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- Scanned
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Tape Index Sheet

General Topic of Interview: Parkway Historian

Date: 11/12/96
 Place: Mars Hill, NC
 Length: 55 mins.

Personal Data:

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Historian, History Professor
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Title: Interp. Ranger
 What was the occasion of the interview?
Oral History Project

Interview Data:

Side 1 Parkway Experience
 Side 2 Contacts, misc.

Estimated time on tape:	Subjects covered, in approximate order (please spell out names of persons & places mentioned)
<u>1401'</u>	<u>Humpback Rocks 1958</u> <u>Correction - Interview took place</u>
<u>1404</u>	<u>Sam Weems</u> <u>NOV 12, 1996</u>
<u>1405</u>	<u>Interpretation</u> <u>B. Hensley + Mike Hensley</u>
<u>1409</u>	<u>Conscientious Objectors</u> <u>Ira Thompson, (Arlo Woody)</u>
<u>1415</u>	<u>Pine Spur Rec. Area</u> <u>Mr. (William) Van Hay</u>
<u>1419</u>	<u>Lady Bird Johnson</u> <u>Fisher's Peak, Pine Spur.</u>
<u>1422</u>	<u>Stanley Abbott</u> <u>The BRP Historic Resource</u>
<u>1434</u>	<u>Concessions</u> <u>Project by Ian Firth</u>
<u>1435</u>	<u>Parkway changes / Future</u> <u>Nello Teer</u>
<u>1440</u>	<u>NC / TN Decision</u> <u>Joe to Troitino</u>

Use back of sheet if necessary

Ted Pease
 Dean Richardson.

(back)

1441 - Headquarters location

1443 - toll stations

1444 Privatization of Parks

1445 - contacts

Don Robinson, Ina Parr
Earl Estes.

SIDE ONE

HJ: ...were looking for historians. I responded to that, and I wound up on the Blue Ridge Parkway. So 1958 was my first seasonal training, my first introduction to the National Park Service, first introduction to the whole Parkway system as such, and all those nice uniform boys.

JM: How did they go about training you?

HJ: We had about a week, I believe about a week of training, including an entire trip on the Parkway, busload of us--

JM: We did that on our first year, and that was the only time that they did that--

HJ: Oh, what a great way to know, a great way--

JM: I agree.

HJ: It was a nice way of building fellowship. It isn't so much the training, as you well know. It's the fellowship. It's the learning, and some of the fellows that were sound asleep never learned as much as the rest of us did, because they were listening from another viewpoint.

JM: Oh, osmosis, as some people say. (Laughs)

HJ: Yes. Yes, yes. But that's my beginning, and that's 1958.

JM: Ok. And did you work as a seasonal ranger, as a historian, or, how did--

HJ: I was assigned as a seasonal ranger, at Humpback Rocks, which you know well. Humpback Rocks, in 1958, was my introduction. Mile post 5.8, ^{and} the cultural story of the mountain people. And that gave me a chance to go out from, on my days off, I would go into the County *seed fair*, the County of Augusta, and research all of their deeds, and all of their stories, about that Humpback Rocks site.

JM: And did you continue to do this year after year?

HJ: Oh, from 1958, basically each season. I'd previously been teaching summer school. I enjoyed this much better, it was a better change of pace. So, yes, for a year, and a year after there, I continued to do that. Assigned all along the Parkway, from one end of the Parkway to the other.

JM: Well, what was the Parkway like, in 1956?

HJ: The Parkway was like a snake that had been cut into pieces. Sections, still wiggling. Sections that would never wiggle again, it looked like, indeed. And a very disconnected piece. And yet, you remember old Ben Franklin's snake: "Don't step on me." This snake was in process, coming along there, and "Don't tread on me" became a reality. And you remember the dedication in 1987, "find a little last link," and the treading can be done all along the way then. Yeah.

JM: Were you able to interact with the local people where you were doing your research, or was it strictly going in and looking at ~~data~~ *deeds*.

HJ: It will never be that kind of work for me. I'm a people's person. And one of our absolute points: Who are our neighbors? Who are the people that come in here? How can we best serve these people? They are our visitors. How can we best interpret this region for them? So, yes, I researched the deeds so I could be able to tell the visitors.

JM: Right. Do you have any interesting stories about encounters with people? Or--

HJ: Well, just, just one example. In researching the deed there on the Humpback Rock, of the Never Failing Spring. Well, as long as that was there, the Spring never failed. I went back there last summer, I think it was, and there was no water. The spring failed. So uh, names change, times change, climate changes. And yet, the Parkway goes on. And regardless, each time it's a different story. Different story. So the next person I hope, that

HJ: (Continued) comes along, can talk about the Never Failing Spring that did fail. Sure. Sure.

JM: Right. That would be part of it. What are the biggest changes you have seen on the Parkway, though?

HJ: (Sighs) The biggest change are these fellas who wear guns. See, when I came on board, I would go on patrol, with the Ranger boys, and their guns would be ^{secretly} under the hidden. As you well know, it's so horridly, horrible, it's obvious that these are patrolmen, not Rangers, in that sense of the word. I know the reason, I can appreciate the reason for it, but I do regret the society *has made such a thing*. You're well aware, aware of the difference. And with that comes a difference in attitude, of course.

