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NPS Oral History Collection (HFCA 1817)  
Harpers Ferry Center's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Oral History Project



Robin Butler  
December 19, 2019

Interview conducted by Carolyn Duckworth  
Transcribed by Rev.com

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Interviewer: Carolyn Duckworth

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#### START OF RECORDING

- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:00:03      Okay, we should be in business and we are. Okay, so this is Carolyn Duckworth. I'm a writer editor at Harpers Ferry Center and today I'm interviewing Robin Butler for the Harpers Ferry Center's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary oral history project. It's December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, and we are in the Riverview Conference Room of the Harpers Ferry Center.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:00:31      Robin, we wanted you to be comfortable and prepared so I gave you some topics and questions to consider ahead of time. If anything else comes up that you want to answer, you can or you can choose not to. This is completely voluntary and you will be able to review the transcript. So for the record would you please state your name and that you have signed the release and consented to this interview.
- Robin Butler:                      00:00:58      My name is Robin Butler and I have read the release and I have signed and I have consented to this interview.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:01:07      Thank you so much. I already have to delete something. We were originally going to be in the Storer College room and I was going to start out with that. But let's just skip on over to the other topics that I had sent you. So we wanted to start by inviting you to tell us a little bit about yourself, just anything about yourself you'd like to share with us.
- Robin Butler:                      00:01:39      Well I'm from this area, lived here all my life. My family, I have two daughters, I have four grandkids. Let's see, as far as my education, I went to Shepherd College back in the day, as my daughter says, for a couple of years. I didn't

finish because I started to work for the federal government. My outside interests, I have my church work and, like I said, I want some volunteer--I love the nursing home ministry. I want to help there. So that is, that's my outside interests, and travel. I love to travel to the national parks that I've worked with over the years. But other than that I've stayed mainly in the area of Jefferson to Berkeley County. So that's all.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:02:32

Well, thank you. So how did you start with the Harpers Ferry Center?

Robin Butler: 00:02:38

Well, my career started back in 1969 in the Youth Conservation Corps. We were the first conservation corps. This building was not completed or it was getting ready to be completed. I worked over at Mather, but I also took stints down in the Harpers Ferry Park with traffic control, providing information to the visitors. I worked in the library for the remainder of the summer because my team went to clean the canal and I was allergic to poison ivy, so I got out of cleaning the canal, so no snakes or poison ivy. I stayed in the summer and I worked with Tracy Whistler who was a former employee here.

Robin Butler: 00:03:32

Then my work was okay. I came back the following year and I worked in the visitor center. I wore the old beige dress uniform, and then I went to the living history. Then from there I went to Washington, DC to work.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:03:50

So you were with the Youth Conservation Corps for the first summer?

Robin Butler: 00:03:54

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:03:54

Then you became an employee of?

Robin Butler: 00:03:57

Of summer-

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:03:58

Seasonal?

Robin Butler: 00:03:59

Right, of the park. Their summer program. I've worked there for two years.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:04:05

So '69 was the YCC and then '70-

Robin Butler: 00:04:10

'70 and '71-

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:04:12 For the seasonal work.

Robin Butler: 00:04:15 Right. Then I worked as a teacher's aide for one year and then I went to Shepherd. Let's see, I went to Shepherd. I'm wrong. I went to Shepherd for two years because my--I went to FBI in 1976, so there was a gap in between there. So I've been working. I've been working as either part-time or full-time work.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:04:45 If you don't mind, I want to pause at the YCC because I think you know that I found a couple of photographs of you?

Robin Butler: 00:04:52 Yes.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:04:54 I gave you one of them and these are a couple of the other ones. If you want better quality for prints or whatever, you can go to [Openparksnetwork.org](http://Openparksnetwork.org) and this is the information you'll need to find those.

Robin Butler: 00:05:09 These are the ones I had. I don't have that. Is that me?

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:05:13 I don't know. I was going to ask. It's not your timeframe. It's 1989.

Robin Butler: 00:05:18 No, that's Linda Gail. That's it. That's, yeah, that's Linda Gail.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:05:22 What's her name?

Robin Butler: 00:05:22 Linda Gail. She used to work here in maintenance. That's Linda Gail. But I had one of those dresses.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:05:29 Great. Well, Mike Hosking, the curator at Harpers Ferry Center, well, Harpers Ferry Park, will be happy to know that's who that is.

Robin Butler: 00:05:38 Yeah, that's Linda Gail Williams.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:05:39 When I first saw that, I thought it was you and then I'm like, "The time is all off. Darn it."

Robin Butler: 00:05:44 Yeah. She was a seamstress in the sewing--we had a sewing, a tailor shop, down--yeah.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:05:52      Yeah. This is from '84 which I think is also not your time period, but I wondered if you knew anybody in that photograph.

Robin Butler:                    00:05:58      Okay. There's Gwenny. That's Gwenny.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:06:04      You can go ahead and write on that if you want.

Robin Butler:                    00:06:05      This is Gwenny Roper. She was my first supervisor down in Lower Town. I guess this is Milton, Gerald Milton.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:06:19      They're going to love you for this.

Robin Butler:                    00:06:22      Valerie. I don't see Carolyn. Marsha Starkey. That is-- what's his name? Dixon. I think it's Clark Dixon, of course, he was a ranger.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:06:39      Cool.

Robin Butler:                    00:06:42      Oh, this was so long ago. Yeah, I don't know. I'm not there, but I don't know if that's Marsha or not, Marsha Starkey, I don't know. I'm not sure about that.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:06:54      No, it almost does look like her.

Robin Butler:                    00:06:58      Yeah, she worked--

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:06:59      Yeah. Here's another one that has, it actually says Gwenny Roper there.

Robin Butler:                    00:07:03      Oh, there's the kiosks that we used to sit in. Yeah.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:07:06      That's why I wanted to show that to you. So that's the kiosk, okay.

Robin Butler:                    00:07:08      Right. It's out on the green, right across from the visitor center and that's Gwenny. Oh, there it is, yeah.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:07:16      The visitor center down in Lower Town or--

Robin Butler:                    00:07:18      Well, no. The bookstore. The bookstore right across the street. That used to be the visitor center. Right across the street was the kiosk.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:07:25      Fantastic.

