

START SIDE A

[TAPE STARTS IN MID-SENTENCE]

Dorothy Noble Smith: . . . Scott?

Edward Scott: Well, I joined the CC's back in--I was in camp before, in 1933.

DS: Oh, you started in the beginning?

ES: Mm-hm, started at the beginning and I went to Fulks Run and stayed almost two years. We built camp over there. Then we moved, broke up camp and moved to Cleveland, Virginia. And I stayed down there the rest of my two years and a few months over, and I was discharged. I came back home--

DS: Back home was where?

ES: Back home near Saxe, Saxe, Virginia, in Charlotte County. I stayed there a little while until I'd stayed long enough that I could go back into the CC's. So I tried it again. Then May the eighteenth, nineteenth, 1936, I came up to Big Meadows, Number 2 Camp, on the Skyline Drive.

DS: Had you ever been in the Blue Ridge before?

ES: Never had, I had never seen a mountain, until I left home.

DS: Where did you meet your wife?

ES: I met her in 19, early 1940, in Stanley.

DS: In Stanley. Oh, so you're from Stanley.

Mrs. Scott: Yes, ma'am.

DS: Great.

ES: And I met her on the street. She was going over to her grandfather's.

DS: You mean you picked her up? (laughter)

ES: She was going over to her grandfather's and I saw her and I wanted to walk with her over the street. And she said, "I'll be back in a couple of minutes." So then I walked her home. I didn't have an automobile then. I was walking.

DS: Then what did you do, have to walk all the way back up to Big Meadows?

ES: Well, a lot of times I used to walk it, all of us, a lot of us used to walk. I walked to Big Meadows to Stanley and back, at night.

DS: Weren't you ever afraid of the snakes?

ES: No, I was in the mountains all the time, anyway. Surveying, working, and the snakes didn't bother me.

DS: You said you got to know some of the mountain families . . .

ES: Well, I knew June Weakley. He was about the only one that was left around there when I came up.

DS: Where did he live, in relation to Camp?

ES: He lived kind of east of the Camp, over the hump, kind of, we called it, in a little flat.

DS: How big a family did he have?

ES: Well, I never met but one of them. He had a girl, that a Dice boy married, in camp with me. He married her.

DS: Did you ever go down to their house?

ES: No, I never did get inside of the house, I mean, I was outside. He had a beautiful garden. That's what I used to admire. All kinds of cabbage and beans and corn and all. I thought he used to raise the largest cabbage that I've ever seen.

DS: That's what everybody says, that the cabbages that grew in the mountain were absolutely tremendous. Yeah. Now, what was the house itself like? Do you recall?

ES: I think it was a log, as well as I can remember. With a shed on () like that.

DS: Did he make any moonshine?

ES: No, he was a mighty nice fellow when I knew--

DS: Making moonshine didn't mean that people weren't nice fellows. ES: No.

DS: Some of the nicest made it!

ES: But I don't think he did. I never seen him drink or anything.

DS: You know, it was a good practical way of using the apples. It was easier than carrying them, and the peaches, and so forth.

ES: But they, they canned a lot. I was talking to Mr. Kendy Gray yesterday, and he said that was what they would do most of the time, preparing for winter. They'd can everything they could can. And they would bury the turnips in a (). And also the cabbage. And you could have fresh cabbage and turnips all the winter long. And he gathered chestnuts that were from the chestnut trees was full. And he'd sell chestnuts and he'd bring stuff off the mountain, down the Red Gate Trail and sell them in town.

DS: Do you know where he would sell them in town?

ES: No, I don't.

DS: Do you know of any store that was in town, Mrs. Scott, that the mountain people used to use?

MS: No ma'am, I remember them talking about them, I know my mother used to talk about the chestnuts, you know, my dad, and we had a produce store out here at Stanley at that time and I

told him, I said maybe they, you know, sold them, maybe they took them to the city, you know, because a lot of people in the city use them. They roast them--

DS: Sure.

MS: --use them in different casseroles and things. But I know my dad talking about them.

DS: Did, now Redman's Store, in comparison to here, was that close? Like would it be close to like Big Meadows? I'm trying to recall . . . Because I know a lot of the mountain people used Redman's Store.

ES: I don't think it's much closer than it would be here. It might be a little closer to Skyland, maybe. But as far as Big Meadows . . .

MS: But how would they get down there?

DS: On foot. Sometimes with a mule.

MS: Yeah. ()

DS: Did you know any of the mountain people at all?

MS: No, ma'am.

DS: You never had any contact with them?

MS: I went to Timberville when I was between six and seven years old and I stayed over there until, I come from over there, I met him and we got married and so I never did--

DS: You never had any contact with them. Because there were quite a number of them up here--

ES: Yes, I know.

DS: And I've been trying to find the names of some of those people.

ES: Old people?

DS: Yes, that had moved out of the mountain and came like down into Stanley.

ES: Well, I was checking yesterday, in my book then, and what I know and I've asked and most of them is passed away.

DS: Yeah.

ES: The biggest majority.

DS: Yeah.

ES: You might find one once in a while.

DS: Sure. You know, it's quite a number of years now, and that's the problem, but a lot of times their children, you know, they had children, and the children recall things that had happened, and how they lived. So, it's just to get the names. That is one of our biggest problems. Most of the people, though, lived on the other side.

ES: Yes, ma'am.

DS: In Madison and Greene Counties. You say the Weakley girl married who?

ES: A Dice.

DS: A Dice. Did they move down here, into Stanley?

ES: They were down here, but--

MS: He died and she () until he died.

ES: Not that I know of. He was down here in the valley somewhere, but I never got in contact with him.

DS: I wonder if she is still alive? She ought to be. "D" - "I" - "C" - "E"?

ES: She should be. "D" - "I" - "C" - "E", I got his name and address. But he was in the valley just somewhere.

DS: Oh, boy!

ES: Probably Barlow might know.

DS: Yeah, um-hm. Great. Was she a pretty girl?

ES: She was a nice-looking girl, a nice girl.

DS: Um-hm. A lot of them were very pretty.

ES: And a lot of them was down in Dark Hollow, they called it.

DS: Yeah.

ES: But I never did get down into that.

DS: Then mainly you just stayed in the camp, excepting when you came down sparking with Mrs. Scott?

ES: That's right (laughter). Well, we worked, we worked until around 5:00 in the mountains and we didn't get in until late every night. And then it was too late for me to try to go anywhere. On the weekends I had to come down.

DS: Now, you say you were doing surveying?

ES: Yes, ma'am.

DS: Is that mainly what you did?

ES: Yes, ma'am.

DS: Okay, great. Now, what were you surveying? Where the highway, where the road would go, or where the trails were going to go, or the whole bit?

ES: We surveyed the Shenandoah National Park.

DS: Hadn't it already been surveyed?

ES: Well, it was touched, 'round little spots along, around had been checked. But we

made a final survey of everything. From Front Royal to Waynesboro.

