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Frank Hastings
October 30, 2012

Interview conducted by Hannah Nyala West
Transcribed by Hannah Nyala West
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ANPR Oral History Project

Frank Hastings

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Audio File: HASTINGS Frank 30 Oct 2012

[START OF TRACK 1]

Hannah Nyala West: This interview is being conducted at the Miramonte Resort Center [Indian Wells, CA], where the Annual Association for National Park Rangers meeting is being held – Ranger Rendezvous. Today is Tuesday, October 30, 2012, and the person that I'm interviewing is Frank Hastings. The interviewer's name is Hannah Nyala West. Okay, Frank, would you like to start with where and when you were born?

Frank Hastings: I was born in Great Falls, Montana, in 1930, and was raised on a wheat and cattle ranch about 15 miles southeast of there. I lived there and went to a one-room country school for the first eight years and then my parents moved to Great Falls so I could go to high school. I graduated 1948 from Great Falls High School and went to the U.S. Navy at the time.

Hannah Nyala West: Okay.

Frank Hasting: I did six years in the Navy as a diesel engineer and was all over the Pacific in the northern hemisphere. I also was in the Korean War from 1950 till 1953. I took my general discharge after six years and came back and found that the way life was, there was not enough land to support two families, my parents and myself and my wife. So, one day she said, "We've got to do something else. We're going to college." I looked at her in horrified amazement and said, "What?!" She said, "What would you like to do?" I said, "Well, I was always interested in rocks, so I think I'll try to get into geology." So, we went to Montana State College in Bozeman and, under Charles Reilly and John Montagne, two fine gentlemen, I got my degree from them.

Frank Hasting: I graduated in 1960 and Dr. Montagne said to me one day that I had a service personality, and that I should join the National Park Service. Until that time I worked for the Forest Service and various jobs through college and a smelter in Great Falls, a copper smelter, along with working on the ranch, and so I thought, "Maybe that's what I really want to do." And so, I finally in October of that year, I got a job in Petrified Forest as an intake park ranger. I was at Petrified Forest from 1960 until 1962, when I was transferred to Grand Canyon National Park and became the search and rescue ranger. At that time search and rescue was a pretty iffy business, but I was a generalist ranger and I was more than happy to do what was requested and did so.

Frank Hasting: In 1967, after five years at the Canyon, I took a transfer to Arkansas Post National Memorial as the GS-9 and as the Management Assistant, which was then in the Southeast Region. Arkansas Post was an interesting place. I got along well there, made a lot of new friends. The park was worked

under Burr [Bernard] Goodman, the superintendent of Hot Springs National Park, and one day Monty Fitch in the Southwest Region said "We need a good ranger. Come back to the Southwest." I said, "I would be happy to." He said, "Where would you like to go? Name something." He did. I was moved to Navajo National Monument.

Frank Hasting: I spent eight years in Navajo National Monument. It was my favorite park. I really liked the slick rocks, I liked the Navajos, and there was always something going on, either from the regional office or from the NALA office which was under Art White. That was the Navajo Lands Group Office. And Art had been the superintendent of Navajo for nine years. Well, I was trying – I guess I was trying to beat his record, but eight years later I was offered a job in San Juan Island National Historical Park.

Frank Hasting: That would've been in 1980. I retired in 1984 with 29 years because they didn't count all of my government time in service. I don't know why. After that my wife always said when I retired, she was going to get a job overseas. And so, I told her to go right ahead, and she did. She became the school nurse in Soesterberg Airbase, Holland. We lived there for 8 years and I acted as house husband, cook, and bottlewasher, and whatever else came down the pike. Planned the trips – we went all over Europe, went to Turkey several times, went to the African continent several times, Morocco, Egypt, and so forth. Took tours, went to Kenya at various times because every time there was a holiday in the wintertime, she wanted to go someplace where it was warm. So, in 1994, the base was closing under the closure military thing they had in Europe.

