

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY  
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

CCC in Parsons, West Virginia

Personal Experience

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DELBERT LITTLE

Interviewed

by

Hugh Earnhart and Rebecca Rogers

on

June 10, 1989

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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INTERVIEWEE: DELBERT LITTLE  
INTERVIEWER: Hugh Earnhart and Rebecca Rogers  
SUBJECT: Civilian Conservation Corps, Parsons nursery,  
World War II  
DATE: June 10, 1989

E: This is an interview with Delbert Little for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program in conjunction with the National Forest Service, on the CCC, Civilian Conservation Corps, and other related matters in Parsons, West Virginia, by Hugh Earnhart and Rebecca Rogers, at Elkins, West Virginia, on June 10, 1989.

Mr. Little, tell me, if you can, a little bit about your family, where you grew up, types of things you remember about your mother and dad?

L: My father got killed when I was young but my mother took care of us. We lived on a farm and we raised hogs, cattle, and I was on it until I left for the CCC.

E: How big a farm was it?

L: Fifty-two acres was all we had.

E: How large a family?

L: There was eight of us, seven boys and one girl.

E: This fifty-two acres supported?

L: Supported us. My father was state road supervisor and he got killed on the state road.

E: While he was at work?

L: While he was at work, yes. He was going out, looking over the road, and there was a circus going through. One of the trucks going down one of the grades, the brakes gave way and it went over on top of him.

E: What types of chores did you have responsibility for when you were growing up? Were you the oldest?

L: No, I was next to the youngest, third one up in the family. Of course, back then we had gas. We didn't have to get wood in or anything. Take care of feeding the stock, raised corn and stuff to feed them.

E: Were your oldest brothers home then.

L: Some of them were gone back then. They weren't all at home. Four of us, I guess, lived at home, the boys.

E: What school did you go to?

L: Grade school, our school was just down in Grantsville.

E: Was this one room?

L: Yes.

E: Can you remember first or second grade?

L: Eighth grade, I finished eighth grade. It was five miles, and there weren't any busses then to go to high school. Just after I finished eighth grade a while I went into the CCC.

E: Did you walk to school?

L: Yes.

E: How long a trip was that?

L: It was a little over a mile each way. That was to the grade, it was five miles into the high school. There weren't any busses. Everybody got there own transportation.

E: Did one teacher stay the whole eight years you were there?

L: No. Mr. Scott was one teacher, Eulah Frame was one, and Harold Elliot was one of the teachers. I had more than one, but one teacher at a time until the eighth grade.

E: When you look back on the various teachers you had is there any one that stands out as more of an influence than another?

L: Yes, Miss Frame was the best teacher I believe I had. Then I had another one, Jim Wilson. He was an older teacher. I'll never forget when my brother and I were in school and my sister. He did all the whipping. He would send the boys out to cut the whip to whip with. My brother went out and he would rig one so when the teacher started to whip the pieces flew all over.

E: What types of lessons, or what was a typical day like?

L: You had spelling, went all through them, reading, history, and spelling, and geography.

E: When did school start?

L: It generally started in the earliest part of September. Then it was out in the spring, along April, May.

E: Was the school calendar oriented around the need for rural help?

L: Yes.

E: In other words your summers had to be long?

L: That is right. You had work to do when spring came.

E: You finished eighth grade in what year?

L: I don't just recall what year it was now. I can't give you just a date on that now.

E: You went into the CCC shortly after that?

L: Yes, I went into CCC April 1934.

E: During FDR's (Franklin Delano Roosevelt) first term.

L: I came out of CCC in July of 1938. I got a job with the state. You had to have a job before you could get discharged. I was in permanent cadet in the CCC. You would only stay twelve months without. . . You were picked for the permanent position. I was a cook, and I stayed as a cook, stayed until I got the job with the state.

E: Before we leave the early background, what can you tell me about your mother, who had the responsibility of raising the family?

L: My father had insurance and, of course, she got his insurance. She wanted to know what we could do. She took the insurance money and she took care of us till her death.

E: Your mother never remarried?

L: No.

E: Did you children feel a certain responsibility to help out with the family?

L: Yes. When I went into the CCC I sent an allotment back to her.

E: What attracted you to CCC, where did you first find out about them, the type of things they were doing?

L: I had been talking about it to the fellows who were the head of it that were signing them up for the CCC. They said that I could get in. There had to be certain circumstance before you could get in and I qualified. So I signed up and went into it. When I lived there, I went to Parkersburg and the onto Fort Knox, Kentucky. I was down there for awhile, then came back and signed out to the 518 at Parsons.

E: Why did they send you to Kentucky?

L: That was for your shots and everything. You had to get your experience there for some job. They see all you can do.

E: How long were you there at Fort Knox?

L: Over a month we were there at Fort Knox. It was an induct place were you went in for the induction. You got your shots and you worked out on different jobs. We were out in tents there and we had to get out and cut our own wood and keep our stoves going in our tents at night. It was April when we went in there and it was cold. One night, one of the fellows, I spoke to him a year or so ago, he asked me, "Were you down there when that tent burned down that night?" I said, "Yes, I was right across from it." And he said, "Well, I was in that tent." (Laughter)

E: It is a wonder there weren't more fires.

L: That is true, yes.

E: Just like in railroading they used to have these stoves in the middle of these cars. The road bed was far from being level. Here these cars are rocking and jolting around. It is a wonder those stoves didn't catch more cars on fire.

L: You had just these little tents with the stove in the tent; just a little bit of a thing and a four inch pipe went right up through the ceiling of the tent and we

had it blowing around. You had to take them down about every four to five days to clean them. Or they would smoke you out and you couldn't stay in the tent.

E: How many men stayed in a tent?

L: There were six of us stayed in the tent.

E: Now were you required to do your own cooking?

L: Oh, no!

E: You had a regular mess hall?

L: That is what we had to do. We had to learn KP and they told us about the teaching and stuff.

E: It is interesting that they sent you all the way to Fort Knox, isn't it, for indoctrination?

L: Yes, it is. That was the inducting center then. Everybody went through there.

E: Now did they give you a medical examination?

L: Oh yes. You got a full physical examination. A lot of them didn't pass. They got sent down there and didn't pass. You got all your shots there.

E: What kind of shots were they giving you?

L: They gave you tetanus, and typhoid, and smallpox, there were three of them.

E: When you first got there did you have a feeling this was an Army camp?

