite an industry going there. And after it got started I stayed away as much as I very well could. I didn't want to rub any sore spot! But we hauled, oh, no telling how much. But Dr. Hepting told Sam that it was worth while. And to go out on the market and try to buy that meterial, even then, would be costly, And that's where a lot of that timber came from.
- J. Well, did any of the C/O boys do any of the labor for you or how was that done?
- P. No, they didn't work on that. That was after WW II
- J. After it was all over?
- P. They did principally ... we use to call it fire hazard reduction, cutting dead timber along the road plus some planting. Of course, I went to the Army before they'd been there too awful long and I lost track of of them.

J. And they were housed at Buck Creek?

P. Yes, down below Buck Creek Gap in an abandoned CCC Camp.

J. Where else did we have C/O's along the Parkway? Do you know?

P. That's the only one I know of. I don't know for sure whether we had any in Virginia or not. We did, e.g., Peaks of Otter and Sherando Lake near Lyde (out from Humpback Rocks)/ ... Now ^{that} ~~there~~ was closed down and we got their tools, I ~~went~~ with a truck one day....

J. Were there wooden buildings up there or were there tents?

P. They had some of both. It was a seasonal camp.

J. Do you know where the little gift shop/ reception center is there, with the big flat parking area?

P. Yes.

J. Where, in relation to that was the camp?

P. I believe it was right in that neighborhood. They had a building that the tools were in and I believe it was there. I took a truck, no two trucks and a couple of drivers and left the Bluffs a little before daylight one morning. ... at that time the Parkway was built into Black Mt. Gap but it was ten feet below where the toll road was. So we had to go to Black Mountain and go up the Perly Toll Road and then on up to Mt. Mitchell and load those tools, came from that we started that camp with and we bought more. Now, other than on the Parkway, there was a CCC camp down at Ravensford near the southern end of the Parkway, but that belonged to the Smokies.

J. Was that up there at Black Camp Gap?

P. We had several, Roundbottom, etc. The last year or so I was in the Smokies I had to work with those Camps. It has changed a whole lot now but I use to go into one there at Ravensford, up to Roundbottom, and then there was a logging road that I could get up to Black Camp Gap on and from there down into Waynesville and back to Gatlinburg.

J. Had they started that Masonic marker when you were there?

P. Yes it was... But I don't know whether they had finished building it or not. They were active around there. But of course the Parkway hadn't gotten that far down with right of way yet and they didn't realize they might be in the path of the Parkway. And the monument at Gillespie Gap....

J. The Kings Mountain one?

P. Yes, right close to the Parkway. It was quite--I guess you've seen pictures of it? -- a tall pyramid. But then we moved it out, got just the plaque from it.

J. Let me say a very simple thing. I've learned more this morning that I have in many weeks of digging in the files and it's been much more enjoyable. With your kind permission, Mr. Pease, we'll close off the machine, take a break, and knock on your door another day.

P. Fine, you'll be most welcome!