

START SIDE A

Joy Stiles: We're conducting an oral interview with Isaac Louderback of Winchester, Virginia, here at the Ramada Inn in Luray, Virginia, on September 30, 1995. We'll start with some of the easy questions.

Isaac Louderback: Yeah, that'd be best! [laughing]

JS: Okay, all right, well actually we have to start with a personal one. Can you tell me when you were born?

IL: I was born in, October the 10th, 1914.

JS: 1914?

IL: 1914.

JS: And where were you born?

IL: Stanley, Virginia. Page County.

JS: You are local, aren't you!

IL: [laughing] That's right!

JS: Do you come from a small family or a large family?

IL: No, it's a small family. There's father, mother, brother, sister, and myself.

JS: Where do you fall in the order?

IL: I'm the oldest of the children.

JS: How old were you when you joined the CCC?

IL: Well, let's see now. I went into the CCC, cause I got mixed up when I was telling someone, July the 13th, 1933. I left them January the 31st, 1937. So that's approximately three and a half years.

JS: So you were about nineteen years old when you went in?

IL: Must have been. Let's see, from '33, '14, yeah, nineteen.

JS: How did you find out about the CCC?

IL: Well, it was very close to my home. I think they had openings or something. I went in as a local woodsman. That's the reason I stayed in so long.

JS: A local woodsman?

IL: Woodsman. See, evidently they didn't have a time limit on them because most of the boys were only in there for about six months. Then they were discharged and some other boy came in and replaced them. But I was one of the younger local woodsmen. At nineteen, [laughing], you can see . . . I was born, you know, in the woods and everything, I mean, around the woods, but I mean I didn't really, it wasn't really that, well, worst in woodsman. but all these people I was with were older than I, and we were all in a woodsman barrack. There was thirty-two of us. Of course I learned a lot of things.

JS: Which camp were you at, or did you live at home?

IL: No, I was at Camp 350, I lived at 350 [NP-2, Company 350]. That's Camp Fechner on the Skyline Drive at Big Meadows.

JS: How much school did you finish?

IL: I had, let's see, at that time I had finished Stanley High School. Yes, I had finished Stanley High School and I had one year at the University of Virginia.

JS: What were you doing at the time that you joined the CCC?

IL: I wasn't doing anything. I needed the job! [laughs] That's the reason I got into the CCC's, because when finally someone offered me a job which was John Mims at the Mimslyn Hotel in Luray, he offered me a job to be a room clerk there at the Mimslyn, and so I took it. That's when I left, in '37. I stayed with him 2½ years before I moved on.

JS: When you say that you were a woodsman, what type of work did you do when you started?

IL: When I first went up there, we were working on the Skyline Drive. Actually, Fred

Cave, I think he was the leader, one of the leaders. We were taking a sledge hammer and we were breaking up those rocks. Apparently they didn't have rock crushers back in those days. I was the one that was holding the wedge. [laughs] If he had missed it . . .

JS: You were young, weren't you?

IL: Yeah [laughs]. But he was good! That was Fred Cave, he's dead now.

JS: Now, if you're a woodsman, then why were you working breaking up rocks?

IL: Well, that was considered one of the things that woodsmen did. I also worked out in the woods, too. Later on, I got on the program where we were eradicating the gooseberry bushes that affected the white pines. I was with a crew of three. We did the surveying where the boys could dig up these gooseberry bushes. We did the surveying work. I remember Archie Boysseau was the main surveyor.

JS: Archie . . . what was the last name?

IL: Boysseau. B-O-Y-S-S-E-A-U. Boysseau, Archie Boysseau. There was another, I can't remember his name now. [laughs] Memory isn't that good!

JS: I think you're doing great!

IL: At eighty-one, almost eighty-one, why, we don't remember a lot of things. That's the reason I was kind of hesitant to do this tape because there's so much I've forgotten.

JS: It's fine. What other types of jobs did you do in your time?

IL: Well, toward the latter part of my time, I was the company clerk.