L: Yes, we knew it was an Army camp when we went. We knew where we going. They told us what to expect down there.

E: Who told you this?

L: The fellow who signed us up at Grantsville. That is where we signed up, Grantsville.

E: Was he sort of like a recruiter?

L: Yes, he was a recruiter. That is what he was. You left for Fort Knox, they screened them out there. They had so many there and they screened them out there. Then if you passed there well they sent you on to Fort Knox for your physical. They just saw whether you were eligible to win or not up there at Grantsville.

E: Was this fellow, who was the recruiter at Grantsville,

was he out in the countryside rounding people up, or was he just sitting there in an office waiting for people to come in the front door?

L: No. He sat there in that office. They put it in the papers there. If you wanted to go you had to go in there and sign up. They didn't go out and recruit anybody. You went in and signed up and then if you were picked, why, you got your notice. You took that. So many would go in at the time. They would take you to Parkersburg and send you on into Kentucky.

E: Were members of the community receptive to this CCC camp?

L: Yes, they were there for . . . There weren't any CCC camps around there close. Some places they didn't but they didn't think much of CCC boys.

E: What was there dislike for?

L: Well, they thought they were a rough bunch of boys and stuff. They didn't care for them.

E: Did you think the community feared this group of people who were living on the outskirts of town in an Army style type life as a threat?

L: No, they didn't think too much of that. They just didn't like to see them out then. In fact you could go to town any night you wanted to. You were allowed to go out. You had to be back by roll call at a certain hour but you could go out any time you wanted to. If you went on the weekend you had to get a pass, and sign out. You had to sign back in when you got back in too.

E: What was the name of the camp that you were at up here?

L: Camp Parsons 518.

E: If you were to stand on the outside of the camp and look at it, how would you describe that camp?

L: I would say it was a nice place for a camp.

E: What kind of buildings?

L: They were all wood buildings, just insulated the siding on them and it was kind of a ground up chipboard inside. They were all made up the same way. We had five barracks, the mess hall, and the cooks they had their own barrack. You kept your barracks up. You had inspections and all. They inspected them every Saturday morning. You had to stand inspection. Everything had to be just so-so. All commanding officers come

through; generally they would have another officer with him, a medical officer. They would have sticks and they would hit the bunks to see if you kept them clean. You had to shake your blankets every morning to see if there was any dust in the blankets or anything.

E: They would come through and hit the blankets?

L: Check your whole bed and everything. You had to keep your footlocker opened up and keep it neat . . . You had to roll your socks a certain way and keep your underwear and everything in a certain place. They saw if it was in uniform or not.

E: Did you think that you had joined the Army incognito or something?

L: No, not that.

E: It was almost like that though, wasn't it?

L: It was the same as the Army. When I went in the Army they tried for a good bit. They thought that maybe we had enough military training to get time I was in the Army for. But we didn't have enough training to get in.

E: That wasn't the reason at all, Delbert. They didn't want to give you that pension for too long out of the Second World War, that was the problem. They didn't want to give you credit for that CCC. Was this two story, one story building?

L: One story, all of them were one story buildings.

E: Windows spaced how, down the side of the building? In other words, your bunk, did every bunk have a window?

L: The bunks were lined up head to foot. The way they were lined one person's head was out in the aisle and the next one's head was back against the wall. You weren't allowed to . . . All sleep your head one way. Start at one end and fifteen of them up through. If they had fifteen bunks they would have one on each side of the aisle.

E: They weren't double bunks?

L: No, no they were singles. They were nice bunks. You checked in every week and got new sheets and everything for your bed. You had to change them once a week.

E: Was there a laundry there at the camp?

L: Yes, there was a laundry. You sent your own laundry



out. We had private people there who did our laundry. They would come in there and pick it up, take it out and do it, and bring it back.

E: You mean your own shirts and pants, that kind of thing?

L: Yes.

E: What did they charge you for that?

L: She could probably tell you about that. I don't remember. It would run about \$1 a week, \$1.50 a week. It depended on how many clothes you dirtied. Of course, you didn't make too much. Back then I made \$45 a month. \$25 of that went home. When you went to the theater you bought your ticket at the canteen there and your ticket cost you \$.15.

R: Was there a movie theater in Parsons?

L: Yes. Mr. Ours ran the movie there, Elmer Ours. He ran it there for years. Damn good movies.

E: You became a cook?

L: I was the cook, yes. We went in the kitchen worked Fort Knox. Then when we came up I went in the kitchen. I was a cook in the kitchen. They gave us schooling. We had schooling. I got my certificate there where I went through school.

R: Was that cooking school?

L: Yes, cooking school; cooking, baking school. I will never forget one night another boy and I there were going to make a cake. We got the recipe off the side of the corn starch box. We mixed it up and it didn't look like it was going to be enough so we doubled it. When we got it in the oven the first time and opened the oven door it looked good. The next time it was all over the floor. We had a time with that. (Laughter)

E: That makes sure it went far enough!

L: That's tight. There was enough of that.

E: Were you surprised when you ended up as a cook?

L: No, I wasn't surprised. I worked two weeks out on different jobs when I first went up to Parsons. They set it up so that I was assigned as a cook. That is all I worked out, just those two weeks. Rest of it was in the kitchen.

I was in different places. When we went in there they

had a sub camp on top of Canaan Mountain and I went up there as a cook. They sent me up there to cook. We went up in the spring in April and stayed until snow broke our tents down in the winter. We went back into Parsons then that fall when the snow got too deep. We went up there and we toughed it out up on top of Canaan Mountain.

We went out every morning. Some mornings. . . The water there, the reason that water looked kind of red like. . . It wasn't clear water like you have here; it was pure water but it had that from the roots from the trees. We would go out there and break the ice and wash right out in the stream. We had a dam built and that is where you took bath right out at that dam.

E: You didn't stay in too long?

L: No, you didn't stay in too long. In the summertime it was nice in the daytime. In the evening or night it got chilly. I know there is a forest service there. We stayed there over the weekend. I had to stay in over the weekends to take care of the camp. We had an old fellow, Angus Chisolm, he came in once. I got up one Sunday morning to get breakfast and he came in. He said, "Slim, is there anything I can do to help you?" And I said, "Yes, we are going to have hotcakes." I said "Mr. Chisolm, you can get that grill over there and put it on the stove and have it ready." He went over and got it and on top it was flat. It had a little rim around it; the bottom of it had sections to it for the heat to circulate around. He looked at it a little bit and he said, "That is the first time I have ever seen a kettle like that. It can cook three or four things at one time."