Frank Hasting: Well, they told her she had two choices. She could go to England or she could go to Korea. Well, I had been to Korea and I was not particularly anxious to go back again, but she had not been to the Far East. And I thought, "Well, we've seen England, most all of it," and so we were transferred to Korea, where we spent four years. She retired and, as I mentioned, while I was at Navajo, she worked with Indian Health as she was an RN. So, she worked with Indian Health there for about the whole time I was at Navajo. And she got to know a lot of the Navajo people, and so things went well.

Frank Hasting: I went back – we then continued to live in Friday Harbor [sotto voce: That was a little garbled.] but I went back for the 100th anniversary of Navajo and was astounded at the change that had happened to the Navajo Nation. By that I mean, when I was there, a handshake was just a bare touching of hands, and you were very careful how you did things, and you respected their religion and all their sacred places. Ah, but when I came back for the 100th anniversary, the first thing that happened was a girl I'd recommended – a Navajo lady that I'd recommended to be the AO, Administrative Officer – came up and hugged me and started crying. And I was, I just didn't have any idea what to do with this Navajo woman because, okay, do I put my arms around her? Like you would if

somebody—? Well, I did, I hugged her, and she was very, very touched. And one of the young Navajo that I had hired to be a maintenance person was found to be good enough that he became Chief of Maintenance at Navajo National Monument. John Laughter.

Hannah Nyala West: Laughter.

Frank Hastings: Yes. One of a good family of people, a clan, the Laughter clan. And so, I was startled, to say the least, that people were so glad to see me, and there were people that came up from Shonto, Arizona, and the district. They came up to the celebration, and many of them came over and shook my hand and were just absolutely happy to see me. And they [would say], "When are you coming back?" And I'd say, "Well, I'm not." [chuckles] The outpouring of Navajo friendliness was absolutely beyond what I had ever experienced before, because I wasn't expecting that, but the Navajos had moved on from the old ways. So, I was there at a transition. The transition at Navajo was during those days when some of the directors had changed the idea of the Park Service around so that it was going to be centralized, top-down management. It was hard to get used to it, very hard to – because superintendents are supposed to run their parks. And having somebody looking over your shoulder every minute and accounting for every quarter hour of time is a chore that should not be wished on anyone.

Frank Hastings: So, I've been retired since 1984, and we take occasional trips to Europe. We raised four children, two boys and two girls. The oldest boy is a captain of a – in the Bering Sea in the fishing fleet for 18 years.

Hannah Nyala West: What's his name?

Frank Hastings: Michael Roy.

Hannah Nyala West: When was he born?

Frank Hastings: In 19 – you had to ask – 1954? Yeah.

Hannah Nyala West: And your next?

Frank Hastings: The next was a girl born in 1956. Sue Ellen.

Hannah Nyala West: Two words?

Frank Hastings: Yes. Sue Ellen Kriebel, yeah. Her married name is now.

Hannah Nyala West: K-

Frank Hastings: K-R-I-E-B-E-L.

Hannah Nyala West: Okay.

Frank Hastings: She married a man that was in the Navy and they were both operating in the same division and doing underwater listening – SOSUS work. At the time it was top secret. After their first daughter was born, they left Haverford West and were transferred to the west coast around Arkata.

Hannah Nyala West: Okay, so they went from West Haverford to Arkata?

Frank Hastings: Yes. And then at that time my son-in-law was also sent to Iceland, and I also went to visit him in Iceland one time.

Hannah Nyala West: Arkata is spelled A-R-C—

Frank Hastings: A-R-K-A-T-A.

Hannah Nyala West: Okay. Arkata.

Frank Hastings: Yes. Ferndale. Ferndale, yes. That's the one I couldn't put my [ah]. Then in 1961, our second daughter was born. I hope that's right! [Chuckles.]

Hannah Nyala West: [Laughs.] That's something that can be checked later!

Frank Hastings: Yeah, right. She was born in Holbrook, Arizona, when I was at Petrified.

