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Peter DeGelleke
June 2, 1971

Interview conducted by S. Herbert Evison
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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

OF

PETER DEGELLEKE

INTERVIEWED BY S. HERBERT EVISON

June 2, 1971

Tape Numbers 69
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[START OF INTERVIEW]

Herbert Evison: Today is June 2, 1971. I'm Herbert Evison, and at the moment, I am in the headquarters of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. And, with me is an old and very much-admired friend – Peter DeGelleke, who has the by-no-means-easy chore of acting as Superintendent of the Delaware Water Gap area. Now, Pete, let's start this off with your birthdate, and the place of birth, and your family.

Peter DeGelleke: Well, I was born in Newark, New Jersey, on May 30, 1908. My father was an architect who practiced in New York City most of his life, and after we were started – the family – I have two brothers and a sister – we moved out from Newark to Morris County, New Jersey, which was country then, and lived on a farm. And he tried to be a gentleman farmer for a while and found out that that was a pretty expensive hobby. But we did learn – the children learned – a lot about farming and the outdoors.

Herbert Evison: Now, you got your schooling where?

Peter DeGelleke: I went to, what was then Massachusetts Agricultural College. While I was there, it turned into Massachusetts State College and now, of course, it's the University of Massachusetts.

Herbert Evison: And, you went there to study Landscape Architecture, under a guy named Waugh.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, indeed! I was one of Frank Waugh's boys. I've always been very proud of that.

Herbert Evison: You know, before we get away from that, I wish you would get on the record anything – your impressions of Frank Waugh, or anything that you can remember about him. I want that because he is a rather notable character in my book, in the history of teaching landscape architecture to people who were going into the park business.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, he was. To me, he was the most outstanding example of a teacher that I ever encountered. He was "inspiration" in its nth degree. Whenever you went through a class or a session with him, you came out convinced that landscape architecture was the single most important thing in the world. He really made it sound as if it was next to the clergy, as far as the importance to human beings was concerned. And he was a small man with very sharp eyes. And active in every sense of the word, interested in, of course, playing his flute, and in a tremendous variety of subjects, and with his ability to inspire us to think that what we were doing with him was the most important thing in the world. And he also had an intense interest in the NPS. He had made some studies, prior to that time, for the NPS, and in association with him was Professor Harrison – Arthur K. Harrison – who

really inspired me, I guess, upon my graduation, to take what little money I had left and take a trip, a tour of the national parks, that I made with my brother and the man who became my brother-in-law. We spent three months in the summer of 1932 traveling all across America, and western Canada visiting the national parks. And, really, I accumulated a better background of information for my future career than I could have gotten anywhere, in that way. I never dreamt that I was going to work for the Park Service, some day – but I came back with this great experience of having visited and seen the parks, and it was a real asset to me.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. You know, one thing that surprises me about that, is for you or anybody who had the money in their pockets in 1932 to take a three-months trip to the national parks.

Peter DeGelleke: Well, you know, Herb, by eating rice and raisins, and other things – including frog's legs – in places where we weren't supposed to eat them, we spent that whole summer – it cost us just a little over $100 apiece. We camped every night of the way and had a little Ford. And it was an economical trip but one that was loaded with educational value.

Herbert Evison: (chuckle) Well, I think you showed very good judgment, in scheduling any such thing as that. Now, you got your degree in what year?

Peter DeGelleke: In 1932 – Natural Science, and Landscape Architecture.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, well, now, in 1932 was not the most cheerful year in the world.

Peter DeGelleke: No, it wasn't.

Herbert Evison: In History. What did you have in sight when you got out – got your – what was it – BA?

Peter DeGelleke: BS.

Herbert Evison: BS?

Peter DeGelleke: Yeah.

Herbert Evison: In Landscape Architecture.

Peter DeGelleke: Right.

Herbert Evison: And?

Peter DeGelleke: That was it.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

Peter DeGelleke: That was it. Well, I didn't have anything in sight. And after we came back from this trip, which was in the fall, I started out with all kinds of vim and

vigor to find a job, because I was fully convinced that if anybody really wanted to work, they could get a job. And, of course, I started around the New York metropolitan area, and I made a list from the phone book of all the landscape architects, and all landscape gardeners, and I set about visiting them. Well, the ones that I could find – and most of them were out of business – they didn't even exist anymore – all they would want to do was sit and talk about the "good ole' days." So, I ended up finally with a part-time job, delivering bread on a retail bread route. And that was $8 a week. But I thought I was lucky.

Herbert Evison: It's really extraordinary, the situation in which so many well-educated, well-trained people found themselves at that period. Well, how long did you deliver bread?

Peter DeGelleke: Well, not too long. Actually, then, I had a Reserve Officer's Commission and I, of course, sought some active duty. And I got two weeks up in Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont, and that was in the spring of – that would be the spring of '33, I think. And they brought in the first contingent of the CCC boys while I was there. And this was an interesting experience, because nobody knew what to do with them. And they came in, and the enlisted men had to clean their barracks for them, and they had to do all their chores for them. And these fellows played kick-touch football, and baseball, out on the parade grounds. And this went on for a couple of days while I was there, when they were trying to classify them. And then they finally put them up in the tents, and moved them out into the forest to start work. I got interested in the CCC at that point, and then through Professor Waugh and Erle Weatherwax, I got an offer of a job in the Vermont State Park system, working under Perry H. Merrill, as a landscape foreman, in the Sandbar State Park above Burlington, on Lake Champlain. And that's where I started my career with the NPS.

Herbert Evison: Well, now, I think it would be nice to get on the record, here, something about the period when you were a landscape foreman in an SP-ECW Camp.

Peter DeGelleke: Well, it was – I arrived on the scene, I think it was early in November; I know there was snow on the ground in Vermont. And the camp buildings were in. The boys were there, and everybody was looking for something for them to do. They didn't know what to do with them. And we soon found that we could use them all cutting wood; it began to get cold right away and they started to cut wood. Now, these boys, were all boys who had been picked up off the streets of New York City. And they weren't classified, as they did later on. They were a mixture of people in their 40s all the way down to probably 17 or 18. And it was a very broadly skilled group. We found many kinds of skills that we could use.

Herbert Evison: But not very many wood cutters' skills.

Peter DeGelleke: No, no, we had a terrible record of cut feet, in trying to chop wood; and all they would let us chop were dead trees. But we couldn't keep warm on that; the fellows couldn't chop enough wood in the daytime, to keep warm all night. Finally, the Army broke down and authorized purchase of some hard wood. And this was really what nursed the winter through.

Peter DeGelleke: Of course, I had arrived with the idea I was going to be a landscape foreman, and I knew what a foreman was from my college training. He carried out the plans made by other people – of course there were no plans – there was no master plan, there was no development plan, there was no planning. And I found that, all of a sudden, I was supposed to plan a park. And I had nothing. I had no transit, no level, no way of doing anything. And I can remember contacting Frank Waugh – as he always did keep track of his boys because he liked to hear from us – and telling him my troubles, and his encouraging me: "Well, just do something, that's all you're supposed to do!" And this is what we did. And I threw together a development plan. The first real job I had, though, was drawing up the working drawings for a combination garage and office building – which was already erected. And this has always seemed to me as kind of an example of the way we did a lot of things in those days. We did it first, and then we made up the drawings, and the applications, and the approvals after a while to cover it.

Herbert Evison: (chuckle) Yeah.

Peter DeGelleke: But it was an interesting and exciting experience. I think the biggest charge I got out of that was to see the miracle that was performed in some of these boy's lives, actually – miracles – boys that had no future in any sense of the word, who were given a job to do, who learned to work with other people, and respect other people – and became very, very skilled, and I'm sure very useful, people in the years that came.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, you know, looking back on that, I don't remember ever having thought before about how the boys were utilized during the winter months in CCC camps – where they did stay in through the winter – in places like Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, and some of the interior of Massachusetts – where the snow gets very, very heavy in the winter. And the thermometer hovers down at 20 or 25 below 0.

Peter DeGelleke: It went to 55 below for a record at our camp.

Herbert Evison: Really?

Peter DeGelleke: One time.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

Peter DeGelleke: Well, as long as the wind wasn't blowing too hard, we almost always turned them out; I think there was only one or two days when the boys weren't turned out for work by the Army. And, principally, we had a big wood cutting deal; we were excavating gravel for roads, use of a gravel bank, below the frost line. And we loaded the gravel by hand, of course; every shovel-full was pitched by hand into some trucks that we rented. We also were digging in a marsh area; we were digging some water-fowl pools, which we could, if the water level was high enough and we could break through the frozen crust and vegetation and get down and dig in the muck underneath. That's – as I remember – those were the principal activities of that winter.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, well, I think it's very interesting to get on the record, something about our CCC camps in real cold country – that certainly is, I know from experience myself. What was the character of – it was Sandbar State Park, you say?

Peter DeGelleke: It was actually at that time part of a wildlife refuge – a State-of-Vermont Wildlife Refuge, which was being converted to a park. And, what we were doing with Sandbar, was a name for a bar that connected Grand Isle with the mainland. And what we really ended up doing was building a bathing beach, and a picnic area, and a bathhouse – which I was landscape architect, designed actually sort of as a recreational activity, just to sort of keep myself busy on the weekends. I made a little sketch of a building, trying to sharpen my sketching ability. And somebody grabbed it and said, "Here, this will make a building." And, then we made a building out of it.