E: What was a typical day like in the camp? In other words what time did it start? Just go through the day.

L: Now we didn't have to, but the troops they got up in the morning; they had to stand reveille. You started from that. You had breakfast about 7:30 in the morning. You had to have it ready and they would eat breakfast. At 8:00 they blew the whistle and they went out to work. They would go out and work and then if they were out someplace you had to pack a lunch for them at noon and take it out and serve it out to them wherever they were, if they were out making forest trails or making roads. In Parsons they built that Camp Horseshoe down there and did all that work down there, built those building and stuff down there. They would be down there working and you would have to take lunch out to them for the day.

In the wintertime after it got down to a certain de-

gree, it was cold, real cold; they didn't send them out. One morning Lieutenant Morris. . . It wasn't too cold and, of course, they blew the whistle and they didn't come out. He came up to the barrack door and he said, "What are you men or mice? If you are men you'll come out and work. If you are mice then you'll stay inside." They were mice, they stayed inside. (Laughter)

E: How many men would you have to feed?

L: There were 250 in our outfit. That is what you cooked for. You had two cooks, and two KPs, cooked for 250. You would start the day at noon and you would get the evening meal and the breakfast and the noon meal the next day, and then you would be off until the next day at noon. That is the way the cooks worked. Then you got vacation because you got so much time off. Then every so often you could take a vacation, if you wanted to go out and leave, go home, or whatever you wanted to do.

E: What kind of camp did the fellows come in, say around fire trails, or whatever they were doing?

L: They would come in at 4:00 in the evening back then.

E: Were they back in at 4:00?

L: Generally in at 4:00, sometimes a little over, but they generally came in at 4:00. Then they were served at 5:00, or 5:30 in the evening sometimes. Generally it was 5:00 when the meal time was.

E: What would you do the rest of the evening?

L: They would do whatever they wanted to do. They had pool tables, they had a recreation hall there, and pool tables, different things. You could go to town. You didn't have to stay in camp. You could go to town, go to the movies, or anyplace you wanted to go. Come back in just so long as you were back for a certain time of the night to check in.

E: Before we come back to cooking, was there much discipline problems in these camps?

L: Not too much; no. They were pretty strict on that. They checked everything out and your cooks and all. You took your physical examination and all that, through that. Then on the pots and pans they worked on all that all the time and stuff.

E: What I was thinking was whenever you get groups of people together there are some who are 100 percent,

others who are going to do fifty percent, and some, who are going to do less than ten if they can get a way with it.

L: That is true, but they had so much to do and you had to do it.

E: If a person did not work?

L: You didn't stay in there when your time was up to leave. You signed up six months. When your time was up to leave you went out. You didn't sign up again.

E: In other words they were running six month enlistments so to speak?

L: That is right.

E: Did anybody leave any earlier than six months?

L: No, if you didn't have a job you couldn't. They would not give you discharge. If you could get a job someplace you could leave any time you wanted to. They would sign you out but you had to have on your discharge "leaving for a job."

E: Did you have to show proof that you had that job?

L: Oh yes, you had to show proof. They would call. When I left I got a job with the state road there. It is right on my discharge as the reason they wanted me to leave.

R: Did they help you find the job?

L: No, you got your job yourself; they didn't. . .

R: They didn't have people who came by and interviewed or looked for people?

L: No, they didn't have people who came by. You went out and looked for your job yourself. Then you got a job you wanted, it was okay.

E: Did people come there looking for perspective workers? In other words would the State Department of Transportation show up and say, "Hey we are looking for five good men to help build roads"?

L: No, no they didn't. They didn't come in looking for people. When they had bad snows there, snows got deep and stuff, the state couldn't handle it and they came and got some of the crew there from the fellows who worked out on the equipment stuff, the operators; they got them and took them out. Her brother, he worked on

one there. It snowed there on the mountain there one time. I don't know how long. We fed them there at the camp, the fellows that worked. That was the only way they ever came in looking for anybody, something like that.

E: Tell me about the menu. Today we worry about whether we have so many carbohydrates, and so many proteins, and all this in a meal. Dietitians turn it down if it doesn't. It is not whether you can it or not but when it has got all this stuff in it.

L: The menu was made up a week at a time.

E: Who made that up?

L: The mess sergeant made that up. He went to the office, the commanding officer always went over it. Your menu was fixed up a week ahead. You knew what you were going to prepare and everything for the evening meal. You had your meat and your vegetables and everything. They had to be so-so. Then we had a medical officer there all the time and he could come in on to it too. He watched, he would come in when you were cooking, look over things, see if they were up to par.

E: What was the favorite breakfast of the camp?

L: The favorite breakfast I think was eggs, and bacon, and toast.

E: And coffee?

L: Coffee, yes.

E: That is what I had this morning. I had a CCC breakfast this morning.

L: Back then people weren't able . . . Back then times were hard and people lived out. They couldn't get all that stuff to eat, like your meats and stuff, like they sent in there for us. We had meat in the freezer there all the time.

E: Where was this food coming from?

L: They shipped it in there. The mess sergeant ordered up so much ahead, then bring it in, put it in the big coolers there in the camp. I know we had one officer there, Dr. Lyons. He had his office there in town; he wasn't an Army officer at all. He came every Sunday morning, he and his wife; he would bring a little pot to bring for us when we had chicken. When we had chicken he would bring a little pot for us to put chicken in for him to take it home for them to fix.

One Sunday morning he came in and he was out of sort and he missed throwing pots and pans in the sink, said everything was dirty. The cook . . . Just got one of the cooks and the KP just took him and put him in the cooler and locked the door on him and left him in there awhile.

E: He was a local physician?

L: He was a local physician.

E: Who was in essential a medical officer?

L: That's right. They didn't have a medical officer at that time. The one would have left and they didn't have any in yet so they put him on as taking care of the camp until they replaced him.

E: Then he was paid like a contract or something?

L: He was paid by the government board. He was on contracts.

E: Whatever chicken he could carry home in the pot and whatever he could get. . .

L: Oh yes. They fed the people there. People came from town. They never turned anyone away, you weren't allowed to. If anybody came to eat you fed them, took them in and gave them just what the other enrollees had. I knew people from town who came up every Sunday. Three, four of them in a family came up there and ate in the camp.

E: Was this a practice everywhere or just unique to this camp?