JS: What did that entail?

IL: Well, that entailed writing letters for the officers, making up the rosters, and I made up the payroll.

JS: You were an important person, then.

IL: Well, I wouldn't say I was important, I was essential!

JS: Did you take advantage of any of the education opportunities that were available?

IL: Yeah, I don't think I took any courses or anything, but I did a lot of reading.

JS: Where?

IL: They had a library there, they had a small library there.

JS: In your Camp?

IL: Um-hmm.

JS: With what kind of books? What kind of books were there to read?

IL: Well, there were mostly fiction, things of that type. They were those little paper, paper books.

JS: Did you receive any type of job training?

IL: Well, no, I don't think so. Other than the fact I was working, you know, busting up, we were busting up those rocks. Oh, also we, there used to be a chestnut grove, an old dead chestnut grove there, where at Big Meadows, where the Big Meadows . . . Byrd Center, Big Meadows Byrd Center is now. That used to be a chestnut grove in there. Well, we eliminated all those dead chestnut trees and we didn't have chainsaws back then. We had crosscut saws. You know, one on each side, pulling it back and forth until you sawed those dead chestnut trees up in chunks, and then we burned them all.

JS: Burned them?

IL: Yeah, burned them. All of it was burned.

JS: How long would it take you to cut down an average size tree?

IL: Oh, it wouldn't take us, oh, probably, maybe . . . I really don't remember. Probably, I'm just guessing, I'll probably say about 35, 40 minutes.

JS: Wow, that's a lot faster than I would think, using--

IL: Well, those, saws you know. Of course, they had people back at Camp that kept those saws sharp and everything. But those saws, they would go right through, with one on each end, you'd pull that thing back and forth. You'd go through a big tree in no time!

JS: I guess you'd have to be working with someone that you liked.

IL: I don't remember you could pick the workmen; I think you were assigned. Work details. I got along with everyone so I never had much trouble.

JS: Can you tell me anything about what you would do after work? In the evenings, what kinds of things would you do with your time?

IL: Well, I've always been a very avid reader, so I usually was reading a book or something like that. Then, too, I was on the basketball team. () I was a right guard.

JS: Where would you play basketball?

IL: Oh, we'd play basketball, we'd play the different camps and we played Luray. We beat, we trained and played a lot in the Luray gym. We played Camp 10, Camp 1, different ones around, we'd play. We were called the Camp Fechner Indians. I think that's in that book. I found myself in that book, too, and I didn't think I was in those pictures.

JS: I'm going to have to take another look at that.

IL: You won't recognize me! I had hair then, and I didn't have any glasses!

JS: You say you'd play outside of the Park, as well; you'd play teams other than just other camps?

IL: Oh, yeah. Yeah, we played Luray High School team, I think we played Massanutten, I believe it was Massanutten Academy one time. We were a pretty good team. We had one boy on there from Troutville, David Caldwell, he was real tall. He was a center, and that's when you had to jump the center all the time. You don't do that now. He'd always get, he'd always tap the ball [laughs]. So we might have had an advantage over the other teams. Now they're all tall.

JS: And big.

IL: You bet.

JS: Strong, tall. What about on weekends, since your family--

IL: That's another thing. I had a pretty good advantage there in that on weekends I could

ride, I could go home. Because Frank Kiblinger and Dave Kauffman, who was the superintendent, and R.B. Garth, Bob Garth--those three usually drove back and forth from Luray. Frank lived there in Kite Hollow, Frank Kiblinger lived in Kite Hollow, he was on the way, but Bob and Dave lived in Luray. They let me ride in the back of the pick-up down, and then I'd walk from Marksville into my home there in Stanley. Then the next morning I'd come out there and I'd get with them and ride up the mountain, so lot's of times I didn't have to stay over night.

JS: Would you ever take any of the other boys home with you?

IL: No, I never did, huh-uh, no, I don't think any of them ever wanted to.

JS: You say you got along well with the other . . .