Hannah Nyala West: What was her name?

Frank Hastings: Her name was Beth Louise. Oh, I didn't finish. Let's go back to Sue. Sue has now got two college degrees, one in accounting and one in civil engineering, and she is temporarily out of work in Virginia Beach, Virginia. But I am quite sure she will be hired very quickly. They had a reduction in force, so they got rid of most of their engineers. Our youngest son, Brian Marvin, was born in 1966 at Grand Canyon – no, I take that back, '60 – what did I say, '64 for her date?

Hannah Nyala West: '62 [should be 1961] was Beth.

Frank Hastings: '62? '64. In 1964 [should be 1962]—at Grand Canyon National Park Hospital.

Hannah Nyala West: And what is your wife's name?

Frank Hastings: Nelda V. Hastings.

Hannah Nyala West: What was her maiden name?

Frank Hastings: Nee Mangels?

Hannah Nyala West: Nee Mangels?

Frank Hastings: No, that's the – the word, when you write it? Nee. That means, that was what she used to be. She mangles. Nelda V. Mangels.

Hannah Nyala West: Mangels.

Frank Hastings: M-A-N-G-E-L-S.

Hannah Nyala West: Okay.

Frank Hastings: From Havre [pronounced HAV-er], Montana.

Hannah Nyala West: Havre?

Frank Hastings: Havre. H-A-V-R-E.

Hannah Nyala West: Okay. So, your children were born all along your early Park Service career.

Frank Hastings: Essentially, yes. We had two when we joined the Park Service, and then two later. We had two separate families, which was interesting to say the least. Our youngest son likes to say that his mother got very exasperated with him, she tied him to a tree. Of course, everybody's got the idea that she wanted him up there, and all this was just about a ten-yard or a twenty-yard line because we were on the edge of a canyon, and he would've been loose and probably gone over!

Hannah Nyala West: Yes!

Frank Hastings: So, we put pretty close tabs on him. And he is, this coming year, he is graduating from Central Washington College in Ellensburg, with a degree in Safety Engineering and Management.

Hannah Nyala West: Okay. Good for him.

Frank Hastings: So.

Hannah Nyala West: How did that work – having small children in the park?

Frank Hastings: Well, I – it seemed to work out quite well. The two older ones, for example, along with a number of other children – there's a place down over the rim in Grand Canyon, that your kids get down there, and they go along this ledge and they go into this little cave, and they all like to think that the rangers never knew that they were there, and we had pretty good ideas when they were there, and so you know everybody was just a little heightened state of tension, not much, but just we knew – we wanted to know where they were, what was going on. And they never got into trouble. But you know it was away from the rangers. We used to watch the kids pretty carefully, you know, we all did. And let's see, John McLaughlin was the superintendent of Grand Canyon, and – oh, I'll have to put in the Chief Ranger's name [Lynn Coffin], it doesn't come to mind right now – but I was proud to work for both of them.

Hannah Nyala West: Can we talk about what you did as a search and rescue ranger there? What were some of your—

Frank Hastings: Ahhh. Well, that'll take up the rest of the hour.

Hannah Nyala West: [Laughs.]

Frank Hastings: Well, when we started out with search and rescue, of course, we were doing searches on foot, but then we started learning about, well, they had this book out that tells you kind of how to do this, and if you're a general ranger, you'd better know how to do this. So, we read the book, and the District Ranger then started to lay out, depending on area, what we would do. They had – it seemed to work quite well. We could locate people fairly quickly with that search, we'll search this area, then just keep moving on.

Hannah Nyala West: Were you breaking it up into grids?

Frank Hastings: Ah, pretty much so. We didn't have formalized grids, though.

Hannah Nyala West: Okay.