L: No, I don't know what they did in other camps. It was legal. We weren't allowed to turn anybody away who came to eat.

E: Do they do it during the week as well?

L: Yes, any time anybody would come in and want a meal, we fixed a meal for them.

E: You didn't fix it in the middle of the afternoon for them?

L: Oh no, it had to be at mealtime.

E: You weren't running a hotel out of there.

L: We had one boy there he was finishing high school. He was in camp there finishing high school. He was

trained as a barber. He came in the one day and wanted dinner early and I said, "Now we don't have much." I was fixing up some stuff to put in the fly traps, mixing it up and I said, "This is the only thing I have." I wanted to see what he said. He said, "Well, I believe I could eat this dinner." We fixed him something to eat. We were about to have a noon meal anyway.

E: "I think I could eat that!"

L: Yes, he said, "I think I could eat it."

E: What was their favorite sandwich? Usually that is what you had at lunchtime, didn't you?

L: Yes, we had a meat sandwich we fixed up for them. It was a sandwich, and inside it was cheese. They kept cheese there all the time in a big, round hoop of cheese, we kept them there.

E: What other kind of sandwich?

L: Well, we had a jam sandwich that we fixed up for them.

E: Probably with peanut butter.

L: No, we didn't have peanut butter.

E: Didn't you?

L: No.

E: Milk a big item?

L: Yes, there was milk each day. They had milk there to drink any time they wanted.

E: You kept that in the cooler?

L: Yes, it was kept in the cooler.

E: Was it pasteurized?

L: Yes, it was pasteurized milk. Felton's they had a dairy there then just below Parsons and they were sent to Elkins, I believe it was, or someplace to pasteurize milk.

E: What about the evening meal, what was that consisting of?

L: It consisted of . . . Well, you had beef, you had pork, or beef, roast beef. We fixed it. Then you had mashed potatoes and gravy, and green beans, or peas, or what-

ever you had to fix with it. You had to have a full meal.

R: You guys have a garden there?

L: No, no. They bought stuff out there from local people.

R: The beans, and the vegetables?

L: Yes, they brought in green vegetables all the time, tomatoes and stuff. I know Kisners, a family by the name of Kisners, from a little town there, they delivered in there. There were two bunches delivered in there. They were in there about every other day with fresh vegetables. You could get fresh corn and everything.

E: If I picked a bushel of green beans out of my garden could I bring it there?

L: You could bring it there.

E: And you would buy it?

L: Yes.

E: Would you buy meat?

L: No, the meat had to be through Swift Farm, or some outfit like that.

E: Same way with milk, that type of stuff?

L: Milk had to be pasteurized but your green vegetables and stuff you could buy locally, there from any person who came in with it.

E: Did you have any regrets leaving that camp in 1938?

L: No, I was . . .

E: You had had it?

L: Well, it was a place to work. You didn't make much but it was a place to work and all. When you can get something to do better why, then you were supposed to go.

E: In the four years that you were in CCC, did you ever question the theory of why the CCC were there?

L: No, we never did.

E: You know, bunch of you hanging around, you didn't want to go see the movie, and her mother wouldn't let her



out of the house that night, and there was just nothing. Did any of you just sit around on your bunk and say, "What the hell is this place?"

L: No, it wasn't like that. Now you could go to town. They would speak to you in town and talk to you and all. It wasn't anything out of the way.

E: What I'm saying is . . .

L: Yes, I know what . . .

E: Did you think, did any of you ever just wonder why they created these CCC?

L: No, it was discussed but I never knew anything about them. The cooks, we were mostly to ourselves. We didn't . . . Well, we were with the other fellows too, not like we were. We had our own barracks and all and we took care of it.

E: When you were thinking about the various meals, the first meal of the day what did you people call it?

L: We called it breakfast.

E: What did you call the noon meal?

L: Dinner.

E: What did you call the evening?

L: The evening meal, supper. Back then that is all you ever had.

R: That's the same in Ohio. I mean people still do that in Ohio.

L: In some places they do.

E: It varies.

R: That's a rural way.

E: You had a lunch and dinner separation. Do you have anything else you want to ask about CCC?

R: Yes, I do. You said that you only finished eighth grade; you didn't participate in any of their education programs? They apparently had an education office or something. Did you do any of that?

L: Yes, we did some of that. I never did just take up full time.

R: How did that fit in the day, in what sort of ways did your . . .

L: You got that on your own time. You didn't take it on any time you were supposed to be working. You took that at night, or any time that you had extra time. All you had to do, when you were off the shift, you could do it. The education advisor was there all the time. He was there day and night. He stayed there and anybody who wanted to they could take classes and he helped some of them there with when they were finishing high school; he helped them.

E: What kind of certificate did you get when you finished? Was it organized?

L: Oh, it was organized.

E: Could you have received a high school . . .

L: No, you couldn't have received the high school back then there. You would have had to go into town to school so much in order to get it, get your high school diploma. They would assign the lessons and he would have to get the lessons. But you had to go into high school to finish up your education.

R: Did they go around and solicit you for . . . Did you have tests or anything to find out if . . . I read in history books that there were people who came to the CCC who couldn't read for instance. Did they test and make sure that when you left that you could read?

L: They gave them lessons all night on reading and stuff. Now he could do that. You didn't get any diplomas or anything for that.

E: What was the staff at these camps? There was a commanding officer, come on down the ladder.

L: Well, there was a commanding officer, and the senior commanding officer, and your medical officer, and your education advisor. Then the leaders, they started the leaders and assistant leaders then.

E: These would be the people in charge of the company?

L: They were people that each morning you signed out to work under them. They were the leaders, they told you what to do. They would make up a work list every night. Then in the morning, why, the ones who worked outside they would give so many to one fellow to take out to assistant work and so many to another. They called them leaders and assistant leaders.

R: When you went up on Canaan Mountain for the summer did the men who went there with you who were in the work crew did they stay all summer also?

L: Oh yes, everybody stayed.

R: Even weekends and everything?

L: Everything. We had our tents up there and everything.

R: Then what did you do on your day off.

L: You stayed there in camp unless you wanted to go five miles into Davis. That is the way it was up there. Bears came up at night and upset the garbage cans and stuff. You can see the officers there. (Looking at a picture)

E: Well, I'll tell you, if this doesn't look like a World War II boot camp I don't know what does.

L: This was our commanding officer and this was the other officer in charge, senior officer. This was our medical officer. This is the education advisor.

E: Do you know any of these names?