IL: Oh, yeah.

JS: Where were some of the other men from?

IL: Well, some were from Baltimore, some were from Troutville, Troutville in Virginia, Waynesboro, Petersburg. They were all around, mostly from Baltimore and Virginia. I don't think there were many from D.C.

JS: Did it make any difference to them that you were living locally? That your family was local?

IL: No, it didn't make any difference to them. See, I was in a little different classification than they were. Like I said, I was considered a local woodsman. They had a barracks there in the Camp that was strictly for the local woodsmen. We all, like I said, how I got to be a local woodsman, I don't know. Somehow or other I was just put in that category because all of them were older men and I was probably the youngest one in there.

JS: Would any of them go home on weekends, also?

IL: Oh, yeah, most of them did go home, the local woodsmen, most of them did go home on weekends. I used to stay up there, see, they couldn't leave the Camp until the barracks was spotlessly cleaned up. I would contract with them at ten cents apiece [laughs] to clean that barrack.

It would take me the whole weekend! I wouldn't go home that weekend, it would take me the whole weekend. But that's how I made a little extra spending money. I'd contract with them, and of course the Camp, it was agreeable with the Camp that I do it because I'd clean it up, I'd clean it up real well. I think I made about \$3! [laughs]

JS: What would you do with your spending money?

IL: Well, I saved it, for later on, I guess. I didn't have a whole lot of spending money. See, we only got \$5. Twenty-five of it went home to the folks. Then I became an assistant leader when I was company clerk and then we got \$36. Of course I had \$11 then. We could buy things there in the concessions there in Camp. They were a lot more reasonable than down in town. I saved my--well, I believe, I believe, yeah, I think, I believe I did put my brother through business school there in Luray. I think that was about \$8 a week or something like that . . . but I was pretty saving, thrifty, I wasn't a spendthrift. I didn't smoke, so I didn't have to buy cigarettes.

JS: What did you think of the food when you were up here?

IL: Oh, it was wonderful! Food was good.

JS: Did you put on any weight?

IL: I don't think I put on, no I don't believe I did. I don't believe I put on much weight. I was pretty active. That work and everything. Hiking around the mountains and everything when I was on the survey crew.

JS: Would you say that--

IL: Oh, yeah, that's right, I did --you were talking about the courses we took. I became a Red Cross swimming examiner, Red Cross examiner in swimming. I used to go down to the recreational pool there, the Hawksbill Recreation Pool, what they call the Hawksbill Recreation Pool now, it was just Hawksbill Pool then. I gave classes to the different people.

JS: That's neat. I didn't realize that the Hawksbill Pool had been there that long.

IL: Oh, yeah, it's been there a pretty long time. Used to be just a swimming hole; that's

where I learned to swim [laughs].

JS: Was there anything that you would consider a hardship, living up in Camp?

IL: No, it was a really wonderful experience for me. I didn't find any hardships or anything. It's like I said, I needed a job and at least that was one way of getting a few dollars.

JS: Is there anything in particular that you liked the best about this type of living arrangement, working arrangement?

IL: Well, I liked it because it was outdoor, a lot of it was outdoor work, you were right outdoors and everything. It was a wonderful experience, it was wonderful training. It made you more self reliant. You were away from the folks and everything, kind of on your own.

JS: Did you have any contact with any of the mountain families that still lived--

IL: Yes, I did. That was another thing, I'm glad you brought that up, because I wouldn't have ever thought about it. They were putting the people, the mountain people out of their homes and everything. I was one of those that went down, especially there in Dark Hollow, and we took affidavits from all these people and everything.

JS: That said what?

IL: Well, see they were going to be evicted and everything so they had to get affidavits from them and all this type of thing. I took down the information and of course it was all accumulated and used at a later time.

JS: Did you have to actually help with the evictions?

IL: No, I didn't, no, thank goodness! I didn't have anything to do with actually evicting them, I just went down and got the information from them. Some of those houses, you wouldn't believe it. The walls were all papered with newspapers, where they'd tack them up there and everything.