JM: I know you got to know a lot of the Big-Wigs. Sam Weems... tell me a little bit about him.

HJ: Well, a lotta people were afraid of Sam. But Sam's door was always open. I never went into his office but when he was smilin', and asked me to come in. I never asked him a question but what he answered that question to the best of his knowledge, or pointed me in the direction I could. See, I came aboard young, green, not realizing all the stories and legends behind Mr. Weems, so it didn't bother me. But it did please me that I was able to meet that kind of person. And enjoy workin' with that kind of person. That's what made the Park Service what it was. And still does.

JM: OK. So you were 36 when you began doing this?

HJ: Uh, in '58, no, I was 38. Yeah. 38.

JM: You had been teaching college at Mars Hill until then.

HJ: Oh yes. I had been teaching college since 1958. I mean, since 1949, really. In '49 I came here as a Freshman teacher, fresh out of the University of Tennessee, into the classroom, and would teach summer school in addition to the regular term, but I was looking for something to give me a change of pace. And I think one of the finest things ever to happen, ever, ever to happen to me, was the opportunity to work for the Park Service. It was a whole new world, or friends. A whole new dimension of interpretation. You and I go through the training portion, and yet each time we see something different, something different, something different. And always there's the growth, the growth, the growth. And always, (whispers) Hey, (*indistinguishable*) This sort of thing. And I think it made me a better teacher. I think also, having been a classroom teacher, helped me become a better interpreter. So they were well met there.

JM: Well the one thing I like about the Parkway, is you can learn what you want to learn, and you teach it to a group of people that want to learn, too.

HJ: Right back, right back, right back. Yes. You betcha.

JM: I love it.

HJ: That's the thing I miss. I don't miss grading papers. I don't miss all the preparation it takes. What I do miss is the *Campfire* program. What I do miss is the classroom, in which I see the eyes light up in classes. Those are the interpretations that make life really enjoyable. And that's what the Parkway's about, I think, the interpretation.

JM: Did you give a lot of Campfire Programs?

HJ: Oh gosh yes.

JM: What were your topics?

HJ: Anything and everything we could think of that was relevant. The first thing I did was up at Rocky Knob. Talking about tree roots, of all things, and how that related to the climate. And then finally, winding up doing all sorts of programs about the mountain man, the mountain people. And probably just as important, I would recruit persons in the community. Persons with talents

HJ: (Continued) and gifts, and anything of the sort. For example, bring square dancers into Crabtree Meadows in the evening, give the program and then move up to the patio and do the squaredancing. They'd almost never go home. Uh, folk musicians, up on the patio of the old lodge, there at Pisgah, Mount Pisgah. Out there on the deck. And here you are looking out to the great valley, and there's the big moon. And here's this beautiful person, with that great, great, great, marvelous touch, of the mountain music. Those people did a little home run. Ohh...

JM: That's nice. That's great. We have volunteers down in Linville Falls that bring their music, and we'll have the whole campground around there, a host campsite, and it's amazing, the camaraderie that happens.

HJ: Right. Right. It's there. But it's your region. I'll bring the potters-- B. Hensley and Mike, they're on the Parkway, with their anvil, and all that there, out on Crabtree, there in the amphitheater. And he talked about ~~some~~ ^{a show}, ohh, ohhh.... Then bringing in folk who made baskets, whatever was local crafts. This is interpreting the region. Absolutely. But it made me late at getting back home. (Laughs) I didn't mind, I didn't mind. You understand that, you've been down there. You've been down there.

JM: I understand that. I've been there myself. But speaking of B. Hensley, I'm gonna be interviewing him, and his son, who worked on the Parkway, and there's another fellow named Ira Thompson, and his son, and Woody from Woody's Chair Shop. I know B. Hensley worked at the Conscientious Objector camp on down at Buck Creek Gap. Uh, tell me a little bit about that, that's one thing that I was hoping to get from you, a little bit of information that you have found about the Conscientious Objector camps.

HJ: Ok. Uh, please keep in mind now, that the conscientious objectors are not new. Go back to the Old Testament and you'll find them, as you well know. It's an ancient thing. Protests are not-- with Vitenam, ^(indistinguishable) but on our Parkway, we've been blessed by their labors, more than most people ever know. I have never heard a campfire program about them. Uh, they were scattered all over. Smokies had them; we had them. But basically, first of all, when the Parkway was devised, and designed, it was designed as a make-work program. As you well know, to put people to work, for five hundred miles, along the Blue Ridge Country. Yep. And with that, the adult laborers ^{with the W.P.A} persons, stayed at home, commuted to and from the job. The young people who came on board were Civilian Conservation Corps boys, who had camps all along the Parkway, and you're familiar with some of those. And then, as World War Two came, ^{or was in the offing,} the WPA program would be phased out, because there would be lots of jobs for those fellas, the CCC boys by and large would be drafted, or be ^{to go} volunteered off to war, went to the ends of the earth, and to have somebody for security, somebody who could somewhat at least act as a babysitter for the Parkway during the War, the Conscientious Objectors were assigned. They were volunteers. They were, they were given the opportunity to choose what job you want, something that suits you. And a number of them, all over this nation, decided they'd like to work for the Parkway. We had a camp, that Mr. Hensley will tell you about, called Buck Creek Camp. Their CCC camp, when the CCC boys abandoned it, these fellas moved in, set up their own shop. Very democratic. Very democratic. ^{Very,} very much. Some of ~~those~~ ^{the most} high-faluting debates about any topic ^{can} ^{of} I think that would go on. But, they also did, for example, one of the things that they did, and I knew nothin' about it at the time, they did much of the work at Crabtree Meadows. There what used to be the old picnic area, and the campground, yep. We would go down hiking, down in Crabtree, and find huge piles of logs. We'd find