DS: You did! In other words, the line had not been specific!

ES: That's right. Yes, ma'am.

DS: I thought that by the time they had put the Drive in, started to put the Drive in, that it already had been specified in exact limitations of the Park.

ES: Well, it was probably on paper, but it wasn't on the ground. 'Cause I put in just about all the markers, the corners that was put in in the Shenandoah National Park.

DS: Did you have to change any of the plans that had already been shown?

ES: We changed a lot of the lines, yes.

DS: (loud sigh)

ES: We'd go to the courthouse and look up deeds, the old deeds and then make a copy of it and Mr. H.R. Gilroy was the engineer. A fine fellow. And I worked with him.

DS: This is absolutely unbelievable! I'm believing you, but you know, it's contrary to what has been told. [aside to Mrs. Scott] This is terribly in your way, isn't it?

MS: No, uh-uh, uh-uh.

DS: Darwin Lambert is writing a--do you know Darwin?

ES: No, ma'am.

DS: Well, he's been doing a lot of research on the formation of the Park and the organization of the Park. And this is a fact that he has not learned. I can't wait for him to hear this tape.

ES: And we worked, a lot of times we'd work, oh, three or four days, establishing a line. It would be . . . we'd just have to almost . . . hunt, but we'd hunt for it, hunt the deeds, and everything

up. And then--

DS: Okay, so then, like, you would go into a courthouse, get the deeds that had already been assigned over to the Park.

ES: Yes, ma'am.

DS: And you'd take that deed and you'd go to that property and put your stakes in, is that it?

ES: Well, we'd have to check with the land that's adjoining it (). We'd get his deed, too. We proved it by both deeds. But we had to go and where his line was. And sometimes they'd go with us. Like when it was handy, you know, that they were around, we'd, some of the homes was close to the lines and we'd maybe get one of them to show us, as much as he knew about the lines.

DS: Were there ever many extreme changes that you made?

ES: Not, not a whole lot, not a whole lot.

DS: But a little bit?

ES: Yes, ma'am.

DS: By a little bit, would, would you mean an acre, or, or--

ES: It could be, at times. Yes ma'am.

DS: Wow! In other words, you would sometimes take an acre from this man's property that he thought he had or else give him an extra--

ES: Well, sometimes, sometimes they would claim a little more than they had. And we checked back with both lines--

MS: () fence--

ES: and both deeds. That's right, the old fences. And some of the-- it was hard that you

. . . Biggest majority of times there wouldn't be any fence. But a lot of times it would be fenced and the fence was the line. And marked trees, we'd go by marked trees, and stone piles, that was marked. That would call for it on the deed, and that's the way we got it straightened out.

DS: And you did the entire thing from Front Royal all the way down?

ES: To Waynesboro.

MS: () [whispers something inaudible]

DS: What?

MS: Mr. Gilroy was his . . .

DS: Oh, Mr. Gilroy was your supervisor?

ES: Yes, engineer, he was the engineer. He was the man that--

DS: Alright, now, you were located at Big Meadows.

ES: Yes.

DS: Your headquarters was there. So how would you get up to Front Royal, or to Waynesboro?

ES: With the truck. We had trucks. We had assigned truck to us.

DS: Yes, but the road wasn't that good.

ES: Well, we went in a lot of roads that wasn't good. (laughter) 'Cause we went up mountain hollows just as far as we could go, and then we'd walk from there to the line. And Mr. Gilroy could figure out on a map just about a day's work, where we would come out at. And he would send the truck back, and he would go around, maybe, and come up another hollow. And sometimes we'd maybe go down the wrong hollow or he'd been up the wrong hollow, and we'd be late getting in a lot of times. But it was good, we enjoyed it.

DS: Well, I'll be darned. Now, did you ever run into any problems with the people, that, you know, when you were saying, "Okay, I'm going to re-survey this." After all, they'd had several people coming and surveying and surveying. Did you ever run into any problems?

ES: Well, we never had any real problems. Because Mr. Gilroy, he was a good man, and he'd sit down and explain it to them, as best he could. And he'd show them the line, and then we'd go over the line with them. They'd go with us and then they would be partially satisfied.

DS: Partially.

ES: We never run into too much trouble, not enough to, say, to take it to court or nothing like that.

DS: Yeah, well, just an example of somebody that maybe was slightly peeved -- what would happen?

ES: Well, they, they, it would pass over. They would get upset a little bit, but in the long run, after we'd put the corners in and put the signs up, and painted the trees, some of them, for lines, it was okay.

DS: Did you ever go back to double check, to make sure they didn't put their fences back where they thought they belonged?

ES: Well, we didn't go back only just maybe to go back to check, on a corner. A different corner, or a piece of different line, or something like that. When Mr. Gilroy was making out his final map, we'd have to go back maybe, once in a while, and check a certain portion of the line, or the corners.

DS: So in other words, after you had done the survey, somebody could [makes a sound with her hands] "makes no difference, I'm going to go back there and reclaim that land."

ES: Well, I don't, no, I haven't heard that, but I know they cut a lot of trees on it. That's one trouble we had, you know, in the lower lying areas, where they would run over the line and cut some trees, but that, we didn't have anything to do with that. That was taken care of by the Park Service, I believe.

DS: My heavens, that was a lot of walking that you had to do, wasn't it?

ES: A lot of it, and I can feel it today.

DS: Yeah. Now you would go up into these hollows; weren't there families living in those hollows?

ES: Yes, ma'am.

DS: How did the people react with you going up into there?

ES: Well, it was a kind of strange thing for them, to see us coming up in there.

DS: I was thinking like, in particular, like Dovel Hollow, and Cabbage Hollow. Those, those aren't the very sweetest places in the world to go walking in (laughing).

ES: But we didn't have any trouble, any trouble at all. They would all come out and stand and watch us, and we'd just go about our business, and go right on up.

DS: What did the people look like, in those hollows? I'm thinking of Dovel in particular. Can you recall?

ES: Well, I don't see anything looks like it today, I mean they were nice people, as far as we was concerned. But the homes wasn't as good, like they are today, by a long way. And they usually, usually had chickens and a cow, something around, a horse.

DS: They looked intelligent, though, didn't they?

ES: Yeah, they were nice people.

DS: Now, you see, there is the problem. There have been stories handed down that these people were absolute morons, and they were not. They were not morons. They were, uh, [voice closer to tape recorder] I want to make sure this is going . . . yeah [voice back to previous location] They were all very intelligent people, it's just they didn't have the education.

ES: That's right. That's right.

DS: How were they dressed? Fairly good?

ES: They were dressed fairly good, yes, ma'am. But they'd keep watch on us most of the time. When we was close by, you was being watched all the time.

DS: They were trying to make sure you didn't run off with one of their girls. After all . . . (laughing)

ES: And we went--

DS: Like this young buck in there!

ES: Once in a while we'd run across a still. But we wouldn't bother it. We wouldn't bother it. We might take a few drinks of the mash, if it was ready to run, and fill up our canteens full.