Frank Hastings: We did not have formalized grids, because we hadn't got that far yet. Probably Yosemite was quite a ways ahead of us. But we had a couple people from Yosemite that helped us with that sort of thing. I went to "Kowski College" [Albright Training Center] down there, and Jack Morehead invited me to help him teach rescue and climbing techniques, and so we would dangle off ropes and help people who had never done any such silly thing to go do it. And we could get 'em, almost all of 'em, to do that, and when it was over, they would say, "Wow, that was great!" And it was only a few of 'em would say, "I'm not gonna do this!" They wanted to become interpreters. So that was fine. I found, through all my Park Service career, that I was fortunate that I found interpreters that became good friends of mine, and I was at this conference with one by the name of Ed Rothfuss. I met Ed years ago at Grand Canyon, years and years ago, and we remained fast friends and so've our wives.

Hannah Nyala West: Did you all work search and rescue together?

Frank Hastings: No, we never did. We didn't – Ed didn't attend. At that time, it was only the general rangers that were doing the search and rescue. But one of them – Norm Messinger, who has passed – has a good – ah, whether it was a fire or anything that required the rangers to be doing something else, Norm would volunteer his time and come in and do what had to be done. Keep the timecards, you know, fire, floods, all sorts of things.

Hannah Nyala West: Norm Messinger?

Frank Hastings: Yes. M-E-S-S-I-N-G-E-R.

Hannah Nyala West: Okay.

Frank Hastings: Ah, Norm was a dyed-in-the-wool interpreter. He was very good, but he would help the ranger division whenever. And at that time there was somewhat of a class difference, because some of the interpreters thought some of the rangers were doing too much, and some of the flower-pickers were just that. And I never felt that way and several of the other rangers that I met didn't feel that way at all, because [of] guys like Ed and Norm and several others. And Dave Beal, who was Chief of Interpretation at Grand Canyon – he told 'em to get that way. They did. So. Search and rescue. There were some interesting things, but I'll give probably one thing, which should still be in the archives at Grand Canyon. I was on the information desk just before Easter – or a week after Easter – at Grand Canyon. This guy came in and he said, "Ranger, can I talk to you for a second?" Well, there was nobody else around, but he said, "I think I found a body." And I said, "You did? Where?" And he said, "Off of Litman Point." "Well, was there anything else around?" "No." "How far down is he?" "A long way." "Okay, we will have somebody out there," and, of course, I called the District Ranger and we set up and we were assigned a helicopter and so forth, because it was 1500 feet, roughly, down to the body. The ranger that I went with had been the Yosemite ranger – his name is Frank Betts – he was Assistant Chief Ranger at Grand Canyon.

Hannah Nyala West: He had two t's in his name, didn't he? B-E-T-T-S?

Frank Hastings: Yes. You may know Frank.

Hannah Nyala West: I've seen his—

[END OF TRACK 1]

[START OF TRACK 2]

Hannah Nyala West: —name in search and rescue accounts.

Frank Hastings: Ah, yeah. Well, we got everything loaded into a Stokes litter, mounted on the side of the helicopter, and Frank and I climbed in, jammed in with all of our – as much climbing gear as we could get. Lots of rope, lots of jumar ascenders, carabiners, everything that goes with a recovery that is going to be on where the slopes are angle of repose. In other words, about 45 degrees. Ah, and the Supai formation starts just directly above the Red Wall. The body was laying on the edge of the Red Wall, which is 750 feet thick at Lipan Point.

Hannah Nyala West: Okay, so – Lipan Point and then below that 1500 feet?