JS: Do you remember any of the family names?

IL: No, I don't, I don't, () gone by.

JS: How did they receive you?

IL: I think--I mean, well. They knew that . . . not only that, but I think it had something to do with their being put in other places, how much they would get for their property and all this type of thing, so . . . there wasn't any problem. They were glad to furnish whatever information was necessary. You'd usually find out who all they were, and how many was in the family, and wellst I remember what they expected to get from their property, and all this type of thing. It was just detailed information.

JS: Did you ever have to do any diagrams of their property?

IL: No, no. I might have described it, you know, I mean, what type of home they have, and how many rooms, this type of thing, but I didn't actually do any diagraming.

JS: Did any of the mountain people ever come to the CCC Camp for any reason, to socialize or--

IL: Yeah, I think they would come around, probably just temporarily visit, and see what was going on, this type of thing. Because it never--I don't think they were ever restricted from coming into the camps or anything, that I know of.

JS: Did they have any resentment toward the CCC?

IL: Not that I know of. Not that I know of. I don't know whether any of the CCC boys ever went down to--they had a little church down in the Dark Hollow. I don't remember now exactly what type of church it was. I know it was one of those where they have the, where they get all shaky and all talk at once and this type of thing.

JS: Did you ever go to any of the services?

IL: I never did, no, but when I was a young boy, before I got in the CC Camp, my cousin and I, we drove over there one time just to see what it was like. [laughs] Curiosity more than anything else. That's about the only time I was there. Whether the boys ever went down there or not, I don't know. I never heard of them going down there, but they may have. But I don't think

there was any resentment against the boys in Camp, I think.

JS: Do you have any specific impressions of the mountain families that you knew?

IL: Well, they were all very poor. Like I said, they lived in what I would consider deplorable conditions, you know. They were all crowded, they papered the walls to keep out the outside air with newspapers and everything. That's, I mean, [laughs] really () it could have been a fire hazard, you know, if it ever caught on fire. Probably would burn down pretty quickly. But they seemed to be, they seemed to be plain, honest people. I don't know if there were any of them ever made any moonshine or not. I think that was some of those hollows, [laughing] around Stanley they made moonshine! In fact, I don't think it, I know it! [laughing] but as to whether they did there in Dark Hollow or around the Camp, I don't know.

JS: Were there any types of discipline problems with the CCC boys in Camp?

IL: No, not particularly. I think most of them got along. Once in a while, you know, you'd have a--and what they'd do, the way they'd work it, they'd get boxing gloves and let them get in the boxing ring with people watching and everything, surrounding them, and let them box it out. That sort of settled some of the differences, but I don't think there was any, too much trouble. Most of them were sort of like I was, they needed the money to go home to their folks so they were glad to be there. Because, you know, if they'd have caused too much trouble or anything, they would have been dishonorably discharged. So it was important that they got along with everybody, did what was required of them. Most of them did, I think most of them really enjoyed it just like I did. It was, I think the CCC's is really, was a wonderful thing.

JS: Why?

IL: Because it put the boys to work. It actually accomplished something. In other words, they sort of earned what they were doing. It wasn't--course, I think the Civilian Conservation Corps was considered a, what shall I say, sort of a welfare, that's what I should say, sort of a welfare-type of agency. You couldn't get any credit for it. See, I was in World War II, later on, up at the

University of Texas. I tried to get credit for that, you know, but because it was a welfare-type of thing, you couldn't get any credit, that is, on your pension.

JS: I didn't know that.

IL: Yeah, couldn't get any credit. Because it was considered--that was the reason, because it was considered a welfare-type. But actually, it's different from the welfare they're getting now, because now they're getting something for nothing! [laughs] Back then, you at least were earning something. Not only that, but all the things they did were benefitting the resources and everything! We built that Skyline Drive, we eradicated those gooseberry bushes.