L: Yes, they are right there. They are all there. There's just one there.

R: Where are you?

L: This was our . . . This one here was Captain King, That was a commanding officer.

E: What did they call him, first lieutenant?

L: First lieutenant, yes. Captain King had a little dog; we called him Gus, a little black angus. We were up there at Canaan, and he had it up there with him and we would get after it and it would run under his bed, under his bunk.

E: Were these people Army officers?

L: Yes, they were regular Army officers, all the officers were. This right there was our mess sergeant; this was our supply sergeant, this was a cook, there was a cook, this one there was a cook.

E: Okay, now point out where are you here. That is what I want to see.

L: Let's see, right there.

R: Was much of the camp built after you got there or was it pretty much finished within that first summer?

L: The buildings, they were all erected but they weren't finished. We put the sign on a lot of them and finished the inside of them. They weren't finished inside; we finished that.

R: You were describing your bunkhouse. Did it also have things . . . It had a stove, I presume. Did it have a stove at each end?

L: It had big coal stoves. We had a foreman, a night watchman, that is what he did every night. He went through the barracks and kept the fires going, kept the coal in to fix the fires.

R: And then you have a washhouse?

L: Yes.

R: For the whole camp you had a washhouse?

L: That was for the whole camp. The washhouse and your toilet and everything were in the same building.

R: Was it like the military that you got a half an hour between this and that in the morning?

L: Yes, you had several . . .

R: Half an hour in the afternoon to take showers?

L: You had so long after you got up in the morning to take your shower, whatever you wanted to do before the had reveille in the morning. You got up and dressed and then after reveille, why you just didn't have anything to do until after breakfast in the morning. Then they called you out. These fellows here were the forest service personnel.

R: They are the ones that took you on the job?

L: That is right. They got the jobs like building roads and everything. They took care of all of that.

R: How much interaction was there with the nursery? The nursery was over on the other side of the property.

L: Yes.

R: Did you spend much time with those people or see them?

L: No, you weren't allowed to go over there and spend time with them unless you had business over there. They had

women there who they called, . . . Seemed as if they sent out trees and the women planted trees; they had a board that was about eight feet long. They had like screen door hinges on it and it turned back and they would set those trees down in that board, laying down on that board. Then they pulled that back down over. They had a man there and he would take it out and set it out while they started another one. You weren't allowed to go in there unless you had business. They didn't want you bothering them.

R: Bothering the women?

L: That is right. (Laughter)

E: Not the CCC boys?

L: Yes, the CCC boys they weren't allowed in there unless they had business to go in there. The CCC boys wouldn't bother the women now.

E: I know.

R: In your spare time did you fish, or hunt, or do any of those things around that area?

L: You could do anything you wanted to do. Yes, when we were up there on Canaan you could take your shotgun but you couldn't keep it in the tent. You had to check it in the supply room. Supply officer kept it for you. You could go out and hunt any time you wanted to up there. We would go out and hunt those big snowshoe rabbits and grouse.

R: Did you eat them?

L: You could eat them yes.

R: And you cooks would cook them up special for people?

L: No, most the time if you got one, much of the cooks . . . You didn't put that out on tables.

E: If I came in with a rabbit and said, "Delbert, here would you cook this up for me?" Now would we work out some kind of a Chinese fire drill here so that we could get this cooked up and you got part of it and I got part of it?

L: I don't know. I never had any experience like that. We never had anything come up like that. It would depend on your commanding officer. Now we had good commanding officers. For the simple reason our commanding officers, they liked the women; and if they went downtown and got a women and came up say 9:00, or

10:00 at night, or 11:00, they would come in and get you. You would go in and fix them a steak or something to eat. And when you wanted something you got it.

E: I can see why they didn't allow you people over to the nursery.

L: Of course, none of our officers did that much.

E: Of course not!

L: We had good officers.

E: How did you know about that then?

L: Well, I sat by and watched. (Laughter)

E: What else do we need to know about CCC?

L: I'll tell you some more about the CCC. I was in another camp. I was in a camp over at Alpena for about a year, a sub camp of Parsons.

R: Now was that a built, Camp Alpena? It was a tent.

L: No, it was a camp just like this here. When we were in there the outfit moved out. I don't know, they went to California or someplace and we went in there to take care of the camp. I was picked as one of the cooks to go in on it. We were in there and we stayed there almost a year. We had to get our supplies from Parsons. Back then that was all dirt roads from Alpena clear into Elkins. It would take a full day.

R: I bet! I don't know how you would get there. How did you go? Did you go through Elkins?

L: Yes, we went through Elkins, came from Alpena into Elkins, up at where you know. We cut through it, then we went from Elkins to Parsons. It would take a full day and sometimes up in the night. They had a bulldozer out there and it followed us on the dirt road to see if we got hung up it would shove us through when we would go to get our supplies. They generally tried to go and get them when the weather was cold and the ground was frozen so you could get over it. Over there we bought our potatoes up locally and stuff like we did in Parsons. We would have to go back on the mountain to get potatoes. You could generally figure a day when you went back in there for the potatoes and stuff, a farmhouse out there. You would have to shovel snow.

R: Now did you have a contract for the potatoes? You knew who you were getting the potatoes from.

L: No, you didn't have to have a contract. You just got them.

R: You just stopped at a farm and asked if they had potatoes?

L: If any farmer had them we . . .

R: Because there weren't telephones or anything to make arrangements.

L: No, you had to enquire around. Most the time it was fellows who worked there. Local enrollees worked there at the camp. They knew where the farmers were around there. We had one little fellow there, his name was Chisolm, Angus Chisolm. He took care of all of our garbage. He had a bunch of hoes and he took care of the garden and stuff. He would come in there and we would get information off of him about different people around there. He worked there in the shop too. He was a blacksmith, he worked there.

R: What did the blacksmith do?

L: He took care of fixing and sharpening their tools, if they had anything they needed put together, he put it.

R: He actually had a forge and all that?

L: Yes.

E: Did you pay for this in cash or did you pay for it in an IOU type thing?

L: No, they paid for it in the slip. Then they came out. The check was sent out to them. You didn't pay for them when you got them. It was an IOU.

R: They got sent a check?

L: They got checks later for them, sent to them.

E: How long would this normally be, two weeks?

L: It was two weeks, yes. They would go for two weeks and then they would send them in. It wouldn't take long; three, or four days, whatever it took the mail to get through to get back to you.