HJ: (Continued) cables and so forth. We were told all sorts of stories about how it got there. And little did I know, but later on, when I began interviewing the Conscientious Objectors, they said, "Yes, we were cutting down those old dead chestnuts," and that's what they were, see. So that's, that's a dimension. But you'll find pictures of them, and, and a number of pictures, showing them on fire work, out fighting fire. You'll find them using the graders, and so forth, to build the road, from the service station up around the camp ground there. All this was done by them. And an enormous amount, of, how shall I say it, I think babysitting is the word for it. It's more than that. Because they were maintaining the security of the Parkway, while the war was going on. And they were doing positive work, as well. So that is in their favor. Now, our fellows would leave from Buck Creek, and would go to the Great Smokies, to the Park Headquarters over there, for quite a while and work. And then I think that same group would wind up being transferred out to Idaho. But, when you talk to Mr. Van Hoy, if you can get him to tell you some personal stories, they have, it is a very awesome story. For example, some of these Conscientious Objectors would volunteer, to allow, to put their naked arm, and let mosquitoes bite them, and find out, what would be necessary to protect against mosquito bite. How to then counter malaria, all these items. Others drank enormous amounts of salt water, to see how much salt water they could intake, trying to help our boys who were down at sea. Or our boys who were out in the South Pacific. All sorts of these stories of what these Conscientious Objectors did. They didn't carry a rifle, but they sure carried an enormous amount of service. So you get that from him. But the big thing was, the big thing was on the Parkway: Number One, they maintained the security of the Parkway, from fire and all that *(indistinguishable)*, continued some construction, basically, and the two beneficiaries by and large were Crabtree Meadows, and Peaks of Otter. There was a camp at Peaks of Otter, right down before the hill, down there. And those were the two large ones.

JM: Then there were two other smaller ones, I believe, on the Parkway.

HJ: Just, just *piece needles (?)*

JM: Right. And, there was another camp, a Civilian Conservation Corps camp for African Americans, right outside of Fisher's Peak. Do you know much about that camp?

HJ: (Laughs) All I know is, very little is known about them. I couldn't find anything in the *(indistinguishable)* papers *about them*, I did find out that one of the first things they did when they moved in, have you been to the site up there?

JM: No, I haven't been to the site.

HJ: It's a beautiful site, right there, right there on the Parkway. I understood that one of the first things that happened after they moved in, a huge snow, isolated them. And the local people came in and helped.

JM: Well good.

HJ: So that's, that was a good report.

JM: That is good.

HJ: Uh, then I have found nothing as to where the boys went.

JM: This is all that I have on it, is a camp inspection report. And that's as far as I can go. And a lotta people have never even heard that it was there, and I know it was there.

HJ: Sure. Sure. It was there. Yeah, it was there.

JM: But I can't find much. We can't find anybody that was at the camp, so we figured they probably went back to wherever they came from, since prob'ly they

JM: (Continued) weren't, it wasn't a good place for them to settle, is what we were thinking.

HJ: Yeah. In the National Archives, there are records, that show, for example, I have records for North Carolina, listing every camp. Records for Virginia, in the ^{Nat} archives, will list that camp, by number, by number of people in it, how it was staffed, whether or not it had a colonel, or whatever, usually a lieutenant, or a captain in there. Usually a dentist or surgeon. And then, the number of people who were there. When they arrived, when they left, all that will be in that report. The National Archives will have that for you.

JM: OK, OK.

HJ: The State of Virginia, State of Virginia. Uh, North Carolina did, here, some-- in North Carolina Archives, it's done by county, alphabetically. Let's say, for example, if it's Jolley, from Caldwell County, look under Caldwell County, and there'll be Jolley. If it's Peaks of Otter upthere, what's that, Bedford? Look under Bedford County. And there'll be the list of people in that. So if you have that much lead, you can start from, see. But it does take research time. (Laughs) As you well know. Yes.

JM: OK. Right. That's what it sounds like, yeah. That's the one weak point we have with the CCC Camps.

HJ: See, nobody, well, the average person has no awareness we ever had a black camp.

JM: I also read that there was one, one of the jewels on the string, I believe it was called Pine somethin' that was supposed to be a picnic area--

HJ: Pine, Pine, Pine Spur.

JM: Pine Spur, that's it. It was supposed to be a picnic area for the black people, that's when they had segregation then.