JS: Living right there in Stanley, what were your feelings about a national park coming to this area?

IL: I never did really have any feelings, either pro or con. I guess it was a good thing, because [laughs] Harry Byrd thought so, anyway! And I think it is, too. I think we were fortunate that we got the Shenandoah National Park.

JS: The facilities that were built by the CCC are just incredible, and they're still there, after all these years. What kind of a career did you go into after the service?

IL: I was with the IRS for thirty-four years, in Austin, Texas. I was in Texas forty years. See, in the first place, when I left the CCC, well, John Mims had offered me a job at the Mimslyn Hotel here, John Mims offered me a job and I took it. That's when I left. I stayed with him for 2½ years. Then I went to the University of Richmond, I believe for one year. Then I got married and I worked for Bethlehem Steel for about two years, then the war came along and I put almost four years during World War II in the Service.

JS: In what branch?

IL: Artillery. I was with the 150th Artillery. In fact, I just left a reunion there in Atlantic City last week! [laughs]

JS: It must be nice to be retired!

IL: Yeah, I can do a lot of things now.

JS: And then . . .

IL: And then from the Army, why, after the war was over, that's when I went to Texas. Went to school on the G.I. Bill. Put in five years at the University of Texas. Then I went to work for the Internal Revenue Service, stayed with them 34 years, until 1984 I retired, at age 70. [laughs] I was retired on my 70th birthday! And now I'm almost eighty-one, so that was about eleven years back.

JS: Would you say that your time with the CCC made any impact on your life?

IL: Oh, yes, yes, it sure did! I think maybe the successes that I've had, and everything was, I think, came from my early training with the CCC.

JS: Why?

IL: Well, it's like I said, it made you self-reliant, gave you a lot of trades and things that you could do that would help you later on. You mix with people, and of course later on I had to mix with people quite a lot. Of course, I might of mixed with people anyway, who knows? But I do think that the CCC's were a good training ground for young boys. they kept you out of trouble, see, when you () get into trouble now, if they had something like that, that might keep them out of trouble. You have discipline, you had taps in the morning, and reveille in the evening, sort of a military atmosphere, that kind of kept people in line.

JS: Had you been up in what is now Skyline Drive much before you joined the CCC?

IL: Oh, yes, I used to like to hike. I hiked all over those Blue Ridge Mountains. that was before the Skyline Drive was built. But they had the Appalachian Trail then.

JS: And you would hike on the Appalachian Trail?

IL: Oh, yeah, yeah. Yeah, I've hiked all over: Franklin's Cliffs, all around there. Skyland. Oh, that's one thing: after I left the Mimslyn, that's what I did, I went up to Skyland during the summer. I was a room clerk up there for one summer season.

JS: How many years?

IL: That was after I left the Mimslyn. See, I'd been with the Mimslyn for 2½ years, then I went up there that summer and was a room clerk there before I went to the University of Richmond. That fall I went to the University of Richmond.

JS: Were you working for the Virginia Skyline Company?

IL: Yeah. I don't know whether they called it that then, maybe they did, I don't remember. But, yeah, I was working for the concession, they had the concessions there.

JS: Was George Pollock still around?

IL: No, George Pollock wasn't there then. I think maybe he may have died by that time. At least, he wasn't around.

JS: When you go up now to Big Meadows and to where the Byrd Visitor Center is, what strikes you as being the same, and what strikes you as being different?

IL: Well, where the Center is is different. Of course, I used to hike over there to that Black Rock. It was one of my favorite hikes from the Camp. I've walked over there many, many a time. I look out on the terrain from the Center there, and I can visualize those barracks and everything being there. Of course, we were in tents when we first went there. But then we got into barracks, they built barracks.

JS: You were there when there were still tents?

IL: Oh, yes. I was there when there were tents.

JS: How would they heat them?

IL: They had little old stoves in there, little old . . . what, the, you know, billy, billy . . .

JS: Pot belly?

IL: Yeah, pot belly stoves.