Robin Butler: 00:07:29 Yeah. That's where I used to sit early in the morning. I'm looking around for snakes. Visitors are coming and I'm okay.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:07:38 So this doesn't have—1977, this is also post your time, right?

Robin Butler: 00:07:43 That's past me.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:07:44 Oh, okay. All right.

Robin Butler: 00:07:45 Yeah, I was the first.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:07:48 All of these with you, if you have time to label them, then we can get them down to-

Robin Butler: 00:07:55 Okay.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:07:56 I think it's Mike Hosking. Anyway, that would be great.

Robin Butler: 00:08:02 Oh my gosh.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:08:02 So-

Robin Butler: 00:08:02 That's the maintenance and Ms. Bertha Wood, she's no longer with us. Mr. Ranalli. Oh my gosh. These are old pictures.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:08:15 I had fun looking through them. So you went down to the FBI. Is that--

Robin Butler: 00:08:25 I worked the FBI.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:08:26 Is that where you became a permanent federal employee?

Robin Butler: 00:08:29 Oh, I started, but that was excepted service. Then I went from there to the Government Printing Office. That's where I became under civil service. Government Printing Office. Then from there I came to Harpers Ferry and I worked down in what used to be called museum production. Then from there I went back to Washington, worked at the VA center. I worked at L Street, which was National Park Service. Then I came back home to Harpers Ferry and stayed. You have to transfer sometimes to-

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:09:13      Indeed. So you were working at the Washington Office for the Park Service?

Robin Butler:            00:09:21      Right, I was at Surface Mining. Surface mining personnel office.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:09:33      What was your position there?

Robin Butler:            00:09:35      I was a clerk typist there.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:09:40      I don't trust this recorder.

Robin Butler:            00:09:43      At the VA center, I was a program clerk and I handled the benefits and all for the veterans and the field offices.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:09:54      You've been helping people for a long, long time because I know. So okay. When you were at Harpers Ferry in the museum services, what were you doing?

Robin Butler:            00:10:04      I was a clerk typist. I did travel and payroll because we had a shop down where the maintenance shop is. It used to be our--they would make exhibits. We had a big trailer truck, they'd make the exhibits and we had a trailer truck driver. He would drive them out and the guys would go out on travel and they'd meet the--the truck would either meet them or they would meet the truck. Yeah.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:10:31      Wow.

Robin Butler:            00:10:32      It was interesting.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:10:33      I bet. That was a completely different era-

Robin Butler:            00:10:38      Oh yeah. It was.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:10:38      --at the Harpers Ferry Center. Do you remember what years those were that you were--

Robin Butler:            00:10:45      From '78 to '83. 1978 to 1983 because that's when they started with the contractors. The guys stopped making the exhibits here. Yeah. We had a screen printing facility down in the shop. We had a sculptor. Oh my goodness, Walter Bradford. There was the other gentleman who was an English man. He made the revolutionary soldiers. It was interesting to see how they did that. John Segeren was his name. He lived in Harpers Ferry. Walter Bradford and John

Segeren, S-E-G-E-R-E-N. Everything was hands on. They did it, the guys in the shop. You saw the exhibits before they went out. Of course, then it went to contracting.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:11:54 Yeah. Okay. That goes farther back than I thought. Wow.

Robin Butler: 00:11:57 Yeah. Well it's been a while.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:11:59 Are you comfortable? Are you too cold?

Robin Butler: 00:12:00 I'm good. I'm good.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:12:00 Because we can move the table back into the sun.

Robin Butler: 00:12:01 Oh no. I'm good. Are you okay?

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:12:11 I'm fine. I'm fine. So thank you for asking. So we're going to skip forward to back at the Office of Surface Mining when you were a clerk typist. Do you remember what years those would have been?

Robin Butler: 00:12:38 1984 to--I came back home in '87, 1987.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:12:45 Back in those days, how did you get from here down to there?

Robin Butler: 00:12:49 Good ole MARC train.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:12:51 Did you use--

Robin Butler: 00:12:51 We had a van pool from Charles Town at first. Yeah, we would leave home at 4:00 in the morning.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:12:57 Oh gosh.

Robin Butler: 00:12:58 He made stops at the--we had people working at the FBI, the VA center, the Postal Service out on Independence Avenue, and me on L Street. But then after he quit driving, I rode the train.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:13:15 What was that like?

Robin Butler: 00:13:15 Fun.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:13:15 Yeah?



- Robin Butler: 00:13:16 Yeah. It was fun. We became a family because we had certain area, you know, like sometime with other people would come in like, "Who are they?" Friday evenings were always party evenings and because I'm not a drinker, I went and got everything. In the summer times, we'd have to go slow because of the track, the melting, the heating of the, I guess, the tire or whatever. We had slow limits. One winter, this was when I was at the FBI, though. We hit a turkey one morning in Brunswick, and here I'm like--the FBI was very strict. Oh my gosh. That's why I was late a train hit a turkey. We hit a turkey.
- Robin Butler: 00:14:04 Then there were some times when there were derailments. We would get stopped in Rockville and sometimes we just didn't get home until 6:00-7:00. When we were on the van pool, we ran into a snowstorm in Leesburg. We got stuck in Leesburg. I didn't get home till about 12:00 that night and had to turn around and go back the next day. I'm just glad that I was able to have this 10 minute or five-minute commute is great. Because if you got sick or anything, you had to stay at work. There were interesting things that happened when I was down there and I think it was the B'nai B'rith episode happened when I was down there. That's when they took hostages and the mayor, Marion Barry, was shot and one young man was killed. We told our supervisor, "We got to get home."
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:15:03 Wow.
- Robin Butler: 00:15:04 This was at the district building at 14th and Penn, the FBI building was at 11th and Penn. So we got home. It was things like that. I mean it was never a dull moment. The work may have been dull, but outside it wasn't, because what I worked with were criminal jackets. There were folders and you had to type information on them all day long, fingerprinting. Then I worked in the mail room. Then I got out of there and went to the GPO, which was right down the street on North Capitol Street, right down the street from the Union Station. I worked in a traffic division there and we handled bills of ladings, government bills of ladings to transport things. Then from there I came back home.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:15:55 Well, so that's when you came back to Harpers Ferry Center?

