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Deryl Stone
October 30, 2013

Interview conducted by Lu Ann Jones
Transcribed by Teresa Bergen
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ANPR Oral History Project

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Reviewed and corrected by Deryl Stone.

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[START OF TRACK 1]

Lu Ann Jones: —just get this started. I always introduce the recording just by saying this is LuAnn Jones, and I'm here in Saint Louis, Missouri, on October 29, 2013. End of a long day here today. I'm at the Association of National Park Rangers Ranger Rendezvous. This is our second year of interviewing for the oral history project. And why don't you introduce yourself? Full name and give me a date of birth if you don't mind. And just kind of orient me a little bit.

Deryl Stone: Yeah. Deryl B. Stone. I was born 1943, November 18. No, May 18, 1943.

Lu Ann Jones: Where were you born?

Deryl Stone: Seattle, Washington. Product of World War Two.

Lu Ann Jones: Oh. So, tell me a little bit about your growing up. I'm always interested in people's origin stories. And kind of what your family did and kind of early influences.

Deryl Stone: Well, they moved back, my father was Californian. And they moved back after the war to Selma, California, which is central San Joaquin Valley. Dad was a production manager for a farm trailer company for a while. Then he took over a grocery store in Selma and ran the grocery store for many years there. And I grew up stocking shelves in the grocery store. And from there, we were there until I was a sophomore in high school. We moved to Madera for about two years, where Dad had a store there. And then we moved up to the mountains of California, just outside of Yosemite National Park at Bass Lake near the south entrance of that park. And that's where I finished high school. Went to high school there and kind of my formative years up there in the mountains.

Lu Ann Jones: Mm hmm. So, did you go to Yosemite? Did you family do recreational stuff in Yosemite?

Deryl Stone: Well before that, when we lived in Selma, we had a cabin in Wilsonia, which is in Sequoia National Park. And it's an in-holding that was there before the park. So, there are private houses in there. And we never thought anything about being what the Park Service called in-holders. And then I joined the Park Service and found out that's kind of a dirty word, being an in-holder. They want us all gone. And they want us all gone, and they wanted all the cabins. They wanted to take those out and put it back to nature.

Deryl Stone: But this was fun growing up there in the summer times, playing, because right out our door was the national park, and nobody was around. And we used to have a lot of fun.

Lu Ann Jones: So, what kinds of things would you do there as a kid?

- Deryl Stone: Oh, we fished and hiked. There was a big rock and there was a young sapling tree. And we'd get up on top of the rock and jump into the top of the tree. And it would actually bend over until we were about four feet off the ground. Then I'd let go and it would snap back up. And we'd go climb the rock again and jump off. (Lu Ann Jones laughs) We never thought about what if the tree broke or we missed the tree as we were jumping towards it. Just hunting and fishing. We'd go up there and use that as a base camp. And we'd go out into the national forest and go hunting and do a lot of fishing out there. Trout fishing.
- Lu Ann Jones: Mm hmm. In terms of looking ahead and thinking about what you might do in life, what were you, were you thinking about anything in particular, say, when you were in high school?
- Deryl Stone: Girls and cars. I had no real long-term plans. No goals in life. And in my senior year, in the late November, a friend of mine offered me a job selling Christmas trees. So, I quit high school and went and sold Christmas trees. And he was paying me 100 dollars a week plus room and board. I didn't think far enough ahead that it was a very short-term job. So, I knocked around after that for almost a year. And then went into the service.
- Lu Ann Jones: So, if I understand correctly, you became a medic. Is that correct?
- Deryl Stone: I was a corpsman in the navy. And I then volunteered to go to the fleet marine force or the US Marine Corps, as a combat corpsman serving with the Marine Corps in combat in Vietnam.
- Lu Ann Jones: Uh huh. So, what were you doing? And why did you make that decision?
- Deryl Stone: I had heard about Vietnam. I hadn't been there. And the war was just starting in 1965. And I needed to know what war was about. And I knew I wasn't going to be an infantryman. I was going to be a corpsman. I knew I had a very valuable job. And so, it was one of those things that I hadn't experienced it, I wanted to know about it. And we were already hearing then that it was wrong to go over there. And yet I needed to go over there and see it and make a value judgment for myself.
- Lu Ann Jones: So, what was that experience like?
- Deryl Stone: It was really an interesting experience. I got to treat a lot of wounded and injured Americans. And then I got to work with the Vietnamese. Got to do things there that here in the country, nurses don't get to do. I sewed up lots of wounds. Started IVs. Prescribed medication, especially for the Vietnamese. And things you don't get to do elsewhere. And got to know the Vietnamese as people. Not as a lot of, the term they used was the "damn gooks." I got to know the Vietnamese as people. And I really, really enjoyed that, getting to know them and their culture. I thought that was important. I enjoyed getting to know the culture.
- Lu Ann Jones: How long were you there?

- Deryl Stone: Thirteen months and 26 days, but who was counting. (Lu Ann Jones laughs) Excluding the month I was in Yokosuka Naval Hospital. I had gotten evicted out of there for a month because of an eardrum blown out.
- Lu Ann Jones: Well, so can I ask, what did you think about the war since you'd gone there, and you'd seen it with your own eyes?
- Deryl Stone: Well, I'll move ahead a little bit. I started college on a college campus in California in 1967. And there were seven of us on the whole campus that were returned veterans. You know, any ethnic group can talk about being a minority. But we were a minority. And I had one professor in one class that started off the semester talking about the evils of Vietnam.
- Deryl Stone: And after about three days of listening to him, I stood up and said, "Where were you at in Vietnam?" He said, "I wasn't there." I said, "How the hell can you speak about Vietnam if you haven't been there?" "I read the newspaper." I said, "Does that necessarily, because the newspaper made it true? Do you know anything about the medical aid to the Vietnamese program we're doing? The relocation of the Vietnamese?"
- Deryl Stone: And he said no. And he said, "But I know I'm right." And I figured right then it was time to drop that class.
- Deryl Stone: So, it was really, to me, it was a learning and growing experience. And we didn't learn from that because one of the major things that I learned is that we went over there and they didn't tell the people, we didn't tell our people going over there about the culture, the history, and the finances of the country. A little thing like a footlocker you bought over there cost about 100 ps, somewhere around a dollar. They would start off by asking 100 ps. And the Americans thought that was a ludicrously low price. And we'd pay it. Instead of bargaining them down to about 55 to 60 ps, which would have been the fair market value. And subsequently, we totaled their economy for the lower people because they no longer could afford the goods that they had, because we had caused this escalation in prices. So, you know, we should have taught everybody over there before they went a little bit of the language. A common hello, goodbye, thank you. Taught them about their culture. Taught them about their religion. And so, they had a little more respect for the Vietnamese as individuals, instead of just, you know, an enemy. So, it was a unique experience.
- Lu Ann Jones: So, you get back in '66 or early '67?
- Deryl Stone: '66. December, '66.
- Lu Ann Jones: So, then it's how many years before you, about three years before you get to the Park Service, right? So, what happens in there? And how do you get to Yosemite as a seasonal?
- Deryl Stone: A little bit of college. I still was not much of a scholar at that time. I had, though, done something in Vietnam, is I started reading. And before I went to Vietnam, I had never read a book cover to cover. And I got over there, and I found reading was a way of taking me out of that place and

putting me someplace else. So, by the time I left, I'd read everything from *Up From Slavery*, Booker T. Washington, to Freud's *Interpretation of Dreams*. So, I came back, started college. But to me it was like a high school with ashtrays. I'd been through one war, one wife and around the world. I'd been divorced. My wife left me while I was in Vietnam. The old "dear John" letter. And so, college and I didn't get along after one year. So, I left college and went to work for the sheriff's department in Madera County. And worked there for a little over two years. And felt right at home.

Deryl Stone: Then I had this bright idea. I want to be an independent businessman and make lots of money. So, I left the sheriff's department and owned a service and maintenance company up in the mountains. Well, I had a good idea, good location. But not taking economics in school, I didn't know you needed capital.

Deryl Stone: So, after almost a year, we went under. And I kind of scratched my head. I thought I'd go back to the sheriff's department.

Deryl Stone: Well, a friend of mine, it was just after the Fourth of July, a friend of mine called me and said, "Deryl," he said, "you know about the riot." I said, "Sure I know about the riot." He said, "We're looking for rangers to do law enforcement because we don't have any trained rangers. And you've been through law enforcement training."

Deryl Stone: I said, "I don't want to wear that funny flat hat." Because by then, my parents had had a grocery store in Wawona, in Yosemite, had moved up there. And my wife points at our 18-month-old and says, "Yes, you do."

Deryl Stone: So, I said, "Okay." I went up there temporarily. Bill Wade interviewed me and hired me.

Deryl Stone: And still at that time, I didn't think I wanted to do it. But then I started doing the job. And I had a new district ranger that had a lot of the same philosophies that I did. I found they needed my medical background for emergencies. I'd done some firefighting in my misbegotten youth, so I got to use that wild land firefighting. And the law enforcement I felt very comfortable in. And I felt a whole lot superior over most of them, because they had no law enforcement training and they gave them a gun and a patrol car and a citation book. And they didn't know how to use the gun. And it was kept under the seat or in the glove compartment in those days. So, I felt very comfortable with that. And the young seasonals, I'd try to give them some hints. So that's where I started out. It was by accident. It wasn't a purposeful thing.

Deryl Stone: Because before then, I always thought rangers were the dumbest thing God ever put on this earth. Because when I lived at Bass Lake, we would pick up tourist girls and drive up. And at nine o'clock at night, the Wawona District rangers used to go off duty. So, we'd drive up to the Mariposa Grove and park in the middle of the Tunnel Tree and neck. And

tell the girl we were the first person to ever do this, I bet. And they all believed us! (Lu Ann Jones laughs) And so I, you know, to me, you know, the ranger was just Ranger Booboo. No knowledge. No nothing. Just kind of walked around looking funny in his hat. So, I never wanted to be one.