Peter DeGelleke: We had a number of very able other foremen on the park. We had one local engineer, who was really the one who was responsible for our accomplishments, although he hadn't finished his college education; he was a very, very able man in leading employees, and getting them to do work. And, as a contrast, we had an engineer who'd been educated in MIT, with the fullest of opportunities, who was practically worthless in handling boys or getting any work done. The difference in people came out in this kind of a job.

Herbert Evison: Doesn't it seem to you, that it really took a special talent to work with such a group of boys as you had there, highly extraordinary talent, I would think.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, I think it did – it took a down-to-earthness, that seemed to be the one thing that everybody could respond to in those days.

Peter DeGelleke: Today, young people respond to a very different stimulus – they're more idealistic, they're more concerned with the subtle things in life. In those days, it was a matter of bread and butter, and some clothing. And this is what these boys got – an old Army clothing pulled out of surplus somewhere, and the roughest kind of food. We had no dishes, we had sugar bowls, they were our principal dish; we drank our coffee out of them and we ate our meals out of sugar bowls. We had to get by on what skills we had; we had a wonderful pastry cook who made marvelous cake and pie. But we had nobody who could cook meat, or potatoes, or beans, and make them seem like anything but just the worse kind of stuff.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, well, didn't that situation improve, with the—

Peter DeGelleke: Well, it improved after a while, when the CCC organization, itself, set up training schools for cooks. But at this time there were no training schools – the one good food we got, twice a week was a load of bread the Army would send out from Ft. Ethan Allen. They had their own ovens, and they baked their own bread on the post. And this was delicious. This was a good stable item of food.

Herbert Evison: You know, as I look back on it, I think that was before they began taking all the nourishment out of flour, and then putting a lot of different kinds of nourishment back into the bread that they made.

Peter DeGelleke: I think that's right. And this bread, I think, was made in a – they were big round loaves, that looked like the kind of specialty loaves that you get nowadays at a premium store.

Herbert Evison: Well, now, you stayed there through that winter, and were you still on there through the following summer?

Peter DeGelleke: No, I got order to report for a two-week assignment in Washington, D.C., beginning April 1st, 1934. And I presented myself to Connie Wirth on that Monday morning, in the old Interior Building. And Connie said, "Well, Matt Huppuch is over in a meeting with the land program people, in such and such a place. You go over to that meeting." I didn't know what program he was talking about or the direction, but I finally did find the location and that's where I met Matt Huppuch who was my immediate superior for several years.

Herbert Evison: Well, now, you went down there for two weeks?

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, I went there for two weeks, and I guess I stayed seven or eight years. I kept getting extensions of these assignments. And Perry Merrill would stop by every time he was in Washington and try to find out how he was going to get me back, because I was occupying a position in one of his camps and yet I was assigned to the sub-marginal land program in the

Washington office. And, after I don't remember how long – it was a matter of quite some months – the sub-marginal land program came up with some money and I was transferred to that. But then Connie didn't think that it was going to last, so he put me on furlough from the CCC program. So, I was on furlough from CCC, working on the land program.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, you were on the – I suppose it was the ERA rolls.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, that's right. Well, it got to be ERA, after we began to get construction money for these recreational demonstration areas. First, it was land acquisition money that came out of the sub-marginal land program. Then we went – after we got enough land – we went into the phase of development, which was done by a combination in some CCC camps, sometimes ERA projects and WPA labor and sometimes with transient camps.

Herbert Evison: Transient camps.

Peter DeGelleke: Transient camps, yeah.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. That's right. I'd forgotten that there were any transient camps that operated on RDA. But they were scattered around in various places throughout the country, of course – most notably down on Cape Hatteras.

Peter DeGelleke: That's right. That was the place they were mostly concentrated.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Before we get you permanently away from Vermont, I would like to go back to Perry Merrill, again, and ask you, what you remember about him, and what's your impression, 35 years after, of Perry Merrill.

Peter DeGelleke: Well, Perry Merrill was always a good friend of mine. We seemed to sort of see things the same way. I always admired his concepts of park planning. I think that, without a doubt, the individual family campsites that were planned in Vermont State Parks, under his direction were probably the most attractive that I've ever seen, anyplace.

Herbert Evison: Really? You know, that astounds me, coming from a landscape architect about a state forester.

Peter DeGelleke: Well, he was a state forester, but he was a very sensitive man to nature, and to the environment. He knew how important that was.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, well, I'm very glad to get that on the record, because he was one of the characters – one of the very interesting people – that we had to work with back in those CCC days. A varied lot among the state authorities, who were the people we worked with so closely.

Peter DeGelleke: Yeah. Well, Perry Merrill was one of these men that knew what should be done, and a lot of times he did it; and then somebody had to patch up the works afterwards, as you probably well remember (chuckle).

Herbert Evison: A matter of procedures.

Peter DeGelleke: That's right. (chuckle)

Herbert Evison: (chuckle) Well, now, here you are down in Washington, and you're concerned first with the acquisition end of this – what was really a phase of the Resettlement Administration operation, as I remember it. People always refer to that as the retirement of sub-marginal land. Of course, a lot of the lands were also properly classified as marginal, that is they were dubious, as to whether they should be farmed any more or not. And I think it's true that thousands of acres, probably altogether, of marginal lands also found their way into the aggregate land purchases, as well as the really badly worn-out lands that should never have been farmed in the first place, or that had been farmed so terribly badly.

Peter DeGelleke: Well, that's right. There were cases, of course, where you needed some additional lands to make a sound park or recreation area proposal, and we did add that. Of course, every tract that was included in those areas had to be classified by the agricultural experts as being of sub-marginal or marginal quality. These men, in some cases at least, were realists and they knew that we had other objectives; and they could stretch the classifications and use a certain percentage that would be acceptable.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, I think that for the sake of long-term benefits, if we were to look back on the program to those years, we would find a lot of stretching.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, that had to be.

Herbert Evison: To obtain good, practical, sound results.

Peter DeGelleke: There's no question about it. I saw a lot of it, and I participated in some of it, too. We had to.

Herbert Evison: Well, you know, Connie Wirth's cartoon – the picture of the turtle – "Consider the tortoise; it never gets anywhere without sticking out its neck." (chuckle)

Peter DeGelleke: That's right! (chuckle) That's very true.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Well, now, just what under Matt Huppuch's general direction – who in turn was working under the direction, general direction of Conrad L. Wirth, I think – just what did you find yourself doing?

Peter DeGelleke: Well, I think the first thing I did was to try to prepare some materials for Connie to use with Secretary Ickes to justify participation in this program.

And I well remember the first materials I prepared had the concept of different types of recreational demonstration areas. And one was for organized camps. And I remember that I had to prepare an outline sketch of such a camp. And I misspelled "unit," you know, these camps come with the number of units they're made up of. And I spelled it U N I T E, and I didn't see it, and Connie took it up to the Secretary and he sold the program, incidentally, like he did almost everything else. But he came down and the first thing he said to me was – he said, "The Secretary says, that you've got a man down there that you better teach how to spell!" The Secretary had spotted that misspelled word right away. He was a newspaper man. Well, that's, I think, the first thing I did, to prepare some exhibit material to illustrate in a diagrammatic manner some of these types of recreational facilities that we saw these areas serving.

Peter DeGelleke: Then we went in, under Connie's direction, to pick out all of the population centers of the country and draw circles on a map around them of 25 miles, 50 miles, and 75 miles. And tried to show what type of areas should be in each one of these. And then, as usual, we sent them out to the field, sent them out to the ECW inspectors, to find the pieces of land within these zones that met the quality needed. And, of course, in most cases, they went first to the State Park people, and I think, the first thing that we got, would be suggestions for areas that had long been considered as valuable to state park systems.

Peter DeGelleke: And you know, Herb, going back and thinking about Vermont, and State Park Systems, it reminds me of another one of the emergency calls I sent out when I first got out in that CCC camp in Vermont. And this was to my father in New York City. And I said, "Look, I'm supposed to be planning the state park up here, I don't know really what I'm doing. Are there any books that you can find for me?" He did; he never failed me. He sent me back a package of books, and the prize book amongst it was A State Park Anthology by Herbert Evison.

Herbert Evison: (chuckle)

Peter DeGelleke: And this was really my bible in those days. And, frankly, I would flash that thing, or the knowledge that I got out of it, to Perry Merrill and anybody else that came around, and I'd say, "Well, as so and so says in such and such a place or are you familiar with this statement?" or something in that order, that really put me head and shoulders above a lot of those people. So, Herb Evison was well-known to me before I showed up in the Washington office and found him there.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. I think we better have this correct on the record, though. All Herb Evison did was to collect the material that other people had written and put it into a book.

Peter DeGelleke: That's right, but it was in a meaningful association, one with another article. It was a real assemblage, I think, of the best thinking that was available on state parks. And some of the very classical thinking, that guided the whole movement.

Herbert Evison: Yes, I think so. Looking back on it – I was looking over the Anthology not very many months ago. And I will have to say I decided there was nothing there that I needed to be ashamed of. It was very fortunate that there were not only some very good thinkers who had busied themselves with state parks, but they were people who were able to put their thoughts down into words, very effectively. People like Richard Lieber.

Peter DeGelleke: Right.

Herbert Evison: And old Albert Turner, and well, I can't think of them, but there were really some wonderful people.

Peter DeGelleke: There were some giants—

Herbert Evison: Authors of those, most of whom I had known, at one time or another. Anyway, it's very wanning, Pete, to have your tribute on the record to that book that I sweat blood over—

Peter DeGelleke: I've still got it!

Herbert Evison: In the summer of 1930

Peter DeGelleke: (chuckle) Well, it was a real Godsend to me!