R: When Mr. Chisolm found you potatoes or something how far would you go? Would you go all the way to Sully, or to Wymer?

L: We went to a lot of towns down on the top of Middle Mountain. That was about ten miles out. It was all

gravel road.

R: That same road that is there now, that runs down Middle Mountain. That Middle Mountain road that goes down from Wymer that is where you would go down?

L: Yes. At Alpena you would come up there at Alpena and go up on top of Middle Mountain. Then you could come out up there at Jenningsston and come out at route 72 back into Davis. That was a long way through there.

R: The CCC built that road.

L: Yes, they built all those roads over there, gravel roads.

R: And the Jenningsston Bridge.

L: They had a stone crusher set up over there to gravel one road and they had to cross the railroad track. One of the boys came down there one day and figured he would have some fun. So we got down and he just straddled the railroad track, got hung up and held the train up four hours while we got the truck off the tracks.

E: Was all this equipment that you used Army equipment?

L: Yes, Army equipment.

E: In other words it was leased or given to . . .

L: It was leased out to the 518 camp. Then if anything happened, why . . . You could even use something like the forest service now, just run about the same way. You would put in and then they would send you out a new vehicle. But you didn't get it right off. They had to investigate to see if you needed it before you got anything.

E: Did I hear you correctly earlier that the community as far as you knew was really glad to have the CCC camp here?

L: Now some places they were and others weren't. They didn't care too much about it. Most of the time you got along good with all of them.

R: How about Parsons, there seemed to me to be an awful lot of people in Parsons who were in the CCC?

L: It seemed to be a pretty good feeling around there about the CCC. There was an awful lot of local enrollees from Parsons. Her dad was a local enrollee there, her brother was. He was a local enrollee.



E: You would think that a CCC camp would be a tremendous boom to the economy, in the sense that you were out buying stuff all the time.

L: Yes, it did help a lot that way. All of the stuff . . . That helped the farmers out there a lot. It took a good bit of stuff to feed 250 men.

E: And the fact that you were required to send "X" amount of money home so that the family got some, which then put money in circulation.

L: You sent \$25 home each month. When you went in, say, I think it was you kept--if you were just an enrollee and you got \$30--you kept \$5 and sent \$25 home. If you were assistant leader, you got \$36, so you got a little bit more; and you sent \$25 home. You got a little bit more. A leader, I was a leader, was \$45.

E: What did you do with your money?

L: Well, I banked the first million of it. (Laughter) No, I'm just kidding. They took it all.

E: That isn't what the neighbors tell us.

L: It isn't?

E: No, they talk about your million.

L: Yes, I know. (Laughter) You heard about that here. Millionaire!

R: No, I didn't hear about that.

L: With the CCC camp here, when they first started having reunions again down at Camp Horseshoe. We were down there and Victor Chotto, he was fooling around there and telling the fellows. He put it in the paper. It was the next week, I believe, when it came out. He had another fellow in mind but he used my name. He said, "I turned out to be a millionaire." Wasn't that the way he said it? Put in the paper that I was a millionaire. That is what I thought you had reference to there. Merl Slusser.

R: Had he been in the CCC?

L: Yes, he was in the CCC. His picture was here. Right there he is! That is the fellow who was; he is a millionaire now. He went into the insurance business after he came out of the CCC. He got to be a millionaire.

E: I was going to say, looking at the picture, he is a

used car salesman. I'm not too far off with the insurance. What did you do with your money at the time?

L: My \$20?

E: Yes.

L: We used it. You got your hair cut, that was \$.30. Generally got it every two weeks.

E: Whether you needed it or not?

L: Oh yes, you keep your hair cut. Then we would go to the movies. You got your girl friend and she went to the movies, why, took some money there. It went around as far as I know.

E: Were you able to save any at all?

L: Oh no, you couldn't save any at all.

E: When you left in 1938 we were just about ready to come to World War II and you went to work for the state highway.

L: I worked for the state a while. Then I worked there at the nursery a little while. I didn't work for the state too long. I worked there for the nursery.

R: Tell us about working for the nursery. This is before the war, right?

L: Yes, this was before the war.

R: Mr. Oliver was still there.

L: Yes, Mr. Oliver was there. We put roofs on buildings, we shingled the roofs there at the nursery there on the buildings and stuff. Then we were putting shingles on. You only worked for five days.

The foreman came out one Friday evening; he said to Lindsey Flynn and myself, "Would you fellows come out tomorrow and work until noon putting those shingles on. So we can get it done." We told him we would so we went out the next morning and started to work on the shingles. Oliver came out and he stood there and watched us a little while. He said, "What kind of nails are you fellows using on those shingles?" Lindsey Flynn he sat there and Lindsey just threw it down to him. He looked at it a little bit, and he said, "You fellows come down off of there." We went down and he said, "Just go on home." He said, "I don't want those nails used." So we went home. On Monday we went back out. Carlton Hehle was our foreman; he said, "You

fellows didn't get many shingles on, did you?" We told him, "No, he stopped us." Carlton said, "What was wrong?" We told him, "The nails." We showed him what nails we used and he said, "Well, that is what they got for them so that is what you use." So we went back and put the shingles on with the same nails.

R: He just didn't want you to work on Saturday.

L: No, I guess Oliver didn't want us to work. He was a rough, old customer.

R: No, were these roofing, you were reroofing?

L: These little cedar shingles is what they were. That is what they were supposed to have on all those buildings over there.

R: They had cedar shingles on the roof originally?

L: Yes, that is what is on it yet over there.

R: No, not there anymore. I mean maybe it was up until . . .

L: Oh you mean down below. Now up in the lab and stuff up there we put these fiberglass shingles.

R: Okay, now I don't understand. Tell me again.

L: Now where the lab, all that part up through there, that was a different thing. We didn't work on that at all. That wasn't there when we were at the nursery. That was built later. Experimental station was all built later. When the nursery was there, all that fit in with planted trees. They were the cedar shingles.

R: On the roof as well as on the side of the building?

L: Yes, that is right. They probably have now changed some of them on the roof.

R: Yes, they have.

L: Then they put siding on. I know it has been changed. Some of the siding has been changed where they put some of that . . .

R: They are cedar sheets on each side. Then some of them have vinyl sides. They just did that last summer.

L: Yes, they did that last summer. When we were there . . .