Lu Ann Jones: You said that your philosophy of law enforcement was similar to the person who was hiring you. So, what was that? And how do you think it differed perhaps from what had previously been, or maybe—

Deryl Stone: Well, there was, previously, there was none. It was almost nonexistent. Bill Wade was acting district ranger while the new, Bud Inman came in. And he and I just clicked, you know? He had said, you know, hunting season was going to start. And he says, “Well, what should we do?”

Deryl Stone: I said, “Well,” I said, “there’s a corner of the park a road goes through.” And I said, “There’s poaching out there.” He says, “No.”

Deryl Stone: I said, “Yes! I reported it to the old district ranger one time and came back two weeks later and the gut pile was still there, and nobody had even investigated it.” So, he said, “Well, show me.”

Deryl Stone: So, we went up. The first weekend of deer season, he and I wrote more citations and seized more guns, loaded guns in a vehicle, than they had, all the rest of the rangers in the entire park, in the entire year.

Deryl Stone: And yet he kind of didn’t, didn’t want to have a cop image. And kind of taught me or reinforced that we were park rangers that do law enforcement, whatever the law enforcement may be. Everywhere from explaining to why we don’t pick flowers to narcotics transactions. But we still have the, want to maintain the image of the National Park Service.

Lu Ann Jones: Mm hmm. Well how, how, well, first of all, what had you heard about the riot since that had happened just, yeah—

Deryl Stone: I talked to one of the sheriff’s deputies that had gone in under mutual aid when they called for help. And I know this is an ethnic term, but it’s the one he used. It was a “Chinese fire drill.” The most unprofessional group of people he had ever seen, doing the dumbest things. And I have videos now of the riot and talked to a lot of people. And you know, they did everything wrong. They didn’t have the adequate number of staff. They let the incident escalate to a point way beyond what it should have been. And it should have been stopped at the very early stages and taken the action then instead of letting it get so far out of hand that it was beyond control. So subsequently, you know, they didn’t cause the riot, but they certainly could have prevented it.

Deryl Stone: And you know, they put horse patrol, I mean trail patrol, and maintenance people on horses with axe handles that had no training. They were pushing the people into areas they shouldn’t have been pushing them in and pushed them into campgrounds. And they didn’t have enough sense to realize when they were outnumbered and back off.

- Deryl Stone: But then again, the Mariposa Sheriff's Department drove in there and they surrounded his car. And the sheriff put his gun out the window and fired a shot in the air. And somebody stole his gun. Stole his gun. Smashed the window of his patrol car and that sort of stuff, you know. And it was just, I guess "Chinese fire drill" is the only word. It was just never handled professionally. Because there wasn't, at the time, I think, there was only three people in the whole park who had been through the Park Police training academy at the time. So, there wasn't the in-depth understanding of preventative law enforcement. They still had the mentality up until that happened that the only visitors were Ozzie and Harriet. Ozzie and Harriet had left the park by then. And this new generation had come in and they were not able to cope with it. They couldn't speak their language. They didn't understand it. And they weren't ahead of the curve. They were behind the curve.
- Lu Ann Jones: So, lots of questions. How did you learn what it was like to be law enforcement in the Park Service there? Kind of the Park Service philosophy married to law enforcement philosophy?
- Deryl Stone: It was such a chaotic mix at the time. I went there and they loved me because I had my own gun belt and my own gun. And I had training and I could shoot good. And you know, I knew it. So, I felt comfortable with that. But the Park Service had no real philosophy. Their manuals on law enforcement were outdated. There was no ongoing training. And you're working with someone that has no knowledge, no training. They're doing it by the seat of their pants. Which is really frightening in law enforcement.
- Deryl Stone: And then a few months later, the Park Service, all of a sudden, don't wear your weapon. They said, "Oh, we don't want to offend the park visitor. So, take your gun off. You can only put your gun on when there's a demonstrated need."
- Deryl Stone: Wait a minute! By the time there's a demonstrated need, it's too late to go back, unlock your car and unlock the glove compartment and get your gun out of the glove compartment because it's too late then. You need it at all times. So even with that mandate, we will not be wearing weapons and only get them out when we need them – a lot of us, four or five that I know, were carrying secondary guns hidden on our bodies. Just because it was ludicrous to go out and do law enforcement and be unarmed to do it in that time and place.
- Lu Ann Jones: Well what were you doing, mostly? What kinds of infractions or violations were you dealing with?
- Deryl Stone: I did road patrol and horse patrol in the campground that year and the next year. And then later on during the fall I was out during hunting season where there were lots of people armed with weapons. But everything from narcotics in the campground to standard visitor violations. Driving off the roadway, littering. And it could be any one of those things, from the most

mundane, "Please, folks, don't do that" to, "Face down! You're in a heap of trouble because we just caught you selling drugs." So, it was such a broad spectrum of it. We didn't have, we didn't have, as in a sheriff's department, or a PD, you would have the patrol officer handle initially and then the detectives come in and handle it. It was all yours. And vandalism cases. Everything you had in the park; we were handling.

Lu Ann Jones: So how long did you stay at Yosemite? And how long did you stay seasonal?

Deryl Stone: Yosemite was the only seasonal; I worked seasonal there at Yosemite. And worked the front country. And then the last summer I was there seasonally, and in those days, I worked eight or nine months a year. You could work up until two pay periods, something like that. And I did horse control quite a bit, and then front country patrol. And then we got, my wife and I got to take over the Merced Lake Ranger Station, which is 14 miles from the nearest road. So, we went back there. And she was three months pregnant when we went back there. Three year-old child. Log cabin. No electricity. Running water piped out of the stream. Wood stove to cook on. And washing clothes on scrub board and tub. And it took me three days to go buy groceries, because I had to go buy groceries. One day to ride out to Tuolumne, the next day to drive to Lee Vining, buy groceries and drive back, and then the next day to pack it back in. And she ran the ranger station while I was gone as a volunteer. So, it was a really a truly a real ranger position.

Deryl Stone: Being a corpsman, I had a lot of medical knowledge for that time and place. And the doctor in Yosemite Valley had been a navy doctor. So, he knew what training I'd had and what experience I'd had. So, when we went to the back country, he gave me a medical kit with drugs in it. And we sat down and had a protocol, what I could give out without getting a hold of him. And what I needed to call dispatch to call a hospital to get a doctor's order to, you know, the morphine and some of the other stuff.

Deryl Stone: And I had a young man who, on the trail crew, was stung by a bee or a wasp nest. And he went into anaphylactic shock. Well, the trail crew called me and I rode up there and told the wife to go down to Merced Lake International Airport – which is actually a flat rock above the Merced High Sierra Camp – and make sure there was nobody on the rock, because I was getting a helicopter in.

Deryl Stone: Well I guess it was quite a funny sight because she'd got, and it was about three-quarters of a mile. She's got a screaming three year-old who wants his truck. And a five-watt, huge portable radio. And pregnant. Going down the trail to get that while I go up and got the young man and threw him across my saddle. Gave him an epinephrine shot and got him down to, they flew him down to a hospital where they treated him. And then they found out he was underage. He had lied about his age. And they terminated him. And he burned a barn down there in Yosemite. Arsonist.

Burned the barn down. Quite a fiasco to burn the barn down with all the tack and killed some of the horses, the good horses. So, if I had known that, I might not have given him the epinephrine shot. (Lu Ann Jones laughs) Yes, I would have. But—

Lu Ann Jones: Well so who would you see during your time there at the ranger station? Who would you see? I mean, who would be using the park?

Deryl Stone: The backpackers coming up from Yosemite Valley. I guess it was funny. They'd come hiking up and here's this pregnant woman there at the cabin. And my wife had the honor of getting more compliments on the outhouse there than – people said they had never seen such a clean outhouse there that didn't smell very bad. (Lu Ann Jones laughs) Of course, when you're living there and that's your outhouse plus the one for all the trail, she kept it very, very clean. So that was hers.

Deryl Stone: Our son got to be worse than any begging bear that there was. He learned that the backpackers had candy or gorp. And he'd go up the trail, which is right in front of our house and beg.

Deryl Stone: And there were two old gentlemen, the Dimartini brothers, that spent the whole summer at the High Sierra Camp. San Francisco, old money, very nice gentlemen. But they walked every day up to the next lake up. And my son would run out there in the morning because he knew what time they came. And he'd run up and he'd shake hands with each one of them. And while he's shaking hands, he turns another hand over, waiting for this candy bar from them. (Lu Ann Jones laughs) It's just like Yogi Bear out there begging. He learned to be a begging bear.

Lu Ann Jones: (laughs) So I assume, did you go back before the baby was born?

Deryl Stone: She went out, yeah, we went out before the baby was born. And because we were living in Wawona, the doctor, two weeks before the baby was due, had her move down to the Yosemite Valley. And the only place to put her was at the Ranger Club. And here's all of these bachelor rangers at the Ranger Club wringing their hands because here's this pregnant woman. (laughter) Worried about is she going to have the baby right there in the Ranger Club. But she went over to the hospital and had the baby.

Lu Ann Jones: Oh, that was kind of her.

Deryl Stone: And it was really kind of a full circle. Because my father had had a stroke out there at Wawona. And they transported him, and he passed away at Lewis Memorial Hospital. And yet my daughter was born about seven years later there at Lewis Memorial Hospital. So, it was kind of nice to have that there.

Lu Ann Jones: So, at what point did you decide well maybe I'm going to stick around with the National Park Service?

Deryl Stone: After about a year, I decided that it kind of had everything I needed. And the personnel office, well, I'd gotten a GED in the military. So, I had

theoretically high school and one year of college. But the personnel office down there, grumpy old lady. “He doesn’t have the four-year degree like the rangers are supposed to have.”