Herbert Evison: Yeah? Well, let's go on with the RDA program. To what extent did you get involved ultimately with the individual areas?

Peter DeGelleke: Well, my first involvement was in the acquisition. We were just starting; Matt and I were the business And, then we got – what's Irmine Kennedy's younger sister's name?

Herbert Evison: Oh, I can't think, but I know who you mean.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, it was Jeannette. Anyway, she came to help us. But I was trying to meet the payrolls and do all the direction of guiding people who were, then, at that time, starting to get options on this property. And – but slowly we got staff on that. And then the land acquisition moved out of my immediate responsibility. And we started in the making of master, plans, development plans, and actually, I was in charge of that; and was familiar – on paper, at first, and later on by field types – with most of the areas on

the ground. And this was a very exciting and rewarding thing; I really had responsibility that far exceeded my experience, I know, but I had lots of good help from other people.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, well, now, at somewhere into this picture, came a guy named Charlie Gerner.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, indeed!

Herbert Evison: And Charlie is long gone. I remember a man of extraordinary qualities. And I would like to get on here whatever you remember about what Charlie did, and about his characteristics.

Peter DeGelleke: Well, Charlie Gerner was my closest friend in the Washington office. He was the kindest, gentlest, and most gentlemanly individual that I ever had the pleasure of being associated with. I never knew Charlie to say a mean word about anybody, or to hurt anybody. And, besides which, he was a most meticulous worker. He was a perfectionist. And it was pretty hard on me, who was a whole lot more of a generalist. But it was the best training I ever had, because Charlie insisted on everything being done right, as if it were being done for all time.

Herbert Evison: Now, that's a long time ago, but I – it seems to me one of his functions was certainly keeping the most meticulous and voluminous records.

Peter DeGelleke: That's right. Well, he was about the third employee that we had in that division. And we made a trip – I remember – out to Oklahoma City, when Herb Maier was Regional Director to review and try to help them. They were having trouble getting their applications in, and proposals worked up. So, Charlie and I went out to assist the staff out there. And L. Vernon Randau was working there, in charge of it then; I've never been able to find what's happened to him since. He was a very energetic and ambitious young man. I don't think he stayed with the Park Service, but he was in charge of this program, for a number of years.

Peter DeGelleke: And we reviewed a number of their projects; we ended up in the Badlands of North Dakota, to set up the Badlands proposal, which had been considered for a long while. And we tried to put it into the kind of shape that we felt would get approval. And this is of course, the best contribution that anybody in the Washington office can make, to put the good ideas of the field into a form that is acceptable.

Peter DeGelleke: And so, Charlie and I worked up there for a couple of weeks, getting the material and putting that together. Then Charlie came back and we decided that we wanted to have a demonstration project somewhere in the vicinity of Washington. We could show important people what one of these projects meant, and how it should be done. And we investigated

several sites; we finally ended up selecting the Chopawamsic site, which was down near Quantico. (It is now known as Prince William Forest Park.) And Charlie moved into that as Project Manager and started to assemble the basic materials.

Peter DeGelleke: And I remember, of course, in his very kindly manner, he made the acquaintance of the storekeeper down there at one of the little country crossroads; Mr. Crow was his name. And this was a difficult step to make, because in order to deal with these projects, you had to have some recognition amongst the local people that you were a respectable person, that represented a respectable program.

Peter DeGelleke: And, through his association with Mr. Crow, who finally rented him a room upstairs over his store, we set up a little office; Charlie started to assemble this basic information and, as usual, made loyal friends amongst all the people that were involved down there. And, actually, he was so successful with this project that it became in truth, a demonstration – both as to the methods of setting up a field office and communicating with the community, and getting the options, and the thing worked up for approval – that we used that as a pattern in later days.

Peter DeGelleke: Then Charlie moved back into the Washington office and was active in the control of the development while I was doing the planning. But we always worked very closely together as a team. And his thorough preparation for every situation won many, many battles that really didn't belong to us. Because if everybody'd been as well-prepared as we were, why, there were people that had better projects than we had, lots of times; but we always had the best prepared material that there was.

Herbert Evison: (chuckle)

Peter DeGelleke: And Charlie always made a note of every conversation he had with anybody, either on the telephone, or anywhere else, so there were never any lost thoughts, or lost commitments, and those records would come out and settle many, many difficulties that we had.

Herbert Evison: What was Charlie, professionally?

Peter DeGelleke: Charlie was an engineer.

Herbert Evison: Oh, yeah.

Peter DeGelleke: He was an engineer, who had had assignments in Spain and other foreign countries. He was a bachelor and had followed his heart's desires in many respects as far as the profession was concerned.

Herbert Evison: Well, for that – for all the years that I knew Charlie, I never knew anything at all about those previous experiences. And I am delighted to get

such an account as this on the record on one of the really outstanding men – the men who made a great contribution and accomplishment in those years.

Peter DeGelleke: And it was made by hard work! Some people may have made accomplishments by luck or by personality or something else, but Charlie's were all based on hard work. He did a dull job, and he put it together in a way that would substantiate almost anything he undertook.

Herbert Evison: Hard work performed by a very fine, keen intelligence – extraordinary devotion, I would say.

Peter DeGelleke: His devotion to his job was incredible! He didn't ever think of himself. Once a week, he and I – we, for a number of years, we subscribed to the series of lectures by the National Geographic Society in Constitution Hall. And that was Charlie's one indulgence. We would always stop work and go and have dinner someplace, and then we'd go to the lecture. This was our weekly outing; even after I was married, we carried this on as long as I was in Washington.

Herbert Evison: Oh, that's wonderful, Pete. I'm just delighted to have that, because I knew and loved Charlie. He was a very, very admirable, very lovable character, in my book.

Peter DeGelleke: Well, he was in mine; he was absolutely tops!

Herbert Evison: Yeah, well, fine. Now, let's get along with this RDA program. I'm getting more good stuff about this program, that you can get your teeth in, from you than I have from anybody else. So—

Peter DeGelleke: Well, have you talked to Matt Huppuch?

Herbert Evison: Yes, I have. I have a very good tape with Matt.

Peter DeGelleke: Cause, I'm sure—

Herbert Evison: And I have a very good tape, from a couple of weeks ago, with Bill Hall, who worked with Charlie down at Chopawamsic.

Peter DeGelleke: Right.

Herbert Evison: And, of course, I got some dope from him about Charlie, because he knew him. Well, now, let's get a little of the picture, some of the things that you remember about individual projects that were of interest in this program. I never got that kind of thing from Matt, that I remember, but even if I had, I'd like to get some of the things you remember about your observations of individual areas, and some of the difficulties that some of them might have presented.

Peter DeGelleke: Well, I have a lot of different kinds of memories. I suppose I'll start out with the ones that were associated with the Park Service. Of course, French Creek, out of which Hopewell Village was carved, was acquired during that program. This is one of those exceptions that you were talking about. This was a large holding, almost all one large ownership, which contained this remains of this old iron-making village, which nobody paid any attention to at that time. This wasn't even considered in the thing. But it was a large tract of 1and, which could be easily purchased; and we could get another project in a hurry. And I think this is what prompted everybody to get behind that project; and, of course, the development of it was conceived of, originally, entirely as a recreation project, with no concern for the history, until we assigned a historian up there, on some kind of a mission; it was before Lon Garrison was there.

Herbert Evison: Oh yes, yes.

Peter DeGelleke: I'm trying to remember who that was.

Herbert Evison: Well, I'm wondering if it wasn't Mel Weig?

Peter DeGelleke: Oh, no, it wasn't Mel.

Herbert Evison: Oh, was it the historian, who ultimately bought all the harnesses? I can't remember his name.

Peter DeGelleke: I can't think of his name either, but he suddenly discovered – or not suddenly, but slowly, as historians do in a meticulous manner, that this thing had a lot of historical value. And this is the way it grew out of that. It was an interesting one.

Peter DeGelleke: I remember the negotiations that we had in connection with the land that we bought for Shenandoah. And I remember there, a couple of particular personalities; I remember L. Ferdinand Zerkel, who was our project manager for a while, and who had worked for the Resettlement Administration with photographs that he had, and with the words that he used of describing the plight of these mountaineers trapped in this environment, which no longer could support them, and their way of life. He was a – made a great impression – with these photographs. I don't know what ever happened to his pictures, but he had a lot of very wonderful pictures of these little settlements, and these houses, which we've all lost those cultural remains.

Peter DeGelleke: Because in those days, I had a number of occasions to take prominent people to Shenandoah to show them what we were doing. And the mountaineers and their culture never failed to be the most interesting aspect of the whole thing. And I remember Will Carson, very well – the Commissioner of Conservation in Virginia at that time. He was much

interested in that. And his great stories about the heritage of the Virginians, and all the rest of it, were a big thrill to me. And the story he told one time about how he took President Hoover out to inspect some of this land and was later informed by some of his mountaineer neighbors that they had a bead on that guy the whole while, because they thought he might have been a revenuer. It was typical of his kinds of stories that were very elaborate and very—

Herbert Evison: Circumstantial.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, that's right. (chuckle)

Herbert Evison: Yeah. (chuckle)

Peter DeGelleke: And, of course, I remember the land that was bought in conjunction with Mammoth Cave, and the Blue Ridge Parkway. We had quite a few projects that were justified as additions to existing national park areas, and I think we bought some very important land.

Herbert Evison: I had forgotten that there was Mammoth Cave land—

Peter DeGelleke: Oh yes, Mammoth Cave.

Herbert Evison: I know of the extent to which the RDAs contributed to the ultimate character of the Blue Ridge Parkway – well, just tremendously.

