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Daniel B. Beard
April 2, 1973

Interview conducted by S. Herbert Evison
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NPS History Collection
Harpers Ferry Center
PO Box 50
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
HFC_Archivist@nps.gov

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Oral History Interviews

With Dan Beard

Reel No. 184

Herb Evison

Washington, D.C.

April 2, 1973

PRO-TYPISTS, INC.

PROFESSIONAL TRANSCRIPTION SERVICE

AREA CODE 202 347-5395

[START OF INTERVIEW]

- Herbert Evison: This is April 2, 1973. I am Herb Evison and this morning I am in the regional office of the Southwest Region of the National Park Service, and with me is Daniel Bartlett Beard whom I taped about ten years ago, largely about his experience in the Everglades. Now, we're going to fill in before and behind that, but first, Dan, let's get on the record when and where you were born and something about your family.
- Dan Beard: All right, Herb. I was born in 1906 in Flushing, New York, on November 28th. I remember it very well because it was Thanksgiving Day; and my parents, Daniel Carter Beard and Beatrice Ellis Beard. My father was quite a famous man. He was one of the originators of the Boy Scouts of America and a hero to several generations of boys. He was known as Uncle Dan Beard.
- Dan Beard: He wrote many books on the outdoors, on camping and woodcraft and things like that, so I went to New York Military Academy, Cornwall-on-the-Hudson, New York, and then I went to Syracuse, New York, to Syracuse University where I got an AB degree in 1930. I met a girl there who was one of the beauty queens of the campus and we were married, and I can't remember just what date we were married. I never can, but it was on June 4th.
- Dan Beard: We have two boys, Daniel Carter Beard II who lives in Manassas, Virginia, and has a wholesale furniture company in Washington, D.C. He has four children, three girls and one boy. My other son is named Albert L. Beard. He lives in Phoenix, Arizona. He went to MIT and became an electronic engineer and he designs computers for Honeywell Corporation.
- Dan Beard: He has two girls. He married a girl from Florida.
- Dan Beard: My other son, Daniel, married a girl from Florida too. And I started off after leaving college by trying to be the director of my father's boys camp, but this was in the depths of the depression, and we just couldn't make a living out of the camp. So, there was an old fellow named Major Welch who was the head of, Herb remembers, who was the head of the Palisades Interstate Park, and he was a friend of ours and he gave me a job as a foreman in the CCC camp, in Palisades Interstate Park.
- Dan Beard: That was one of the coldest winters on record there, it got to be as much as 20 below zero and I had to work outdoors, teaching eastside toughs how to swing an ax and handle a brush. We were cleaning off a proposed lake bottom and it was pretty damn cold, and I was pretty discouraged because I was just fresh out of college and had a new bride and the future was before me, and here I was slugging it out with an ax.

- Dan Beard: But another friend of mine named William H. Kerr was the director of the Trailside Museum, one of the pioneer nature museums in Palisades Interstate Park, at Bear Pond, right near the Rear Mountain Bridge.
- Herbert Evison: One of the pioneer nature museums, period.
- Dan Beard: Yes, it was. Bill and I are still in touch with other by the way. We talked to each other yesterday on the phone. He's in Tucson, Arizona, but we – a fellow named H. Albert Hopebaum, graduated from Cornell, and Al Hopebaum and I went to work under the CCC program of the State Park Division to make an ecological survey of Palisades Interstate Park, about 40,000 acres.
- Dan Beard: And that was before the word ecology was generally known, by the way, and we went out, that was a very enjoyable time in my life, because I was getting \$135 a month and we went out in the woods and we noted the birds and we trapped the small mammals, to find what was there, made type maps of the forest and they say that this study now is being taken up over a lapse of many years. This was in 1934, is being taken up by scientists now to make comparisons of what has happened in the meantime.
- Dan Beard: So, I made an historical study, I guess, but this went on for a year or so.
- Herbert Evison: Excuse me for interrupting you, but you talked about getting an AB degree, but you didn't say a thing about what you studied and I'm sure it wasn't the ordinary cultural course.
- Dan Beard: No, it was in biology. And I minored in political science which came in very handy as the years went by and I was transferred to what they call the district office of the National Park Service at Bronxville, New York, so I left the fun of wandering in the wilderness and went around to advise CCC camps in the Northeastern states on what could be done to improve the wildlife habitats in these various state parks.
- Dan Beard: Then they changed, they're continually changing and they're still changing the National Park Service and reorganizing, I don't know how many hundred reorganizations I've been through, but they made a reorganization and they were going to send me to a regional office in Richmond, Virginia, which Herb knows well. He used to be regional director there. But this was horrifying to me that I would have to be stuck in an office and I was still young enough to get out and around, so I pleaded with them. I had heard about the proposed Everglades National Park which was still – in 1934 there was an Act put through Congress which authorized it and I pleaded with them to let me get down there and