- Robin Butler: 00:15:59 Mm-hmm (affirmative). I worked at the warehouse for a while. Then I worked for Mr. Holman. I became an administrative officer's secretary.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:16:06 What was that man's name?
- Robin Butler: 00:16:07 Hal Holman. Then from there I went to contracting. I worked with Joanne Grove. That's where I get my contracting experience from. Then from there Phil Musselwhite formed the sign program office and that's where I've been ever since. That's where I'll leave us.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:16:36 Oh, okay. I never made that connection that you were actually part of the sign program.
- Robin Butler: 00:16:42 I worked for everybody else, so that's the thing. I consider myself the Harpers Ferry Center business lines person because I'm not in Media, although my other office is, my other team members. But I work for Facilities, Publications, Interpretive Planning, Conservation up in Willow Springs and I have done the Sign Program. My main office was Sign Program but I've been really swamped the last couple of years. I guess that's why I'm ready to retire.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:17:16 Why has that changed? Why is there more--
- Robin Butler: 00:17:19 Doing more with less. I inherited one of the employee's work when she left for another job here in the Center and it was to be temporary, but I never--I mean, I've maintained it. Learned a lot from it, grown from it. But it's never dull moments. Like I said, I have manuals of--not manuals--notebooks of the Sign Program. You write in there. I'll end up with 45. I took them home because it's like my daily-to-do book. I could go back in there and tell you what I did that day, but sometimes it got so bad I didn't have time to write things down because you were pulled in many directions. I learned a lot by trial and error. Some of the new stuff as far as payroll and stuff I had done it but never at this level. So I have a lot of contacts in Washington, people that I knew when I worked in Washington. It's good to keep those contacts open. I talked with them and they hooked me up with people. That's how I've been doing all my jobs, I'll just, "Do you know?"
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:18:46 Can you give me an example of that?

- Robin Butler: 00:18:48 Well, I have a girlfriend who I met when I went to L Street. We ran a training class together. After that we became friends. She's been really sick. She lost her mom and, but we've maintained like sister-friends. I told her, I said, because she would call me. I said, "I am so swamped." I said, "I need your help with payroll." I said, "I don't know this stuff." She said, "Well, do you know such and such?" She said, "Well, she's right down the hall from me," because she was in the headquarters in Washington. So she referred me to her. She worked with me. She's no longer there now, but the person that I work with, but they helped me. I guess this is networking, is that what you call networking?
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:19:39 Yeah. How about people calling you for help?
- Robin Butler: 00:19:44 They've done that. Matter of fact, I got one this morning. I got a call from Harpers Ferry Park about a lady that was out in Denver where the payroll office is. She wanted to know how to get her leave restored and she wanted me to go in and do it. Today was not the day for that. You're going to keep that on record, too. I'm like, "First of all, who are you?" But I said, "I do not handle leave." I said, "That's your payroll employee express. There's a toll free number on there. You have to call them," but I guess your name gets out there.
- Robin Butler: 00:20:33 Then I had one to call me and wanted me to reset their password. I said, "Well, if I can find you I can do it," and I was able to find it because I have that administrator role, I can reset. Evidently I can reset anybody in the National Park Service, but myself. No, that's the problem. If I ever get locked out, because sometimes I'll type in my password, have catalogs and I get their red. I'll do it again. I go, okay, let me quit. I said, "Because we'll all be up the creek if I lock myself out."
- Robin Butler: 00:21:09 So now we have somebody that's going to be doing that work. So plus the lady in Washington said, "You can call me anytime." I said, "Well, you're never there," but she can unlock me. I do get calls, and then I never did travel that much when I left. When I was in museum production because it was done a different way, we traveled on government GBLs. Oh, not GBLs. We had a little card that they used for travel. See, now we have to go through Concur, which I call No-Cur. You're in it sometimes. I have

never done so much travel. I do leadership travel. I did conservation travel. They're doing their own now. I did sign program travel.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:22:04

You're talking about doing the travel planning, the paperwork or the--

Robin Butler: 00:22:07

The planning, yeah, all that.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:22:09

Wow.

Robin Butler: 00:22:10

Well, I've gotten calls on that, how to do that. Bob, he was going--was it near Russia but I just said "You don't want me to do that." I said, I don't do foreign trips, but see we can't, it has to go through--all I did was make a copy of his paperwork and put it in a file and I said, "You have to send this." I haven't done foreign travel because, well, really we can't. But it's been an experience. I have people calling me and I definitely call them. So, but that's--we help each other. That's the thing. What we're supposed to. Definitely going to wait.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:22:59

Well, you mentioned the changes in the museum services. What other changes have you seen during your time in Harpers Ferry? What stands out?

Robin Butler: 00:23:12

Oh my goodness. Well, the shop, the guys, I mean that was their livelihood and then they were not happy either. These were a bunch of men that, nothing wrong with men, but they were not happy that their jobs were going to be taken to contract. A lot of them retired.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:23:30

I was going to ask what happened. I'm going to adjust. I'm getting a little chilly myself, so if you'll keep with your reminiscences.

Robin Butler: 00:23:41

I'm trying to think. Personnel was over in the Bird Brady when I first came here. We had a personnel office. We had somebody to do everything. We had a payroll person down the Hill. She did everything. I now have that over here. Even though I don't do everybody's time sheets, if I have to, I can. I have access to everybody's time sheets. On paydays I use--I mean on payroll day, I usually make sure all the offices have validated their time sheets. Changes, like with downstairs taking out all those screen printing, all the--now it looks like a newsroom. Maybe I shouldn't say that.

- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:24:29 That's actually a good analogy.
- Robin Butler: 00:24:31 It looks like a newsroom down there and everybody is doing their own thing. I know they say they have teams, but it's not like it used to be. We used to have an IP planner, exhibit person. I don't know if pubs went, but each group that was associated in Harpers Ferry, they all went on a team trip together. They don't do that anymore. To me it seems like it's, I don't know, it's not competition, but the communication is not good. Then you have these projects where nobody knows what you're doing because you went on the trip and you've kept all the information to yourself. I've observed that and I just sit, I'm like, "Glad that ain't me," stuff like that.
- Robin Butler: 00:25:23 Other changes--well, how we do things. We have acquisition management, they have been through so many changes. I still do my folders when I have orders. Matter of fact, I'm trying to let everybody know where they are. I have all my contract files from when I started and they're set up as what I learned under Joanne Grove. So if my computer goes down, I can go to my hard copy and pull my information. The changes, like everything goes on the computer. I know you have to adapt to that. But like I said, when my computer's down, I can turn around and pull up my copy.
- Robin Butler: 00:26:12 What else? The people, we've gone from 200--I think the Center at one time had over 200 employees and now do we have 80? I don't even know if we have 80 right now, but the people are leaving. The old timers, Melissa and myself-
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:26:40 Melissa Cronyn?
- Robin Butler: 00:26:41 Melissa Cronyn and I, because Melissa was here when I came here. Those are the only--Mike Alvarez, he was the--they had a courier to and from Washington. He's used to go to Dennis McLaughlin's office, somebody else down there. But anyway, Melissa and I are the old timers left.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:27:10 Yeah.
- Robin Butler: 00:27:11 So I'm going to be leaving her.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:27:13 You are?

- Robin Butler: 00:27:16 It's just going to be her a while.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:27:19 So who were the, do you remember, the directors that you worked for?
- Robin Butler: 00:27:23 Al Swift, Mark Sagan, Dave Wright, Gary Cummins. Oh, Gary Candelaria. Oh, Kodak--
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:27:36 I was just going to say that it was Kodak.
- Robin Butler: 00:27:43 Yeah, he was the IP planner when I first came here. Well, he wasn't here but when he came he was a planner. Then now Brendan Bray. But, yeah, they would--Al Swift, Mark Sagan would flip now.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:28:06 How come?
- Robin Butler: 00:28:07 All of the changes and everything that just were done. This is a little minor, but there was always someone in that manager's office. The phones were not transferred out to the switchboard. There was a body, a person, in there. We had to be there. That was the norm. Somebody had to be there to cover the office. Nowadays, voicemail, flip the phones. That was a change, but it was all interesting. It was really interesting. I've seen a lot. I've learned a lot. I don't regret it. It's been an experience.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:28:56 Is there something you particularly have liked about working here?
- Robin Butler: 00:29:01 The only thing you don't have to try to think about it. What I've liked is usually when I worked in the park, because when I worked here, Gwenny Roper would ask me to work special events. I worked the Niagara Movement. I worked at Harpers Ferry, used to have the fireworks. I worked those and it was something else that worked, but it was an all-day event and it was history. It was really nice, but-
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:29:29 So that was while you were employed here, but you would be asked to work the special events.
- Robin Butler: 00:29:31 Right.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:29:34 How nice.

Robin Butler: 00:29:35 Yeah, that was because Gwenny knew that I like working with people. I had a uniform and I was available. I'm trying to think. Some of the things I liked about working here--

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:29:51 People.

Robin Butler: 00:29:54 Some of the people that I've met. I didn't get to travel much, but I did get to go to Grand Canyon and I went to Great Falls. Those are my two favorite parks, Great Falls in Virginia. I like Maryland, but Great Falls, Virginia, is nice. The Grand Canyon is just--I plan to go there in retirement just to visit.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:30:17 Good. Did you go there for work?

Robin Butler: 00:30:19 Yeah, I went there for work, I did a--

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:30:21 What were you doing there?

Robin Butler: 00:30:22 We had just put the signs in because Grand Canyon was one of our first sign program with sign orders, and my supervisor sent me out there. What I did, Raquel Gallardo who is now here, she met me. She worked out there and she took me around and then I did the actual tour on the bus route with the signs by myself. It was nice. It was like being a visitor, having a visitor's experience and I couldn't believe why people couldn't read the signs. They'd get off the bus, the sign's right there, "Where's the bathroom?" "Well, what's here?" I'm like, "The sign is right here." See I had that in me when I go places and to parks, I end up talking to people about the parks.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:31:13 That's cool.

Robin Butler: 00:31:15 The latest park, Martin Luther King Monument. Oh my God, that is awesome.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:31:22 That's the one in Washington in the Tidal Basin?

Robin Butler: 00:31:24 Right. I want to go to the actual birthplace site. But when I went down there, people would be talking and I start talking about it and my grandson was saying, "Grandma, how you know all this"? I said, "I work for the Park Service." One year we went to the Statue of Liberty in New York. I saw a whole lot of people. So I was talking to the rangers and just said, "So how can a Park Service employee

get in that building?" He said, "Do you have your ID?" I was, "yeah." He said, "come on." He took us right on in. We got to go to the very top. Oh, it was awesome.

- Robin Butler: 00:32:04 I do love New York. I think Castle Clinton is right there. Went to Ellis Island, but I spent so much time at the Statue of Liberty when I got to Ellis Island. We had to scurry through there because we were on a time frame. Maggie Walker, love it. Could go back there anytime. I've been to the local parks, Cape Hatteras. I love the water parks. Fort Raleigh, Wright Brothers, the National Mall. We did a sign contract for the National Mall, but it's changed so much. They keep adding things. I like going to Washington, but I haven't been in a long time because of my health and walking, because that's a place where you have to walk. Assateague, I loved it. Colonial, Shenandoah.
- Robin Butler: 00:33:03 New River, I never got to go there. My big sister's daughter went to West Virginia State and we drove her down there and coming back I said, "Angie, we're so close. I want to go to New River, but I'm scared to drive across the bridge." Well, finally start across the bridge and my daughter's looking out the back window and I said, "Tina, what do you see?" She said, "I don't see anything." But we got across and we were able to go down and see the spiral, the arch--
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:33:36 The arches of that bridge.
- Robin Butler: 00:33:37 Oh my God, it's beautiful.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:33:38 Yes.
- Robin Butler: 00:33:39 So that was an experience. But, yeah, I do want to go to Martin Luther King.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:33:44 In Atlanta?
- Robin Butler: 00:33:45 Yes. I want to go to see that and, of course, back to the Grand Canyon. I always had a dream to go out West and to drive out there, but I don't know, these days, I don't know. So, but it's been fun. It's been an experience, but it's just time now. It's just time. I've learned a lot. I have volunteered. I told Theresa I would come back a couple of paydays and help her, because she's taken over the admin role and--



- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:34:18 That's Theresa Fitzwater?
- Robin Butler: 00:34:20 Mm-hmm (affirmative). It's a lot to learn because there's no--this morning we're still trying to work on one employee, and it's not just--I don't just do time sheets. I move people, I add people. When there's a problem they call. But it's been rewarding.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:34:41 Yeah. What might you tell somebody coming into Harpers Ferry Center for the first time? Any advice you'd like to share?
- Robin Butler: 00:34:56 Well, to learn all you can, to be--what can I say--to be acceptable, to be willing to learn, be willing to learn. It's hard sometimes because I have been through that stage where I am not doing anything, I am done. But then I've accepted it. I do it. I mean when I learned sometimes, sometimes I'll surprise myself. I'm like, "it worked." But it's just to a new employee, be willing to learn and understand it's not like the place you came from. Or if it's a new job, give people the opportunity to introduce themselves and work with them before you have formed an opinion. Learn all you can, and if you decide this is not what you want to do, you have had that experience and you move on.
- Robin Butler: 00:36:06 That's the only thing I can say because I had been on both ends. I had been willing to learn and I have not been willing to learn. When you've done something for so long, FBMS is one thing. We used to type, hand type, typewriters. They don't even have them at the Center anymore. Mr. Gleason might have one down there. You heard about Mr. Gleason, right?
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:36:34 Vince Gleason?
- Robin Butler: 00:36:35 Yes. Anyway, we won't go there on record. Oh, Mr. Gleason, he was a dear.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:36:43 Yes.
- Robin Butler: 00:36:44 But the typing, we used to type up the carbon copies.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:36:53 Oh yes.
- Robin Butler: 00:36:53 The what is it? The carbon paper that's like yellow skin or you know. Dave scans a lot of it and jams the machine up.

But that's what we did. I'm trying to think what else? The changes, FBMS, our requisitions were, you know, and when you did attachments, you stapled them. Now everything goes in the system. What is that, I think it's on here. It's the IT, it's the new way of doing things. Everybody--

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:37:45

Yeah.

Robin Butler: 00:37:46

I mean, it's a little hard for some people. I work with one lady in contracting, she used to cry every morning because she couldn't do it. Sometimes people have to take time and show people things.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:38:05

Yeah. It takes time to find the information and the training or somebody who can help you.

Robin Butler: 00:38:13

Right. Sometimes people don't have time or they just assume that's your job, you do it. That's where you really have to either sink or swim. With the FBMS I know the first year I was, "wow," because I had facilities and they buy different stuff all the time. You have to have a code on those PRs. We did carpet, we did some generators, we did everything that you see here, furniture at the Center. The porta-potties I believe were done on purchase card because I didn't have to do a PR for those.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:38:54

When the water went out?

Robin Butler: 00:38:56

You know when the water--yeah, as it sometimes does. But-

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:39:01

So you had to handle that?

Robin Butler: 00:39:03

No, I'm saying I didn't do that. I think Vicki got that on her purchase card. I don't remember a PR for porta-potties.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:39:10

Porta-potties.

Robin Butler: 00:39:11

But facilities has things here at the Center, and it's they're unique. Downstairs they have contracts, they have certain-- I mean, they're all different orders and stuff, but they know that PC. I have goods and services. This whole experience has been interesting, but I've enjoyed it.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:39:40 Well, tell me a little bit more about the special events that you enjoyed working.

Robin Butler: 00:39:44 Okay, the Niagara Movement.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:39:46 Yeah.

Robin Butler: 00:39:48 I think that was the 100th anniversary? No, I worked at it, was the 100th--it couldn't have been the 100th anniversary. I worked that one. There was something else. They had a lot of people.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:40:06 That was W.E.B. Dubois started that or he was part of it. I just finished working on the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers. That's a park you might find interesting.

Robin Butler: 00:40:16 Where's that at?

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:40:16 It's in Ohio.

Robin Butler: 00:40:18 Okay. That's close.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:40:19 Close to Dayton. So, Dayton has the other end of the Wright brothers' story--

Robin Butler: 00:40:25 Right because it's a part of Wright.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:40:25 --too, because they're from Dayton. Paul Laurence Dunbar has a historic site in Dayton. Just up the road from there in Wilberforce, Ohio, is where the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers Monument is. They will be getting their brand new brochures anytime now.

Robin Butler: 00:40:48 Wow.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:40:48 Really interesting stories there because--Do you mind if I tell you a little bit more about it?

Robin Butler: 00:40:55 No, tell me.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:40:55 So Wilberforce, there was a college there and it attracted the intelligentsia of the African-Americans in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Charles Young who started out in the Army became an instructor there at the university. While living, making his home there and he and his wife who was also active in the suffragist movement, their home was the

site of many salons or gatherings. That home is a central place of this new national park unit. So it's a very interesting story. So W.E.B. Dubois was one of the people who came there and Booker T. Washington. So there's all this history that comes out from just this one little home in Wilberforce, Ohio.

- Robin Butler: 00:42:03 That does sound nice.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:42:04 So anyway, that's how I learned. I've learned about the Niagara Movement just by walking around and reading the signs here. That was more of it.
- Robin Butler: 00:42:15 At the Niagara--sometimes when you're working an event, you don't really get to enjoy everything because--
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:42:23 Because you're working.
- Robin Butler: 00:42:23 Yeah, you're here and there, the fireworks, the Niagara Movement--there was something else, but it was so many people. As my daughter says I'm already old, but listening to the older, older people, you learn so much from them. Oh my gosh. They'll tell you like, "Right over there..." I'm like, okay. But it's a rewarding experience. The young kids today don't have time to sit. But I loved to sit and listen to the older people because there's a lot of knowledge. There were events down in the park. Two of the presidents came. Jimmy Carter came and I couldn't go see him because I was seven months pregnant and I couldn't go down there. When Bill Clinton was here, I got to shake his hand. He was at the park, and then the White House Visitor Center in Washington when it first opened the first time, Annette and I worked on the exhibits for that, so I got to meet Hillary. Because I'm short, they put me in the front row. So I got a handshake.
- Robin Butler: 00:43:44 Ron Brown. He and President Clinton were great friends. He was there. The US Holocaust Memorial, Annette and I worked on all three of the films and I think it was just the films there. That was their opening. We went to a special opening. It was something, that Holocaust was--phew. The thing that really got me was Daniel's story. Because when you walked in, it was like an elevator and on each side imagine shoes of the little kids that perished.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:44:28 Oh my.