Frank Hastings: Yes, and then – that was to the body. We got off while the helicopter pilot held the helicopter steady – the blades were within about six inches, I would say, of the rock ledge that was above us. And we got off and got all of our stuff unloaded, and he backed off and fell off – and that was the only way. Frank Betts and I then followed a six-inch trail that was about thirty to forty feet long around the nose, ah, the footing was only about six inches – you had to use your toes all the way around it. We got a rope strung for our support, and then we had to go around and go down here and get into this gully to get down to the body. We tied ropes and strung out ropes, and we tied ourselves in and tied in with jumar ascenders and brought the stretcher down with us and this body bag, and of course this being early in the year, there was no odor, so we were quite lucky in that respect. And the first thing we did was to retrieve identification and found a mirror that came out of a car, and what this man had done – he'd rented a car in Williams, driven up to the canyon and gunned it off the edge at Litman Point and went sailing through the air. And in those days, those cars were put together with what they call press nuts. In other words, they were a four-sided thing that they just pushed down over the bolt nuts. They just put it down over a serrated bolt, and it'd lock it up. It was probably done automatically. Well, there were lots of these around. Lots of them. And so, we radioed in the name and all the particulars we could find in the man's wallet, and all the particulars of the man's wallet, and anything else we could find – which wasn't much. There was a muffler laying there, and I don't know, I think we kicked it over because it wasn't worth – we might as well go down with the rest of the car, which we never did see because it was very narrow, dark down there – you couldn't see. And anyway, so after we got the body in the Stokes litter, one on each end of it, we would take three steps, bend down, lift it up, bend down, lift it up,

take another three steps until we came to these ledges. The ledges were about six feet high. We would stand at the base of it, lift the body of this 185-pound man plus the Stokes litter – which isn't light – up and set it up there. And the litter at that time was not tied into anything, because we were concerned with what we were doing. Because neither one of us were interested at all in in [chuckle] going down.

Hannah Nyala West: Joining his car?

Frank Hastings: Yes. Get to see the Red Wall firsthand was not an option! So, we kept doing that. We had about six of these things we had to lift the body over. And then we came to that nose again, after working our way around. No matter what we did, we tied in – we didn't dare, you put your foot down and it'd slide out from under you every time. It was harrowing.

Hannah Nyala West: So how are you managing to keep that Stokes stable – with that kind of footing?

Frank Hastings: Well, you just did. That's all. We just did. We didn't have any other way to do it. So, we did it. And so, we went around and – trying to hold this man on this ledge – we put the Stokes on the very edge of this ledge, and we had our safety line there, and he and I were tied into the safety line. Of course, if we'd have gone over it wouldn't have made much difference. And we were able to bend over, all the way over, pick up the Stokes, move it about three inches, set down, get a new hold, do it again, all the way around here. All the way down – there's exposure down there that's about sixty feet down to where the body had been, plus the Red Wall, which was right there.

Hannah Nyala West: Right.

Frank Hastings: So, we just kept working, and we finally arrived back where we started at the helistop and called for the helicopter. The helicopter came down and – I knew the pilot quite well by that time – and Wayne was one of the best helicopter pilots I have ever flown with. I would go with him anywhere. But he managed to hold it there while we locked the body in. Then, of course, at that elevation, Frank, I believe, if I remember correctly, Frank either went up with the body in the helicopter – you know, the body always strapped outside in the Stokes litter – he went up with it and a little bit of our climbing gear. I remained there and put the rest of the gear back in so it could be used again, if we had to right away – who knew?

Hannah Nyala West: Mhm. So that was a standard search and rescue practice then?

Frank Hastings: That was a standard search and rescue practice then, and we did try to change ropes, if we had enough money in the account. But that wasn't always possible. So, I was putting all this stuff back in, and [Frank] and the pilot came back down for me and the rest of the stuff. We loaded all of that back into the Stokes litter, tied it down, and I tried to get in the right side of the helicopter. I reached out to open the door, and I remember standing there – by this time I'm just about on the thin edge of not moving

at all – and I'm standing there. Wayne's trying to hold this, the wind's coming up and the helicopter's going, the rocking back and forth, and all I can do is think, "Why did that come off in my hand?" And Frank Betts crawled out from the other side and I guess he recognized it, that I was about as gone about as far as I could go, and said, "Come around here, Frank, and get in this side." So, I did, and I got up to the top and got out of the helicopter and Wayne got out and I said, "Here, Wayne, your cheap old helicopter—the handle just broke off in my hand!" And Wayne said, "Frank, you were just supposed to pull it out. You weren't supposed to twist it!" [Laughs.]