DS: How much would they charge you for that?

ES: Well, it was running then around about 50 cents a pint, I think.

DS: Oh, boy! And that was such pure, beautiful, beautiful liquor.

ES: It was, it was good.

DS: It's a darn shame that it's been stopped.

MS: () was today.

DS: Oh, my goodness, yes! Far better!

ES: And if they kept a-watching you all the time, you'd know then that it was a, still's pretty close by. But we never caught anybody there. We've been by plenty of stills that they've just put the fire out, they've been running. But we didn't bother a thing, you know. 'Cause Mr. Gilroy told us not to bother anything, to stir up trouble, or something like that.

DS: Then how would you get your lunch?

ES: We had a boy to take our lunch along with us. He was carrying it up.

DS: Which would be roughly what? Sandwiches or something--

ES: Sandwiches all the time. Bologna most of the time, peanut butter (laughs), once in a while salami, and liverwurst. We'd take our water with us, that's what we had to drink. We could get our water most any time, unless we was on top.

DS: Well, the water in the streams is pure.

ES: It was, we drank, that's what we drank, that water, from the streams.

DS: Did you recall seeing many wildlife?

ES: There was a lot of wildlife.

DS: Okay, what?

ES: Well, we seen a lot of deer for one thing, but we didn't see any bears, then, that I know of.

DS: There were deer, then. Now, we're talking about when you first got there?

ES: Yeah, there were some, you know, just like it is everywhere else, you know. One, maybe you'd see one run across and they stayed mostly in the laurel. I remember one patch of laurel, it was about a couple of acres in it, and it was--you, you could jump a deer in there most any time you wanted. They're in the laurel.

DS: And yet Skipper Noys said that he had to go and get deer, import them, to have deer brought in here.

ES: No, there was deer over on the south side. This side of Swift Run, back on that mountain there.

DS: This is why I keep doing, double-checking and double-checking, because the story is, gaps are always getting filled in.

ES: But it wasn't as plentiful as they are now, I don't think. Of course, we wouldn't hardly see as many anyway, because I worked anywhere from eighteen to twenty men.

DS: Oh yes, and this is ()

ES: See, they was cutting lines, I had four men on the line, cutting line--

DS: How would you cut a line?

ES: Well, you'd cut it wide enough, say four, maybe four feet. You wouldn't have to cut everything, but you had to cut it so Mr. Gilroy, the engineer could see, see from one end to the other. I'd taken the rod, I carried the rod in front, I was first man out. I'd go so far; if it was level ground, I could go a long ways, but over knolls and all, I'd have to go to the top and then they would cut up, cut a line up to me--

DS: Hand cut? Hand cut?

ES: With a bush ax. And then he would, they would have to cut enough that he could see me. And sometimes we'd shoot from one knoll to the other. I'd go on down this knoll and on over to the other one, and they'd come over and just cut a place up, start a little ways and cut up to me where he could see me from over on the other knob, see? Rather than cutting the whole way through at one time.

DS: Yeah, right. Okay, now, you say there were deer?

ES: I saw deer, yes, ma'am.

DS: And what else?

ES: Well, squirrels, and skunk, and plenty of snakes. There was a lot of snakes.

DS: There were. Was anybody that you know of ever bitten?

ES: Yes, ma'am. I had a boy in my gang that was bit, over the other side of Little Washington. We was coming out of the mountain one evening, and it was raining, and we'd always run to the truck. I had more life then than I got now. And we'd always run. And this boy, three or four of us together and we was running through this orchard. And a rattlesnake hit him right on between the knee and the ankle, and tore up the skin. And I stopped him and he laid down, and Mr. Gilroy was the one, I think, that was supposed to operate on him, you know, to cut it. But I had to take first aid, I'd taken first aid training, I had to take that. And he asked me to do it, he said he didn't want to do it or he couldn't do it. And I went and laid him down, and I give him a small operation right there.

DS: You cut him-

ES: With a razor blade. I cut six slices this-a-way and six this way, and I had a silver cup -- I put my tourniquet on first. And then I had my silver cup that I sucked all the blood out of it that I could. And after a while, it was maybe for fifteen or twenty minutes, I worked on him, sucking the blood. Then we came out of Little Washington and called the doctor, to see if he had anything for it. He said he didn't have a thing for it, that I had done all that he could do. So we called camp and told them to have a doctor there when we got there. And we'd taken him in to sick bay, and the doctor was there, and he said you've done all that I could do. So the boy laid around there for a

couple of weeks and his leg swelled up, but he made it okay.

DS: Wonderful. Doesn't that make you feel proud?

ES: It sure did.

DS: That's marvelous.

[inaudible whispering, possibly Mrs. Scott?]

DS: Do you want to . . .

ES: Let me see . . .

[movement of microphone]

DS: We now have Mr. Russell Barlow who has joined us for this interview, and he also is from Stanley and was with the CCC's. What did you do with the CCC's?

Russell Barlow: Well, we worked, we pulled gooseberries to kill the blight that killed the pines--

DS: Oh yes!

RB: And done a lot of that work, and then we cut, cleaned out brushes, dead brushes, cut down trees and all--

DS: Did you work with Mr. Scott on the surveying?

RB: No, no, I wasn't with him.

DS: No, uh-huh. Where are you from?

RB: I'm from Norfolk, Virginia.

DS: Okay. Was this your first view of the mountains when you came here?

RB: Yes, ma'am, it was.

DS: What was your reaction?

RB: Well, I went up there; didn't know the way off, so I couldn't leave! (laughter) so I just ()! But, uh, some of them was left, it's a good long (). I know one boy, he did run off for a while, they had to hunt him in up there, went up there looking. He just got lost somehow, so he was a () probably know the way out.

DS: Did you like the mountains?

RB: Yes, ma'am, I loved it. That's why I moved back up here, ().

DS: What year did you start with the CCC?

RB: In '34.

DS: '34. Then you were here in the very beginning.

RB: No, ma'am, there was a crew up there before I was up here.

DS: And you didn't have to put up with the tents?

RB: No, we didn't, they had--

DS: You didn't have to put up with the tents, either, did you?

ES: The first time I did, yes ma'am.

DS: You did?

ES: Yes, we slept in tents for about a year.

DS: You were part of that group then that when that wind storm or snow storm or whatever--rain storm came. Had a terrible time battening down . . .

ES: Well, we didn't have too much time, I meant hard time. Only it was cold sleeping in the tent!

DS: I'll bet it was, yeah. There was snow, of course! At Big Meadows. How did you all manage when there was snow?

ES: No, I was at Fulks Run, you know I mentioned.

DS: Oh, oh, oh, yeah.

ES: Camp Four.

DS: Well how did you manage when there was snow on the mountain?

RB: Well--

DS: Did all the work stop?