make a study of proposed Everglades National Park to find out what it was all about.

Dan Beard: Nobody in the Park Service knew much about it. So, I went down there and spent a little over a year, a very happy year and as Herb has said, I have already reported on the Everglades, so I won't say much about that, but we stayed there for about a year and lived in Coral Gables and then I was transferred to the Washington office and—

Herbert Evison: Infinitely worse.

Dan Beard: Infinitely worse. I was with the Wildlife Division under Victor H. Colaine and he was under Carl – the late Carl B. Russell, and I had various jobs there but my main job was to work on a book on endangered species of wildlife, which was going to be published by the CCC. We had the money all lined up for it and we got the famous wildlife painter, Walter A. Webber, to do the illustrations.

Dan Beard: Now this was the first time that anybody had paid particular attention to endangered species of wildlife. They had talked about the loss of passenger pigeons and things like that, but nobody had really made a study of what was going on currently.

Dan Beard: I had other people working with me on this book, authorities from the Bureau of Biological Survey, the Smithsonian Institution and the Park Service and we finally got the book finished and Walt had made some very wonderful illustrations, but about that time the war was coming on and it was difficult and the CCC was beginning to fold up and we couldn't get the – we took the illustrations up to Harold Ickes' office, he was then Secretary of the Interior, but I remember putting them all on his wall and he went around and looked at all these paintings and he was very much impressed with it because they were wonderful paintings and many of them still hang in the Washington office, and he said he would go to the joint committee on printing in Congress to see if he couldn't get permission from them to print this book in color.

Dan Beard: At that time they were not using any color in government publications so we thought goody for us, here's the Secretary of Interior and one of the most famous men in the Roosevelt administration is going to go over there to the joint committee and plead our case, so he did and they turned him down unanimously.

Dan Beard: So, then we didn't know what to do. So, I went to the MacMillan Company in New York and got them interested and they finally published the book without many of the illustrations. Again, I say it was around wartime and it was called Fading Trails, the Story of Endangered Wildlife.

I don't know how many of the books sold or how popular it was. I know I had my hands on one that was in a prison camp in Austria during the war and it was thumbed through so you could hardly read the book.

Dan Beard: I wish I had that book and I wish we had it in the archives of the National Park Service. I don't know where it went to.

Dan Beard: But from there, when I finished the book, I was transferred to Omaha, Nebraska to what was then called the Region Two and now the Midwest Regional office, and I replaced Adolph Murie there as a regional biologist and—

Herbert Evison: Do you remember the reason that you replaced him.

Dan Beard: Because Adolph was being assigned to Alaska to make studies of Mount McKinley, of the wolves at Mount McKinley, and incidentally on this endangered species since that time there's been much interest, of course, in the species and the Congress passed an Act, an Endangered Species Act, and set up within the Fish and Wildlife Service a division on endangered species and they are now very active on trying to save them and I've been consulted by them several times and feel kind of complimented that this book had some bearing upon this action.

Dan Beard: Well, anyhow, I went to Omaha, Tom Allen was then the regional director – no, Lawrence Marion was the regional director and Tom Allen came in later – no, it was just the other way around, I guess.

Herbert Evison: Tom was the first regional director.