Deryl Stone: I said, “Well, you know, I’ve got military.” (makes grumbly noise) And at the time, there was not a lot of military people in the service. Because most of them had come in right after World War Two were in, and being a veteran, there wasn’t a lot of us.

Deryl Stone: And so, they had the park technician series, so I was trying to get a park technician job. And Bud Inman had transferred out to the Smokies. And he said, “Come on out here. If you can get on the register, I’ll give you a job. Permanent job.”

Deryl Stone: So, we moved out there with no guarantee of a permanent job. My wife, friend of ours had a pickup truck and a trailer and we hauled everything that we could and off to Tennessee we went. And I got there, and I was on the register, so they hired me as a park technician there.

Lu Ann Jones: And what were you doing there?

Deryl Stone: There I worked just for the district ranger. The north district of Tennessee, on the Tennessee side and I worked directly for him... I didn’t work for the sub district rangers. And I only did special duties. Anti-poaching. Some whiskey stills, there were still a few whiskey stills there. And specific law enforcement like speeding on the spur between Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge Road. The superintendent said they’re much too fast out there. So, I went out and spent my time instilling education into them about speeding.

Deryl Stone: I had one young lady I had stopped and given a citation to. Three days, later, I stopped her and gave her another citation. The next week, I stopped her again. And I walked up to the car and I almost couldn’t give her a citation this time because she looked up at me, she says, “We’re going to have to quit meeting this way. My husband’s getting suspicious.” I almost couldn’t write her a ticket, I was laughing so hard. But I did because that was it. So that was my main job there.

Deryl Stone: Then we didn’t have as much time on the trail. So, Bud said, “Why don’t you work on something and get some volunteers to do a lot of the trail patrol for us?”

Deryl Stone: So, I started a volunteer in park trail patrol program there. And went through the University of Tennessee, their hiking club, and the Appalachian Hiking Club. And got people, and we set up a major volunteer program where they would go out, hike the park, and they would report on the conditions. They were in a VIP uniform. They would check permits and get back to us where we had a problem and stuff like that. So that volunteer program was something that I got to build.

Deryl Stone: And the first year, at the end of the program, the volunteer coordinator of DC came down to see the program, because she couldn’t believe the total hours, we had gone from zero to eight thousand hours in one year. And

she thought it must have been a typo. And so, she came down and saw the program. And it was the largest non-interpretive, non-Civil War reenactment volunteer program at the time.

Deryl Stone: And then we were going to have an operation evaluation in the park. And the chief ranger started looking and here's a GS5 running the largest program in the nation and he had a GS9 doing road patrol. And he said, "The operation evaluation's not right. So, you're now a road patrolman and he's now running the program."

Deryl Stone: And it pissed me off! It was my program. It was my baby. And he didn't care about the program. And he kind of let it run to the ground. And I said well, I'm going to, about time to leave, so I put in for—

[END OF TRACK 1]

[START OF TRACK 2]

Deryl Stone: —a vacancy and got transferred.

Lu Ann Jones: Where was that?

Deryl Stone: Cape Hatteras.

Lu Ann Jones: Well, I'm a Tarheel.

Deryl Stone: Oh, okay.

Lu Ann Jones: So, I saw you did—

Deryl Stone: Out on Hatteras Island.

Lu Ann Jones: So, what do you think about all this, what were you thinking about all the moving that you were doing?

Deryl Stone: Well, my wife had been out of California once in her whole life. She had never been to San Francisco. I met her in college and then we married after, after my one year of college. And I told her, I said, "Life's an adventure with me." (laughs) And she'd keep reminding me once in a while, she says, "Wow." But she was up for almost anything. The agreement was, where I wanted to work, that was fine. So, I'd come home and say, "Just took a transfer." Went to Cape Hatteras.

Deryl Stone: That was kind of a new adventure, going to the Outer Banks. You know, culturally going from Yosemite to the Smokies. And then going from the Smokies to the Outer Banks with the high tiders and out there is so much different. But you know, we lived in a nice Mission 66 house on stilts on the beach, you know, just like those rich folks right down the road had. And we really enjoyed it out there.

Lu Ann Jones: So, you said in the Smokies, like you're dealing with poachers and those kinds of issues. Were they poaching plants? Were they poaching game? A little bit of everything?

Deryl Stone: Primarily the ones I was dealing with, there were some sengers. Ginseng diggers. We call them sengers there. Digging seng. But also, they were

mainly bear poaching and hog poaching. And anything else that might run in front of them. But actually a few times we got some ginseng diggers and we seized the ginseng. And we used the ginseng with the locals to pay for information. We could have gotten money to pay for information. But none of them wanted money. Because they could take the ginseng around, show it to their other people and say, "See what I dug?" And then they could go sell it. If you just gave them money, then how did they explain where that money came from? They're not going to say that they had told that their cousin was out there, going to come through Deals Gap next week going poaching. So, yeah. Anti-poaching. Hogs and bear were the primary things.

Deryl Stone: And it was really intense because you're chasing a poacher that has been born and raised in that area. His great-grandparents may have actually owned land in that area, and he thinks it's his God given right to be able to go in there. Because those dumb park people, they don't care about the wildlife. They just let it go. They don't ever hunt it. They didn't have the concept of the conservation. And then you're chasing an armed person. So, it's really a unique way of doing it.

Deryl Stone: We ended up catching one poacher, the Daddy Rabbit of Cove Mountain. Nice enough guy. Reed King. We caught him about seven in the morning when he was coming back out. And there was Bud and I and Lenny Gardner. And we caught him and handcuffed him and took his gun away from him.

Deryl Stone: He told us, he said, "Well, I got chores to do." He said, "Take these things off me. I'll meet you in jail."

Deryl Stone: Well, Bud and I are rolling on the ground laughing. Unhandcuffing, you don't do that.

Deryl Stone: And Lenny said, "He gave you his word." And Lenny was a park technician indigenous to the area. He said, "He gave you his word!" "What do you mean?" "He gave you his word. He'll be there. And the man's got chores to do."

Deryl Stone: We unhandcuffed him. Went down to the jail. And at noon, he showed back up! He was old style. He gave you his word.

Deryl Stone: After court, a few months later, when we went to trial, we were talking to him outside. And he said, he promised he would never go hog hunting in the park again.

Deryl Stone: We caught him about five, six months later, hunting in the park. We chastised him. "You said you were never going to hunt in the park." He says, "No I didn't. I said I was never going to hog hunt in the park again." He says, "I was bear hunting."

Deryl Stone: So, you had to watch. He gave us his word that he wasn't going to hog hunt. And he wasn't hog hunting; he was bear hunting.

Lu Ann Jones: Were they hunting bear for the meat or for the—

Deryl Stone: For the claws and the gall.

Lu Ann Jones: Oh, got you. Yeah.

Deryl Stone: For the claws and the gall. That's the only thing they were hunting the bear for is the claws and the gall. Those two things, at the time, you know, gall was worth a hundred dollars. It's worth a lot more now. But that was a lot of money in that time, in the early '70s up there. On kind of a subsistence living income, to get 100 dollars in cash, that was good. And then they sold the claws individually to people making jewelry and stuff like that.

Lu Ann Jones: And then what were the issues once you got to the Outer Banks and got to a seashore?

Deryl Stone: Completely different. One of the controversial things, of course, is at the time, they may still have it, and they had haul seiners. Which is commercial fisherman that would take a pickup with a trailer on the beach. And the trailer, launch their boat, go out, make a big circle, come back in and then haul all of that in. Sports fishermen believed they were taking all the fish away.

Deryl Stone: Now only people from the Outer Banks, that had some longevity there, could get a permit. They had to be long term residents to haul seine and historically had done it before it was the park. And so, you know, I think it was ending with so many generations. They may not do it anymore. But the sports fishermen didn't like them haul seining. And of course, the haul seiners didn't like the sports fishermen in their way when they were fishing.

Deryl Stone: And then getting used to the Outer Banks, it's very, very close-knit there. We had the Scarboroughs, the Grays, the Austins and the Midgetts. And they had all intermarried and everybody was related to everybody else. Except if the Grays were mad at the Scarboroughs, they were out. But it was, you know, they would fight for a while and then somebody on the other side of the family would get into it. But it was really a unique interrelationship between them. And getting to know the players.

Deryl Stone: There was one player down at Salvo named Mack Midgett. And he was a haul seiner and a great big guy. He was probably six-five, six-six. Drank a lot. Liked to fight a lot. And the real character of the area. And we had a standing rule that anybody stuck on the beach, we couldn't tow them out or pull them out. We'd have to call one of their commercial tow trucks.

Deryl Stone: Well, Mack had gotten his truck stuck just below the high-water line and the tide was coming in, and he was stuck in a shell hole of broken up seashells, and he was stuck there. And the tide's coming in, he's going to lose his truck. So, I set a sand anchor with my spare tire and popped my winch on him, and I pulled him out and I got him out. And walked over.