HJ: Oh yes. Oh yes. Oh yes.

JM: But it never happened, I guess.

HJ: See, you go back and remember, you gotta go back and put it in time.

JM: Right.

HJ: In those days, segregation was not, was not *likely to happen*. So in planning for recreation for all the people, sure, this would be set aside, Pine SPur set aside for example, beautiful, beautiful place, very beautiful place. And that was set aside for a long time. But it was not used. And you're well aware, you're well aware also-- (to someone else: We'll move out if you're ready. You'll come out for a while? About ten minutes...what are you up to? OK, it won't take long, won't take long. I told you we'll be out by about 3:00, so we were working.) But, the uh, the business of segregation, it's amazing that they were accomodated. ^{They were--}

JM: Right. I was suprised at that. I read ^{that} the other night in the Blue Ridge Parkway cultural report, *I believe*.

HJ: SURE. Sure.

JM: And I was very surprised. Were the picnic tables actually built, and it was set aside for them? Or did it not get to that point?

HJ: It was one of those construction sites, set aside, later on, was ^{nt} developed, and still the concept that this was the umbrella for the blacks, see. But now, you well know, that even now, on the Parkway, and modern as we are, and as diverse as we are, there aren't many blacks up there. No matter which end of the Parkway, or where you are on the Parkway.

JM: Yeah. It's interesting. I see more and more of African Americans coming now, even in the campgrounds, but there is a very big difference.

HJ: Very few. Oh yes. And they're so few. So very few. But that's, you know, that's a cultural viewpoint.

JM: Do you remember, did you spend any time at Moses COne, or Julian Price?

HJ: Only as a supervisor. By the time I got, to that point, I only came in to supervise the evening programs, things of this sort.

JM: OK. SO then again, you supervised--

HJ: Uh, at one time, I got far enough in the hierarchy, to be supervisor for seasonal programs. That's what you are familiar with .

JM: Right. Did, and you just moved along the Parkway, you weren't in any one place?

HJ: Sure. Sure. Yeah. From DOughton Park, one night, maybe, the next night may be at who knows where.

JM: So similar to Phil Novles's position, I guess. OK. That's interesting.

HJ: Sure. SURE. Sure. Except I was a seasonal. Phil was permanent. Yeah.

JM: OK. Tell me the best experience that you had while working ^{on} the Parkway.

HJ: Ah. This, this one, you're not gonna believe. Back when Linden Johnson was president, the Park Service was a beautiful place, of course. Lady Bird was very conscious of the view here, and she wanted to come up on the Parkway. So one evening, she was scheduled for the Pisgah Inn. And it fell on my lot to be the person to provide the program for her. So we had that tiny little portion there, of the old Pisgah Inn, and I had, I tried to do my homework, and give her a nice program. ~~Had~~ ^{Had} a slide program, on, These Are Our Lives, our mountain people. And everything was going on just beautifully, and all of a sudden, (Snaps) the lights went out. Now you're talkin' see, very few people knew who was in the building. Very few people was aware that the First Lady was in there with them. Yeah, I'm sure we had FBI all over the place, but the lights went off. And instead of yelling, and complaining, I just simply continued with the program, with oral, instead of the visual. And it wasn't long the lights came back on, but we survived-- that was an experience. It was an experience.

JM: (Laughs) I guess you didn't miss a beat.

HJ: And she, oh she was very complimentary. And it was quite an experience, to be able to serve the First Lady. And in the dark. Whoah, whooah.

JM: (Laughing) So where was the President?

HJ: Where was the President? He was prob'ly somewhere else. Yes, indeed. BUT you know, ~~bit it wasn't all that uncommon~~ ^{bit it wasn't all that uncommon} for her, to be coming along in that fashion. If you want to we can move to another site-- (TAPE OFF, THEN ON AGAIN)

JM: OK. Now we're continuing.

HJ: Sorry about that.

JM: Oh, that's OK.

HJ: We've gone from the Tropics to the frigid foyer.

JM: That's right. And from Lady Bird Johnson, to, what was your worst experience on the Parkway? Do you have anything kind of strange that happened to you?

HJ: I don't, other than (*indistinguishable*), doing hikes down into the Crabtree Meadows Falls, I don't remember anything major adverse there.

JM: OK. Yeah, I've done that, and I've always had to carry people out with heat stroke there, too.

HJ: Right. Yes, oh yes. It's a strenuous, strenuous trail. But enjoyable.

JM: It is. Right. It's a beautiful trail. If you can make it. (Laughs)

HJ: If you can stand it, yeah. (Laughs) You go about one o'clock, you can guarantee you get wet.

JM: That's right. Um, let's see. Can you think of anything interesting, any interesting events that happened on the Parkway, that struck your fancy. Something you saw that you know that was very spectacular?