Dan Beard: Tom was the first one and then Lawrence Marion came in and I remember being called into Marion's office, Paul Brown and Don Alexander and old CCC people to listen to – Marion was a CCC man himself, to listen to the President make his speech on Pearl Harbor and we all sat around there. It was a pretty glum meeting, but the CCC began to fold up because of the war, and Arthur Demeray called me up one time – Arthur Demeray was associate director in Washington, grand man and he called me up and he said we're going to have to abolish your job, but we don't want to lose you. Well, that was nice. I didn't want to be lost and he said, you can either go to Dinosaur National Monument in Utah as superintendent or you can go to Theodore Roosevelt Memorial up in North Dakota, as superintendent. He said you can have your choice.

Dan Beard: Well, I chose Dinosaur in Utah and then I became a permanent park employee and then I got the – I was making real money. I made \$2,700 a year up there and Dinosaur is 800,000 acres. I had one summer ranger and an Italian fellow who cut wood and worked around the place, and I had a horse and a pickup truck.

Dan Beard: Now, fortunately for me, Herb, I had been in the calvary in a New York military academy and I had ridden all kinds of horses, all kinds of trick riding and everything else, so when I got out there among those cowboys, I wasn't lost.

Dan Beard: They, of course, every time I went out with them, they gave me the worst horse that they could find, so I never got bucked off, but I had some pretty hairy experiences.

Dan Beard: And I used to ride the range with these cowboys, and this was just about the last of the old west out there at that time. So, we used to ride the range and count the cattle that they had, these were inholdings and the Park had a lot of inholdings of ranches, but we regulated the number of cattle or sheep that they should have in their allotments or tried to have and I had to outfox those cowboys because they'd hide their cattle up a canyon and I'd have to find them and count them, but we got along fine, and then I was drafted into the army and my wife and children went back to Syracuse, New York, to stay with her folks, and my army experience wasn't much to talk about. I spent most of my time at Fort Bliss, Texas, where I gave lectures on Japan and things like that, which I have never been to Japan and – but the reason I gave lectures, I got in the I & E program, as they called it, the information and education program because it was so damn hot and dusty outside drilling and working on my guns, that I wanted to get indoors, so we had an air cooler, so I'll just tell you one little incident if I may.

Dan Beard: We rented a house up in [inaudible] New Mexico up in the mountains, where it would be cooler for Betty and the kids and I was on furlough and I went up there and my hobby is painting pictures, landscapes, and I went up there and I had – I took my paints out and I went out on the edge of the road and I was painting the white sands which you could see down in the valley in the background and I had on an old straw hat and a dirty shirt and a pair of overalls and an old gentleman came up behind me and he got talking to me.

Dan Beard: He was with a young girl and he said that he was interested in birds, so we had something in common and we talked about the birds of Cloud [inaudible] and so on and he said why don't you come up to the Shuster cottage and we'll have a drink later on and we'll talk some more, so I went up to the Shuster cottage and I was supposed to – my furlough, I told them I was going to New York so I got a couple of extra days that way, and I went up there and the girl came downstairs and said the General will be down in a minute and down comes this old gentleman with a fatigue jacket on and three stars on it and I was just a sergeant and I was out of uniform and I thought, my gosh, what's going to happen to me.

- Dan Beard: And he said your name is Dan, isn't it, and I said yes, and he said I'm Myers, and he said, I think you look as though you need a drink. So, I did and after that when I used to go to his house, when I was at Fort Bliss and go over there, and he had painted pictures of birds and we talked, and it made things very pleasant for us.
- Dan Beard: But I thought you might be interested in that little experience.
- Herbert Evison: A sergeant and a three-star general.
- Dan Beard: And he used to call me up at my office and the first time he called the Lieutenant in charge said, my God, no, and he said, a General Meyers who is in charge of the whole outfit wants to talk to you, and he said, he called you by name. Well, it was just one of those funny little experiences in life that I thought you might be interested in.
- Dan Beard: But from there when I left the army, I went to the Everglades and I have told my story of the Everglades.
- Herbert Evison: But eventually they pulled you out of the Everglades.
- Dan Beard: They pulled me out of the Everglades. Connie Worth called me up one time and he said, you've done your job in the Everglades. Would you be willing to move to Olympic National Park? We need someone with your background at Olympic National Park in the State of Washington. Well, I had been there and I knew it rained all the time and it was quite from South Florida to southwestern Washington, but Betty, the Park Service wife that she was, said, all right, we'll go and by that time both of our boys were gone, so we moved all our furniture all the way out to Olympic National Park and that was a most enjoyable experience, a wonderful park, glaciers and mountains and one there that interested me, I was raised on the water and I've always been interested in the sea, and there was a sea coast strip that Harold Ickes had set aside out there.
- Dan Beard: It was a big long strip of narrow land, detached from the park, that he got it with PWA, Public Works Administration, money and I think he probably could be put in jail if he was still alive.
- Dan Beard: But he got it, and the main thing is we had the land and there was very little road on it. It was mostly a seacoast with offshore rocks and birds and seals and whales and great forest and we used to go down, Betty and I would take our sleeping bags and go down there and pack in and sleep on the beach, and you'd see elk and deer and bear and lots of skunks and things and listen to the breakers and there was pressure being put on, Scoop Jackson, the Senator from Washington, and Senator Magnuson, to get a road down that beach and this had conservationists quite upset in the northwest and it had me upset because this was one of the last – I think