Peter DeGelleke: Then, of course, Colorado National Monument, White Sands, you know, we got into quite a number of them. And, of course, those were the days, I remember Tom Vint and his interest in these projects and this work, which we would discuss in detail with him.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, well, now that reminds me that I taped a guy named Charlie Peterson – Architectural Historian.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, yes.

Herbert Evison: And he made a remark to me that he thought there were two people in Park Service history, who had been very much underrated, and whose work today is hardly thought about at all, but who were really wonderful men; one of them was Arthur Demaray and the other was Tom Vint. So, I'd be interested in what you remember – any contact with Tom, or any of his observations or his characteristics.

Peter DeGelleke: Well, in general, thinking back in those days when he was contributing his thoughts and direction to what lands were needed in connection with these national projects, I always considered that he had exceptional vision. He was always looking ahead and looking at things in the terms of the real meaning of land, to an entity of topographic feature, or a use project. It was a very practical low-pressure viewpoint but one that everybody

respected very much. He never made a lot of noise, or a lot of flashing, or anything else, but I always felt very secure in Tom, when he made a comment or a suggestion.

Herbert Evison: Of course, one of the things that I remember about him, was, in so many cases, how often he started a sentence that he never finished.

Peter DeGelleke: (chuckle) Well, I guess he was thinking ahead, then.

Herbert Evison: But he got his thoughts over, just the same.

Peter DeGelleke: He sure did. I think he did it a lot of times, just in the quiet conference type of meetings, over a plan, or over a drafting board – not in a stand-up meeting or a presentation. He usually put it into people's heads where it stayed. And, of course, Arthur Demaray was a very close friend of Charlie Gerner's, personal friend, so that way, I got maybe a little different viewpoint on Arthur Demaray, as a personable friend, in a sense, a very fine gentleman, again. A very stable head and a man, again, that I had great confidence in.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, well, I think that was the general feeling about Arthur Demaray, that if he made up his mind about something the chances were pretty darn good that it was right.

Peter DeGelleke: That's right. And a very humble man, who didn't demand any attention or anything else.

Herbert Evison: No, no.

Peter DeGelleke: He just hewed to the line, day in and day out.

Herbert Evison: Went his way quietly – but, boy, he went his way!

Peter DeGelleke: He sure did! And he left his mark, I think. As you've intimated before, that's a more important matter than maybe a lot of us realized, without stopping and thinking.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. I wish you'd think of some good way in which we could put on the record something that would spread the fame of those two people. I've been trying to think of something, but I haven't come up with anything.

Peter DeGelleke: Well, I think that certainly Tom Vint left his mark in people of the next generation in the Park Service; certainly, Bob Hall was a sort of a long, tall, replica of him.

Herbert Evison: Yes, well I think that could probably be said of the fellows in those central design offices, Sanford (Red) Hill, out on the West Coast a CCC product, just as Bob Hall, just as Bob Andrews, was in the National Capital Parks.

Interesting that three former CCC technicians should have, at one time, headed up all three of those Central Design and Construction Offices.

Peter DeGelleke: It certainly is. It shows the great wealth of talent that the CCC attracted.

Herbert Evison: Yes.

Peter DeGelleke: You know, better than I do, that actually the "cream of the crop" was available. People with experience, that you couldn't, in normal times, tempt with any salary that the Park Service could give. And they came and gave their lives to it.

Herbert Evison: Yes, and did no complaining about the salary, either.

Peter DeGelleke: No, sir.

Herbert Evison: They were just delighted to have them – and have the challenges that those jobs brought.

Peter DeGelleke: They sure were.

Herbert Evison: Well, I'd like your comments on these various individual areas. Now, of course, we had them – I think we had one in California, one in Oregon. They were rather spotty, but – and the guy I was with last night was saying that Pennsylvania kind of lagged behind the others in its interest in RDAs. And I was able to tell him that they not only had more than any other state, but they had five very wonderful ones.

Peter DeGelleke: That's right, they did. Pennsylvania, on the contrary, was very active in an advance form of regional planning or even statewide planning at that time. And this is the basis on which they launched the RDAs, they were very active in the field of politics, too, which didn't hurt at all. Yes, we have five really significant areas in Pennsylvania. And we had about five more lined up, when they suddenly shut off the money.

Herbert Evison: Oh, is that so? I hadn't realized that.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, and a number of these have become state parks since then. The one thing that amazed me, when I got into the state assistance work and the state started state park planning, especially under Maurice Goddard – the question was, where are the old RDA reports on some of these projects that we started before? And the Gifford Pinchot Park down there near York, Pennsylvania was based on a study made for an RDA project, that was never realized in that program Well, they picked up, I think, every one of those others, and have acquired the land and seen them realized.

Peter DeGelleke: Well, of course, that planning for those areas, because we did focus around population centers, was really a very, very advanced concept. Because at that time, as you know, parklands were mostly designated as a

preservation – to preserve outstanding scenic, or natural, or scientific wonders. But here was the first concept that I know of, to try to put these things within easy reachable distance of people.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Get fine scenery – or at least better than average – where the ordinary guy could get out and use it.

Peter DeGelleke: That's right. And, today, you know, you hear people say, "This is a modern – it's just undiscovered." (chuckle)

Herbert Evison: (chuckle)

Peter DeGelleke: Because, I'd say, if you've been around once like that you find all these old ideas coming back as new; it's almost time to get off.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. (chuckle)

Peter DeGelleke: I saw the same thing in connection with the American Youth Hostels which we have up here. In discussing it with the people before they established it, I said, "Well, I was acquainted with the various people back in the ECW days." And, you'll remember we made a study and produced a report – at least Mel Borgeson did – for the whole Service up in Bronxville, with a system of Youth Hostels, and connecting trails in the United States, with sketches of typical buildings, and shelters, and all the rest of them. Well, they'd never heard about this. And, I said, "Well, I'll go home in the attic, and I'll get you a copy of it." I went up in the attic, and I found Copy No. l of the report that we prepared, I guess it was about '35.

Herbert Evison: I would think so.

Peter DeGelleke: And I donated it to them, and they have it on display in their New York Headquarters now. But here's a contribution that the Park Service made – to thinking about these things in a systematic arrangement to establish a trail system of hostels in this country, which again is just beginning to be reviewed. And people say, this is a wonderful new concept. And the old ECW had laid the groundwork for this – put talent into it – that was remarkable.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Now, that's a report that I had never heard about. I hope there are still some copies of that report left in various archives of the Park Service.

Peter DeGelleke: I don't remember how many copies were made, but there weren't many. It was a large size report – oh, I guess about 1 x 2 feet in size, and nicely illustrated, like Mel Borgeson did, you know, his office put out the very finest reports – the most handsome format, and everything else.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, I would like to go back to a thing that you mentioned a while ago, and that is that you have an identity of, as a sketcher.

Peter DeGelleke: Oh, that died out long ago, Herb. After I got out of the CCC camp, I never had a chance to do anything but push a pencil to form numbers and letters; that's the end of it.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, well, now, in what ways – do you remember – was your ability in that direction put to use?

Peter DeGelleke: Very little to start with. As I say, I made a few presentations – maps and things for Connie to use on some of these presentations. And then I soon graduated to doing just paperwork.

Herbert Evison: Not in the profession of landscape architecture?

Peter DeGelleke: No, not in the profession of putting your concepts on paper in the form of lines, at least. Words, I did have to develop a little ability on that.

Herbert Evison: Well, Pete, you've been dealing with what I think is really a wonderful program that the Park Service can take a lot of credit for. I don't want to leave it until you have everything about it that you can think of, of any interest at all, on tape. Can you think of any other aspect of that? Or people, other people, who were concerned with it, who ought to get some mention or credit, in what you have to say?

Peter DeGelleke: Well, I expect I could go on remember for hours and hours. But I think that's a good sample; it isn't by any means the whole of my tribute to other people, but, you know, those things come to you on isolated occasions, but they don't just flow out as a rule.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Well, now, we've mentioned three people in the Washington office – actually four, including Irmine Kennedy's sister, but Huppuch, and you, and Gerner. Now, ultimately, there was actually quite a sizable organization in the Washington office, if I remember right, that was concerned with this. Was Hank Greenberg part of that set-up, or was he—

Peter DeGelleke: I don't think so.

Herbert Evison: —in the CCC?

Peter DeGelleke: I don't believe so, I don't believe, he wasn't in that division. Of course, you know, after we got started a little bit, then they – the ECW and the ERA work – were pretty much integrated you remember that.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. You mean as far as the directive organization was concerned.

Peter DeGelleke: That's right, that's right; and then I moved into the work control, I think that's what they called it, on job application approvals, and camp approvals, and aspects like that.

Herbert Evison: Now, if I'm not mistaken, Ab Good originally came in on the RDA organization.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, Ab Good was one of our professional staff. And one of those rare characters that you come into contact with, that leave a mark that you'll never forget. Ab was a most sensitive person in aesthetics, and functional things. Yes, Ab worked with us, very closely on that. And we had Louis Croft who worked with us on that, as landscape architect. And Bea Stockton, who was our first attempt to have a sociologist in our plan staff.

Peter DeGelleke: In those days, sociologists weren't as well-trained, or something, as they are today; at least, we never were able to focus Bea to produce any real input into how we made our plans. But Matt Huppuch and I – but Matt especially – felt that our planning should give more recognition to the basic sociological forces in the society, than just about engineering and architecture, and recreation. And it was a very advanced concept, but we never really got the right sociologist. I think we just happened to find somebody who couldn't quite relate to what we were doing. But then, in that day, I think it would have been a pretty rare person that would have been able to relate to it.