HJ: Well, I, the thing I would like to have been present for, was that first shovel of dirt. In 1935. I'd like to have seen that. And then to have gone from that, to that final little link up there at Glen Cove. I was there, and

- HJ: (Continued) as you remember, you were there for that final dedication, which was most impressive. But when you're thinking, really, it's people who have made the Parkway. It's people like Nello Teer, who someday will be interviewed. It was people like Joe Troitino, and I'm sorry we didn't get, I'm sorry we didn't get him interviewed. People of that caliber.
- JM: Actually I saw that there had been an interview done of him before. Maybe, maybe even you did it. I don't know if I--
- HJ: No, no.
- JM: Well that would've been something interesting. If you had anything, in your mind, that you could think of, that you would like to have recorded, is there anything there that you wish that I would ask you about?
- HJ: I wish, I really wish, and you're not going to ^{believe} this, I never got to interview Stan Abbott. Never met the man.
- JM: Mmm. Now he's the one person I really wish that I could interview too.
- HJ: Absolutely.
- JM: Ed Abbuehl was as close as I came.
- HJ: Close as you could get.
- JM: That's right. And, you could tell, everybody that I've talked to, that knew him personally, Ted Pease, him, Bill Hooper, I mean they all'd just hold him in complete reverence, they'd use the word Genius.
- HJ: High, high, high esteem, yes.
- JM: And, you know, they can say, he was a nice person, a wonderful person, he had the insight, he had the vision. But I really would love to just feel that for myself, and see what it was that made him special. 'Cause it's hard to--
- HJ: Absolutely. No, his son, Carlton, you've met Carlton, I think. Has a great deal of his talent. But in reading all the reports and everything I could find about him, I was impressed, by the diverse reading he had done. Almost a Latin scholar. Not just an architect, but a scholar. A renaissance man, I think, is the word for it.
- JM: Right. Definitely. I've heard that described, I mean, he knew literature, he knew poetry, he was a poet, in everything he described. And he could look at a piece of land, and he could just see it as a piece of art, to be sculpted, and that amazes me.
- HJ: Make his museum, as he called it. His real-life museum. So that was one, my one great lack, in the Parkway, was to have met, and to have interviewed him. I can't cry, though. I read his works, and that sort of thing. And his son has helped in that fashion.
- JM: Here it us. Um, Bob Hope interviewed him.
- HJ: You have a date on that?
- JM: 1991. January 14th.
- HJ: Hm. I was already gone. Doesn't say anything about length there, does it?
- JM: No, it sure doesn't. I would like to get ahold of this. I've got a list of interviews, ~~mentioned~~ ^{mentioned} in Ian Firth's report on the Parkway, that lists several interviews that I haven't been able to find. The Troitino one, there's another one of Ed Abbuehl's that I've never seen. And, another--
- HJ: There's one, I think, one in the files on Ed Abbuehl, you've seen--
- JM: Yeah, it's the one done by Herb Ebbeson, right. He did that in '71, or '72.
- HJ: Way back, way back.
- JM: Right. And there was also one done on Stanley Abbott in 1958, by Herb Ebbeson. Right. And those are some that I would love to get my hands on, but I haven't been able to find 'em.

HJ: Well, I'm surprised, 'cause they were, they were in the files.

JM: M-hm. Maybe sometimes people bring them home and don't bring 'em back.

HJ: Did you go to the archives?

JM: I haven't checked the archives yet. That's the next place I'm gonna check.

HJ: OK. I bet you they're-- 'cause they were there, in the headquarters, and fairly well done.

JM: Right. Now you've done a lot of the research, and the next thing I would like to look for is the reconnaissance reports, of, not Ben Guilder, I know they're available, but ~~the~~ Abbuehl's. And I'm wondering where I might be able to find those.

HJ: The, the, two places. One, Virginia State Archives, in the Highway, right-of-way Department Territory, which is most likely. Most likely. They're loaded. Or used to be. That's where I would recommend you'd look. And then, of course, the reports to the Park head-- the Parks, in Washington. Would be in there. But again, they may have been weeded. But that's where they're -- my first encouragement, look in the State Highway right-of-way Department, in Richmond Virginia.

JM: OK. I may do that. And maybe there'd be similar ones in Raleigh, North Carolina? Or they all, I guess because the--

HJ: They were working, they were working *mostly* on that side, see. But what they were doing, they were looking out, let's see, "This is what we want you to buy, Virginia." ~~We~~ "We want you to buy, North Carolina." And Virginia was doing some-- that's where I think Van Gelter walks in.

JM: OK. Yeah. He was in Virginia. And Abbuehl was North Carolina. Also, the maps. Remember that exhibit, that was at the Linnear Parks Conference in Charlottesville? I believe it went to Washington. Where, I'm just wondering like, where the original PLUMs might be, and ^{also} those elevation maps, and different things like that, I'm wondering--

HJ: PLUMs, are in Parks Headquarters. Or probably in their archives. They were hanging in there--

JM: OK. And that was the original ones?

HJ: Oh yeah. Oh yes.

JM: That's the other thing I want to see.

HJ: But again, the deep thing is the amount of work, see. Which is absolutely fascinating, remarkable. But all those were hanging there, in the engineering department. Now, they've moved, and moved again. They've changed (*undisturb-
ishable*) to be *kept or not to be kept*, so odds are against you, I'm afraid. And, Roy, Roy, Roy, what's his name? Roy there, in engineering? Roy. Roy'd be the person to know.