RB: Well we did when it got down so low [temperature], we'd stay in and we wouldn't go out unless there emergency like the wires down, a storm or something like that. We used to have to go around and fix them up and find, up Tanner's Ridge, they'd . . . they'd come down when there was, you know, snow and ice and just weigh them down too much and would break them sometimes and we generally would fix them like that, but otherwise we didn't actually have to go to work unless it was--what was the break? When it was over 10 below zero.

DS: This line, this telephone line you're talking about, is that the one that came down right directly into Luray?

RB: Well, it came down Pine Grove, you know, down that way . . . I can't . . . guess it was. Did it, Dan? Damned if I know. I wouldn't say it for sure, but I imagine it was.

().

DS: Yeah, um-hm. Now, what would you do when it was cold and you weren't all out, you know, they said, "No work today." What would you find to do with yourselves?

ES: Well, we had to work if it wasn't below zero.

DS: Yeah, okay. So, it was below zero -- so what would you do?

ES: Well, we'd just went up there, we just sat around in the barracks, mostly, and joked,

and we wrestled, we scuffled a lot. That's the main thing we done. Played guitar, they had guitars then; we'd play and sing some and . . .

DS: That's . . . did you play any mountain music? Because there were mountain people that were with you.

ES: That's just about all we knew, then.

DS: And what were some of the tunes?

ES: *Maple On the Hill* (laughter).

MS: *Lamp Lighting Time in the Valley*, I know you said you'd sing that.

DS: What?

MS: *Lamp Lighting Time in the Valley*.

DS: *Lamp Lighting Time in the Valley* -- how does that go?

ES & RB: I've forgotten it, I don't know exactly how (laughter).

ES: We had a little radio program on, Harrisonburg, at one time. A fifteen minute program.

DS: How did the mountain people get along with you, that worked at the camp?

RB: Well, as a whole, we got along exceptionally good, I think.

DS: Was there much . . . integration? (laughter)

ES: I don't think it was.

RB: No, no, I can't say that.

DS: They sort of stayed by themselves?

ES: Well, they had a barracks they stayed in.

DS: They did.

ES: Except some was leaders, wasn't it?

RB: Yeah, and they would, they would stay in the barracks.

DS: I heard such a cute thing from one of the men, mountain people that had been with the CCC's. He said, "Oh, it was all right, but the people that weren't from the mountains talked awful funny!" (laughter)

RB: Well, I, guess they thought we did, too! But you can go much as a hundred miles and you can find people that talks different than they do. You don't have to go far. Long in them you didn't have to go very far, long in them days, they do a little different than, now people can get around so much.

MS: I don't know how that, I had that song, you know somebody had written it down for me. You know, *It's lamp lighting time in the valley, when in dreams I go back to my home.* You know how it goes, Russell.

RB: Yeah.

MS: But I can't remember it all, but it was a beautiful song.

DS: And you don't remember the tune?

MS: Well, if I had the words, I remember the tunes, but . . .

RB: *Prisoner's Song*, you remember that?

MS: Yeah.

DS: *The Prisoner's Song*?

RB: Yeah.

MS: I just don't remember how it--

ES: And then *You are My Sunshine*, when that first came out.

DS: Oh, yes, um-hm. Did you, did the mountain people play the guitars themselves, and the fiddles?

ES: Yes, they did. They had a little church, in Dark Hollow, down from the camp. And we used to go down there sometimes. And a Ralph Cave fellow, he lives out here, and he used to come up there and play music and sing.

DS: Did any of you ever hear that song, *The Fox Hunt*?

RB: I've heard it, but I . . .

DS: I've been trying to track that tune down, because that apparently is a beautiful one, real fun. You know, they really heard the dogs, and the fox and everything. And all of them were banjoes and fiddles, was great. So, how long were you there, at the camp?

RB: About two years, it may have been a little bit, may, about a year and ten months to be exact, I believe.

DS: Had you ever done any of that kind of work before?

RB: Not a great deal. See, I lived in Norfolk, raised up in Norfolk, plus I worked () on a farm at first, when I was small, and what-not.

DS: So this was a whole new experience for you?

RB: Yes, it was.

DS: Did they have to teach you how to do it, or what to do?

RB: I knew enough about it to know what they was doing.

DS: What area did you have to clear out those gooseberries? The whole Park? Or just a particular section?

RB: Well, it was, no, we didn't go down the whole Park. All around Big Meadows, there.

I think it's two, or three, or four miles each way, wasn't it?

ES: ()

RB: I imagine that would cover it, it may not have been that far. Well, it mostly, we went was down towards Panorama, see, where Eddie and () a little.

DS: What would you do when you were far away from camp at lunchtime?

RB: Well, we'd take lunch with us.

DS: Same bologna sandwiches?

RB: That's right. (laughter) And sometimes if it was close enough, they got so they'd bring a wagon out with the food, hot food for us when it was real cold.

DS: How many were in your crew?

RB: The whole barracks, I guess was thirty, around thirty men.

DS: Thirty that would go out?

RB: It wasn't thirty in the whole crew, in the crew, that's right, a barracks it was split up. But I imagine it was about twelve, about fifteen.

DS: Fifteen, cutting brush and . . .

RB: Well, see another crew may have been off somewheres doing the same thing we were, see?

DS: Who was your supervisor?

RB: Fred Cave.

DS: Oh, the one you've mentioned.

RB: Chief Cave, we used to call him. No, that wasn't the one that would play the music. He lived up at Kite Hollow, see, and had a farm and all.

DS: Who was the one that played the fiddle, Ralph?

RB: Ralph Cave.

DS: Ralph Cave, he's still alive, isn't he?

RB: Yes, he is.

DS: Hey, maybe he could play my *Fox Hunt* for me.

RB: He, he lives right up here, you know.

DS: He does?

MS: Where ()?

RB: You know where the road, right there, [two voices speaking at once, directions indistinguishable].

DS: Is he ()?

ES: Yes.

DS: Maybe before I leave, we could give him a call, and ask him if he remembers how to play it. I mean, if one of you asked him, it would mean a heck of a lot more than me asking.

RB: If he was home. See, he has a little store up here, around ().

MS: Somebody said though he retired.

RB: He may not be messing up there, much, ().

MS: I seen him home a lot.

RB: You do? Well, he left, probably.

DS: Is that the Cave brothers?

ES: No, no, ma'am, different, different.

MS: ()

DS: Okay, well now what other recollections do you have? Statute of limitations has passed, so (laughter) did you ever go down and visit any of the people in the mountains?

RB: Yes, ma'am, I did.

DS: What families? Do you recall?

RB: Well, some of them was Jenkins . . .

DS: Where did they live?

RB: Broyles . . . well, they lived down in Dark Hollow, some of them, and Caves, and Jenkins lived down there, and Breeden. See, they had, they'd have little gardens and all . . .

DS: Did you ever go into any of their homes?

RB: Yes, ma'am, I did.

DS: Did you ever have a meal with any of them?

RB: Yes, ma'am, I did.

DS: Great. What would you have, as an example?