Then we were called out on fires all the time. I had a

forest fire and we were called on them. They called us out one Sunday at noon. Oliver came up and got me and took us out. They gave you seven men and told me, "Now you get down in there and stay down in there until we come pick you up." So that was one Sunday evening and we went down in there. We had the fire out. We built us up a fire to stay that night. Next morning we stayed there until 10:00 and I said to some of the fellows, "Let's walk up out of here, get us a ride in." So we got back up to where the station was there where there were people gathering. We told them and they gave us a truck for it. He told us, "You take those fellows back to Parsons." We went back and when we went in Oliver said, "I forgot about you fellows." We would have been there three or four days if we hadn't walked out ourselves.

E: Was that his land?

L: No, he was just working with the government. He was with the forest service.

R: What kind of a guy was he? Did you know him very well?

L: Yes, I knew him. He was a good guy in his way but now he had his ways and there wasn't any other way. You had to do everything his way. Yes, I knew him well. Talked to him. He was there for . . .

R: He was there for a real long time. He came in 1928 and he left, I can't remember, in 1951 or something.

L: I was going to say he was up there in the 1950's. He is dead now I think.

R: Yes, his kids are around. I think both of his kids are in the forest service.

L: He had a girl and a boy I believe, didn't he?

R: Yes.

E: What kind of a man was he in stature? Was he a big man?

L: Oh yes.

E: Six feet over?

L: I bet he was about six feet. No, he wasn't tall but he was a large, built man.

R: He must have been blond, his name was Sandy. (Laughter) They lived at that . . . You weren't there when . . . Oh yes, you were there. You were there when his house

was built, right?

L: No, I wasn't working there when his house was built.

R: You were in the CCC when his house was built.

L: Yes.

R: It was built in 1934.

L: Yes. All of those buildings there, then whenever the state took over the nursery they took all those buildings over. They ran it until the flood.

R: You never worked in the nursery at all?

L: No, I didn't work in the nursery too long. Almost a year I believe I worked there. Then I went to work for the gas company, the Allegheny Gas Company out of Elkins. I worked awhile, didn't like it, didn't like the foreman, and I quit there and went to work here for Armor Leather Company, at the tannery. I worked there until I went into the service. That was 1943.

R: When did the tannery close?

L: It must have . . . In the 1950's it was . . .

R: That was the one that was Moser before that, wasn't it?

L: Yes.

R: Those guys built my house in Jenningsston.

L: They did?

R: It is covered in tanbark, our house is that came from the tannery.

L: I was in the service.

R: And then you go back to work for the forest?

L: I came back and went back to work at the tannery, then left there and went to work for the board of education for thirteen and a half years. I was on head of maintenance for the board of education. Then I took the civil service exam and went to work for the forest service when I left.

R: When did you go back to the . . . That was back in Parsons then. That was the chief ranger district that you worked for?

L: Yes. I was there at the experimental station when it

first started up.

R: When was that?

L: It was in 1964.

R: You mean when the new building was built?

L: Yes, 1964 is when it was built, the first part of it. Then they added a new section on to it, before I left there. I was going to retire and then they wanted me to stay and build the cabinets and stuff in it before I left. I stayed and built all the cabinets before I retired from the forest service.

R: Are you the guy who made all that fancy paneling?

L: No, that paneling was made over in Belington. I helped take some of the lumber over there when they made it.

R: Tell me about that. I really like that paneling.

L: See it was cut up in the Fernow (Monongahela National Forest).

R: Oh it is!

L: It was yes.

R: The wood is all from the Fernow.

L: It was all cut different species and they took the logs over to Belington. The fellow sawed them and put them in the kiln, kilned the lumber and made the paneling. They had walnut, and black, and oak, and cherry, and everything you could think of about it, made the paneling and they paneled the new part. It was a contract job.

R: It was?

L: The new wing was. All I did was build the cabinets inside. I know when I first started to work there they were talking about it. Then it went on for a few years before they ever started to reel in . . . Byrd came in. They bounced him about it and he went to work and got the money to build a new wing on.

E: Where did you learn the cabinet?

L: I just picked that. I built cabinets. When I was out I built them every town and built kitchen cabinets in for different people. Over there, when I first went to work there, well it was when I had been working there a while, the boss came in and he said, "Slim, we got a

job back there. I want to take you back and show you." I went back and he owned a . . . They had a still made to make distilled water and they had a big jug there. He said, "Do you think you can make a rack to put on the wall there to hold that up full of water." I said, "Oh yes, I think so. If it will hold me up will you be satisfied?" And he said, "Yes." So I went to work and I made the rack, or the shelf, and put it up on the wall. I took him in and I got up on it. He said, "That will hold it."

R: Paid you your money.

L: I did all the work in there, took care of all the stuff, the building, and everything.

E: Were there any liquor problems, gambling problems at the CCC camps that you know of?

L: No, there wasn't.

E: They kept a pretty tight reign on that?

L: Oh yes.

R: Tell me about religion in the CCC. Did they send you to church on Sunday?

L: You could go if you wanted to to any church you wanted to go to.

R: But they didn't make you go to church?

L: No, they didn't make you go to church, no. They had ministers.

R: Did they have a chapel?

L: They had ministers come up. They used the recreation hall when they had ministers up for services.

E: Of all the staff officers that were there, there was no permanent minister attached?

L: No, they came from town up, from Parsons up there, the different ministers.

We were just talking about the new wing, the cabinets. When they started about building them, he wanted to know, he said, "You can work as many hours you want to work." And they gave me five girls to build those cabinets.

R: What in the world did the girls do?

L: They built those cabinets. They worked there and sanded them and varnished them and everything. Now they really worked. I had one college girl. She was out in the summer from college. She worked on it. I had one boy who was in college. I couldn't get anything out of him. One morning she came to me and said, "Slim, do you mind if I take this boy out and talk to him." And I said, "No, something is going to have to happen or he is going over the hill. I'm not keeping him." So she took him out and they were gone about half an hour. They came back and she said, "Now I don't think you will have any more trouble with him." You know that boy he worked perfect the rest of the summer.

E: What was the magic formula?

L: I don't know what it was.

R: I wish she had shared it.

L: We generally worked twelve hours a day. Those girls they really worked. We built all the cabinets. They said they had to have them ready by the time the lab was open. They were supposed to have dedication at a certain time. We had to have everything ready for the dedication. We had it all set up waiting for them.

E: Did you have any unpleasant experiences in the CCC?

L: No, everything was . . . It really worked good. All the fellows got along good. You never had any trouble among yourselves.