Hannah Nyala West: [Laughs.] What was the pilot's name again? Wayne what?

Frank Hastings: I forget Wayne's last name. I'm sorry.

Hannah Nyala West: We probably can look him up, but it sounds like he was a crackerjack pilot.

Frank Hastings: He was.

Hannah Nyala West: Cause a helo in a canyon is—

Frank Hastings: Danger, danger.

Hannah Nyala West: —a dicey situation.

Frank Hastings: Dicey situation. That was probably the – and a week later I left for Arkansas Post – [huh]! [Laughs.] That – after that I was glad to leave! But it was – I thought it was – pretty harrowing, because I'd hauled bodies out one way or another, I'd done all sorts of things with people – murderers, rapists, the full felony thing. But I hadn't done one where I was quite that harried before.

Hannah Nyala West: Yeah, well, all that exposure?

Frank Hastings: Yes, all that exposure. And I'll admit it, I'm not ashamed of it, but I don't like exposure now. I cannot, if it gets down narrower than three feet, I just can't handle it. Well, that's all right – I just don't go there! So.

Hannah Nyala West: [Laughs.] Did you have many searches then?

Frank Hastings: Ah, we – they kept getting more of them because people would find other suicides on the rim. It was becoming more of that sort. There was a couple murders at Grand Canyon while we were there – while I was there. There were a number of times when I was sent – I was sent down in the canyon with a body bag to – ah, some tourist had found bones, human bones, underneath a rock, where somebody had died, and they'd been under there for – hell, they were clean, but still. There was no other surviving documentation for who they was – unknown. And any number of ambulance runs and so forth. And quite a – the other thing I want to mention is that, when I first got to Grand Canyon, we didn't do much law enforcement. The rangers would do standard law enforcement, but we didn't *have* to do much. And then the bad guys from the far west found out

that, "Oh, the national parks – this is a good place to go hide out." Well, we were all deputized as deputy sheriffs from Coconino County, so we had to handle that also as part of the jurisdiction thing.

Hannah Nyala West: What kind of training did you go through?

Frank Hastings: Training for?

Hannah Nyala West: For either law enforcement or search and rescue?

Frank Hastings: Just, oh search and rescue was done mainly what I'd read, picked up, and the little bit that I learned from Jack Morehead at Grand Canyon. Jack, of course, was a great climbing ranger. And so, I just kind of osmosed it all in – they'll wonder what that word is [chuckles]. Osmosed it.

Hannah Nyala West: [Laughs.] Osmosed? I like osmosed, though. That's nice!

Frank Hastings: Okay, you're – if they can spell it. [Laughs.]

Hannah Nyala West: [Laughs.] It's the verb form of osmosis!

Frank Hastings: Yes, the verb form of osmosis! [Laughs.] Whatever it is.

Hannah Nyala West: That's right. That's how the English language grows.

Frank Hastings: That's right. And so, we did, as the years went on, in the fifth year, things were really getting a little tense in the law enforcement field. Seemed like something was going on all the time. People were wandering and showing up, and people they were looking for were showing up. We didn't have Be On The Lookout for or BOLO message in those days. But once in a while the sheriff's office would call and say, "Be on the lookout for—." And I remember one law enforcement thing – ah, this is getting – Dan Kush was a, K-U-S-H, was a Fred Harvey security guard. Dan Kush was an ex-Marine and served on Guadalcanal. Dan Kush was Asiatic – there's no other way to say it. He'd gone around the bend, in many ways. But Dan carried a 12-gauge sawed-off shotgun, and he also had a belt weapon. He also had a stick. And Dan kept order in the Fred Harvey section of the park.

Hannah Nyala West: He did what?

Frank Hastings: He kept order. Law and order.

Hannah Nyala West: Oh, okay. In the concessioner's part?