- Deryl Stone: He says, “For a ranger, you’re not bad.” And he puts his arm around me and he’s standing right next to his truck. And he reaches into his truck and he pulls out a half gallon of vodka. And he says, “And you’re going to have a drink with me.”
- Deryl Stone: Here I am in full uniform. And Mack has never been nice to a ranger before. And to offer a drink out of his own bottle.
- Deryl Stone: So, rules or no rules, Mack opened it up and took a slug and handed it to me. And I said, “Cheers, Mack!” And I took a slug out of his bottle.
- Deryl Stone: Now we still had some disagreements over the next couple of years. But he never forgot that I pulled him out of that sand hole, and I drank out of his bottle. (Lu Ann Jones laughs) I never told the chief ranger that I had a drink on duty.
- Lu Ann Jones: Well I was thinking you were talking about how, before going to Vietnam you thought that people should have had some sort of cultural training. So how did you get kind of cultural training as you’d go to these different parts of the country where you hadn’t had firsthand experience of how—
- Deryl Stone: Oh, well like going to the Smokies, my wife is a better person than I am. And she’d go to take the kids to Sunday School and go to church. Surprisingly, everyone there was Christianly civil. But very standoffish because I was not one of them. And so, you know, you just, some of them are more broad-minded, you get to know. But most of the time, you stay within the Park Service community. Bud and Barbara, we hung out with them. And we hung out with some of the other rangers. And then like Lenny Garber and J.R. Buchanan, the two technicians, we got to know them. And they were kind of the bridge to understanding – they were smart enough when you didn’t understand something.
- Deryl Stone: But there was always, at times, communications issues. I lived in a beautiful old house on the old Coca Cola estate. It was the caretaker’s house. All chestnut. Beautiful wormy chestnut. And I had this huge garden plot in my backyard that the previous person had. And I had a seasonal ranger. And he was living over in the government apartments. And it was he and his wife. And he was lamenting one day that he sure wished he had a garden plot. And he was a local person. But Ron had been through college and had a degree and was trying to get into Park Service. And he was lamenting that he didn’t have a garden plot.
- Deryl Stone: I said, “Ron, come on over to the house. And use that garden plot out behind my house.” I said, “I’m not using it. I’m not going to plant a garden.” I says, “Come on over.”
- Deryl Stone: He says, “Well, I wouldn’t care to.” I said, “Well, if you change your mind, come on over and use it.” He said, “I said I wouldn’t care to.” I said, “Well, look, you don’t have to get so damn uppity about it.” And then he says, “You don’t understand what I’m saying.” I says, “Yeah, you said no twice.”

- Deryl Stone: “No, I didn’t.” He says, “In East Tennessee, ‘wouldn’t care to’ is an affirmative answer. It’s like, you ask your cousin, ‘You want to go to town?’ ‘Wouldn’t care to’ means yes.”
- Deryl Stone: Oh! How does a negative answer become an affirmative answer? So, there was a lot of that sort of thing you had to pick up slowly. So that was a unique part of it.
- Lu Ann Jones: Were there, so once you get to the Outer Banks, there are these family relationships you’re trying to navigate. But in terms of like the protection issues there in the seashore, what kinds of issues were you dealing with there?
- Deryl Stone: Well, let’s see. We had a managed waterfowl hunting area that we had to maintain. And then of course we had people trying to hunt waterfowl outside that area. We caught one person that during migration season had set up blanket nooses and was trying trap peregrine falcons, which is highly, highly illegal. So that sort of stuff. And we had the campgrounds. You have the normal thing in a campground. Everything from drunk and disorderly, minor drinking, theft sort of thing. And some narcotic problems there. So, it was kind of just traditional, except a lot of it was done on the beach. Of course, we had one thing going. We had a park airplane. And he would fly the beach and tell us if – because it’s so long and we can’t cover it all – so he’d fly it and tell us where there are groups of people and things that he might see. So that was really advantageous. But I did bring my wife a valentine present one time there.
- Lu Ann Jones: What was it?
- Deryl Stone: A bottle-nosed dolphin. It had beached itself and a visitor reported it. So, I went down, and we pushed it back in. Beached itself. Pushed it back in. Beached itself. So, I called the marine sanctuary and they could not come out and get it right then. But they said, “If you put it in a cool, wet place and if you get a shower on it, we’ll be out tomorrow morning.”
- Deryl Stone: Well, we lived in a house 18 feet off the ground, but the whole bottom was enclosed with plywood and it was a garage and workshop. And it could be knocked out in a hurricane so the house would not wash away.
- Deryl Stone: So, I put it in the basement and turned the basement shower on it and it cried like a baby all night. But my wife said she’d never had a dolphin for a present, for Mother’s Day present.
- Lu Ann Jones: (laughs) So did they—
- Deryl Stone: They came and got it and put it in a tank and it lasted about two days. But it had the inner ear parasites so it couldn’t tell where it was going because the Sonar was screwed up and they finally had to euthanize it because it kept hitting the wall. So, we had one of those in the basement. The neighbors, a Coast Guard family, came over and looked at it. And their little three year-old came downstairs and saw it laying on the floor. And ran back upstairs yelling, “Nark, nark, nark!” They’d seen “Jaws” and she

thought it was a shark. And she couldn't say "shark", so she said "nark."
(Lu Ann Jones laughs)

Deryl Stone: But you know, things like I'd go up behind my house over on the Sound side and get a bushel of oysters in about 25, 30 minutes, you know. Or if we wanted shrimp, we went over to Wanchese when the boat came in. He bought them ungraded, by the pound, uncleaned, you know, 85 cents a pound. Lots of neat stuff like that.

Lu Ann Jones: While you were there, so when were you there? Oh, in the '70s. Yeah, I mean that's before the—

Deryl Stone: The controversy now?

Lu Ann Jones: Yeah.

Deryl Stone: And the closures. There were no closures at that time. They may have done some fencing down around Cape Point at the nesting area. But the rest of it was open with no thought for the migratory birds or the shore nesting birds.

Lu Ann Jones: And just the whole development, of the Outer Banks, I mean, that's the beach we went to when I was a kid. I grew up about 75 miles inland. And just again, at that point, it was still like little cinderblock houses on the beach. That was the cottages then.

Deryl Stone: You look at Earth Google now and it's just solid packed and huge, huge, huge houses. And they all built on the beach side. And the old timers, they built their houses on the sound side, you know, to keep away from the Nor'easter blowing, you know, the storm blowing in there.

Lu Ann Jones: Yes. So, it hasn't become quite as concentrated as Maryland beaches and New Jersey beaches and whatever. But still, it's just been a sea change there—

Deryl Stone: Definitely.

Lu Ann Jones: In terms of the development of that coast. Well during this time, were you also using your medical skills as part of like a search and rescue? Where is that flow?

Deryl Stone: The medical skills, I was still in the, I stayed in the reserve. Because on a young ranger's wages, I needed the reserve money for school kids' clothes. And I was in the Marine Corps Reserve out in Virginia Beach in the Coast Guard station at Oregon Inlet. I'd made lots and lots of calls down there whenever they had a medical problem. And they said, "Why don't you come over to the Coast Guard Reserve?"

Deryl Stone: So, when my time was up with the Marine Corps Reserve, I joined the Coast Guard Reserve. And we got this deal going that I didn't have to serve weekends, drill duty. All I had to be was on call anytime there was a medical emergency. Well the Park Service had no problem with that

- because I would have made it anyhow on park service time. And then off-duty, I just jumped in the patrol car and rolled down there and handled it.
- Deryl Stone: And one day I was, day off, sitting at home. And got a telephone call, the Coast Guard dispatcher called me and said, "There's a helicopter landing behind your house. They've got a medical emergency."
- Deryl Stone: So, I grabbed my kit and just went over the little dune to the beach. Here's this Sikorsky helicopter sitting there. So, I threw my bag in. And I'm about halfway in and the helicopter lifts up, tilts off and takes off. And I look in the helicopter and there's the crew chief in the back corner in the fetal position. And there's a chaise longue with a lady on it and another lady holding her hand. And I realized that the lady that was on the chaise longue was extremely pregnant.
- Deryl Stone: So, I quickly got out the Betadine and cleaned my hands the best I could, and the baby was starting to crown.
- Deryl Stone: So, I pull on the headphones and I talk to the pilot. And I says, "You better hurry this thing up, because the baby's just about here." And he says, "Doc," he says, "this thing's rated at about 126 knots and we're doing 137 knots now."
- Deryl Stone: The baby won the race. Over the Alligator River, straddling a chaise longue with the crew chief hiding in the back, not wanting any part of this delivery, I got to deliver the baby. Kind of interesting experience.
- Deryl Stone: And then they couldn't, then they had to drive me back. I wanted them to fly me back in the helicopter. No, they put in a [duty driver?] truck and drove me back to the Outer Banks.
- Lu Ann Jones: So, what hospital were you headed towards?
- Deryl Stone: In Elizabeth City.
- Lu Ann Jones: Yeah. Okay.
- Deryl Stone: E City.
- Lu Ann Jones: Yeah. Yeah. Well, that's pretty exciting. (laughs)
- Deryl Stone: Of course, some of them were really funny. I had a call from the Coast Guard. And they said, "We've got a guy down here bleeding all over the station." "One of your guys?" "No, a damn tourist."
- Deryl Stone: So, I go down there. And he had been fishing off the Oregon Inlet bridge and caught an alligator gar. And if you know the alligator gar, they've got about, this one was about three and a half, four feet long, and it has about a 20-inch mouth. Huge teeth! Well, he had unhooked it and picked it up by the tail and held it up to get his friend to take a picture. The gar wasn't dead, and it clamped down on his leg. The minute it clamped down on his leg, he ripped the gar off his leg. Of course, that lacerated every one of those. But his friend got the picture. He ended up, I talked to him later,

with about 70 stitches in his leg. Every one of those teeth holes had to have about two or three sutures in it.

Lu Ann Jones: Oh, my gosh.

Deryl Stone: So, you know, you have to laugh. It's one of those things that if you had 144 people like him, you'd have gross stupidity. (laughter) And you see a lot of that in the park service is people doing dumb things without thinking. We always used to say that when they left Los Angeles and came to Yosemite, they locked their house and they left the common sense in the house and came up on vacation. (Lu Ann Jones laughs)

Deryl Stone: Of course, then in those days we could call them tourists. But nowadays, we can't call them tourists. They're "park visitors."

Lu Ann Jones: They're visitors. Well at what point did you start thinking about how your career would develop or where you would go next?