RB: They would have, well, all kinds of vegetables, and meat, hog, a lot of, they raised hogs and they don't have beef, but they had nice meals. Never did go to one that you didn't get a real nice meal ().

DS: Did they have a large family?

RB: Well, some of them did, yeah. Uh, no, gee, I don't know how many, (), I don't know how many was in his family.

DS: Was it a sort of a log house, that they lived in?

RB: Well, yes, ma'am, some of them was (). And used to go down in, down in Criglersville a lot.

DS: Oh, now that was quite a--

RB: () we didn't mind the walk down there, (laughter) of course you just had no other way of getting around, then.

DS: So what would you do in Criglersville?

RB: Well, go to, go down there, see some of the girls, sometimes (laughter) . . .

DS: Uh-oh!

RB: Of course () some boys are from Criglersville, down there in the mountain, and we'd go spend the night with them, sometimes.

DS: Did you ever buy any of the moonshine?

RB: Yes, we did.

DS: Who made that?

RB: Well, different ones. Jim Dawes (?) he suppose () he'd usually make a lot of it. Someday you see a little smoke over here and a little smoke over there, so you know he's still around. I mean () one time the revenue men come up there after him. They was looking for stills, in other words, not after him. He took the fellow out to look for stills, so naturally he was taking him to the roughest places he could find, where they had to crawl rocks and all, (). And the fellow told him when they got back to the house, said, "I don't care." Said, "Mr. Dawes, I don't how much whiskey you make," say, "I don't tell you to make whiskey and I don't tell you not to make it." Said. "I don't care how much you make from now on, I'll never be back up here to bother you!" (laughter) And then on pay day, he'd come over the mountains, you know, and clean off the () and everything, and he rode a white horse and he'd have two () with whiskey in them. And he sat around pay day, see, for the boys up there, and he'd sell it, you know, for 25 cent a pint.

DS: Twenty-five cents a pint! You got taken!

ES: Well, that was a little bit before. It went up a little bit later on.

DS: Twenty-five cents a pint. Oh boy! And that was such pure, wonderful, it really was good. Wish we could get it now.

MS: Wonder if they put sugar in the mash () like they do today?

DS: No.

RB: I don't know. Now, Mr. Dawes was all the time telling me to come over there and watch him make it, and I never did.

DS: Wish you had!

RB: And I wished I had! Absolutely, I wished I had! I never did go over there and watch him make it, (). I wished I had. And he'd used to tell me a lot of times to come over there and he'd take me out and watch him (). I never did.

DS: No. Now, there was a Broyles and what other family were there, that you mentioned?

RB: Well, there's Jenkins . . .

DS: Jenkins.

RB: Jenkins, and Breeden.

DS: Breeden.

RB: And Cave.

DS: And Cave.

RB: Well, of course, Mr. Dawes, Jim Dawes, he lived way over the mountain a little further from them. Out from Dark Hollow.

DS: Now, which Breeden was this? Would you know the first name?

RB: I forget their () name, now. I forget.

DS: Did any of these families look as though there had been much, too much close intermarriage?

RB: Well, I wouldn't say that, I couldn't tell. But they was nice families, now--

DS: And they were intelligent.

RB: --and they'd treat you fine when you went to their home.

DS: There was nothing sort of weird about them?

RB: Nope, there wasn't. I can't say that. No, ma'am.

DS: Okay. All I need is constant verification of this, you know! Because have any of you ever read that book *Hollow Folk*?

ES, RB & MS: No ma'am.

DS: Well that's why I'm doing these interviews. To try and disprove that horrible book. Didn't you ever, any of you, have a chance to get down and visit Nicholson Hollow?

RB: I, well, not while I was up there, I never did go down there, I don't believe. But I've been down there since () one time.

DS: I was just wondering if you got to know any of the Nicholsons.

RB: No. And when I first went up there, see, that's when they was moving them out of the Park. And 'cause, some people, you know, they had to take and kick them out. They didn't want to move, well, naturally they wouldn't. They'd been living there all their life, and they had a good living. What you consider them for () anytime.

DS: Did you have any, were you involved in any way with taking down the houses there, as the people were moved out?

RB: No.

DS: No. Because according to Colonel Cook, the minute the families were moved out, they took the houses down. Otherwise, the people moved right back in! He said sometimes they found some rather fascinating things in the walls. Like for instance, () buttons, and () buttons, and so that, that would be a fascinating thing to ().

ES: Maybe Russell could give you a little light on June Weakley. And if he was, ().

MS: How about the ()?

RB: What?

MS: That boy married June--

ES: Dice.

RB: Dice.

MS: Yeah, Dice. He still living?

ES: I think he is.

MS: Really?

ES: He was at the meeting one time, () Dice was.

RB: He was?

ES: Yeah.

ES: As far as I know.

DS: What were the Weakley family like, were you ever in their home?

RB: Well, () they was a close family.

DS: From what I understand, the men were highly protective of their wives. Was this

true, did you find?

RB: Well, yes they did, in a way. For the whole family, they looked out for family, you know, protective of the whole family.

DS: () by any chance who had by mistake touched one of the wives -- was there any reaction? . . . Or did you make sure you didn't?

RB: No, I never got ()

DS: I mean, you know, just happened to bump into them.

RB: No, no, no.

DS: No. Okay. Is there anything that you especially recall about any of these families, that you visited? Anything that sort of stands out in your mind? . . . First of all, what was their reaction to the CCC's? Were they . . .

RB: Well, it's--

DS: You know, here, here all of a sudden and they've had a quiet life and there's a whole bunch of strange men all over the place.

RB: I never did see no resentment or anything myself. Yeah, it was like a lot of strange people in there and everything, you know . . . maybe kind of wonder where they'd come from and all, and who they were and all and want to know this or that, but I never did see no . . . they was easy to get along with, if you done right. But if you had done something to them . . .

DS: Was there ever any instance of people in your camp doing something to ruffle the feathers on the mountain people?

RB: Yes, sometimes there was.

DS: And then what happened?

RB: Well, we kind of stayed away from them for a little while.

DS: What would ruffle their feathers?

RB: Well, sometimes the girls we'd go with sometimes, () thing like that.

[END SIDE A]

[START SIDE B]

DS: This is working, working out really good, I'm getting a lot of information. Now, you didn't spend all two years just cutting down gooseberry bushes?

RB: No.

DS: No. There weren't that many gooseberry bushes! (laughter) So what else did you do?

RB: Well, we 'd cut down trees, clean--

DS: Why cut down trees?

RB: 'Cause they're dead, ones that are dying--

DS: Oh, the dead chestnuts.

RB: --cut down a lot of them for wood, see? () wood. All the wood, () sometimes I used to pull the charge of quarters, you know, look after the camp every night. While I never did do it right, because I didn't choose to do it, see? I did it some weekends

() One would want to go home or something like that. And then, they was laying these walls, you know, the stone walls on the Drive and all, and Mr. Boyce, sometimes if you worked on weekends

with them, they let you have a day or two off and you could go home or something.