Robin Butler: 00:44:31 Yeah, those were all--those were the films. But the Holocaust, the story is--phew. It's not like going to the monument, like the Washington Monument when you go there. But when you go to the Holocaust Museum, you leave there with something because you learn. I don't believe this happened. It reminds me also of slavery, too. I'm trying to think where else I went. I went to Ocean City coming back through Berlin. I think it was Berlin.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:45:10 Harriet Tubman?

Robin Butler: 00:45:11 Right. They were just starting it. So I need to go back down and see that because I believe that's completed.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:45:17 It is and it's spectacular.

Robin Butler: 00:45:19 Yeah, I haven't been, I'll have to go.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:45:20 Very interesting.

Robin Butler: 00:45:21 Let me know when you go. I won't do the Bay Bridge. But I'm trying to think what else.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:45:32 Well, you mentioned Annette. Who--

Robin Butler: 00:45:34 Annette Abshar. She used to work here. She was a contract specialist.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:45:37 Okay. Abshar?

Robin Butler: 00:45:37 Mm-hmm (affirmative), she used to work here. She was a contract specialist I worked with, and we went to these--

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:45:46 So she worked with Joanne Grove?

Robin Butler: 00:45:48 Right. Matter of fact, she was the oldest, not the oldest, the senior contract specialist in some of the projects, like I said, the White House Visitor Center, the Holocaust Memorial, that grand opening was something. I'm trying to think what else. I've been to the White House, but that was on my own because I got a tour. I don't know who--oh, President Obama was there. Trying to think. I can't--just regular stuff, going to the parks for the NAI. I went one year, what's that the National Association of Interpreters. It was in Virginia Beach and Winnie Frost and Susan Haines and I traveled together. When we came back through Williamsburg, that's

when I ran to--I kept saying, "We got to go to Maggie Walker. I want to go to Maggie Walker," and that's when we went there. Oh my gosh, that was a wonderful experience there.

- Robin Butler: 00:47:00 What else did we do? The NAI was nice. I got to see people. I'd never been to one. I also got to go to the beach. Of course it was in what, what was it, March? When was the NAI? It was cold weather.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:47:17 April.
- Robin Butler: 00:47:18 April. Yeah. It was in--I met up Gwenny and Todd Bolton and I think Marsha were there from the park.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:47:24 Nice.
- Robin Butler: 00:47:28 Little things like that. It helps to get out of the office sometimes, too, because you're so tied down to your work, but you do have to remember that you do work for the Park Service and wherever you go you need to display that. Sometimes when I wore the uniform, they'd automatically ask you questions. I'm like, "I'm trying to get out of here," and they asked me--but you stop and--but then sometimes, most of the time, we think even if it was a little question, bathroom? But then you had someone that wanted to talk, but you learned from them. Like I said, the Niagara Movement and the older people, oh gosh, oh, it was something.
- Robin Butler: 00:48:21 Storer College, my dad didn't go there, but he played football there with--I don't know how the teams went back then, but he played at Storer College. He lived in Harpers Ferry. That is very important. I'm trying to think what else. Maggie Walker's--well, at the top.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:48:49 So if you don't mind my asking, so your father grew up in Harpers Ferry.
- Robin Butler: 00:48:54 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:48:54 So he was here when this was the Storer College campus.
- Robin Butler: 00:49:00 Yeah, this is back in--see, I was born in '55 so this was before then. Yeah. '31, he was born in '32. I was born in '55. I had an uncle that went there.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:49:15 That went to Storer College?

Robin Butler: 00:49:17 There were a lot of people from home, from Charles Town. Angie's mom went there. Mr. King, who I worked under in the park he was a ranger. Couple times--sometimes when you work with the public, it can be interesting. So evidently Mr. King had said something out in the parking lot and these visitors didn't like it. So when they came in--and I just said, "what he said." "Oh, you must be kin to him." "Oh, what's that supposed to mean?" But then I had to catch myself. I was in uniform. You know when you're in uniform you represent.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:50:03 That's right.

Robin Butler: 00:50:08 But it's been an--I still love the field. I really do. Might even want to volunteer. I don't want to volunteer all--I mean, I'm kind of stretching myself because my granddaughter comes first. Then the nursing home is definitely, that's going to be one day, I know. Like I said, I always wanted to be a candy striper. So now they call them pink jacket ladies. So I might try that. But I just want to rest up right now and get better and just see what comes. But traveling, yes.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:50:45 Yeah. Oh I'm so happy for you.

Robin Butler: 00:50:49 This morning was one of those mornings. I was, "Okay Lord, how many more days?"

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:50:53 How many more days is it?

Robin Butler: 00:50:57 Okay, as of today, working days, it's--wait a minute, I have to think. I'm here today so that doesn't count. Tomorrow, Monday, next Thursday and Friday. Seven.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:51:14 Seven more working days.

Robin Butler: 00:51:15 Seven more working days because with the holiday and the day off and I'm going to work, but I'm going to do part-time because I go to the doctor. Oh, I have injection every Monday, so I have to get that done. But I still think I'm going to need time because for some reason things are coming out of the woodwork right now and I got to get it done before I leave. So I will probably be here. I know I'll be here on the third. That's my last day but I can't count that

day to work on the computer because I think they cut you off right away.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:51:48

All right.

Robin Butler: 00:51:48

So.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:51:49

Well, Robin, what a career you've had.

Robin Butler: 00:51:54

It's been an experience. I've had the excepted service. I've had Government Printing Office where I find out that a lot of you all's work goes. The VA center. That was interesting to learn about the veterans benefits and how the field offices worked, and how being in the headquarters, how it transpires down to the, what do you call it, to the field offices. National... Okay. It was Surface Mining. That was, what is it? Personnel. So that was just the hiring there, and then coming back home to Harpers Ferry and that's where I've been and been through. It's been a rewarding experience. Learned a lot, seen a lot, done a lot. It's just time. Met a lot of interesting people. Some good, some bad. That's probably what they say about me. Anyway, but it's-

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:53:02

Remind me of when you started here at Harpers Ferry Center-

Robin Butler: 00:53:07

Which one?

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:53:08

The most--

Robin Butler: 00:53:11

1970 when I came home. Oh, wait a minute. I came home in '87 because I had been here before and left. Yeah, 1987 until now.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:53:29

32 years? That sound about right?