Deryl Stone: I really never had a long-term plan. As a buck ranger, though, in Yosemite, after Jack Morehead had become the chief ranger there, I one time was down in the valley. And I saw he had an office, with carpet and a secretary. And a new patrol car outside. And everybody grabbed the brim of their hat and said, "Morning, Chief," to him. And I said, you know, I'm out there and working accidents and helping tourists put on tire chains in the snowing. And on horse patrol and you're getting rained on. I said, you know, that's the job for me. Sitting there in the office.

Deryl Stone: Well, I worked diligently, and I ended up being a chief ranger in two parks. And I had the office and I had the carpet and I had the secretary. And people used to say, "Morning, Chief." And there I sat, looking out the window at the rangers doing the real work. And saying, they don't know how lucky they have it. (Lu Ann Jones laughs)

Deryl Stone: Then I'd go home and complain. And my wife says, "Yes, but on a buck ranger's salary – where you could have stayed – we couldn't have sent our kids to college. You know, you needed that extra money." So, it's kind of a tradeoff. You trade it off. But at least you understand what they're going through out in the field and you can work with them and try to make their lives as good as possible and cover their backs as much as possible.

Lu Ann Jones: So why did you decide to leave the Outer Banks?

Deryl Stone: I went to Grand Canyon with the old training program there, which was what, almost three months.

Lu Ann Jones: Oh, wow.

Deryl Stone: And met two of the people in my class that were at Gateway. And they were at the Sandy Hook unit. And told me how neat it was. And it was just getting started, developing and a real challenge. Kind of the same reason I volunteered to go to Vietnam. I hadn't been in a war. Well, I had to see what a war was about. I hadn't been to an urban park, and I wasn't sure we

belonged in an urban park. So, I decided I wanted to see what an urban park was.

Deryl Stone: So, I went up to DC and went to personnel office and said – who was that? Can't even remember her name now. But personnel, I head a personnel. And she said, "What can I do for you?"

Deryl Stone: And I told her who I was. And I said, "How hard is it going to be to get a transfer to Gateway?" And she says, "Sit down." Okay. She says, "Now, you want to go to Gateway?" I said, "Yes, ma'am." She said, "Why do you want to go to Gateway?" "I've never been to an urban park and I don't know if we belong in one. But the only to tell is if we go to work at it." She says, "I've got people fighting not to go there. And you walk in my office and want to go there!" She says, "Okay. I'll work on that for you." A few months later, got the call. "Want to go to Sandy Hook?" I said, "You bet."

Deryl Stone: So off to Sandy Hook we went. And Sandy Hook was not a traditional, because it's like a seashore. Except it has a whole lot more military history because that has been in the military since the Revolutionary War, and all the gun batteries and all that.

Deryl Stone: And my first primary job when I got there was natural and cultural resource management. And there was a whole lot, there was no inventory on the cultural resources. And you know, from a star fort, engineered and designed and constructed under Captain Robert E. Lee, United States Army Corps of Engineers, to the Nike side of all of these other things that hadn't been cataloged. Plus, the nesting osprey we had there, plus the shore nesting birds. It was really a fun experience.

Deryl Stone: And then after about a year and a half, I moved over to patrol supervisor. But I was still involved, at that time I was still expected to do law enforcement at the same time, because we were about 50/50.

Deryl Stone: But it was so much fun there. We lived in the lighthouse keeper's quarters in the oldest active lighthouse in the United States, predating the Revolutionary War.

Deryl Stone: My son one day came in and had a bone in his hand. And my wife called me, and I came up. And it was a femur. He and a friend had been out behind the lighthouse and were digging a fort like nine year-olds do. They found the unmarked cemetery that park service knew was there but didn't know where it was at. So, we had to go put the bone back in. Could not dig out there anymore.

Deryl Stone: And you know, he grew up there playing in the bunkers and all of that. And you know, quite a nice life.

Deryl Stone: One of the problems we had there, living in the lighthouse keeper's quarters, right next to the lighthouse, even though the sign on the door said, "private residence," visitors would walk up and walk in. And my

wife, and people – “Oh, somebody lives here!” My wife says, “Yes. This is my house. Please leave.” (laughter)

Deryl Stone: And so it was really a great experience. A lot of things happened there. When I first got there, I found a bunker that still had a lock on it. An old munitions bunker. Well, it’s ours now. And the army had given it to us. I cut the bolt. And there inside the bunker, filled with herbicides and pesticides, including some DDTs. (laughs)

Deryl Stone: And the superintendent, next time I saw him, of course we had to have it all removed, hazardous waste, burning and all that, says, “You’re a good ranger. But boy, do you cost me a lot of money!” Because we had to pay for it.

Deryl Stone: Then at the gatehouse one day, I had a young man walk up and say, “Look what I found!” And he’s holding up a live 105 round. Because that used to be the proving grounds for all military ordnance in the United States Army before Patuxent, Maryland. So, there’s lots of old live ammunition. The military had said they had cleaned it, but they hadn’t. You know, bring up a live 105 round, which really caused us some consternation. (laughs) And evacuation from that area.

Deryl Stone: But there were so many different things there. I had the nesting osprey program. And at Patuxent, Maryland, they would bring me good eggs. The osprey around our area, the eggs were very thin shelled because of the DDTs. And they would move, take those eggs and try to hatch those out at Patuxent. But they gave me good eggs. And of course, Mother didn’t know that we had swapped the eggs on her, so we had viable chicks coming out of that. And really, ugliest little thing in the world when we’d go up and band the little osprey chicks. And it was really a good combination job, you know, and enjoyed it there.

Lu Ann Jones: Well did you, were you convinced that you should be in an urban park?

Deryl Stone: Well, I was still in, by name only, an urban park. It was still kind of a historic military seashore. And there was a gatehouse that kept the people out, except during times, to specific locations. So, I kind of thought it was a reasonable thing.

Deryl Stone: Then Herb Cables, who was our superintendent, and Bob Cunningham, who had been hired initially as the park biologist and then became the deputy superintendent, got me in a corner. And said, “We need you over at Fort Tilden Reese Park at the end of Flatbush Avenue on the Rockaway Beach. We need a traditional ranger there.”

Deryl Stone: And I said, “I don’t think I want to go.” “Oh, yeah. Yeah, you do. You’re the man for the job.”

Deryl Stone: Well, I got over there. And I was commuting till I had my house redone, an old military house there. And Fourth of July weekend, Herb said, “You just stay over here.” He had a trailer there that he used occasionally instead of driving back up, upstate New York where he lived. And he said,

“Bring the wife and family. Let them stay over here so we can see them during the weekend.”

Deryl Stone: So, Sunday night, after the Fourth of July weekend, we’re heading back to New Jersey. And we said, “Well, let’s have dinner.” So, we drive up Flatbush Avenue a couple of miles. And there’s a Chinese restaurant. Okay. We pulled in there and go in. Chinese restaurant. No problem.

Deryl Stone: And the first thing my son says is, “Dad, how come all those people have funny hats on?” Well, every man—

[END OF TRACK 2]

[START OF TRACK 3]

Deryl Stone: —in there had a yarmulke or the Hassidic hat. Every man in there was Jewish. So were the women.

Deryl Stone: Well, we sat down and looked at the menu. It was a Kosher Chinese restaurant. And I guess only in New York can you have a Kosher Chinese restaurant. Sweet and sour, if it’s not pork or chicken, loses a little when you have sweet and sour lamb in the translation to Kosher. And some of the other food was a little bit unique going to the kosher.

Deryl Stone: But we moved over to Reese Park and very, very intense. Dealing with New Yorkers coming to the beach that are not used to the values of the National Park Service. Agreement with Herb Cables and Bob Cunningham since we had the U.S. park police in New York, but not across over in Sandy Hook, that I would only wear my weapon at night if I got called out. Or I could carry my little concealed weapon during the day.

Deryl Stone: And within two weeks of being over there, I had a park policeman threaten to arrest me because I was carrying a concealed weapon and my law enforcement commission was no good. He had never been around park rangers that had done law enforcement. He didn’t understand that. So, there was a little bit of friction there with the park police.

Deryl Stone: They had only an urban mentality. And, you know, I saw them standing there waiting for an ambulance to come with a person bleeding. “You’re not giving them aid?” “That’s not my job.”

Deryl Stone: So that was kind of a bone of contention with the park police. But we worked out with most of them without getting along. But working in that urban area was really a unique experience. I met some really interesting people, really nice people. Had lots of crazy things happen there. Things that you don’t equate with the National Park Service. You know, Reese Park is an old city park. And it’s divided into bays, or groins that go out to sand catchers. And they have self-segregated themselves. Bay 1 and bay 2 are the gay beaches. Bay 2 ½ and 3 kind of area is where you see a lot of the airline folks, the stewardesses. Get down to bay 5 and it’s young Italian macho guys with their tank tops. Well, the stewardesses want to be down by the gays because the Italian boys are not going to go down there,

because they don't want to be anywhere near the gays because they were afraid, they would be associated with them. So, they used to go down here. And then we had an area that the blacks, that was theirs. It may have come back from years of segregation or whatever, but everybody had their spot and they had their people.

Deryl Stone: The Hispanics didn't go to the beach, but they came out to Reese Park. And they were called the "bush people" because they would set up under the bushes and under the trees and come out there Sunday with their whole family, you know. Aunts, uncles, cousins, kids, spread it out, have a barbecue, playing Latin music and dancing. So, everybody had a spot. And that was their spot.

Deryl Stone: And you didn't go to, the Italian kids did not go down to bay 11 where the Irish kids were. Uh uh. I don't know if there would be a fight or not, but that was theirs and that was theirs, and everybody had a spot. It was such a strange thing for me coming from the West, where everything is so mixed to see that cultural diversity still set up individually.

Lu Ann Jones: Well what were some of the law enforcement challenges you had there?