Peter DeGelleke: And then, of course, we had Julian Salomon, who brought to us the very special knowledge of organized camps, and the planning and operating of them. And, of course, through him and Matt, we got Fay Welch, who came in as an advisor on a lot of these subjects. Well, this led to a lot of interesting people, as you'll remember, I'm sure – all these people, and their involvements.

Herbert Evison: Well, now, there were also connections with the National Recreation Association.

Peter DeGelleke: This is just what was going through my mind, and I was trying to remember, I remember Willow, as one of the—

Herbert Evison: Who?

Peter DeGelleke: Willow.

Herbert Evison: I don't know, how do you spell that?

Peter DeGelleke: W I L L O W, I think. I don't remember the spelling, but the name.

Herbert Evison: Now, you're not referring to Willow Doolittle?

Peter DeGelleke: I don't think so.

Herbert Evison: He was known as Willow, but he was Doolittle, and he edited their magazine for a great many years – Will O. Doolittle.

Peter DeGelleke: Maybe that's what I'm thinking about.

Herbert Evison: Yes, yes.

Peter DeGelleke: I think that's right, I think that's right.

Herbert Evison: I think so, too.

Peter DeGelleke: Yeah, I think that's right.

Herbert Evison: But, of course, we had, well, I remember we called on Wier, for that very first general study that was made – Recreational Use of Land in the United States. But then, J. B. Williams—

Peter DeGelleke: Oh, yes! I remember J.B. very well.

Herbert Evison: Now, just what do you remember about J.B.'s status?

Peter DeGelleke: Well, J.B. functioned as a sort of a – I guess you'd almost say – a consultant, in the setting-up the machinery to operate the organized camps Matt set up in each one of our districts, then, a man with a Recreation Association background, to organize the agencies to use these areas.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, now, Charlie Graves would have been one of those, wouldn't he?

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, Charlie Graves certainly was.

Herbert Evison: Who do you remember, do you remember any of the others who were – had that kind of background.

Peter DeGelleke: Well, actually Al Edmonds came in, on that score. And, oh, down in Richmond – a very forceful character.

Herbert Evison: Yes.

Peter DeGelleke: We had down there. Now, why can't we think of his name!

Herbert Evison: Now, you just thought of the man in Richmond – Robinson – but neither of us can think of his first name.

Peter DeGelleke: It will come back to us.

Herbert Evison: But then, there was a George—

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, George Ingalls.

Herbert Evison: Ingalls that you just mentioned. And there was this guy who later went to the University of Indiana.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, Garrett Eppley.

Herbert Evison: Garrett Eppley? Now, those all had National Recreation Association connections or background, didn't they?

Peter DeGelleke: That's right.

Herbert Evison: I'm glad we got into that, because I think that's a phase of the operation in that period that has been largely overlooked – that we benefitted greatly from the cooperation of the National Recreation Association for many years.

Peter DeGelleke: Immensely, yes. They led us into the field of working with organized recreation. And this is the field that's so important to us today, as the Park Service reaches into the urban areas.

Herbert Evison: Yes.

Peter DeGelleke: Because these are the people that were there, and knew the way to work, and they did in those days.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

Herbert Evison: Pete, as we start out on a new tape, I think we have probably covered your earlier Park Service experience, as far as the RDA program is concerned, pretty fully. Now, did you move on in any other program, or were your duties changed, before you took this 15-year interval outside the Park Service?

Peter DeGelleke: No, it gradually ran in to encompass the work control for the CCC camps on the state parks, and then the national parks, as well. Charlie Gerner, you'll remember, was Chief of what they called the Development Division. And I was the Assistant to him on the job. And then we were involved in all phases of Emergency work. And then, of course, when the war came along why, you remember, the efforts were made to sell the CCC as a training device for the Army, and a lot of other things. And we built bumpers to protect airplanes and we collected scrap iron, and then we finally, of course, had to move out to Chicago to make room for the new War Agencies in Washington. And I went out with Charlie. I think Charlie and I were the only ones that went. And we went for the purpose of liquidating the equipment of the CCC. And I stayed out there, I guess for six months or better. And then we closed that out and I came back to New Jersey.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. To do what?

Peter DeGelleke: Well, I came back to try my hand at farming. All the time I lived in Washington, I used to dream about having a farm and I used to spend any spare time I had in looking at farms, with real estate agents. I can see, now, all the millions of dollars I could have made if I only could have

scratched up enough money to buy one of those farms at that time. And Charlie Gerner used to go around with me, and look at a lot of these, and he always dreamed too. He was wise enough not to think he could be a farmer – he just wanted to have a place where he could vegetate and be close to nature.

Peter DeGelleke: So, I did get this farm in Warren County, New Jersey. And I came back to that, and I operated that, pretty much, for about the next 15 years. And Charlie came and visited us numerous times, I remember. And we had – just sort of like today – real old-time gabbing, remembering all the things that we had enjoyed previously.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, now we've gotten that far in your history, and we omitted a very important matter, which we did discuss before we started taping, and that's somewhere along the way, you met a gal you liked, and you committed matrimony.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, I did! I found her right in the Park Service, working in the Park Service, working in our – I guess she was the second girl who came to work for us in the sub-marginal land program. And, of course, Matt Huppuch's wife was her sister. And so that's the way I sort of got involved with that. And, seeing her everyday under all kinds of circumstances, I decided that that was about as good an assurance for a successful marriage as anything. And it's been – that was 1936 – we got married, the 10th of October. And it stayed with us. We have one daughter who was born in New Jersey – 1943 – and just about a year ago was married. So, now, Ma and Pa are back all alone again.

Herbert Evison: Oh, yes. Well, you didn't desert farming, I judge, from any dislike of it, but somebody came and got you, didn't they?

Peter DeGelleke: Yes. I think I got intrigued by the prospects of this Delaware River Basin survey, which was explained in the papers as the first comprehensive land-use study of a river basin. And I contracted the Corp of Engineers. I lived in the river basin, and I thought well, now, they probably ought to establish an office up somewhere near where I live, and then I could work part-time on that. So, I made an appointment to sit down and interview the District Engineer; and somewhere out of the clear blue sky Al Edmunds called me up, and said, "Say, would you be interested in working on the Delaware River Basin survey?" I said, "Yes, I am. I have an appointment on Thursday to come down and see the Colonel." Well, Al said, "How about coming a little early and seeing us, first." Well, I never got to see the Colonel.

Herbert Evison: (chuckle)

Peter DeGelleke: I had so much fun remembering old times with Al Edmunds and Dan Tobin, who was Regional Director in Philadelphia at that time. George Thompson was in charge of the River Basin work, and I had known him when he was out on the Winamac Rec. Dem. Area in Indiana. So that was like old home week. And George Palmer was there and, of course, I remembered him from Statue of Liberty. And I sold on taking a job – so I did. And, of course, I lived about 70 miles away from Philadelphia.

Herbert Evison: 70?

Peter DeGelleke: 70.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

Peter DeGelleke: And I figured, well, I'll have to move into Philadelphia. And I remember the first day I went to work was on February 12, 1957; I drove my car into Doylestown, and I took the Reading Railroad into Philadelphia, and it was a very pleasant and uncrowded trip. And I came home, and I said to Rosie, "Well now, that's not too bad" I didn't realize that it was Lincoln's Birthday and that all the banks and insurance companies which make most of the traffic in Philadelphia were closed. And the next day I went to work, and it was a very different story. And I remember I came home, and said, "What have I gotten myself into now!"

Peter DeGelleke: But I kept thinking, well, I was going to buy a place in Doylestown and looked at places in Society Hill. And as I kept looking around, I got more and more used to the trip, and so, for about eight years, I commuted back and forth, spending five hours round-trip. But I got so that the hour that I spent on the train, or hour and fifteen minutes, was one of my most productive times during the day because I could read and catch up on all the serious thinking that I had to do. And, of course, I started in the river basin work. And this is what led me to where I am today, in the Delaware Water Gap. George Thompson was in charge of the river basin work, and I was the – I don't know what they called it – a project manager or something for the study of the Delaware River Basin, so that we worked together very closely. And of course—

Herbert Evison: You were in immediate charge of that?

Peter DeGelleke: That's right. And on the scene when I got there, were Lyle McDowell and Jim Sullivan, who were already on the job when I got there, so they had already done some work. And we got into it pretty rapidly, examining all of the proposed dam sites in the Delaware River Basin. And I recall that the first time I saw this area was in December of that year. And I made the reconnaissance by myself and laid out what I thought should be the

boundaries for the area. And, actually, they haven't changed much since then.

Peter DeGelleke: It's kind of a remarkable thing. The concept of a National Recreation Area was very new at that time. We hadn't really explored it; it was being talked about. And I recall that, in my own mind, I thought that, from the criteria that I knew about, this area ought to fit in that. And in a discussion one day with George Thompson, looking at the maps and things, why, I approached this subject and George bought it. And from then on, we started to sell the concept of a National Recreation Area for this particular area.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, well, now, this is, of course, a Corps of Engineers project, the building of the dam—

Peter DeGelleke: Right.

Herbert Evison: What is it? The Tocks Island Dam, is it still know as?

Peter DeGelleke: Oh yes, it's still known as the Tocks Island Dam.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, well, now, first, let's get this into the larger picture. Are they doing anything else on the Delaware River?