DS: How would you get home?

RB: Well, the train, see the train run, we'd go to Luray--come to Stanley and catch the train and go to Waynesboro and then, yeah, that's where you switched trains and . . . and went on to Norfolk.

DS: Took a long time to get home.

RB: Yeah, and then again, well, one Christmas I went on, but I mean, as long as we got a bus to take us from here to Petersburg, then I caught the train from there to home.

DS: You all didn't get much money, spending money?

ES: Not a whole lot.

RB: They gave you thirty dollars, see, gave you five of it and sent twenty-five home.

DS: So that didn't pay for much.

RB: Well, considering, now it paid for a whole lot! (laughter)

ES: We still had a good time! (laughter)

RB: Yeah!

DS: Sure.

ES: We certainly did.

DS: Yeah. Okay, fellows, Friday night, and you're all up there and you're making plans about what you're going to do for the weekend. Would you all go out together to do something? Walk down the mountain or would you be driven down?

ES: Well, sometimes some would walk, and sometimes we'd--truck would bring us down. Then we had a fire detail, one barracks a week would have to stay on the mountain. During fire season.

DS: Did you have much problem with fires?

ES: Well, at one time we did. Lot of fires, wasn't it?

RB: Yes, it was. Well, the reason of it, them are, people had homes, they would set the fire. Lot of times. Just to get the boys, CC boys down there close so they'd come in and fight ()

ES: () (laughter)

DS: Really?

RB: Yeah. So the fire might () out.

DS: Ah, ha! (laughter)

ES: And also to have a good crop of huckleberries.

DS: Yeah, right.

ES: Bring the underbrush up.

DS: A fire in the mountains is nothing to fool with. Would the whole camp go out to put it down?

ES: Well, if it was, if it required it, we would. Most of them, leave a little skeleton crew in there. I stayed out for a couple of days and nights.

DS: That, that's a ferocious thing to have happen.

ES: We had a lot of fires.

DS: Yeah. Alright, so excepting for the fire crew, what all would you all decide, okay, let's, let's go down into Stanley and have ourselves a real big time. Or let's go into Harrisonburg, or where did--what would you do?

ES: Well, I, I came to Stanley most of the time.

DS: I wonder why! (laughter)

ES: I don't think but one truck went to Luray. Didn't too many go to Luray. I think Stanley gave them a little more excitement.

DS: It did?

ES: Yeah, I think so.

DS: In what way?

ES: Well, drinking and fighting, I think for the best part. (laughter)

DS: You mean you looked forward to these fights?

ES: Well, a lot of them did, sure did. I've seen the Stanley streets blocked on many Saturday nights.

DS: Good grief! To think you'd look forward to coming down and starting a fight.

ES: Some of them did, many did.

RB: Well, it didn't seemed like they hold too much grudge, though, you know.

ES: No.

RB: 'Cause you'd go to their houses--

ES: Be all over, be all over.

RB: That was the nature of them, they just liked to fight sometime, I think.

DS: Would you do it again?

RB: Well, if I was that age--

ES: I would. (laughter)

ES: That's what the Marines used to do, just about every time they came down, somebody would get in a fight, when they was up at Hoover Camp. So I was told.

DS: That's right, the Marines had been moved out, before--

ES: Yes, before--Barlow might remember the Marines up there.

RB: I'm afraid most of them was, was--there was some down at Hoover's Camp, wasn't there?

DS: Were you all there when FDR came through?

ES: Yes, ma'am.

DS: What is your recollection of that?

ES: The most exiting day I had--one of the most exciting days I've ever had, all of it.

DS: Yeah. () get that whole place all polished--

ES: Spick and span, everything.

DS: He didn't inspect the barracks, though, did he?

ES: I don't know, I, I tell you () I had a way home, and I was homeward bound. That's the first time I'd been home since I'd (). And I wanted to get home and tell them all about it.

DS: How did you get home?

ES: Well, the postmaster, from my home, he, him and his boy was up there, and I happened to find them. I rode back with them all the way. And we had sixty state troopers, they came up there and stayed a long time, before he came in. They had a barracks of their own, to themselves. Plus the army--

DS: I wonder why?

ES: Well, to keep everything under control, I think. And a lot of the army, maybe, I think maybe a couple of hundred army was up there camping.

RB: I (). When was that, about July?

ES: I think it was somewhere around--

DS: Yes. July.

ES: I got the pictures of it, ().

DS: Did he eat at your camp?

ES: I think he did, yes, ma'am. I'm sure he did.

RB: () take ().

DS: Yeah. And then, that was where he gave his speech, too, wasn't it?

ES: Right down in that hollow, from the service center, right, you look right down in.

DS: You say it was the most, one of the most exciting days you ever had?

ES: It was, yes, ma'am.

DS: Okay, so when you got home, how did you describe it to your family?

ES: Well, they all knew that he was coming up there, and they wanted to know how he looked and--

DS: How did he look?

ES: He looked good, I think.

DS: Yeah.

ES: Wonderful man. And we just had a general talk. I don't remember any of the speech too much, because I was posted up near the Drive. We was up there, you know, to kind of keep order and try to--

DS: Yes, there were a lot of local people that were up there.

ES: Yes, yes, ma'am, keeping traffic safe and all, with the troopers and army, and . . . But it was a beautiful day, nice day . . . And we was all watching for him to come, like little children watching for Santa Claus (laughs). Waiting for him to come.

DS: Well, after you had been home, how did you get back, then?

ES: I caught the train. I had to--

DS: And to do that bit into Waynesboro--

ES: No, I came from, I caught the train at my home and I came to Phenix, about fifteen miles from where I live, and I caught the C & O into Roanoke and I caught the Norfolk and Western back to Stanley.

DS: All on five dollars?

ES: Yes, ma'am. (laughter)

DS: Try and do that nowadays!

ES: That's right!

DS: You couldn't do it!

ES: No, ma'am, you couldn't.

DS: So, then after the CCC's were over, what did you do?

ES: Well, I came home, I went, we went down to my home a couple of days. And then we decided we'd come back up here to get married. And we got married and then we went back down, then we went back down to my home and stayed a while. And then I came back, and I worked at the planing mill, in there a while. And then, I actually registered for the army. And I went in the army, in '43, navy. I stayed in there 'til '45, Christmas '45 . . .

DS: Oh, yeah . . . uh-huh . . .

ES: And then I stayed there and worked in a store a while, and then we came back up here, in 1947, we was at home. We came up here July the second, 1947, and we settled down.

DS: And what did you do, Mr. Barlow, after you were through with the CC's?

RB: Well, I went home and went to work for a contractor, he's building houses there a while. And then finally, that was in, . . . in . . . about--after I left and went back home, see, and then about a couple months, he went to work there and then I come back up here and stayed a little bit and went back and got a job. Went to work at Gary Steel, in Norfolk, they was building all kinds of tanks, and . . .