Deryl Stone: My chief lifeguard called me one day. Said, "Deryl, I need you down here now!"

Deryl Stone: So, I went down there. And one of these regular lifeguards had a piece of plywood. And it was covered with a piece of plastic. And I said, "What do you got?" He says, "You better look under there."

Deryl Stone: And it was a human arm, from the wrist to the shoulder. No hand, but just the wrist to the shoulder. A quick look at it and you could see that the bone had chop marks in it. In New York, I found what they call a bag job. You chop them and put them in bags and scatter them all over.

Deryl Stone: I called the dispatcher and told him to get the park police down there, because that was their bailiwick, and I was not to investigate crimes.

Deryl Stone: So, park policemen came down there. And they sent a patrolman down. He said, "What do you have?" I said, "A human arm. He says, "No, that's not a human arm."

Deryl Stone: He lifted it up and he says, "Damn! That is a human arm." He called his sergeant. His sergeant came down and said, "What do you have, Deryl?" I said, "I've got a human arm in there." He says, "No, you couldn't have a human arm." He lifted it up. "Damn, that is a human arm."

Deryl Stone: He calls the lieutenant. The lieutenant comes down. Same thing. The lieutenant then calls the detectives, park police detective. Same thing! Same, "What do you have?" "Human arm." "No, you can't. Damn, that is a human arm."

Deryl Stone: They then call the city PD because there they only have proprietary jurisdiction, and that would have been a felony crime, and not against the government, so the city.

- Deryl Stone: City sends a patrolman down there. Beat cop. He asks the same question. He gets the same answer. He looks at it and agrees. He calls. His sergeant comes down. This is beginning to look like a convention of cop cars and cops.
- Deryl Stone: The sergeant has his lieutenant come down. Then a city detective. They finally call a city detective. And the city detective, two of them come up. And they've got porkpie hats, pop brim. They both have cigars, short and stubby. And they walk up "What have you got?" "I've got a human arm."
- Deryl Stone: He lifts it up. Says, "Yep. That's what it is. Must have fallen off a boat and got chopped up by the prop." He unlocks the trunk of his car and sticks it in there. Closes it. And he says, "Yeah. Must have fell off a boat." Gets in his car and drives away. (laughter)
- Lu Ann Jones: (laughs) So was that the end of the case, in other words? Or did he do something with it?
- Deryl Stone: We have no idea where it went from there. But you know, here's all of us standing there looking at each other. And like I say, it looked like a major convention by that time. But everyone said, "No, you can't have a human arm." And then they agreed with it and they had to call the next level up. And it was, you know, and here's this guy, you know, and you could see where it had been hacked off. There was no way it had been chopped by a prop. But apparently if he just took it down to the morgue and said, "It must have fallen off a boat," there would be less paperwork. Unless the rest of them start showing up someplace else in the city.
- Lu Ann Jones: I guess you could put the pieces of the body together if they started showing up.
- Deryl Stone: Well, one of the things that was neat about there in New York is shortly after I went over to New York, the assistant superintendent called me up and said, "Look at this." And he handed me, it was a bill from New York City Fire Department for five million dollars, for fire suppression on all of our properties out there. He said, "Look into this."
- Deryl Stone: Well, I started checking. And if there was more than 10 square feet of unimproved ground and there was a grass fire there, New York sent us a bill because they thought it was ours. And they had no idea where our boundary was and wasn't.
- Deryl Stone: And Cunningham says, "I want you to build a wild land brush truck." And of course, with the fire background? I had, I said sure. I said, "How much do I have to spend?" And he says, "Well, if they gave us a bill for five million, anything under five million, go ahead."
- Deryl Stone: So, it was really nice because I could build it, have it built or put together. And you know, it wasn't going with the, instead of having to manually roll the reel up, I got the electric reel. And all the things you always dream about. And yellow Nomex jumpsuits instead of separate ones so we could put them on quick, and a lot of nice stuff.

Deryl Stone: And so, we got to build the, I built the fire truck and then I trained some of my young rangers out there at Fort Tilden, got them trained and got them red carded. And we responded to fires there at Floyd Bennett Field, at Jamaica Bay, and Reese Park and Fort Tilden area, any grass fires.

Deryl Stone: The first one I went on was over at Floyd Bennett Field. I got over there, and I saw where it was going and where it had been and where it could go. And I had a good clear area. So, I got out a drip torch and started to backfire it.

Deryl Stone: Well, New York City had, just rolling in. And they had no fire equipment. They were fighting it with brooms and 2 ½ gallon pressurized water cans. Well, Cunningham came trotting over to me, he says, "Roll up the hose and get the hell out of here." He's the assistant superintendent and he's a firefighter, too. Rolled up the hose and got the hell out of there.

Deryl Stone: The fire department had called the police department, saying there was a guy out here setting fires. So, I had to go meet with the assistant fire chief from Brooklyn and explain our firefighting system.

Deryl Stone: So, he came over and looked at the fire truck, our brush truck. Funniest thing he said, you know, I showed him the helmets and all this. He said, "Well, where's your gear?" I said, "Right here." He said, "I don't see it there." And I had all the helmets painted the same and everybody's name on it. He said, "I don't see it there." I said, "It's right there." He says, "Well, you're the chief, aren't you?" "Well, yeah. By your standards, yeah." He says, "You've got to do something. You've got to paint your helmet white. Otherwise, no one will talk to you."

Deryl Stone: I painted my helmet white. Started visiting with three firehouses around us. "Battalion chief come on in! Have a cup of coffee!" I had a white helmet on. For them, if you didn't have a white hat on, you weren't an officer, so they wouldn't, you were just a firefighter, you know?

Deryl Stone: So, by the time I left there, they were calling us – they knew where our boundary was – but they were calling me and my unit to go out and help them on grass and brushfires outside the park unit because they didn't have the capabilities of fighting it.

Deryl Stone: Then we had a Fountain Avenue, which we got through the grace of New York City gave it to us. It had been an old landfill. There used to be underground fires in this old landfill, and the city historically had gone in there and dug it up. Of course, the minute you dig it up, you bring oxygen there, and it starts burning.

Deryl Stone: They pumped water in there until it looked like a bathtub. And it wasn't the most efficient way of fighting. So, I got a handheld and we took over, I took a handheld infrared detector and when it would start to get a smoke, we'd go out, find the perimeter of the fire with this handheld infrared, mark it. Then I had the maintenance chief make me a nozzle, which actually looked like a cone. And we put on tight and we injected it into the

ground with a really heavy wetting agent. So, we actually built a fire line underground. And then once we had that so it couldn't spread anymore, then we started crisscrossing and put it out. Less cost and a lot easier than digging it up and going from there. So, you know, I tell people I was a wild land firefighter in New York City, and I get a lot of strange looks.

Lu Ann Jones: (laughs) Well by this point, have you discovered the National Association of Park Rangers? Or where does that come in?

Deryl Stone: Oh, that goes back to before that. Of course, I guess the founding members were what we called the Old Yosemite Mafia.

Lu Ann Jones: Mm hmm.

Deryl Stone: You've heard the term before, Yosemite Mafia?

Lu Ann Jones: Mm hmm.

Deryl Stone: Well, I was kind of in there. My nickname was Sergeant Rock. And you know, with, you start looking at you know, Walt Dabney and Rick Smith and Bill Wade and Tim Seneca and all the crazy and fun-loving people. And I knew all them. I guess the first one was in Rocky Mountain area. Or, no! Jackson Hole. And they'd scattered out and then they decided to all get together. Any excuse for a party. Keg of beer and lots of libation and lots of telling stories. And it kind of grew from there to what it is.

Deryl Stone: So, I've been to, I wasn't at the first five or six, I don't think. Of course, most of those were unmarried guys. And they had a little more flexibility with their income. With two children, you know, and kids in school, their salary, they could spend a little more liberally than I could mine. So, we couldn't go to as many. But got involved with the association and been a member on and off quite a few years.

Lu Ann Jones: Well what attracted you to it? Or kind of how has that just played a role in your Park Service career?

Deryl Stone: To me, the association was something that was good because first off, we could get together. And it was kind of king's ex, we could say what we needed to say and talk with each other and find out the good and the bad. And also, we could find out who had a butthole for a superintendent and who we didn't want to work for, and what parks were good to work in. And just kind of like going to the Albright Training Center, you built the friends. And then you had this working group and you knew the people in the association. If you went to a rendezvous and didn't know somebody, by the end of the rendezvous you had beers with them, and you knew them. So, it was kind of the building of a friendship and networking. And that was what I always kind of looked at it as, as a way to network and get to know people. And a good excuse to have a party.

Lu Ann Jones: Right. The hospitality room, right. (laughs) So where did you go from Gateway, then? Where was the next step?