I've covered most of the seacoast of the United States and the Gulf of Mexico in my travels with the CCC and others and there's practically no place where there isn't a road along the shoreline. I guess Fire Island is about the only one I can think of offhand that doesn't have a road along the shoreline and it pretty near did one time.

Dan Beard: But this pressure became very great so I thought what are we going to do and I remembered that William O. Douglas, the associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, was a Northwesterner and great outdoorsman and great wilderness lover and I didn't know him then, and now I call him Bill Douglas. We know each other very well.

Dan Beard: But I went to him in Washington and laid before him the problem and said have you got any suggestions what we can do about it? He said, yes, suppose I lead a group down the shore, and we get a lot of publicity on it and see if we can't get enough publicity to get our support rallied to protect that seashore. So, he did, and we had about 70 of the leading conservationists in the country and they all had their packs on their backs. There was no fooling around about bringing in supplies and stuff. We had our own supplies and we had a number of photographers, quite naturally and they had to have their packs on their backs too and some of them weren't used to it.

Dan Beard: But we took three days to hike down the beach from the Ozette Indian Reservation to La Push and there were lots of pictures taken and there was lots of national publicity. I know they had a big story in Time Magazine on the subject and the New York Times editorialized on it, one of their chief editorials and so there's no road down the beach to this day. And I don't think there will be a road down the beach and that's one of the last remaining wilderness beaches in the whole 48 states.

Herbert Evison: You know a few years ago there was a proposal to separate that from the park and make a national seashore, recreation area out of it.

Dan Beard: That's right, that was one of the devices they were going to use to get that road down the beach and change it from a park that was sacred to something that was less sacred.

Herbert Evison: I know there was quite a bit of discussion but so far as I know it's died down.

Dan Beard: It's died down and I haven't heard a thing about it since. But we lived out there in that country and caught salmon and ate salmon and hiked the mountains and the glaciers and we got used to the weather.

Herbert Evison: Missed Oregon and hit Washington.

- Dan Beard: And then again I got a phone call from Connie Worth and he said that Ronnie Lee, who was the chief of information, the late Ronnie Lee much beloved, was going to go to become – he thought he had enough time in Washington and was going to go to Philadelphia as regional director and would I take his place.
- Dan Beard: Well, I was very greatly flattered because this was a very important job in Washington and sure, I would take his place, so we moved again. We bought a house in Springfield, Virginia, and I went to work as chief of the division of interpretation. Now I will tell you what that included if I can remember.
- Dan Beard: It included the branch of history, the branch of archaeology, the branch of information, the branch of publications and the branch of natural history. I think I remembered them all.
- Herbert Evison: Except that the branch of publications was a section of publications.
- Dan Beard: A section of the branch of information, that's right. You corrected me correctly. You headed it for a long time, very well. So, this was really a challenging assignment and I traveled all over the country, made speeches, wrote speeches, had speeches written for me, attended conferences. I covered 250,000 miles in an airplane. I found out – I got kind of tired of riding in the air, but it was up close to the center of power and some of those things that I wanted to do, and the reason that Connie brought me in there, he said, he wanted the field viewpoint expressed more in Washington. He thought there were too many people that had been there too long and hadn't gotten, were losing touch with the field.
- Dan Beard: I sure as hell had the field viewpoint but everybody didn't want to hear it, I can say that, but this was – I lasted at that job for several years and let's see, I don't know what else to say about it.
- Dan Beard: Oh, one thing that we accomplished then that I'm kind of proud of, we started a national registry of historic sites. The Park Service had been told by the Congress, by the Historic Sites Act, I think it was 1935, wasn't it, Herb, or something like that?
- Herbert Evison: Yes, '35 is right.
- Dan Beard: That they were to make a survey of the country to seek out historic sites and buildings which were of national importance and should be within the National Park Service, owned and operated by the government.
- Dan Beard: Now, Independence Hall is outstanding example of that. But when they were doing this they found lots of sites, other sites that were not of national importance but were important enough that they should be