DS: () in Stanley.

RB: Then, I got married, and my wife come up here, then. In '36, it was, that was five or six months after I left camp. And I lived in Norfolk ten years and then decided to move up here. And then I finally left that place where I did, went to work for a chemical company, Monsanto Chemical Company in Norfolk, finally left there and went over to Norfolk Navy Yard. And then after the, after the war, I was laid off at the Navy Yard, of course I had preference to go over, go to work at Glen Haven, see? () But we decided that we'd rather move up here, so we moved up here and then I finally got a job up here.

DS: Do you all agree with Doc Blevins who said that he feels that if it hadn't been for the CCC's, we wouldn't have had anybody really trained to go into the services when the war broke out?

RB: Well, yeah.

ES: I think it did. It helped me out.

RB: See, when I, when I first went up there, they was giving the boys training, you know, calisthenics, drill and all, see? But they, not long after that they stopped that, because some of the countries complaining about that the United States would have too much of a standing army. And they had to cut that out. But when I first went up there, that's what they were doing. But it wasn't long after I got there that they had to cut that out.

DS: Well it was good discipline, I think.

RB: Yes, it was.

DS: Because you were under the army--

RB: That's right.

DS: ().

ES: And we still had reveille, and retreat in the evening.

RB: Yeah, always had that.

ES: () raise and lower the flag.

DS: What else was there of the army discipline?

RB: Well, we had to, I know we had to line up every morning and have roll call, see that everybody was there. And most of the time you, you had to form to go in the mess hall, to eat, form lines. It was kind of, you could, you could feel, you know, what you had to do, almost. And it's along the army lines, and you would get used to it. Because you had to make up your bed the army style, your cot, and you had to keep everything--have inspections about every day.

DS: Were you all issued uniforms, or anything of that kind?

RB: Yes, ma'am.

DS: What were they like?

ES: Just one of these regular army OD shirts, we called them, and pants, and army shoes -- everything was army. And coat, and then, later on--was you up there, Russell, when they changed to green? Yeah, they gave us a green uniform.

RB: () I don't, I don't know--

ES: You know, it was the OD's when they first came in.

RB: Yeah.

ES: And then, later on, it was a dark green uniform.

RB: I () gone, there now, ().

ES: And that was a pretty nice uniform, then.

DS: The CCC's, I think, were a tremendous, wonderful thing. Not only did they make the Park, they really did--

ES: I think so.

DS: --but they helped make men.

RB: Yes, they did. It was a wonderful thing in them days.

DS: And all you were thinking was, "I'm just going to get some money." But actually it helped make men out of all of you, didn't it?

ES: It sure did. I enjoyed every minute of it.

RB: Took many a boy off the street, and they, they () I suppose, wanted to work nowhere, hardly.

DS: Do you recall any of the mountain people that worked with you, any of their names?

ES: Well, Chief Cave, that's Fred Cave, he was lead man, and . . . RB: Well, () Graves, George Graves ()

ES: Newt ()

RB: They're all passed away.

ES: Yeah, they're all--

DS: Yeah, I'm just wanting, I just would like the names, you know.

ES: Marvin Cave.

DS: And did any of them act as leaders, to show people from the city how to do things?

ES: Yes, they did.

DS: Were they nice about it?

ES: Yes, they was.

DS: They didn't act show-off?

RB: No, they didn't, no, they didn't.

ES: I think that's one good thing we can say about the CC's, I mean, I was in there almost six years and a better unity in there, then, among the boys, I think, than you could find today.

RB: Yeah.

ES: Because you couldn't beat the unity among them.

DS: And do you think the rivalry between camps was good for you all, too? You know, like the base--what, baseball games, weren't they?

ES: Yeah, we had baseball games. I played baseball. I think it was good. We got to meet other boys, find out where they were at, how they were doing. They were the same as us. Really enjoyed it, had a good time.

DS: Did any of you notice -- in one of my interviews the other day, a man was talking about there was certain look in the eyes of the mountain people. He said that it used to scare him to death. He said it was a very cold stare, that seemed to look right through you. Did any of you ever encounter that look?

ES: No, I didn't. I don't remember it.

RB: No.

DS: I was wondering, you had mentioned a Breeden. Did you see that look in his eyes?

RB: No.

DS: Because I have seen some people with that.

RB: I (), but I never would think about nothing like that, so there wasn't any, that was

...

ES: No, I didn't either.

DS: It was pretty generally a kindly look, that you saw, right?

ES: Right, yeah.

RB: Wasn't much that would upset me along then.

ES: Me, neither.

DS: Was there anything else that you can think of that would help fill in gaps?

ES: Well, before I started with the surveying outfit, when I first went in, a little bit after, we developed the Lewis Spring.

DS: You did?

ES: Where they get their water from now.

DS: Yeah. Now, how did you do that?

ES: Well, a Robert Crews, he's passed away now, he was in charge of it, I mean, he was our leader. And we went down and we--it was a spring there, but they wanted more water. So we went and dug ditches, in all directions. And some of them was ten and twelve feet deep. To gather all of the water that we could, all in a circle, all the way around; to bring this water all into one receptacle, that it would be more water than we were getting. And I think what it registered after it was completed was around 300 gallons a minute, if I'm not mistaken.

DS: How long did it take to do this?

ES: Well, we was working on that a couple of months, I think.

DS: Now, this Lewis Spring, is that near Lewis Mountain?

ES: No, it's back over here, right down from the service center, kind of. You go south, and then you turn off and go over the hill.

DS: Do you recall why it was--did you ever find out why it was called Lewis Spring?

ES: No. I think that was the name, wasn't it?

RB: Yeah.

ES: It was.

DS: And then this water was used for what?

ES: It's used right now, everything up, I think, everything that's on Big Meadows.

DS: Really?

ES: As far as I know, since I left there. That, that, this is what it was developed for. In fact, it was a beautiful, good water.

DS: Yeah, absolutely pure, nothing ever could contaminate it.

ES: And it was all dug by hand, there wasn't any backhoe there. This was on your back, but there wasn't . . . (laughter)

DS: And the blisters on your hands.

ES: That's right.

DS: Right. To me it is absolutely marvelous that city boys could come up here, get their first view of a mountain, and really do the job that you all did. I think it's pretty wonderful.

RB: Yeah, that was my first time I'd ever seen one.

DS: You know, I'm still a little confused as to how, now, like when you were going up to

Front Royal, and the Skyline Drive was not built yet, how would the truck get you up to Front Royal for your survey?

ES: Well, it was mostly, it was, it started on that end, I think, was coming this a way.

DS: No, the first part of the Skyline Drive was from Skyland to Panorama.

ES: That's right. But it was, it was pretty well fixed when I was up there. I mean, enough to go over, it was, it was in, I thought good shape as well as I can remember.

DS: Was Mary's Tunnel there, then?

ES: Who?

DS: The Mary's Rock Tunnel?