Robin Butler: 00:53:31

Yeah.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:53:35

Oh, well, I am very happy for you.

Robin Butler: 00:53:39

Thank you.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:53:41

I thank you so much for taking the time today.

Robin Butler: 00:53:43

Yes, thank you for asking me. It's been interesting, rewarding.



Carolyn Duckworth: 00:53:52 Do you have any last questions or--

Robin Butler: 00:53:54 No.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:53:55 --things you'd like to put on record? It's your last chance, you know.

Robin Butler: 00:54:02 You don't have enough time anyway. How do you think you've contributed to National Parks? I put giving the best of my customer service.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:54:11 Oh, okay.

Robin Butler: 00:54:16 What I'm going to do in retirement? I plan to do volunteer and church work, spending time with my grand babies and family and that's all.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:54:24 How many grandchildren do you have?

Robin Butler: 00:54:26 Okay. I have three older ones. CJ graduated from Fairmont. Tiana is at Marshall for her masters. Scooter is still finding himself, but he's my heart. Then Kenzie, she'll be two next week. She's a pistol.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:54:45 She's a new generation of grandchildren.

Robin Butler: 00:54:48 Oh yes, and it's so different because I've got Scooter who's driving too fast, and I got Kenzie who's trying to walk all over the place. She can tell me no, she's going to say some other little words, but we're going to get potty trained.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:55:02 All right.

Robin Butler: 00:55:03 That's grandma's goal. If she can tell me no and throw things--and she has a grip, she takes the remote and I try to get it, but, see, I think it's because of my hands. I try to get it from her. She jerks it and then she'll--I said, "Do not put it behind the couch." So she puts it down or throws it. But her toys, I have a lot of little Ernie and Big Bird. I can't move the couch because I told her, I say, "Well, I hope you didn't want that" and she'll look. You can look at me, but I'm not going to get it, because I have to move the couch out.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:55:41 Yeah.

Robin Butler: 00:55:42 She is different. She's a handful.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:55:48 Well, you're going to have some good times with her.

Robin Butler: 00:55:50 Yes, I'm looking forward to it.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:55:53 That's fantastic, and before you know it, you'll be taking her to some of these national park sites.

Robin Butler: 00:55:57 I do, but I will not take her to the Grand Canyon, I refuse. When I went out there, there are no guardrails. Yeah, there are just like drop offs where--and see, I can't catch her now. But I would love to take her. Well-

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:56:15 She been down in Washington at all?

Robin Butler: 00:56:17 No.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:56:18 She's too young still.

Robin Butler: 00:56:19 Right. I want her to see the memorial, Martin Luther King Memorial. Yeah, I took my grandson there, but that was--see, I go down on the train. Now I'm going to have to drive down. I have a handicap sticker, because that train there's a-

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:56:34 The step.

Robin Butler: 00:56:35 You're here in Harpers Ferry. That's where--or in Brunswick--I mean, sometimes they don't have that step. I can't do that right now, but I want to. It's time for me to go back to Martin Luther King, though. I usually go--I had been going every year. It's just different. I love it. I went during the cherry blossoms then. Oh my goodness. But you have to get there to get to a handicap spot.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:56:59 Yeah.

Robin Butler: 00:57:01 But I'm just going to take it--for the winter months, I'm going to hibernate.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:57:07 Well, and you can, which is wonderful. Well, and I just have to say, one of the first conversations we had was about the Martin Luther King Memorial because I think I had just been down there. That was very special to be able to talk to you about that.

- Robin Butler: 00:57:23 It was, yeah, it was awesome to see my big sister, I call her Angie, who used to work here in interpretive planning. She used to live in DC and she lived in the area of where they'd done the stadiums, but she was also in '68 she was down during the rioting. We got out the car--it wasn't funny because I thought she was kidding. This was when I was a real walk-a-billy, walking good. She said, "girl, you know when I get down here I'm going to cry." I said, "what are you going to cry for?" See, she experienced, I was a little. She experienced the tanks and stuff coming up the streets because she had to walk from Thomas Circle to Union Station to get home because there was no track. Because her dad said, "You can get to the Union Station, you'll get home." No cabs.
- Robin Butler: 00:58:16 So we came around, I got the parking spot. I was looking down and I started talking to Angie. She didn't answer me and she was crying. She said, "you don't know." She said, "this is something to see, the Memorial." It is. Still is. Then I took her over to where the national stadium--because she lived over there. It was torn down, and she pointed across the Hill places that she had lived. But the Martin Luther King Memorial, that is--
- Robin Butler: 00:58:51 I had one of the guys down there in conversation, I worked for the Park Service and everything. Evidently he had some photos of it at nighttime. I've never seen it at nighttime. I would love to see that at nighttime.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:59:08 I bet you could get your handicap spot right, too.
- Robin Butler: 00:59:12 Yeah, and I'm wondering if it's, you know? But it's not safe to go by myself. I have to have somebody going with me. Yes, Martin Luther King is special. The Maggie Walker, that because Ms. Walker reminded me of my grandmother who raised me. Yeah, she had her light complexion, her hair. The refrigerator was an icebox, wasn't a refrigerator like with ice cubes making and all. We had this--what do you call those things? The steel tray ice trays.
- Carolyn Duckworth: 00:59:50 Oh, yeah. Yeah, the ice cube trays.
- Robin Butler: 00:59:50 In the summertime we'd come in and she said "If you open that door one more time," because that would be our air-conditioning.

Carolyn Duckworth: 00:59:57 They weren't defrost, either.

Robin Butler: 00:59:59 No. We had our washing machine. This is where I got that from. We had the ringer tight. Well, I was curious because clothes were going through there. She'd put our clothes, the clothes there. So I got up on a little stool and I put my arm--and only thing saved me because I was a heavy child. That's what saved me. But that I carried the rest of my life.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:00:22 That's the scar on your arm?

Robin Butler: 01:00:22 That's where it stopped.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:00:23 Yeah, wow.

Robin Butler: 01:00:24 I tried to ring my arm.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:00:24 I shouldn't laugh.

Robin Butler: 01:00:27 No.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:00:28 Glad you survived that one.