protected and some of them were in state and city ownership right here in Santa Fe, one of them is the palace of the governors which is owned by the state and was safe, and being taken care of, but others were in private ownership and were endangered always by people dying off and then the heirs selling it and it becoming a subdivision or something or other like that.

Dan Beard: So we got the idea that we would pick out these important historic sites and would give them a big bronze plaque designating them as an historic site, not as an historic site, but as a landmark, an historic landmark and that the owners would agree that they would try to preserve the historical integrity of the building or whatever it was.

Dan Beard: Now it was a public relations program and it has been very successful, as you know, Herb, and we have several sites right here and incidentally, I'm very pleased that after I came to Santa Fe that my father's boyhood home became an historic landmark and so in Washington, the scene was changing a little bit and I became assistant director for public affairs. And this was another reorganization, and I had publications and information and foreign affairs under me, and I had the status of an assistant director and could go out and talk with a little more authority.

Dan Beard: It was public relations pure and simple but public relations had never been identified, as far as I can remember, and made a separate part of our organization and of course, having been a superintendent for many years, why, public relations was something that I had learned quite a bit about.

Herbert Evison: Often the hard way.

Dan Beard: Often the hard way, yes, so again, I was on the road and attending meetings and making speeches and it got a little tiresome and I longed to get back to the field after a while, although everybody treated me very well in Washington, but Tom Allen was going to retire as regional director for the southwest region and they were going to change directors, I knew. I knew that George Hartzog was coming in as the director, but not many other people knew about it at that time and I was – Stewart Udall and I had talked about these things and I knew that Connie Wirth was going to go out. This was long before anything was mentioned.

Dan Beard: And I didn't, frankly, I didn't care too much for a change. Maybe I was getting too old to change but I knew that there were a lot of changes coming and we were getting a dynamic new director and I was feeling less dynamic each day, and that wasn't the whole story, of course, but when Tom said – when I knew Tom was going to retire, I went to see director Wirth and he said, you know Tom Allen's going to retire and I said, yes,

and he said, you got any suggestions on who should take his place and I said, yes, me. He said, all right, if you want to do that, you go ahead.

Dan Beard: And he said, I take care of my boys. I always remember him saying that, and so we moved to Santa Fe where I became regional director of the Southwest region and this was somewhat new country for me and I knew the northeast and knew the southeast and I knew the northwest and I knew the Midwest and the Rocky Mountains, but I didn't know the southwest very well, so it took a lot of learning and I didn't do anything very outstanding here while I was regional director.

Dan Beard: But time went on and it got time to retire and I thought that I might well as well move out, so Betty and I bought a home here in Santa Fe and we live here now and we hope we last a few more years because we enjoy this town and then the hustle and bustle was frankly getting me down, the traffic, the rushing around to meetings, the travel and all of that was pretty hard and this was riding around in the car going back to the parks and talking with the superintendents and the rangers and the naturalists and the people I knew and I knew their problems, and I hope I helped them a little bit because I was never very enthusiastic about regional offices.

Dan Beard: I thought that they weren't helping the field enough and I determined that this office would be oriented so it would help the field and it still is under Frank Kowsky, he's done a splendid job there.