JS: What did they burn? Wood?

IL: Wood.

JS: At what point did they build barracks?

IL: Well, I think it wasn't too long after that before they built the barracks. They weren't in tents that long. But they were originally tents. [laughs]

JS: I'm just trying to picture looking out the Visitor Center window today and seeing the Camp, what it must have looked like.

IL: Over to the left, there, that's where it was. And President Roosevelt came up and visited us one time, you know.

JS: You were in Camp then?

IL: Yup.

JS: Did he talk much with the men, or was he just there kind of as a figurehead?

IL: Yeah, yeah, I think he was sort of a figurehead. He just drove around and looked through it. I don't think he really made a speech, I don't believe, I don't remember him making a speech. But I know we were all lined up along the road there, when he went through and when he came back.

JS: Did you have any camp mascot, or pets?

IL: No.

JS: Did you see much wildlife in the mountains at that time?

IL: Not a whole lot, not a whole lot. You are going to see deer, rabbits, skunks.

JS: Sounds pretty slim.

IL: They still had some young chestnuts up there. I was hiking one Sunday and I didn't have a lot of food along. I was eating these chestnuts, and those chestnut burrs evidently accumulated in my appendix because the next day I was in the hospital and I was in misery and everything. They carted me off to, to, that hospital, what is the hospital there in Washington? You know, the one for military personnel?

JS: The Bethesda Naval Hospital?

IL: Not the Bethesda, that's for the Naval people. This was for the Army. This is . . .

END SIDE A

BEGIN SIDE B

IL: See, it's named after him.

JS: I want to say Salk and that's not right.

IL: I don't know why I can't think of that, because that's . . .

JS: But this is while you were in the CCC's?

IL: Umm hmm.

JS: Now, you said they took you to the hospital first. Was that off the mountain?

IL: Yup. Yeah, they took me to the hospital, and it's about 100 miles. My appendix burst while they were operating on it. I had [laughs] three drain tubes in there. Golly, it sure did smell! I couldn't hardly stand it myself. Finally, they sent me back to Camp.

JS: How long?

IL: I think I was there about, probably about three weeks. Walter Reed! That's () Walter Reed Hospital! That's where they sent me, see, because it's strictly for military. I guess probably because the camps were sort of under the, we had military officers there, in camp. Then after I got back, I was walking around the Camp just doing light duty and I--that's, what, that's right! By golly, we still had tents at that time! Because I was going around the tent there and I tripped over one of those ropes that comes down to the tent peg and I fell just as flat as can be and boy, I thought, "Gol-lee! I bet I'll have to go back to Walter Reed!" But I didn't, thank goodness! It didn't open up the wound.

JS: Now, did you have to pay for this medical care?

IL: No, no, that's all done by the government.

JS: Was there a medical, an infirmary at the Camp?

IL: Yeah, they had a Camp infirmary. People that had colds, things like that.

JS: Is that where you went first?

IL: Yeah, that's where I went first when I got ill.

JS: So how you would say the medical treatment was at the infirmary?

IL: Well, I think it was good, as far as they could go. Naturally they couldn't do things like operations.

JS: Was there dental care? Teeth? Did they have a dentist?

IL: No, no they didn't have a dentist. They just had a medical doctor. They had a couple of boys were in the infirmary that dished out pills, this type of thing.

JS: Overall, what would you tell somebody about your CCC experience?

IL: Well, I always tell them that it's wonderful. I wouldn't take anything for it. I think that it is really, I think it really helped me. I think it really, probably made a man out of me, instead of a boy. [laughs] I think.

JS: Well, I really appreciate your time. This has been great. You've really had some experiences, haven't you?

IL: Well, yes, I've had a pretty good life [laughs].

JS: Did you date at all while you were in the CCC's?