JM: OK. Well, I'll ask him next time I'm ddwn in the area.

HJ: He would know what happened to 'em. Bob Hope would've known, years ago, but Bob's gone, and with him, all sorts of *knowledge*. Are you planning to interview him?

JM: Um, I don't have him on the list, but I could.

HJ: He's the best of the best. If you're lookin' for information.

JM: I met him at the conference, but I haven't got his address, he wasn't on the main list.

HJ: He's in Roanoke. Uh, the Park Headquarters can give you his number. And he's living in Roanoke, and easily available. His knowledge is *unreal (?)*, and he needs to be interviewed before he gets much further in age. So I would encourage you to find out--

JM: I don't know why I haven't thought about doin' that, but I sure will. OK.

HJ: Find time. Find time. 'Cause he will know, he also will know many of those landscape architects. 'Cause a number of those are still around. What's

HJ: (Continued) amazing is how many of them there were. And many of those came directly from Westchester. Right directly down here. And I think Abbott brought them. Abbott brought them, or Clarke, Clarke.

JM: Abbott, he did, and Clarke worked with 'em at first, but he didn't come down.

HJ: But I think Abbott is the one who brought them. And that's what he did. Just basically reached out and said, "Come on down, boys. Come on down, boys." So I think I-- So we're talking from one to twenty five or better.

JM: Wow. Yeah, well Ted Pease is definitely an interesting one, I'm glad that he's so close to me.

HJ: Ted's the South, Ted's the South. Ted didn't come out of that group. Ted came out of the Smokies to over here. But the group who came out of Westchester, someone needs to do a detailed story on the Westchester legacy to the Parkway.

JM: Right. And even to compare, and the differences between what they did, and cause it was the same thing.

HJ: Yeah, yeah yeah yeah yes. Same thing. Make work, *(indistinguishable)* urban renewal. It's the same sort of theme. And much of what we have in the way of structures, right out of the *brains of those same people*. So somebody needs to-- see, there's a PhD dissertation, a great one. So do that if you're gonna get a PhD.

JM: (Laughs) OK.

HJ: Yeah. Yeah Yeah, yeah.

JM: Can you think of anything else? (END OF SIDE ONE)

SIDE TWO

HJ: Is Leo Collins on your list?

JM: No, he's not.

HJ: OK. Add Leo Collins. Leo is out of the Blush District up there. And Leo grew up during that period, of the aftermath of the Depression, and then became ^{a workman and} a foreman and so forth, for the Parkway. And he's filled with all sorts a stories. So you--

JM: Ok, I've run into his name. BUt I haven't thought of contacting him.

HJ: Leo, again, the Park Headquarters alumni, he'll be on the alumni list, there. Now, you need also to be talkin' to some of the Rangers. Some of the old-time Rangers. Like Dean Richardson, for example.

JM: And where would Dean Richardson--

HJ: Dean is ^{up at} Alleghany County, near Sparta. Long-time district Ranger there in the Bluffs. And his colleagues, who worked with him, they've got stories galore, stories. Boot-leg chases, and all these items, and the changes they've seen. They're the ones who've seen the change.

JM: That's what I'm still kind of interested in too, the contact between the local people-- Was he the first district Ranger?

HJ: Don't, don't think so. Yeah, I don't think so, no.

JM: OK. 'Cause I've seen his name too. OK.

HJ: But Dean, Dean is the sort of person you really need to interview, while he's still got all the marbles up there, and he's got 'em.

JM: Right. OK.

HJ: Uh, you need some of those, he can also alert you to some of the laborers, who worked there at the Bluffs, down there at the Head Quarters. Right out of his office. 'Cause those are fellows who did the actual maintenance, and all that. Which is a different dimension. Let's see, I'm tryin' to think of who else and what else. Oh, Earl, Earl, Earl, Earl...

JM: Not Earl Trevathan?

HJ: Yeah, I'm trying to think of some of your, go back and look at the list of your early naturalists.

JM: Like, Bill Lord?

HJ: M-hm. Bill Lord is in ~~Leah~~ *Roanoke*.

JM: OK, I've got, someone gave me his address, and I've been planning to give him a call, but he's somebody that would be good.

HJ: You need to see him, Bill's a very dynamic person. You might do Bill Lord, and Bob Hope, the same day, for example. Or do them together as a team. I've been curious to ride the Parkway with both of them at the same time. Now you talk about a treat! Oh, my, a treat, *yes indeed*. But uh, yeah, Bill Lord is certainly one. I'm thinkin' you also need some of those early naturalists. For example, Chief Naturalist, uh, I'm not gonna think of his last name. Anyhow, go back and look at some of your reports and see who some of your early naturalists were. And they will be well-worthy of interviewing, as to what was going on out there. And what they were planning. You also need the beginning of your Eastern Park-- that thing has blossomed beyond belief. So that is a live story, and you need to go back and see some of those early people on that one.

JM: Tell me a few of your thoughts about the whole concessions, and how it's been good, or bad.