- Deryl Stone: Oh, I had kind of got burnt out on urban parks, even though they're a necessity and it's important. And I got to be in the National Geographic special and all that at the urban park. But it was time to move on. And my wife wanted to get the kids to a smaller school. They were going to PS, I think 114, and dealing with all those problems in an urban school. Including my wife getting a telephone call from the teacher and telling her that Daniel was a really wonderful student and a good learner and made friends easily, but he had one problem. And this was my, I guess he was eight or nine then. She said, "He's a habitual liar."
- Deryl Stone: And my wife said, "I'm going to kill him." So, she went down to school to find out what the problem was.
- Deryl Stone: And the teacher said, "Now, children do lie. And it's a way of making friends." And she said, "Okay. What's he telling you? What are these lies?" She said, "Well, he told the kids that he lived in a house that you used to go to and from by helicopter."
- Deryl Stone: And Connie told her, "Well, yes, when I was in back country Yosemite, I was pregnant. And anytime they had an empty seat on the helicopter, they would take Daniel and I out of the Yosemite Valley so I could have a doctor's checkup and then back." She says, "So he did go to and from by helicopter." She says, "Yes." She says, "In Yosemite?" "Yeah. We lived there." Connie said, "Well, what else did he tell you that's a lie?" She said, "Well, he told us that he lived in a place that they went to school on a boat that had wheels."
- Deryl Stone: And Connie said, "Well, when we lived at Sandy Hook, the spring high tides flood the road. And the Coast Guard would take their kids and our kids and put them in a lark, run them down the road till they got to the water, then run the lark into the water, [put on the props going?] and take them around the washout area. And so, a lark is a boat with wheels or a truck that has a propeller."
- Deryl Stone: She said, "I've never heard of such a thing." She said, "Well, he told us that he sat in Franklin Delano Roosevelt's wheelchair."
- Deryl Stone: Connie said, "Well, yeah. We have a friend that's the chief up at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt and we were up, spent the weekend with him. And after hours, when they shut down for the public, the alarms were turned off, he got to sit in Roosevelt's wheelchair."
- Deryl Stone: Teacher says, "I've never heard of this stuff before." She says, "Will you come tell this to the class?" (Lu Ann Jones laughs) So my son was vindicated. He wasn't a habitual liar.
- Deryl Stone: But we decided it was time to move to a more traditional, smaller area. So, I put in and applied for the chief of interpretation, resource management and visitor protection at Pictured Rocks [National Lakeshore]. And we moved up there. Drive out of New York and drive across and up through the lower peninsula of Michigan. Got to the Upper Peninsula.

- Deryl Stone: And the first thing we said is, “Wait a minute! There have got to be a lot of burlesque houses up here, because there’s all these signs that are ‘pasties for sale.’” (Lu Ann Jones laughs) Well, we found out that pasty is a pasty (pronounced with long “a” vowel sound) and it’s a Cornish meat pie. We thought it was a burlesque house where they were selling pasties to the strippers.
- Deryl Stone: But we hunkered down there for 10 years, on purpose, so my kids could get through school. We can become a member of the community. You know, I was a Rotary Club president, a school board president, in Toastmasters. And got to really get involved in the community. The wife was involved in Hospice and in the church, and the kids went through school there. Except for the senior year my daughter, we moved going into her senior year. The world came to an end when we did that, of course, for a teenage girl, moving in her senior year of high school. But it was really unique, getting back to more tradition—
- Deryl Stone: The only problem was, in the Upper Peninsula. Now growing up in the Sierras, I’d shoveled snow. No big deal. Well the first winter, one of my Rotarian brothers owned the hardware store. He said, “Well when you’re ready to buy a snow blower, come on down. I’ll give you a good buy.”
- Deryl Stone: And I said, “No, I’ve got a shovel at home.” Well, I didn’t know in the Upper Peninsula, it snows from right to left with the wind blowing. And drifting. And it drifted in the driveway. And we had sometimes nine to ten-foot drift in the driveway. And 20 feet over is bare ground. And we lived right on Lake Superior. So, we had the lake effect snow until it froze over. And then when it froze over, the snow blew across the ice and onto our, into our—
- Deryl Stone: So, the next winter I went down to Dick and I said, “Give me the 10-horsepower snow blower with the chains and the electric starter.” (Lu Ann Jones laughs) But winters are long in the UP, the Yoopers, as they call them up there, they say you got nine months of winter and three months of poor sledding. But the ice fishing is good, you know?
- Lu Ann Jones: (laughs) I went up to Keweenaw [National Historical Park] the summer before last.
- Deryl Stone: Okay.
- Lu Ann Jones: I was fascinated with that park. I had become friendly with the historian there.
- Deryl Stone: Brian Hoduski.
- Lu Ann Jones: No. This historian is named Jo Urion, a woman. Anyway, it was fascinating. But yeah, we went by some sign that had the number of feet of snow. Feet of snow. I mean, it was huge, you know. So, Jo was, and she grew up in those conditions. But I don’t think I would last there very long.

- Deryl Stone: Yeah. Well, you've got winter and Fourth of July. And when the snow is not on the ground, you've got the black flies biting you.
- Lu Ann Jones: Well we got there, I forget, now I forget whether we got there just shy of the black flies or after the black flies. But whatever. We were there at that window of opportunity there, so that was good. So, when you go to – oh, go ahead.
- Deryl Stone: At Pictured Rocks, it was kind of nice. I'd always had – but never admittedly – latent tendencies of interpretation.
- Lu Ann Jones: I was going to ask you—
- Deryl Stone: But you never wanted to say that because I was always the danger ranger. In Yosemite, there was two kinds of rangers. You had the fern feelers and tree huggers and posy pickers. Or you had the forest fascist and pine pigs. And I was on the forest fascist and pine pig side.
- Deryl Stone: And there was a, after the riot, they were diametrically opposed. You know, the interpreters wouldn't talk to the law enforcement rangers. And kind of the story that a lady comes up and tells an interpreter that someone had just stolen all the stuff from the camp and the interpreter says, "Man, that's a bummer. That's really bad karma."
- Deryl Stone: Lady walks up to a law enforcement ranger, she says, "What kind of plant is that?" And he goes over and snaps it off at the ground and says, "Dead."
- Deryl Stone: So, you know, we were so diametrically opposed, but I always believed in good communications. I'd learned to trek in Yosemite if I may digress back to Yosemite.
- Lu Ann Jones: Yeah. Absolutely.
- Deryl Stone: I used to like to on patrol stop at the overlooks and talk to people. I get tired of talking to myself. And people love talking with park rangers. And they weren't offended with a gun and a patrol car. They just want to talk to a ranger.
- Deryl Stone: Stop and say, "Hi, folks. How are you?"
- Deryl Stone: "Well, hi." Well, they all want to ask questions about a ranger's life. It's just fascinating to them. But they have to ask an intelligent question first. So, they would kind of fling their arm up to the side of the hill and say, "What kind of tree is that, Ranger?"
- Deryl Stone: So, you stroke your chin, you look up there. There's about eight different varieties of tree up there. You say, "Oh, yes. That one right there?" "Oh, yeah. Yeah." "Well, that's a coniferous, cone-bearing needle-leaf tree. Non-deciduous, but indigenous to the Sierra Nevadas."
- Deryl Stone: "Oh, thank you very much!" You haven't told them anything because it was a damn pine tree. And they say, "Well now, how do you become a ranger? Do you live in the park?" And all of the questions they want to ask about being a ranger. But you had to have that opening. So, I learned the

coniferous, cone-bearing needle-leaf tree. Non-deciduous, indigenous to the Sierra Nevada. Not telling them a thing other than that it was a pine tree. (laughs) And that's all they wanted was an opening to talk.

Lu Ann Jones: (laughs) So but you had this kind of secret desire at some point to do more interpretation. Is that right?

Deryl Stone: Well, at Merced Lake Ranger Station, I'd go down to the High Sierra camp in the campground and have an evening program down there. And talk about, now I am not an ornithologist nor have a degree in any of the natural sciences. But I would talk about firefighting, and about fire control and things that I had knowledge of. And everybody seemed to enjoy it. But then I guess I'm kind of a talkative person. So, I enjoyed it and I enjoyed the response.

Deryl Stone: So that's it. And I got up to Pictured Rocks and was the chief. So, it was interesting. My staff park interpreter, who was also commissioned, all the rangers are commissioned, was a hard person to deal with because he was extremely born-again, evangelical Christian. And I'd found signs in the park that he had had put up. Unofficial signs that he had had made, talking about God's creation, God's work, and maybe even a Bible quote. And I had him take them all down, which really upset him. I said, "You can't do that."

Deryl Stone: I had a young, seasonal interpreter that made a plan and I approved it. And had brochures with numbered stakes going through an old-growth white pine forest. And at one point, really dark, gloomy. And he says, "Maybe this is where the Middle Europeans dreamed up hobbits, gnomes and trolls, this dark area." And he got so upset, and he even cried in my office because we were both claiming false gods. So, it was really a, trying to deal with somebody from that perspective that's supposed to be doing pure interpretation instead of – he was proselytizing and that didn't work out well.

Deryl Stone: Then I had another ranger there that, Fred Young. Fred had been there for quite a few years. And Fred could tell you – and he was a patrol ranger and a district ranger—and he could tell you when – he'd get his notebook and pull it out of his desk, and he had a whole stack of them. When the flowers first bloomed last year and all that. And yet I couldn't get him to give a program. He wouldn't give a program, but he had all this vast knowledge of all that.

Deryl Stone: Then I had another district of the park up at Grand [Moray?]. And I had an old-time ranger up there that had been around and been in many parks and it went well. And it was really interesting. We had proprietary jurisdiction. A lot of the locals really disliked us because we had taken over their ground and we had blocked their access. And, "What if my grandmother wants to go down to 12-Mile Beach? We can't drive down there anymore!" "Well, does she want to go down there?" "Well, no. But just in case she did."

- Deryl Stone: The sheriff's department, we had a good working relationship with the chief of police. Issued, I'd taken our boat down and launched it at the city boat launching ramp in the city parking area that had been paid for by the National Park Service. And he put a ticket on my car for not having a city sticker, even though it had been paid out of Land and Water Conservation Fund by the National Park Service to build that.
- Deryl Stone: And the city attorney said, "Pay the fine."
- Deryl Stone: I said, "No." He was also a Rotarian brother of mine. I said, "No. I'm going to go to court." I said, "Because DNR docks their boat in there."
- Deryl Stone: The city manager had said, "No, you don't need a permit to launch the government patrol boat out of there."
- Deryl Stone: I found out, and he came back later and said, "Don't worry about the ticket." He'd paid the ticket himself because he did not want to have the chief of police look bad in court when we showed that it was government money, the Land & Water Conservation Fund. But he hated the Park Service, because we had taken over his favorite hunting spot and his favorite spot.
- Deryl Stone: So, there was, you know, a few small-town things like that. But then it was a great park to work in. Lots of unique things to see. Boat patrols. Snowmobile trails, cross-country skiing. Visitor incidents and accidents.
- Deryl Stone: It was a very stable area for the kids to grow up in, and that's what we were looking for for that time. We wanted to settle down and hunker down for a while and let them get through their formative years in school there.
- Lu Ann Jones: So, you ended up, you came here from there? To the Arch from there?
- Deryl Stone: Yes. Yes.
- Lu Ann Jones: So, what was that move like? To go from a place like that to—
- Deryl Stone: It was time to move on. My superintendent had no law enforcement background. And we had a differing philosophy.