Peter DeGelleke: Oh yes! There are two other dams which have already been completed on the Delaware River. This is part of a system to manage the water of the Delaware River Basin to get its greatest benefit for the citizens of the Basin and the immediate Service area. And there are, I think, one other dam – it's just being started – as well as several others in the complete River Basin Plan.

Herbert Evison: Well, now, what's the status of the Tocks Island Dam?

Peter DeGelleke: It's reached the stage where there was money in the 1971 fiscal year appropriations for the first construction on the dam. And it had been anticipated that they would let the contract about this time, for the year, and get started this summer, in the first foundation preparation. But then, this new requirement for an environmental impact statement came into play and the statement has not been finalized. And it has to be finalized, and on file at least 30 or 60 days, before they can advertise for it.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

Peter DeGelleke: So, it looks as if there's going to be another delay probably another year before we get started.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Well, now, as it stands at this moment, they have to wait that before they can start their pick and shovel work, pouring concrete and so on.

Peter DeGelleke: Right.

Herbert Evison: But, meanwhile, I presume that they have pretty well completed the process of acquiring the land that is to be flooded, or have they?

Peter DeGelleke: No, they haven't. They have completed the acquisition of the land that's going to be involved in construction.

Herbert Evison: That's just around the—

Peter DeGelleke: Just around the dam, yes.

Herbert Evison: —dam site.

Peter DeGelleke: And I would say there's several thousand acres that they've acquired there. Then, they have acquired for the National Recreation Area and additional 22,000. So, all together, there's about 26,000 acres in Federal ownership within the ultimate boundaries of the National Recreation Area.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Now, they are handling the land acquisition of the recreation area lands?

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, they are.

Herbert Evison: This is unusual departure, too.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, I think that was the first instance where the Corps of Engineers ever handled land acquisition for the NPS. This was specified in the Act that set-up our National Recreation Area. The Corps of Engineers Project was authorized in 1962. And the National Recreation Area wasn't authorized until 1965. So, the assumption was that the Corps of Engineers would be well on the way with land acquisition, and there were many advantages to having a single acquisition agency, working with people. So that the Act did specify that the Corps of Engineers should acquire the land from funds that were appropriated to the Department of the Interior. And this is what's been going on.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Well, now, you mentioned that they have acquired the land around the dam site, several thousand acres, plus all of this other land. And I judge that, since you say they have not acquired any of the flowage lands, all of this land, except that at the dam site, is land that will be above water. And will be, or most of the time anyway. And the actual recreation area land.

Peter DeGelleke: That's substantially true, yes. Most of the acquisition had been in land for the National Recreation Area – and the land which we are managing today for public recreation.

Herbert Evison: Now, you mentioned 22,000 acres of that or 22,000 altogether?

Peter DeGelleke: No, the total authorized land area is about 70,000.

Herbert Evison: I see.

Peter DeGelleke: Of that about 26,000 has been acquired now.

Herbert Evison: Now, some of this land at the dam will actually be incorporated into recreational uses of one kind or another.

Peter DeGelleke: That's right, that's right.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Well, now, of course, that has relieved you of responsibility for what is undoubtedly is a great headache.

Peter DeGelleke: Yea.

Herbert Evison: This business of acquiring land.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, it is. But it's not a blessing without its disadvantages, too. Because you're tied-up in the public mind very definitely with the Corps of Engineers and dam-building. And this is a very sensitive subject in the day of environmental awareness. And we get shot for a crow, many, many times. And we do carry a lot of burden as a result of our association with the Corps of Engineers, that the NPS normally doesn't have to carry. So, it's a mixed blessing – we make an exchange – we get out a lot of headaches from land acquisition. But we do get a lot of headaches because we're associated with the dam.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, yeah A lot of conservationists, undoubtedly, are very unhappy over the situation.

Peter DeGelleke: They've gotten so – there's been a long-standing group opposed to public ownership in this valley from the very beginning. During all the testimony there were people who objected to this. And these people have consistently objected to it. Within the last year – taking advantage of the concern for the environment – these people have sold, I think, in many instances, a bill of goods to a lot of conservation agencies, who haven't investigated the facts. They've taken the word of a lot of these longtime opponents, as to the damages that the reservoir is going to have – its deficiencies, and what would be alternatives. And the opposition has gotten very emotional recently – has stirred up a widespread hostility towards the reservoir. The National Recreation Area, in general, still is accepted as a desirable thing, especially by conservationists. These local opponents don't want any public management, or ownership, because this land is in the urban influence of the metropolitan area, and it has tremendous real estate potential. And these people, naturally, want to hold on to that as long as they can.

Herbert Evison: And I suppose, as a matter of fact, that that's very sharply reflected in the prices that they had to pay for what they did get.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, the prices escalated very, very materially. I would say they're probably, in general, double what they estimated to be. But this is a realistic reflection of land values in this whole area. We have Interstate 80 going through one end of the area, and Interstate 84 at the other end. And both of these are tremendous influences on land accessibility to the metropolitan area, and that's where the value comes in.

Herbert Evison: And undoubtedly the Bureau of Public Roads or the State, in acquiring land, found some of that reflected in what they had to pay for their right-of-way lands.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, on Interstate 84, they've had a lot of lawsuits that have yielded tremendous values, and of course, everybody interprets their land as having the same value as the court award. And that's made a very difficult thing to contend with also.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, well, now, the Corps of Engineers has acquired these lands. Looking at that map on the wall, does the dark green represent acquired lands?

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, the dark green is land that has been acquired by the Corps. It's been cleared of all occupancy. And the accountability has been transferred to the NPS. Now, then, the cross-hatched land is land which has been acquired and is in public ownership, but the former owners still retain possession of it, under some arrangement. Every owner is given a year's free occupancy of the land, in which to relocate, so that this represents, in most cases, that type of an occupancy.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Well, now, are there instances among those cross-hatch areas, of where the original owner is being allowed possession for a greater length of time?

Peter DeGelleke: Yes.

Herbert Evison: Any lifetime occupancies?

Peter DeGelleke: Yes. Our Act provided what they call the "Cape Cod Formula," which accorded to residents, of a certain period, in dwellings that were built by a certain date, the right to a life tenancy, or an extended tenancy up to 25 years. And this privilege is accorded to anybody whose occupancy would not seriously interfere with the purposes of the National Recreation Area. Now, we've leaned over backwards in every instance to accord people this privilege. However, there's been a surprisingly few number of people who have availed themselves of this, a very surprisingly few. I don't

understand it, except the fear of a great mob of recreationists, which is a very common fear in this part of the country. The people are afraid of the hordes that are going to come into the area, not having any concept of the management that can be given to those people, by proper planning and development and supervision.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

Peter DeGelleke: They have that fear of hordes of people invading the country. I think this is the principal reason that most people want to get away.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Well, now, in cases where continued occupancy is offered, or has actually been accepted, presumably that effects the prices paid—

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, it does.

Herbert Evison: —to some degree.

Peter DeGelleke: The Act provides that the amount that they receive should be reduced in accordance with the value that they retain, Now, this is done on a regular mortality table, used by the insurance companies on your life expectancy. And it was designed, and Congress provided it, principally to prevent disturbing people who have been in an area a long while – elderly people – so, that the older you are, the less of a cost this thing is. And it's not attractive to young people—

Herbert Evison: No, I suppose not.

Peter DeGelleke: Because you have a fixed investment, you can't ever sell it. If you buy a place outside, and inflation continues, why, they could always turn it in for some enhancement of value. But, here, they have to live on it.

Herbert Evison: I'm interested in knowing if in any of the planning Corps area, the use of the scenic easement has figured.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, we have the equivalent of that in a number of instances, where our Act provides for the continuance of existing uses that do not materially interfere with the purposes of the project. Now, for instance, one application is in connection with the Fred Waring's golf course, of which a portion is on the Shawnee Island, in the middle of the Delaware River within the authorized boundaries of the Recreation Area.

Herbert Evison: Oh, yeah.

Peter DeGelleke: Now, we consider the continuance of that golf course a desirable adjunct to the National Recreation Area, so that we don't intend to buy the golf course, but we intend to buy enough title to assure it won't be used for an amusement park, or roller coaster, or high-rise apartments, or some other incompatible. And that's one instance; we have a similar type of

application contemplating in connection with the pump-storage proposal up on top of Kittatinny Mountain, where the power companies have an installation – one of these pump storage projects – which we just buy the development rights on, so that they can continue to use it; but they can't erect a hotel on top of it, or shoot skyrockets off of it, or anything else.

Peter DeGelleke: Now, the main objective of controlling the development in the surrounding area is to rely upon local government, which is a very feeble instrument. There is much concern about the type of development – the service facilities that will be developed on the approach ways to the area. And considerable efforts were made for a number of years, by both the states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania in developing a regional sketch plan, developing proposed zoning. We had established a Tocks Island Regional Advisory Council, which is a very unique, interstate organization formed by the elected officials of the seven counties that surround the area, whose main objective is to try to minimize the impact of this area and maximize the benefits. And they have taken some leadership in the field of promoting adequate planning.

Peter DeGelleke: But in New Jersey and Pennsylvania both, the ultimate zoning depends on the lowest political sub-division – in these little townships, which are principally very rural and have no concept as to what's going to happen; when the chips are down, they aren't at all equipped to handle or deal with the very skilled type of real estate operators that come and deal with them. Actually, I think some of the newer concepts that should be reflected in some of our newer areas, for the government to acquire an interest in some of these critical lands outside and then to lease them for planned uses, I think, is really necessary, if this is going to be accomplished. But we have no such provision in this project. We came before that concept of development.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, but, oh, the tremendous amounts of money that would be involved in going beyond your boundaries to buy such controls as would be effective.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes. They wouldn't need to be, if you could have some sort of a development corporation, which could finance the optioning of this property, or getting the hold on it, and then releasing it for planned usage. Then you recoup your investment in it; it wouldn't be a permanent outgo.