Robin Butler: 01:00:30 Well, my grandmother, they didn't--why I was never punished that was the problem, I guess. She said, "you didn't have any business--" and it wasn't--you know how you see people have to have their laundry inside while ours was outside the kitchen, we had a laundry room. We had a little tub. I've seen a washing machine somewhere in one of those antique shops and it brought back memories.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:01:01 I bet. Yeah.

Robin Butler: 01:01:03 But yeah, it's time for me to, as Kenzie calls me Ama--she can't say grandma's. She says "Ama." The picture that you gave me a copy of, I sent it to my daughter on the phone the other night.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:01:17 Oh, okay.

Robin Butler: 01:01:19 Tina said, "Oh, mom, look at you." Well, Tina said, "Kenzie just took the phone." She said, "Ama."

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:01:31 Oh.

Robin Butler: 01:01:31 I'm trying to think how could she know Ama?

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:01:35 Wow.

Robin Butler: 01:01:36 Because Tina said "Mom" but they didn't, I mean, that one, maybe--

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:01:42 Well, the other one that I gave you first, I didn't make another copy of it.

Robin Butler: 01:01:47 Oh, okay.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:01:47 But you're much closer up.

Robin Butler: 01:01:50 Oh, yes.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:01:50 In your profile, that's how I knew it was you.

Robin Butler: 01:01:52 I was sitting down.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:01:52 Yeah. But that is so cool.

Robin Butler: 01:01:57 Kenzie said, "Ama." There's that one right there, I think. Then there was one, I was standing up talking to the group.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:02:03 Yeah.

Robin Butler: 01:02:04 But yes, Kenzie said, "Ama." I'll try to get these back to you. Matter of fact, I might even see Gwenny this weekend. This one right here.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:02:13 Yeah.

Robin Butler: 01:02:14 Just Ama. I'm like, "she's two years old." Tina wasn't even, she just--well, she knew it but, yeah. Anyway, it's--

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:02:26 Cool.

Robin Butler: 01:02:26 Have fun.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:02:26 I'm so glad I found those photos for you.

Robin Butler: 01:02:29 Yes, me too, because I didn't know there were any.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:02:34 Well, Robin, we're going to wrap this up, and I just want to say again how much I've appreciated this and I will miss you very much.

Robin Butler: 01:02:42 Oh, thank you.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:02:43 Your spirit here, your energy, it has just been wonderful. You're one of the folks I love to see every day.

Robin Butler: 01:02:51 Oh, well, thank you.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:02:53 Yeah.

Robin Butler: 01:02:54 I'll be back. I just can't promise. I told Theresa I would come back. I'd be available via phone or maybe for the first couple of times with payroll.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:03:03 Okay. All right. Well that's your spirit to be keeping helpful.

Robin Butler: 01:03:09 I need to be helpful, yeah, because I know how it is when you get hit with something. I am upset with contracting, though. I'm very upset with them because they were supposed to order me a magic lantern. I sent him a picture. I said, "do these people think I have one of these that I can just rub it and it appears?" That being that you can't-

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:03:34 Would you let me turn this off?

Robin Butler: 01:03:36 The thing is, I said, "if I had one I would make a bunch of people disappear."

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:03:46 That's a great way to end the interview.

Robin Butler: 01:03:49 Yeah, I'm upset with them, because they didn't get my magic lantern. You're no genie. I'd blink them right out. Always be nice. I'm trying, I'm telling my guys, especially at fiscal year end things coming at you. But this morning when I got that message, about can you transfer my leave? When you don't feel good, too, sometimes that really has an effect.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:04:21 Sure it does.

Robin Butler: 01:04:22 I told--I guess I shouldn't. Yes, I should. I told one of my CORs, I'm like, "and they pay you." You probably [inaudible], but I'm serious. Some of the stuff I would get, and they pay you, but I'd get it done. I just rubbed that imaginary lantern. I got tell Dee Dee, she didn't order my

lantern. I'm very upset with that, but anyway. Anyway, thank you so much.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:04:57

You are welcome. It was my pleasure.

Robin Butler: 01:04:59

Thank you. I will come back for the 50th, I think.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:05:03

I hope so.

Robin Butler: 01:05:04

Maybe I'll bring Little Missy.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:05:07

That would be fun.

Robin Butler: 01:05:09

Maybe for me or her, but she'll just take off and run. My daughter said she went in Target and she got upset because they wouldn't let her hand go. She wanted to run, so she decided she was going to fall out in the store. I said, "you tell Kenzie don't play that with grandma." I've seen kids. They holler at the parents or they hit them. Oh, I got to get out of here. Because you automatically like--oh, the parents will count on 10. Teenagers just say it, "count to 10." I got the look and that was it. You can look at kids nowadays and they'd look, they're like, "what you looking at?" But, yeah, Ms. Kenzie, she fell out on me, because she wanted to run around the store by herself.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:06:01

It's a big playground.

Robin Butler: 01:06:03

Right, and she's almost two years old. I don't need your hand. Yeah. She smacked at me one time and Tina said, "you don't do that to my mom." She said, "I sorry." Then you just melt, you know? "I so sorry." She had hit me one time. I think she got up in my face. She got real close. "I'm sorry." "You going to give grandma some sugar?" She headbutted me. I thought I had a black eye.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:06:32

Oh my goodness.

Robin Butler: 01:06:33

So I got myself together, I said, "Kenzie," and she says, "I sorry, I so sorry." Then she smiles. I don't know where she gets that attitude from. I wouldn't never do that to someone. But, yeah, I might have to bring her back up.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:06:50

I would love to meet her sometime.

Robin Butler: 01:06:52

Yes. They say she's a little--she's mini me.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:06:57 Well then even more reason.

Robin Butler: 01:07:03 Well, thank you so much, Carolyn.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:07:04 Thank you.

Robin Butler: 01:07:04 Is that all you--but you've--

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:07:06 Would you mind if I got your phone number for if you want it-

Robin Butler: 01:07:08 Yes, because I'm--

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:07:10 I'm not sure when the transcript's going to be ready, so we may need to get it to you. Do you happen to have a personal email?

Robin Butler: 01:07:15 Oh, okay. I'll put that on a 2-9-2-9.

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:07:17 I'm going to turn off the recorder now. No, it's still recording.

Robin Butler: 01:07:27 There you go. I got the cell phone number and-

Carolyn Duckworth: 01:07:30 I don't know how to... oh.

END OF RECORDING