Frank Hastings: Yes, in the concessioner's part. He worked for the concessioner, at that time which was – I don't know who, I forget – ah, Harvey, maybe? Anyway, I knew Dan, and on another body recovery, Dan and everybody had raced over to see the remains that I had brought out, and Dan literally pulled me off the mule and took me over and fed me coffee because I was just in a short-sleeve shirt, and it was freezing up on top. It was really cold at night when we came out. And that was one where I was – I hadn't even – I'd been in the canyon a week, hadn't even thought of going over the rim, and I had to go to Indian Gardens on that one. So, that was quite an eye-

opener. But he took me in and gave me a cup of coffee, and I pretty much thought the world of Dan after that. And we – Dan and I – got along well. We – ah, I went out to law enforcement, I went out to these – we were designated, Dan and I, to go to the south entrance station. And Dan says, "Okay, Frank, this is the way we're gonna do it." "Okay, how're we going to do this, Dan?" Knowing, "Oh gee." And Dan says, "Okay, the stop sign's there. People are going to stop. You walk out from this side and you talk to 'em, and if you drop, I'll clean out your car."

Hannah Nyala West: [Laughs.]

Frank Hastings: [Laughs.] My eyes rolled back in my head at Jack's statement and I thought, "Woo – don't trip, Frank!"

Hannah Nyala West: [Laughs.] Or if you do, lie very flat and still?

Frank Hastings: [Laughs.] Yes. And there'll be explainers later! Maybe. Well, nothing happened. They didn't come that way. But it was a little, it was a little scary knowing Dan was back there with his 12-gauge. And he meant it. He meant it. He'd've done it. But that's all right. There was another time, I apprehended a group of young men behind the Indian Girls dorm and—

Hannah Nyala West: Behind which dorm?

Frank Hastings: The Indian Girls dorm at that time.

Hannah Nyala West: Okay.

Frank Hastings: And there was a lot of complaints and I said, "Hey, it's about time for you guys to go to bed." "Oh, who do you think you are, ranger?" And I said, "Well, I don't want any trouble, but if you want trouble, I'll find a way to give it to you." And they said—they started moving in, and I'm thinking, "Oh, this is gonna hurt. Oh my, this is gonna hurt," and about this time there was the sound of a slide going up on a shotgun and Dan Kush said, "Freeze." I did. I didn't move until he said, "Now Frank, come over here." And I was really happy to see him! And then he told the rest of them to "Get back, I know who you are. You get back and we won't report this, but you'd better not be saying anything to the ranger again that I know of." So, I trusted Dan quite a bit, too, because he really helped me in places – because in those days, law enforcement was the rangers driving around all night long or waiting for the phone to ring.

Hannah Nyala West: Were you issued a weapon then?

Frank Hastings: No. We were – I think in 1964 we finally were issued a ah, old lead-shaving .38, which was more dangerous to people on the side of it than what was ever out in front of it! [Laughs.] I went through some shooting exercises and so forth but being from Montana and having weapons my whole life, I just enjoyed it. And we were forbidden to carry weapons in those days – and no, I'm not going to say that – so we put up with what we had. We didn't have the law enforcement ranger thing, training and so forth like that. And I am really sorry to see that the general ranger is a past

tense. It was much more interesting being a general ranger than it is a cop or anything else.

Hannah Nyala West: Uh-huh.

Frank Hastings: Ah, there's a fire, floods, tornados, whatever have you.

Hannah Nyala West: Yeah.

Frank Hastings: And I think that's about my time.

Hannah Nyala West: Well, we can have more time, if you want it—

Frank Hastings: No, I'm supposed to be leaving right away, at 3 o'clock.

Hannah Nyala West: Well, you have a lot of really good information. Would you be interested in having them do a follow-up with you?

Frank Hastings: Well, I could, yeah. Yeah.

[END OF TRACK 2]

[END OF INTERVIEW]