Dan Beard: There's a lot of small areas, archaeological sites mostly in this region or there were before they made another reorganization and changed the boundaries of the regions around and these people, they needed help and they needed a road fixed and park had road fixing equipment and we could transfer over to these fellows for a while and let them get their road fixed, and we had architects that could help them get the roof back in shape at the visitor's center, so it was a lot of fun. I enjoyed getting back to the field and I enjoyed being with these very splendid people of the Park Service.

Dan Beard: Have I got anything else to say, Herb?

Herbert Evison: Several years ago, I taped, ten years, I taped Natt Dodge, who was a fellow resident of Santa Fe and he gave me a question to ask you, and I'm going to ask you.

Herbert Evison: Looking back over your Park Service career, which spanned how many years.

Dan Beard: I don't remember, I could never remember.

Herbert Evison: Somewhat more than 30, I'm sure, about 35. Anyway, looking back over that, would you single out any one thing that you had a hand in or that you accomplished or that you were a little bit prouder of than anything else?

Dan Beard: Oh, I think Everglades National Park, no question about that.

Herbert Evison: Why?

Dan Beard: As I told you, I went there, studied that park before it was even close to being a park and I was amazed at the fertility of the area, the life there, the birds and the alligators and the fish and everything else, and I had never been in Florida before. I had lived in the northeast and this was a whole new experience for me and so to go back there again, later on after the war and to be a part in getting that to become a park, under very difficult situations because there was a land boom on in Florida then and this park was right on the edge of the Miami metropolitan region and there were all kinds of fights we had which I told you about already and I had the fun of seeing the park land purchased, the money that the state, that we got the state to give us, that was before the federal government would appropriate money for acquiring parks, to buy the land and to work on the master plan, the road is practically, the only road in the park, I lined up practically the whole road and designed the – where the ranger stations would be and where the main development of the park would be.

Dan Beard: I worked with the proposed concessioners and finally got a group together that would finance the building of the buildings at Flamingo and saw the whole thing through from nothing to a big, over a one million acre national park and settled the commercial fishing problems and I'm not taking credit for it all – there were a lot of other people involved but I was in the spearhead position.

Dan Beard: And that was a most worthwhile experience. I feel a little sad about it now because they have loused up the water supply for the park and they have lost lots of their wildlife there because of this. I kind of hate to go back to it again, but while I was there, it was – and it was organizing a group, starting off and all we had was a tin garage where the hot sun beat on it, where we had our office, and ending up with a fine office, air conditioned and everything.

Dan Beard: And we had to fight fires and superintendent and the chief clerk had their firefighting clothes in their lockers, and really taking a personal interest, and I think that you can overdo this personal interest. You can get very possessive about something that is not yours, but nevertheless I think that we're losing that in the Park Service now, this personal interest in things.

- Dan Beard: Like Sam Weems had in the Blue Ridge Parkway, like Fred Overly had in that Olympic and the – and now they move people from here to there, they don't even call most of them superintendents anymore, they call them park managers and I know I'm being an old gray beard when I talk this way, but I think I'm right. I think that personal interest – the rangers took interest in their ranger districts.
- Dan Beard: They fought away the poachers and they took interest in fighting the fires and getting them out and they weren't looking for promotions or transfers or anything like that, and I think that was the most enjoyable time of my life.
- Herbert Evison: And the one – that apparently has given you the deepest satisfaction.
- Dan Beard: The one that has given me the deepest satisfaction, yeah.
- Herbert Evison: Well, Dan, I don't know anything more to ask you. I think in our two sessions we have pretty well covered the waterfront.
- Herbert Evison: I would just like to put on the record though one question. I remember sitting in your office in Washington one day and you were talking about a project of yours that was just a thought, at that time, and that was an idea of putting down all that you can remember about your father, about the attitudes, his activities, his accomplishments and so on, and I'm wondering if you have ever done it.
- Dan Beard: When I was in Washington, I put all of his papers in the Library of Congress and of course, that was a good source of work. I haven't done it, Herb, I should have. My friend Bill Kerr, whom I mentioned earlier, has just written an article which I think is going in Reader's Digest. He was a very close personal friend of my father's and he tells a lot about his history and a lot of personal recollections of my father and that's – now, I'm working on, I'm using my very poor talent as an artist to work on a silver medal of my father which is going to be run off I don't know when, it commemorates the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Boy Scout Council in Rockland County, New York, which was where we lived, where he's buried, and I'm fooling around trying to get something that their artists can use and they want something that I would say came from something that I had made. So that's my current project.
- Herbert Evison: You talked in this about your interest in painting and about the general who looked over your shoulder, do you do that anymore?
- Dan Beard: I do some, not as much as I thought I was going to do, but I'm just getting kind of lazy.