HJ: Well, I appreciate the money they're bringing in, the support they're bringing in, but I don't appreciate them crowding out the interpreters. So we need either a larger building, and I think a larger building would be the answer, indeed. But, uh, as you well know, for example at the Folk Art Center. It's the Eastern person that is highly visible.

JM: Right. Same thing with the Cone estate, too. We could open that up as a historic site, but it's all crafts.

HJ: Wherever. Wherever you go. yes. But there's a much better story than crafts to tell. So that's something I think we need to get out on the Parkway. Real honest to God interpretation. Book sales, yes, I'm in favor of those a hundred percent. But let's do them adjunct, not as the dominant point.

JM: M-hm. I agree with that.

HJ: See, whatever is in there we need to talk about, ourselves.

JM: Hm. Did you see any parts of the Parkway actually being constructed, or?

HJ: Oh, yes, oh yes, all along. All along, see, in those days after the war, you'd travel on the Parkway for a while, then got off for a while. On the Parkway for a while, got off for a while. So yes, yes. The, from day one, those Parkway overlooks were favorite necking places. So that added in the mess to the ~~traffic~~ ^{type of} traffic up here. But when you're looking at people who come for the first time, ^{have} then come back again. See, in my lifetime, for example, the Japanese ~~would~~ come. And we hosted them, for interpretations. From all over the world, people have come. The professionals have come to look at us. And just recently of course, Mr. Everhardt received the award for the Great ^{time} American Road. Those are changes taking place from that one, small ^{time} effort to put people to work. (Whistles)

JM: Right. And I think it's funny how this whole region has changed. We started out being the bowels of the whole country, and now we're Paradise to everyone. And that's bringing in so many new situations, too. How do you deal with encroachment, and so many people?

HJ: And when that road was conceived, there weren't many of those county seats along it that had paved roads at all. And now, with Interstates feeding in, with millions and millions coming annually... I wonder what the next ten years'll bring. So far as visitation. But my big, the biggest disappointment

- HJ: (Continued) in the Park-- has nothing to do with the Parkway itself, except all the tresspass, the second home people, who are building and building and building, and taking advantage of the Parkway.
- JM: RighT. They want the good neighbor of the Park Service, and they want the beauty, that's why they're movin' here. But they're takin' the beauty away, by building their house there.
- HJ: Yep. They're taking the beauty away. Right. Right. Right. That decreases my view, and decreases, as far as I'm concerned, their property value as well. But darn it, it was not designed for that. And we know now, that more land should've been acquired. But nobody at that time ever dreamed. Nobody.
- JM: M-mm. I think we're making a good move now by hiring Laura Rotegard, the community planner, to go in and try to work with communities, to make them realize long term, it's better to have an area *there*, and make some *new laws*. That's right.
- HJ: Help us, help us, help us. You're helping yourself.
- JM: And in short term, they might get a little bit higher tax base, but long-term, that's just gonna take everything away from them.
- HJ: Well, now see, also, the Planning Administration for the Park Service here, has changed also. So much of the superintendent's time went to planning construction. Planning construction. Interpretation was a sideline. Now, construction's finished, now what are the dominant things? See, the new superintendent coming in soon, he's *(indistinguishable)*, oh there are some great possibilities out there. Gary's done a good job getting it together. We'll soon have headquarters I think, *right along*, and the next person who comes by, will certainly have a dream of a job. And a horror of a job. Where does it take us? What does the Parkway become 25 years from now? Will I be able to drive it, and see a little beauty? Or will I see nothing but houses? We have one screen, and one screen only. Not like Community Planning, but the FOrest Service holdings. That is our only screen.
- JM: Right. And that's not all of the Parkway, it's just spots of it. Yeah.
- HJ: But that screen is, I hope, permanent. That's going to be our saving grace.
- JM: I agree with that. How do you, do you think that Tennessee still looks over to North Carolina and feel that they have really lost out? (Laughs)
- HJ: I don't, I don't think so. I think Tennessee now is building its Loop Parkway as a different *world (?)*. I think Mr. Ickes made the right decision at that particular time in the politics. Though I don't envy him. As you know, he went contrary to his own commission. He had a lot of guts. But I think his reasoning, particularly by the fact that Tennessee already had those TVA folks coming in, it would be unfair to dump all that traffic on Knoxville, and leave Asheville bare, up there. So I think he--
- JM: IT's a prettier section too--
- HJ: He's already from the viewpoint of hey, cheaper. He's also from the viewpoint that the Forest Service land is an asset. And I think he's right on that. But Tennessee made a good argument. Thank goodness they didn't win it. They were-- this is something that ~~actually~~ *Asheville needs*, to keep in mind. Roanoke lost it for a long time until they lost the Park Headquarters. Park Headquarters is essential to this region. For economic *being*. The Parkway is essential to this area here for economic *being*. But, I don't think the average administrator, and the average administrative ^{job} politically in Western North Carolina knows this. We're talking literally billions of dollars. That they need to be aware of. They need to be much more avid supporters of the Parkway. Much more avid.
- JM: Right. What makes the Headquarters being in one state so essential?

HJ: That's where the jobs are. That's where the jobs are. As you know, Roanoke lost it because the concept was that Asheville would be the center for the new Parkway, which would lead from the Shenandoah all the way down to the ~~Atlanta~~ Yes yes. ~~There were~~ Never materialized.