ES: Yes, ma'am. But it wasn't cemented then, it was rock, just cut through the rock. The cement was done later. I know we've been through there, and we'd have to stop and knock the icicles down to get the truck through.

DS: It was a good road, wasn't it, that you were riding on, mainly?

ES: I couldn't, I, I don't remember, I tell you. But I know that's the way we used to go--

DS: The truck was able to go and then--

ES: Yes, ma'am.

DS: --then, like, down, down to Swift Run Gap?

ES: Well, from Swift Run on, they were still working on that.

DS: Yeah. So how would you get to do that survey?

ES: Well, we had, we worked this end first, you know, worked on back that a way. And by the time we got there, we went over it, but it was rough! It just make, enough so you could pass over. You'd be, go around rocks and, around cliffs and everything. They were still working on it.

DS: Now it makes sense. Well, I certainly appreciate this, gentlemen. I think that you have helped a tremendous amount. Is there anything more you can think of? You know, the statute of limitations is over with the mountain people. You can tell anything you want about them! (laughs)
... Anything you recall ... Nope?

RB: No.

DS: Okay. Well, I sure do thank you.

ES: Well, you're certainly welcome.

DS: Because this had been--

[TAPE SHUTS OFF, RESTARTS IN MID SENTENCE]

ES: --in trouble.

DS: Would you mind repeating that? The truck driver always had to stay right with the truck, you say?

ES: Yes, ma'am.

DS: Why?

ES: Well, see, we moved, we never come out the same place we went in. And when we'd go up, back in the mountain, we might come out five or ten miles, from where we went in. So Mr. Gilroy would send him around, to come up another hollow, and sometimes he would come up, to the end of the road, and there would be a house. And he would just sit there all day.

DS: To protect the truck?

ES: Well, he, he would stay with it, he didn't have anywhere else to go.

DS: Oh, I see. I thought it was for protection.

ES: No, he stayed with the truck all the time.

DS: Oh, oh, okay, alright.

[END OF INTERVIEW]

Interview
with
EDWARD SCOTT and RUSSELL BARLOW

February 2, 1978

Interviewer: Dorothy Noble Smith

Transcribed by: Joy K. Stiles

Shenandoah National Park

Luray, Virginia

Original manuscript on deposit at
Shenandoah National Park Archives

NOTICE:

**The material contained in this oral history
may only be used for professional and
genealogical research, park interpretive
and educational media, and brief
quotations in nonprofit commercial**

publications.

INDEX

Interview with

EDWARD SCOTT and RUSSELL BARLOW

February 2, 1978

Interviewer: Dorothy Noble Smith

Transcribed by: Joy K. Stiles

Shenandoah National Park

Luray, Virginia

Original manuscript on deposit at
Shenandoah National Park Archives

NOTICE:

The material contained in this oral history may only be used for professional and genealogical research, park interpretive and educational media, and brief quotations in nonprofit commercial publications.

INDEX

Side A:

Edward Scott and Russell Barlow are former Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees stationed in Shenandoah National Park. Scott was stationed at Big Meadows from May, 1936 until sometime after early 1940. Barlow was also assigned to the camp at Big Meadows, arriving in 1934 and staying for just under two years. Scott's wife is also present for the interview; she is from Stanley, Virginia, and met Scott when he was an enrollee. As the interview begins, only Scott, Mrs. Scott, and the interviewer, Dorothy Noble Smith are present.

Scott was assigned to two other CCC camps before he arrived in Shenandoah National Park. His primary job was working with the surveying crew that did the final survey of the National Park boundary. He describes how the survey was done on paper, but had never actually been done on the ground. Scott himself placed almost all the markers, the corners, within the Park. He recounts how the crew, under the direction of Engineer H.R. Gilroy, would go to the courthouses, research deeds, then go out in the field and verify the property lines. There were occasions when commonly accepted boundary lines were proved inaccurate, with their survey crew laying out the correct lines, even if it meant "taking" acreage from one party and "giving" it to another. In describing his travels from Front Royal to Waynesboro, Scott gives information about conditions of roads, wildlife he saw, relations with Park neighbors and former mountain residents, and encountering stills and snakes.

Russell Barlow then joins the interview. His first job at Shenandoah was helping eradicate gooseberry bushes for the white pine blister rust control program. Barlow talks about winter on the mountain, snowstorms taking down the telephone lines, and ways the enrollees amused themselves when the weather was too bad to work. Barlow knew a number of the former mountain residents and talks about their personalities and lifestyle.

Side B:

Barlow mentions cutting down dead chestnuts, the challenge of getting home for visits, the CCC pay, Friday nights in Stanley, fires on the mountain, and the Marines from Camp Hoover.

Scott discusses President Roosevelt's visit to the park in 1936. He then summarizes his life following his discharge from the CCC. Barlow also fills in the details on his life after leaving the Park. They recall together in a positive sense the military-like atmosphere of the CCC and the benefits it provided the enrollees.

Scott describes developing Lewis Spring, the main water source for the Big Meadows complex. The interview ends as he briefly recounts the condition of the Skyline Drive during the time he traveled on it, including the Mary's Rock Tunnel.

End of interview.

Key words:

Blevins, Doc p.38
 Breeden family p.24
 Broyles family p.24
 Boyce, Mr. p.31
 Camp Fechner, Camp 2 p. 1
 Cave, Fred (Chief Cave) p.23
 Cave, Marvin p.40
 Cave, Ralph p.21,23
 CCC life
 barracks p.22
 discipline p.38-39
 fire fighting p.32
 food p.13,22
 music p.19-21
 pay p.32
 recreation p.19,33-34
 surveying p. 6-16,44-46
 telephone lines p.18-19
 uniforms p.39-40
 weather p.18
 chestnut trees p. 3,31
 Cleveland (VA) CCC camp p. 1
 Cook, Colonel p.28
 Crews, Robert p.42
 Criglersville p.25
 Cabbage Hollow p.11-12
 Dark Hollow p.21
 Dawes, Jim p.25-27
 deer p.14
 Dice, Mr. p. 2,5,29
 Dovel Hollow p.11-12
 fires p.32
 Fulks Run CCC camp p. 1
 Gilroy, H.R. p. 7,9-10,14
 gooseberries p.16,22
 Graves, George p.40
 Gray, Kendy p. 3
 Jenkins family p.24
 Lambert, Darwin p. 7-8
 Lewis Spring development p.42-43
 Marines p.34
 Mary's Rock Tunnel p.44
 moonshine p.3,12-13,25-

27

mountain residents
 attitude toward family p.29
 CCC work p.20,41
 crops p. 2
 food p.25
 homes p. 2
 land claims p.9-11
 music p.19
 removal p.28
 music p.19
 Noys, Skipper p.14
 Redman's Store p. 4
 Roosevelt, President p.34-36
 Skyline Drive p.44
 snakes p.15-16
 Stanley, VA p. 1,4,33-34
 telephone lines p.18-19
 Weakley, June p. 2,29
 wildlife p.13-16