Herbert Evison: Probably you would more than recoup your investment.

Peter DeGelleke: I'm sure you would!

Herbert Evison: In other words, it would be an investment.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, that's right.

Herbert Evison: Not an expense.

Peter DeGelleke: That's right. But it would have to be started early, and it should be started in conjunction with the authorization of a project. Then there would be a public concern, so that the public would guide this towards desirable overall objectives as well as share in the profits you make in one location, to help offset the losses that might occur with another. But I think, if there's ever another area like this, those kinds of concepts should be explored very carefully.

Herbert Evison: At the moment, the prospect is of some rather ghastly fringes, I take it.

Peter DeGelleke: I am afraid so. I am afraid so, although we see – because of the pub1icity that this project has gotten, and it's gotten a lot of good publicity in planning circles – it's recognized nationwide amongst planners. There are interests by big development corporations, which I think can handle some of these things, if they get in in time. U.S. Steel is starting a new city concept some ways away from here, which is a planned community. And I think there'll be some benefits derived from some large type of operation. But, as a whole, I'm afraid it's going to go like so much of our metropolitan areas have gone – to the highest bidder, for the earliest buck.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, well, now, you do have quite a sizable chunk of land in public ownership, on which presumably you already have developments existing or underway.

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, we have. But we don't have so many developments, as we have use-programs. We came into being here at just the wrong time to get development money. We've gotten very, very little development money. But we have strained every effort to put to use, this land as we have gotten it. And consequently, we have quite a lot of activity in relation to the amount of development money that we have.

Peter DeGelleke: Actually, in counting our attendance last year – and there are people who actually entered our installations and participated in our programs – we had over 815,000 visitors last year. And I'm sure we'll go over a million this year. Now, of course, we started out in the Gap proper itself, where our land acquisition started. We have a temporary information station there, in an old tavern which the Design office in Philadelphia converted into a very creditable manner and gave us a very good facility. We have boat launching there. And we also have three overlooks developed along the Delaware River on the Pennsylvania side in the Gap, each one of which resulted in the removal of an obnoxious commercial establishment of one kind or another, and the installation of a nicely planned and landscaped area.

Peter DeGelleke: We also have just completed a new parking area for access to the Appalachian Trail, of which we have about 26 miles running through the area – which gets very heavy use, especially in the Gap here. On the Pennsylvania side, in Monroe County, one of our early acquisition efforts was to stop a real estate development around about a 40-acre lake, called Hidden Lake, which was accomplished. And we've had active programs of use in there for the last three years. We have a small bathing beach, where we have lifeguards, last summer and this summer. We have a campfire program, where we give campfire programs every Saturday night; there's one of these Campgrounds of America Camps, right near it, so we get a lot of visitors from that.

Herbert Evison: And KOA?

Peter DeGelleke: KOA, that's right. And we have a picnic area there – a lot of fishing in there, both through the ice in the wintertime, and from the shore. In fact, we had 142 people fishing around this 42-acre lake last weekend, which is getting a little bit heavy on the fishermen We have our first skimobile trail laid out – a trail that starts from there and which we experimented with last winter and had very fine success with.

Peter DeGelleke: There's an old lodge on the property which has been operated as a day camp by the local YMCA for the past three summers and will be again this summer. We also started an informal group camp area up there, where Boy Scouts and other groups can camp. And this has given us a little example. Now, we also have in operation at Thunder Mountain – which was the former recreation camp that we acquired earlier in the game, because the owner wanted to get rid of it – we have a Cooperative Environmental Education Camp running there now, with the Newton School Board, and a combination of environmental training and vocational training, which gives you a very good combination, because the vocational training provides labor to repair the buildings, and cook the meals, and mow the fields, and all the rest of it. A very fine combination. We've had, I guess, about five or six thousand children do that so far this year. And, it will be operated this summer, also, as a camp for handicapped children, in that kind of an environment.

Peter DeGelleke: In addition to that, we've supplied a use for this attractive little village that was called B in which our historians found Peters Valley, in the earliest maps – not named for me, I make that a point. But we have established there, in cooperation with a nonprofit craftsman group, a crafts village, where last Saturday we had the opening of the retail sales outfit, in the form of an old store which was just reconditioned. And the end of this month, they're going to open their first classes for craftsmen who will live in these buildings and produce crafts and give demonstrations all the year

around. We are furnishing the buildings in a usable condition to the craftsmen; they have the responsibility, then, of maintaining them in that condition. But we are going to maintain the exteriors and the village appearance.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Well, now, these are all buildings that were acquired not anything that has been built?

Peter DeGelleke: No, there's nothing that's been built. This is a little crossroads village that we desired to keep because of its esthetic and its cultural image, and the picture that it presented.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. It is a nice-looking little village.

Peter DeGelleke: That's right, that's right. And we couldn't keep it just for the sake of its looks; we had to find a use for it, and we found it in our interest in the American heritage, that includes the skills of our hands as one of our heritages that we feel is very important.

Peter DeGelleke: We think that this will be a big asset, also to visitors, to show them another phase which they can find of recreational activities – the crafts. We don't expect everybody to be professional craftsmen. We think a lot of them have fun at it, too.

Herbert Evison: Well, now, what kind of an arrangement do you make with these skilled craftsmen. Are they just invited in there to carry out their business.

Peter DeGelleke: Well, what we have is a "special-use permit," with the non-profit Craftsmen Organization as a cooperating organization which authorizes them to use these buildings for educational purposes, for demonstrations, for sales outlet, and residences for these people.

Peter DeGelleke: Now then, they have established a judging procedure whereby very well-known, outstanding craftsmen serve on a jury. And these potential candidates are juried as to the quality of their work, both in design and workmanship. And then they are assigned one of these buildings, by the craftsmen organization. Now, the same jurying process goes on for anybody who wishes to merchandise through the store; they have to submit their work to a jury; and it's judged and either passed or they're given suggestions for improvement of it. And some of them have actually accepted the suggestions and improved their work and qualified on a second try. So, this is an interesting aspect of our operation.

Peter DeGelleke: We also have – in another old building – we have just established an Artists-for-the-Environment project, which was instigated by the "America the Beautiful Fund." It consists of, right now, coming in for a three-month session of five students from five arts colleges, and one

instructor of these colleges. The colleges are going to rotate the instructor. And after the first session there will be two students from each college, who will spend a three-month session there, either in the fall or summer or the spring, not in the wintertime, because it isn't too comfortable them. But this is another project to help stimulate an appreciation of the natural beauty as it contributes to the upcoming artists.

Peter DeGelleke: You know, there's a lot of these young artists who grow up in the cities and everything has straight lines to it; and even faces have straight lines these days. And the Gap, and this area, has had a long history of encouraging artists of various kinds. They'll also go into the field of music and maybe even sculpture, writing, and other aspects. One of their aspects will be an accumulation of a resource, an artistic resource, a museum-type of area which will be filled by the products of these people, the various kinds of art that's been inspired by this region; and we think this will help enhance the interest of visitors. We also have one of the 56 YCC camps scheduled to be established here. Now, of course, this is the modernization of the old CCC, so I have a very keen interest in that, myself.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, now, has that been established?

Peter DeGelleke: No, that will be established as of July 1st. We're busy trying to get another former private recreation facility in shape for their use. We have used it on a couple of occasions for schools to have environmental camp-outs in. And when the YCC gets finished with it, we hope to have it enough in shape, so that it can be used constantly as a school camp-out for environmental education programs.

Herbert Evison: How big a camp is this to be, do you know?

Peter DeGelleke: Well, this is to be a 50-man enrollee camp. And it's a very select group this time; they don't take them right off the streets. They have to be boys in good standing, and in an established school system. And they have to represent all cross-sections of intellectualism, or intellectual ability, and financial status, and all the rest of it. It's quite an experiment, with a lot of record-keeping and things in it. But we think it's a very interesting aspect and will result in giving us some help, too, which we need very much to get for some of these other projects.

Herbert Evison: Now, you don't feel that in this, volume of use – you mentioned 850,000, I think, last year, and the possibility of over a million this year – that there's anything premature about it, I mean that's likely to cause damage because of the lack of systematically planned facilities?

Peter DeGelleke: There hasn't been any evidence of that yet, Herb. And we feel that even if there was – I would feel that the risk would be justified, in comparison to

the value that it gives the public. It gives a value to all this land. It makes use of the facilities that were acquired incidental to the land, and even if we use up a lot of these facilities in the course of 10 years, why, the public's gotten the benefit from it. Our programs and our operations are not up to NPS standards. We aren't up to standard, but we've got activities going. We felt it was more important to get something going; and now we're going to concentrate, we've got more programs going now then we can really take care of. Now we're going to concentrate on trying to bring the quality and the standard up.

Peter DeGelleke: We have another little village here – Millbrook – which is destined to be maintained as a typical 1865 village. And we want to be able to move into that village some of the buildings that are going to be in the reservoir, that would otherwise be destroyed.

Peter DeGelleke: Now, this month on the 19th and 20th, we're having, what we call, "Millbrook Day," and we're going to have a lot of the local people who are interested in this putting on demonstrations of old-time crafts around the village, and this little old church we're going to have hymn-sings, we're going to have folk-dancing, and weaving. And one of our groups of ladies is a quilting group in one of the little churches and they're going to some quilting for people to see.