JM: Asheville has it again.

HJ: And once the building goes in, it should be, at least, semi-permanent. But nothing's permanent. Nothing is permanent. 'Cause it could easily move back to Roanoke with a different political power. I don't see that happening, but you know darn well, in the world of politics, yes it could happen.

JM: Right. It depends on who's in power where.

HJ: 'Cause Asheville, obviously, is not centrally located for the Parkway. That's something else, I think the superintendent needs a helicopter.

JM: Hm. That makes sense. I think the farther away from Headquarters you are, the less you hear about things. And I was only two districts away for four years and--

HJ: It's a different world.

JM: and yeah, when I moved a little closer, I felt it a little more, I knew what was goin' on a lot sooner.

HJ: More vibrations, much more vibrations, indeed. But the distance is so enormous, that a car and telephone are not adequate. The radio helps, but even so, the physical presence of the superintendent, so we can have all the projects, (indistinguishable). And they aren't that expensive.

JM: I'm surprised that they didn't think of putting it at the new Fisher's Peak that they're supposed to build. Because it would be very centrally located there, right on the line.

HJ: Well, it may come back up again. (Laughs) Yes, it may come back up.

JM: Well that's interesting, that's something I never thought of, that's real interesting.

HJ: See, there's nothing, nothing permanent about that. You've watched the Park Service, it changes it's regional headquarters and all this. (Laughs) It anything, anything can happen. But for the time being. Now, one of the, you were asking about, one of the things that shocked me, in doing research, was how close we came to having tolls on the Parkway. The research I did demonstrated that they-- I've seen, you've probably seen, designs, for where the toll stations would be.

JM: They actually built I think one of the toll booths.

HJ: Actually built. Actually built. And uniformed persons there ready to take the money. And the State of North Carolina got it revoked. (Whistles)

JM: M-hm. I believed Ted Pease talked to me about the actual building.

HJ: Actual building? Oh yes. Now I've seen those. Those were converted into uh, visitor information booths. But that was not the original purpose. Original purpose was to collect tolls.

JM: Right. Well it was North Carolina, I guess the governor fought them back because he had just promised the state that we'll have no tolls and we're gettin' rid of what tolls there were.

HJ: We won't have them...

JM: Do you think that they'll ever come back? I mean, we're looking for ways to deal with the crowds.

HJ: My suspicions are, that in your lifetime, we may go to the toll. With the stipulation that residents of North Carolina will have a free pass.

JM: Hm. That'll be interesting. With so many accesses, I'd be curious to see just how they would do it.

HJ: I've seen designs of the thing. And they had it constructed. But you know it'd been a headache. But anyway, that's one of the things, that's still out there.

JM: The other thing that worries me is the concessions. So many government people are talking about selling the Parks to the concessioners. And it's already happened in one of our campgrounds.

HJ: You lost a campground, I remember. Yeah. Well, some of those things can work, but I don't see privatization of our National Parks, period. I think they are ours, they should stay ours. Should not become the property of one group. Because they were designed originally to set aside for the enjoyment. I hope--

JM: And what does a private entity-- they'll think money.

HJ: Different world. Different world, absolutely. I was out in Yellowstone two weeks ago. With great joy. The elk were out in the mating season. And here they were everywhere. And I had read about and heard about the bugling, here to see them, when they privatize that? No thank you. No thank you. No thank you. Or privatize the Smokies? No, no thank you. I can see more areas in which private industry could help us. Like see, for example, letting contracts for private industry to clear some vistas. Yeah. But not the Parkway concept. Not the idea. Let there be sub-contracts. But don't let them run the show. No. Well you're in for a treat. You've got some great people to see. But I would put Bob Hope and his buddy there on very high, very high--

JM: OK, I'll do that. I've got Bill Lord's phone number already, and I know I can find Bob Hope's easily.

HJ: Yeah. Bill is congenial. Tell him what you're doing. And, my suggestion, literally, is do both of 'em together.

JM: OK. I may do that. I may just take 'em for a ride somewhere.

HJ: Take 'em up to the Parkway. Feed 'em a good lunch, and then take 'em up on the Parkway, and just sit back. (Sighs) They are a riot. They are a riot, absolutely. But they are knowledgeable. They are, oh, unbelievable. The man I was trying to think of, Don Robinson. Don Robinson, the man I was tryin' to think of. Don Robinson. He's one of the early naturalists, he was a naturalist, chief naturalist. And the other person with him came to our annual meeting up at Peaks of Otter, Earl Estes. He was chief naturalist. And Ina Parr will have addresses for all these people. But I-- you might do a telephone interview with Don Robinson. I think he's out in Washington or someplace like that. But he is a dynamic person. And that's a dimension we're missing. What it was like in the early days of planning. When you only had just a little territory that was open and accessible. And to plan all the signs, to plan all the things you're gonna (indistinguishable) What do you leave out and what do you include, all these-- that'll be a dimension

JM: That will be interesting. Well, good. I'm gonna end the tape.

(END OF SIDE TWO)