IL: No. That's another thing that happened. I had the little old gal there in Luray, who's name was Gretchen Spitler. She was nineteen and I was nineteen at that time, and I was really crazy about her. I thought I was the only suitor. I would have probably have asked her to marry me if I'd of had a job or anything, but I didn't, so I didn't. One day, why, I found out she'd married another boy, Ray Kite from Shenandoah. And I didn't even know they even had been dating or anything! So it kind of broke my heart, you know, I figured, up there the first two years, why, I didn't date any

girls or anything. After two years I kind of got over it and I decided I'd start dating. I played the road! [laughs] I finally wound up with a little old gal, I think I was twenty-six by then when we got married, and she was nineteen. We've been married fifty-five years.

JS: Congratulations! Is she from Texas?

IL: No, she's from Clarke County, she's from Virginia. I used to go from Luray to Clarke County over to Berryville, to court her. I () two years before we got married. But it's like I said, I was twenty-six when we got married. Because she was Episcopalian, and the Episcopalian minister, he wasn't too sure when he married us, because he thought maybe I was too old for her. He gave me a nice, long lecture about things I should do and everything. Evidently it turned out pretty good. I still been with her for fifty-five years.

JS: Were you raised in a church?

IL: Yeah, I was, my folks were all Baptists, they were all Baptists. Church there in Stanley.

JS: Did you still attend church while you were in the CCC?

IL: No, they had--well, yeah, I guess we did, too. Because they had church services. But see, I'd be home on the weekends lots, a lot of the time. So I wouldn't be up there attending church. But they did have ministers come up there, and talk to the boys.

JS: Is there anything else that just pops out in your mind? Thinking back over all these years?

IL: Nothing I can think of right now! [laughs] I'm hoping that I'll meet some of the people that were in camp with me in here. I don't know whether I will or not.

JS: Well, I'll let you get out and socialize. Thank you very much for your time!

END OF INTERVIEW

Interview
with
ISAAC LOUDERBACK

September 30, 1995

Interviewer: Joy K. Stiles
Transcribed by: Joy K. Stiles

Shenandoah National Park
Luray, Virginia

Original manuscript on deposit at
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Side A:

Isaac Louderback is a former Civilian Conservation Corps enrollee stationed in Shenandoah National from July 13, 1933 to January 31, 1937. The interview begins with Louderback giving a brief account of his family background, schooling, how he joined the CCC, and where he was stationed. Louderback is originally from Page County and was classified as a "local woodsman," which allowed him to stay with the CCC longer than the typical enrollee. Louderback was assigned to a barracks specifically for local woodsmen at Camp NP-2, Company 350, Camp Fechner at Big Meadows. Louderback worked breaking up rocks and on a surveying crew that determined where crews would dig up gooseberry bushes that were being eradicated. He was promoted to company clerk and listed his job duties. Louderback talks about removing the dead chestnut trees in the Big Meadows area using crosscut saws.

Louderback's recreational activities included using the Camp library and playing on the Camp basketball team, the Camp Fechner Indians. Being local, he often went home on weekends. He sometime stayed in Camp for the weekend to clean the barracks, charging the other men ten cents each to clean for them. Louderback received certification as a Red Cross swimming instructor while in the CCC.

Louderback talks about his contacts with the mountain residents and his work taking affidavits from the families still living in the Park, detailing information about each family. He mentions the church in Dark Hollow and how he visited it once before he joined the CCC.

After remarking about the use of boxing to solve the rare fight in Camp, Louderback talks about his feelings toward the CCC and his thoughts on a national park being brought to this area. Louderback relates his employment history after leaving the CCC, including working a summer at Skyland Lodge. He talks about how the Big Meadows area appeared in the 1930's and brings up the point that the enrollees were still in tents when he arrived with barracks being built soon after. He remembers Roosevelt coming for an inspection trip. Medical care is discussed as Louderback recalls getting appendicitis and being sent to Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C. for surgery.

Side B:

Louderback concludes his story about appendicitis. He does not remember any dental care. He reiterates his feelings about having been in the CCC. He briefly talks about his dating before the CCC's and getting married later in life.

End of interview.

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