Peter DeGelleke: And this is another test of public interest in it, and a way of stimulating interest. We have a group who call themselves the "Friends of Millbrook"; basically, this may develop into some kind of a non-profit cooperating organization, like the Craftsmen did. We started the same way with the craftsmen organization, which we really created to operate the crafts village.

Peter DeGelleke: And then, we have another area in New Jersey, remnants of a former estate; the main building has burned, but we acquired about eight or nine small ponds, in a very beautiful location, which we're going to open this summer as a similar type of thing to what we have in Hidden Lake, with fishing and picnicking. And then, in the wintertime, the school year, it will be operated as another environmental education center. And we're striving to keep our open fields, by trying to interest the vocational education departments in establishing projects to use the land and the farm buildings.

Peter DeGelleke: We have a very unique proposal from the South Brunswick School District, which is a small project, where they take some of these boys that are turned off by the formal education process, put them out in a farm, with animals, and machinery, and problems. And then they tell them – now here's the field – how many acres are in it? And they have to find out how many acres and if you're going to put so much fertilizer on an acre,

how many pounds of fertilizer do you need? And they give these guys problems, and they seem to get very outstanding results, in challenging kids by giving them a reason for learning, before teaching them what to do. And this is a program that will help us keep some of these farms in operation; these people would be interested in raising crops – some of our interpretive programs, maybe using old-time machinery, operating a livery where people could rent horses, carriage rides, and be given interpretive talks by enrollees. This is in New Jersey. I think we'll make it there.

Peter DeGelleke: Now in Pennsylvania, the state Vocational Educational Department has offered $100,000 in equipment – for the purchase of farm equipment to any school district that will cooperate with us. Now, we haven't got one yet, but when you put out that kind of bait you ought to get somebody there.

Herbert Evison: (chuckle)

Peter DeGelleke: We went to Harrisburg and these people were just excited at this prospect. And you see it meets our need, too, because we want to keep farms operating. When we first started, we thought, well, we can lease back to a farmer, or we can give a farmer a life right to keep operating the farm. In this part of the country, no one's interested in farming anymore. We can't get a legitimate farmer, so you gotta build some kind of a farm operation, as a by-product of some other program. And this is what we're trying continually to do. We won't win out in all of these things, but we will on some of them. And I've got a staff that's exceptionally interested in this, and they work day and night to promote these kinds of things.

Herbert Evison: I was just going to ask you, now, things like this don't just happen.

Peter DeGelleke: No sir!

Herbert Evison: For nothing; but they happen because somebody had a good idea and enthusiasm and enough to ride it.

Peter DeGelleke: That's right.

Herbert Evison: And I was just going to ask you, what kind of people, this boy, Dillahunty – is he a good missionary?

Peter DeGelleke: Albert Dillahunty is an outstanding missionary. He has a unique talent for enlisting people's interest and to holding it, and to drive them to do things; it's incredible what he can get people to do. He's the guy who really organized this crafts fair we had last year and was very much responsible for getting this crafts thing going. Now, he's spear-heading this Millbrook Day. Last fall, we had an old farmhouse over in Slateford, Slateford Farm, in which we had open house which he really spark-plugged, getting that

thing put together. We're very fortunate we have, as part-time employees, Dr. and Mrs. Earl Robacker, who are outstanding experts in the field of antiques and antiquities around here, who are a tremendous asset to us. Their home was involved in the reservoir, and this was a home that they had restored by their own sweat and tears. And it was bought by the reservoir, and it was completely wrecked. And yet these people rose above all those personal involvements to become involved with us here. He is retired, now, in the last year. And they contribute immeasurably; you couldn't purchase the kind of talent that we get from those people. And he is the guy who inspires an awful lot of this.

Peter DeGelleke: On our environmental education business, Jim Sehogle is the spark plug.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

Peter DeGelleke: He's a remarkable young man! He worked on the master plan for this area. And he got so carried away with it – with its possibilities – that he took a cut in grade to come up here and work with me on this thing and has been here ever since. And he's put in weekends and days and nights on this environmental education. This is his long suit – something he believes in, and promotes, and lives for. And, so, this is the kind of people that you need to do things.

Herbert Evison: There are some nice people left, aren't there?

Peter DeGelleke: The world is full of them; they're all nice. This is what, you know, you come up into an area like this and here's a whole community, many communities, involved in project like this, many of them at great personal loss. People, I've learned to realize they're my friends! But of course, it helped that I lived up here in one of these counties. And this really helps! I mean, I wasn't one of these outsiders that came in. I was one of them; I've been able to talk with them; they believe me. And so far, nobody's made a liar out of me! I've never lied deliberately, but sometimes in this business, as you know, there are higher-ups that change the rules. But, so far, I haven't been caught lying to anybody. And I don't intend to, if I can help it. But, no, people are what make the world worthwhile, you know that – you're a people's people. (chuckle)

Herbert Evison: (chuckle) Yes. Well, boy, I get the feeling here, a round peg in a round hole, where it really fits. You are an inspiration to listen to Pete.

Peter DeGelleke: Well, I'm having the best time of my life up here; I'll tell you the truth, Herb, I thought, you know, my Emergency Conservation days were the most exciting, and they were. But actually, since I've been up here on this project, I, even in my old age, I can still get just as enthusiastic and just as

much carried away. And, really, it's worthwhile! I feel, without any question, that we're doing something worthwhile.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, well, you have put on the tape, just some of the most wonderful material. I would like to think that a lot of people could sit in front of a tape recorder, and listen to you spout, boy! You do a wonderful job of it. And I can see that, in spite of all the handicaps, this doggone business is going to go! And certainly, it takes enthusiasm, and conviction, and belief like yours, to make it go. Now, we've been sitting here in this Headquarters building for more than – for about two hours – even more than that, I guess. And I've been interested in knowing something about this building that you have here.

Peter DeGelleke: Well, this building, we fell heir to, from a Boy Scout camp. This was the dining hall for a Boy Scout camp, that was acquired for the project. Actually, we didn't expect to have it for many years to come. This site is destined, or planned to be, a major information and interpretive site when the whole area is in operation, which probably is seven or eight years from now. We always figured that this Boy Scout camp would continue to operate. But there had been long range plans to consolidate this particular council with two other councils. And they folded up and moved out before the acquisition transaction was even completed; and so, we've been here, now, through two winters, in this building. It was a good solid building. Most of the partitions we put in were made out of materials that were salvaged out of an old resort that we acquired up there. And our whole staff turned out and did it; even our girls put on their slacks and came down and helped us paint it. And we had a real family frolic in getting into this building, because we were scattered in three other sites before, and part of them were over in a building that had no windows, and you know what that does to park people. So that we were very anxious to get here. We had to do some insulation in the roof, but the heating system has proved adequate, and it's made a very fine temporary headquarters; and someday, of course, it will be replaced by a permanent building.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, now, where is your permanent headquarters going to be?

Peter DeGelleke: The permanent headquarters in the Master Plan is designated for the upper end of the reservoir, in Montague, New Jersey, which is just opposite Milford, Pennsylvania.

Herbert Evison: Oh, yeah.

Peter DeGelleke: That's the area, the end of the area, that's closest to the New York metropolitan area. And the lay of the land is such down there that the beaches and other concentrations of human use will be at that end. This is

the more scenic end of the Delaware River Gap, down here. But that would be the more heavily used in public recreation.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. And it is figured that they will be able to sustain a water level in it, that you can rely on for beaches clear up on the other end?

Peter DeGelleke: Yes, the operational plan which they have developed now gives us, except in rare droughts, a very substantially stable pool during the recreation season. And our facilities are planned to be usable 90 per cent of the time. Now, these occasional draw-downs, when there is a real drought—

Herbert Evison: Pete, I think we're coming close to the wind-up on this. Certainly, we're coming close to the end of the side of this spool of tape. And some of what you were just saying before you described this headquarters thing, would have made a good wind-up. But perhaps there are one or two other things you'd want to get on the tape before we do wind it up.

Peter DeGelleke: Well, I don't know, Herb; I think the most important thing is the enjoyment that I had out of our conversation here. This has really been wonderful. It's taken me back all those years to when we worked on the same things down in Washington. They get to seem just like yesterday. And I'm sure that we could both go on for hours and hours recalling a lot of these very exciting things, when ideas were very close to accomplishments. You know, that was the big thing. You could think of something; and you could get it put into effect.

Herbert Evison: You could find somebody else whom you could spark!

Peter DeGelleke: That's right. And, nowadays, it takes forever and a day to get an idea into reality.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, and yet, it still is possible, as you're proving almost every day.

Peter DeGelleke: Well, it's possible, but you know, we're so – seem to be – so cautious and so afraid to make a mistake, nowadays. And life is too short for that! You can't be so cautious, you've got to take some risks, and this is what we're doing here; we're taking high risks on a lot of these programs, and I'm taking all kinds of risks on the people that we work with. And nobody's ever let me down. Everybody has delivered far more than what they should, than what they have to. And these fellows and girls all work, here, because I think they're all inspired by the possibilities and the mission that his area has.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, well, it takes a guy at the top, on the job, to knit people together and to tie activities together. And I certainly want to go on the tape, as expression of the opinion that the job went out, and certainly found the right man for it, Pete. It's apparent to me, that today has been a great

renewal of a friendship that I've always valued, but that has grown very tenuous over the years. Now, it's really come to life again. And, Pete, you have given me a magnificent afternoon, and I sure want to thank you for it!

Peter DeGelleke: Well, it goes both ways, Herb – Thanks to you!

[END OF INTERVIEW]