- Herbert Evison: You know, I think I've seen only one or two things that you've done, but there isn't any question about it, you have a very considerable talent and of course, you also have a talent for very funny drawings. I remember a letter that I saw from you years ago and I think it was when you first went down to the Everglades and on the top was a picture of you at your desk which was a packing box and I think another small packing box was your chair and you were on the beach there at the Everglades.
- Herbert Evison: But I know that you have a lot of talent in that direction, and I wonder if you would continue to use that.
- Dan Beard: Not too much, but those little drawings used to do a lot of good. I remember a picture that we made down in the Everglades when the Park was underway. We were having a lot of trouble getting appropriations and there was kind of – the Park Service was starved for appropriations then and we hadn't anything in the park, hadn't built a thing, but there was a little privy down on the road to Flamingo over a canal, just a plain ordinary privy, and we got a picture taken of that by a fellow named Malott who was a Walt Disney photographer doing one of the true life adventures then, and we blew this picture up into a big 8 by 10 picture and I entitled it: "The Only Public Comfort Station in the Largest Park East of the Mississippi River."
- Dan Beard: And I sent that into Washington and Director Wirth got a big charge out of it, as everybody else did and he took it over and he showed it to the congressional committee and they all laughed their heads off, but it had its effect, it did some good.
- Herbert Evison: Now were you there when the Disney photographers were in there taking prowlers of the Everglades?
- Dan Beard: Oh, yes, indeed, I was there.
- Herbert Evison: I had forgotten. You may have recorded that on the other tape, but I don't remember that you did.
- Dan Beard: Yes, we had a cage of small alligators that they had collected and we had it outside of our window in our bedroom and we were going to wait for those alligators to grow up so that the fish couldn't eat them and we would let them loose, and every time I'd come back from work in the afternoon, my Betty would get after me and said, "here's your net, go down and get some fish for the alligators," so I had to feed those blinking alligators for a long time.
- Herbert Evison: Well, I'm sure that's one you didn't mention before.
- Dan Beard: I don't think I did.

- Herbert Evison: Well, Dan, this has been an awful lot of fun to sit and talk with you anytime and get your – a little bit something more.
- Dan Beard: These tapes are going to be valuable as the years go by, I think.
- Herbert Evison: I hope they are.
- Dan Beard: I hope they are part of the archives of the Park Service.
- Herbert Evison: I'm glad to have two from you in the collection.
- Herbert Evison: As so often happens after we thought we were finished the post-taping discussion produced some other things and Dan, you just mentioned a guy whom I greatly admire personally and professionally and that's Waring Michael, better known as Mike and you were saying, asked if I knew how you got him into the service, no, got him as engineer at the Everglades.
- Dan Beard: Mike worked for the New York State Parks for quite a while and then he had worked for the Park Service before under the CCC program and I was looking for an engineer and I was up in the Washington office and Connie Worth said, "Dan, come here a minute. I've got an engineer for you," and I said, "well, good for you, I'm looking for one," and he said, "well this guy is quite a fellow. He's an outdoorsman. He's a practical engineer. He can fix a motor, he can survey, he can do almost anything," and I said, "that's just what I'm looking for," and he said, "his name is Waring Michael," and I said, "why hell's bells, I knew him before you did, Connie," and Connie kind of bristled up and said, "no, you didn't," he said, "I knew him when he first came in the CCC."
- Dan Beard: And I said, "well, I knew him before that," and he said, "where did you know him," and I said, "he was a counselor in my father's Boy Scout camp in 1916." So, I had him.
- Herbert Evison: But anyway, you got him.
- Dan Beard: Anyhow I got him, and we've been close friends ever since.

[END OF INTERVIEW]