One of the boys was a cook; one of the local enrollees, he slept at one end of our tent. They had to have one end there in each tent. So he slept at one end of our tent. The boy didn't like it and one Saturday he said, "If you fellows will show me his bunk . . ." He didn't know where his bunk was. "If you show me his bunk I'll take this gallon of Karo syrup up there and pour it in his bunk while he is gone." So we showed him his bunk and he took that gallon of syrup and pulled the blankets down and strung it right down through the center of his bunk, made the bed back up. He came in on Sunday night and the lights were out. We had the Delco Plant over there. That was over at Alpena. He came in, got his clothes off, slipped down in it, had those big, old, heavy winter underwear on. He come out of there cussing. You never heard such a loud shout in your life. He went and got the lieutenant up. The lieutenant had the boys start the light plant up. Everybody was asleep. We didn't know a thing about it. Nobody would say a word. It went on then for a good while. I went down to town one Saturday and I ran on



to him, it was Okey Smith. I said, "Okey, did you ever find out who put that Karo syrup in your bed?" He said, "No, do you know I would have whipped that son of a bitch if he had been as big as a mountain," that is what he said.

E: They would not do anything to destroy his bunk but a good prank, or trick, or a good laugh was . . .

L: I know that is the way they did it. They would short sheet boys. That was a fun time.

E: That happened everywhere. Let me ask a couple of questions about your military experience and maybe we will think of something else to come back to this. Did you find that your activity in the CCC put you in good stead in the service?

L: Oh yes, it did. When I went in the service they found out that I was in the CCC. They asked what I did. See I was a cook. They put that on my record. Then they took me right in for a cook in the Army. They sent me out to school. We went to cook in Bakers School there in Fort Custer, Michigan. We usually had to leave in the morning at 7:00 to catch the bus. We would go into school. They would have an instructor there and you had your class up until 10:30. Then they dismissed you and you came back to your outfit and you ate your noon meal. He would come into the kitchen and you had to prepare what you took your schooling on that morning. Then he graded you on how you got along on your stuff.

E: You didn't try to bake any more cakes, did you?

L: No, we didn't there. We had to bake cakes. I got a little bit more experience on the parts of that.

R: Did you bake bread and stuff at the CCC?

L: Not in the CCC, no. We had this bakery on second street.

R: In Parsons?

L: Yes, the Ours boys had a bakery there.

R: Are these Ours, O-U-R-S?

L: Yes.

R: Are they the same bunch that lives over on the Potomac?

L: Yes, one of them . . .

R: Rich and all those guys?

L: One of them ran the theater, Elmer; and there were two of them, Clarence and Leonard and I can't think of the other name now, that ran the bakery. They delivered bread every morning. We got our bread from them. They were good. Bread was really good. Then when I was in the service our pastry fellow he got on a bender every once in awhile. We would have to take over. He baked at night and we would have to get up and go finish up his work. He would pass out.

R: He drank too much vanilla.

E: What theater were you in the Second World War?

L: In the Pacific they had an operation.

E: Were you . . . What . . .

L: I was in the 43rd Bomb Group, 403rd squadron in the Air Force. When I went in I went to Fort Custer, Michigan. I was in a combat MP (military police) outfit, to cook from combat MP outfit, took all the training, everything, for seventeen weeks. They sent us home on furloughs.

Then we went back and they shipped us to California. We went out there and they sent us off to Marysville. We laid around out there for almost a month and did nothing. One morning they blew a whistle and told us to fall out. We didn't fall out. There were four of us there and the cooks. They came in and said, "Your fellows names were called out there." We went out and they told us they would give us a half an hour to get our stuff all packed, get ready to ship out. We went in, got our stuff packed, and went out. We sat there until 7:00 that evening before they ever picked us up.

They took us into camp; they took us out there where the ship was. They put us on the ship and we were there for over a week waiting for them to load the ship. 12,000 of us on the U.S.S. America, big transport ship. They finally got loaded and we left out on it. When we got overseas, why, Biak, New Guinea was . . . Sydney, Australia was the first place we landed. We didn't get off there. They had 500 WACs on the ship and they unloaded them in Sydney, Australia. We went on to Biak, New Guinea and unloaded. They put me over in the Air Force, 43rd Bomb group, 403rd squadron. I was with them all the time.

E: Were you there in New Guinea then all during the war?

L: No, when the war ended I was on Ie Shima, a little

island 400 miles off the coast of Tokyo. When they came in to sign, when the Japanese came in to sign the peace treaty, they landed there on that airstrip. I saw them come in. I had pictures of it and lost them in the flood, all of it. They got on . . .

E: You were in Ie Shima that volcanic rock?

L: Ie Shima. That was 400 miles off the coast. We went out there and watched them when they came in that day and landed. The Japs got out. They had their big swords on their sides, got in an American plane and flew on down to Australia to sign the peace treaty. The plane stayed there until late they went down and signed it and came back. I had all the pictures of them coming in and landing, everything. Lost them all in the flood.

E: Floods are typical things around here, aren't they?

L: Yes.

R: About every what, twenty years?

L: 100 years, more like that.

E: Look at the one two years ago that went the other side of the mountains, down through Berkley Springs and that area over there on the other side.

L: It hit Red Creek and it came down Red Creek. Yes, it came down through Red Creek and got all the farmers cattle up there.

E: Is there anything else you think we ought to . . . I'm wracking my brain here to think of something I should recall. Can anyone think of something that we should have commented on and we didn't? I want to back up a long ways back to that CCC camp again. When did the camps first show up in this area?

L: In 1933, I believe it was, that they started camp.

E: In other words within a year or so you were in?

L: Yes. As I say the camp wasn't finished. They just had the base of them up and had the roof on and stuff and the stoves in them. We put the siding on the outside of a lot of it, and the paneling on the inside on a lot of the barracks. They weren't finished at all.

E: What were people doing in the 1930's around here before the CCC?

L: By golly there wasn't much to do now. I don't know of

any. I guess the mines were about the only thing they did around here, and then farmers because there was some farming done. I wasn't here. I come up here in the CCC, Fort Knox, Kentucky. I wasn't here before that.

R: When you worked for the forest service over at the Fernow you worked mostly in the Parsons site, right? You were head of maintenance over there?

L: I was head of maintenance. I did all the maintenance.

R: So you worked on those little buildings that were there that were part of the Fernow?

L: Yes, and then the lab, the main building up there, I took care of all that.

END OF INTERVIEW