[END OF TRACK 3]

[START OF TRACK 4]

- Deryl Stone: And I knew it was time to move on. And I talked to Warren in regional office, the associate regional director, and told him I had to move, or I was going to have to retire, resign from the Park Service.
- Deryl Stone: So, he called me up one day and he said, "I've got a job for it if you want it. It's a lateral." And I'd promised my wife a couple of years before, our next move is going to be west. That's where we started. So, Warren called me up and said, "Look. The chief down at the Arch is retiring. Quickly, he's gone." He said, "In three weeks. And we're not going to advertise the job. If you want it, it's a lateral for you with potential of upgrade down the road."

- Deryl Stone: And I'd never been to the Arch before, and yet I knew it was time to leave. So, I told him, "I'll take the job."
- Deryl Stone: I went home and I told the wife. I said, "Hey, Broad," that's what I've called her for 40 years, well, 46 years. I said, "Hey, Broad. I just took a transfer." She said, "Are we going west?" I said, "I told you we were going to go west of the Mississippi." She said, "Going back to the Sierras!" I said, "No." She said, "Oh, the Rockies." I said, "No." She said, "Oh! Pacific Northwest." I said, "No." She said, "Oh. We're going to go to the desert." I said, "No." She got this big smile on her face. She said, "We're going to Hawaii, aren't we?" I said, "No." She said, "There's no other place." I said, "Yes, there is. I just took a job at the Arch in Saint Louis!" She said, "That's not – son of a bitch, it is west of the Mississippi."
- Deryl Stone: (laughs) So we came here. And it was really, I enjoyed the nine years I was here. This is really a unique park because first thing is, I swear, 90 percent of Saint Louis has no idea it's a national park. It's the Arch.
- Deryl Stone: Get here, start meeting people, start doing things. Buying a house out in the suburbs. People say, "Where do you work?" I say, "Well, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial." And they say, "Where's that?" I say, "Downtown Saint Louis." "Well, what is it?" "It's a National Park Service area." "We have a National Park Service area in Saint Louis?" I said, "Well, how could you miss a 330-foot tall stainless-steel arch?" "The Arch? That's National Park Service?" "Yes."
- Deryl Stone: They get this mystified look on their face. "Oh. I never knew that was National Park Service."
- Deryl Stone: Which is, you know, and yet we really got to enjoy Saint Louis. Because even though it's a good-sized town, and you have to take in the county, too, the whole area, it's a very small-town mentality. The first thing people when they meet you here in Saint Louis will ask you, "Where did you go to high school?" Because if they hadn't met you before, you tell them where you went to high school and then they can start, okay, he went to school up by the hill, so he's Italian-American family. Or he was from Soulard or they know the district you grew up in. What high school? That's a question, what high school?
- Deryl Stone: And I said, "Well, Sierra Joint Union High School." They say, "Huh?" It's in California, Tollhouse. "Oh. You're not from here, then?"
- Deryl Stone: "No." But we really got to enjoy it. It's such an easy commute and nice community. And good schools. My daughter's graduating class was larger than the whole high school that we came from, much to her chagrin moving down here. We moved down here going into her senior year, before senior year. Well, you would think that at 16, the world had come to an end. I sold my motorcycle and bought her a car. Which I hadn't done for my son, but, okay. Well, that didn't help.

- Deryl Stone: She always wanted to go to modeling school. Well in the Upper Peninsula, there's no modeling school. So, we sent her to modeling school on weekends. She went to modeling school. Well, that didn't help.
- Deryl Stone: Well, after selling the motorcycle and then going into hock to send her to modeling school, she met Jesse. Everything was wonderful! Why didn't you meet Jesse before I sold my motorcycle and sent you to modeling school? (laughs) I could have still had the motorcycle and could have had a lot of money in the bank. (Lu Ann Jones laughs)
- Deryl Stone: But we like it here. I've always liked antiques, and I've always bought and sold antiques. And this is a wonderful area doing the estate auctions and farm auctions to go out and buy antiques. And we really felt comfortable.
- Deryl Stone: Working here at the Arch, I could leave home and be down here and then go home. I could leave chaos in downtown and be home. But you know, things have happened here at the Arch that no other place in the National Park Service. You know, our Fair Saint Louis, the old VP Fair where we bring 800,000 people in three days on the Arch grounds and have a center stage under the arch with, you know, you name it. Elton John. Dolly Parton. Bill Cosby. Ringo Starr. All of those people entertain here.
- Deryl Stone: And you know, dealing with that over Fourth of July is – the first Fourth of July I got here, and I was here about three weeks before the Fair Saint Louis. And my secretary brought me in this big organizational chart for Fair Saint Louis. Well, I start on the bottom row and I don't find my name. And I go up to the next row, which is a little shorter, and I don't find my name. And I keep working up this pyramid and I don't find my name. And I'm thinking, well I must not be involved in it.
- Deryl Stone: And I get to the top of the pyramid and it says incident commander, and there's my name. (laughter) Never seeing one before. It was an enlightening education; except I had a good senior staff that worked for me that had been through it before. And the superintendent said my charge was to kind of keep on working to minimize the chaos and pandemonium. We started doing things like, in the early days, people were bringing in little red wagons with kegs of beer. And just wild and raucous.
- Deryl Stone: So, we then instituted things like you could not bring alcohol into there. You could buy beer during the fair in there. But you had to buy it at the concession stand, set up by the Fair Saint Louis that made all the profits, at four dollars a can. Well instead of bringing in five six-packs or a keg of beer, it was a lot more to get drunk. It would cost you a lot more money. So, we had less of that. And then we had a zero tolerance on fighting and violence and things like that. And really worked hard to bring that down.
- Deryl Stone: And one of the latter fairs, one of the set team members, leaders, came to me. And he says, "I don't know if I want to come back to it." I said, "Well, why not?" He says, "It's too calm. It's not fun anymore." (laughter)

- Deryl Stone: I said, "Well, I'll take that as a compliment that we have managed to minimize the problems." And each time, we got better and better at doing it.
- Deryl Stone: Of course, now, I know Yosemite has a few base jumpers off there. But not many people have base jumped off the arch. We had one of those. I came to work one morning early and parked over in the old cathedral parking lot and was walking down the street. And I heard somebody yelling at me. I thought it was one of my rangers. And I turned around. All of a sudden, I see this sport parachute pirouetting down under the arch.
- Deryl Stone: I ran up to the top of the hill. The guy hit the ground and grabbed his parachute. And one guy over here, one guy off to the side of both sides taking pictures. Well, he ran, jumped into a car and was gone.
- Deryl Stone: Well, I snatched these two guys up that were talking to this guy. And put an arrest on them and grabbed their cameras, because I knew they were part of it.
- Deryl Stone: Well, this jumper had gone, went over to Illinois and called the television stations and had a press conference over in Illinois saying, "Well, I don't have to worry about it. They're not going to extradite me from Illinois over stealing a little bit of air." And you know, he's bragging about it. And he told us who he was, where he was from. And we had the film of him doing the base jump.
- Deryl Stone: So, Jean Phillips, I think was the one down in Florida, went over and knocked on his door and arrested him. He had forgotten there was no extradition between states for the federal government. And they shipped him back up here. And he stood trial and pled guilty for base jumping. And the U.S. magistrate, eloquent, right up on it. And said there's a place in the national parks for some things, and there's a place not for it.
- Deryl Stone: Well, we found out how it, at the night, he had climbed it with glass movers, suction cups. And he said he was about 100 feet up and a ranger came by and was standing under the arch and he was worried he was going to see him. But the rangers don't look up at the arch; they've seen it. They're looking at the ground level to see what's going on, on the ground. So, he climbed it. And then at seven in the morning, he base jumped off the top.
- Deryl Stone: So, he was several thousand dollar fine and probation. And one of the bars here in town had called him up later on and asked him to do a sports jump, a base jump up here in Saint Louis.
- Deryl Stone: So, he called the probation officer and said, "I think I'll come up and do that." And the probation officer said "No, the judge would not accept you doing that."
- Deryl Stone: Well, he started using four-letter words about the judge. All of it was taped. Probation officer takes it up to the judge. Plays it. Judge rescinds

- his probation. Gets picked up by the US marshals. Drug back up here. And this was in early November. Sentenced him to 90 days in jail.
- Deryl Stone: He says, "Okay. I'll be back after Christmas and get this done." She says, "You don't understand. Marshal, take him into custody." (laughs) So he got to do Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's in jail. But just really, you know—
- Deryl Stone: They had one of this base jumper off the arch that was killed. He jumped out of an airplane. Parachuted on top of the arch. And before he could release his main chute and then jump off with the sports chute, the wind caught the chute and drug him down the leg of the arch. And his wife was filming the whole thing.
- Lu Ann Jones: Oh my gosh.
- Deryl Stone: Only one airplane's ever flown through the arch, that we know of. And his tail numbers were gotten, and his private pilot's license was rescinded for life. So, around the private pilot community, they know that the arch is not a big wicket to fly through. But you know, how many parks have three-story parking garages? To service the arch grounds. But in the evening time, on the other side of the street, you have the entertainment district and Laclede's Landing. So, we get a lot of wild, raucous people coming in there. And we stop people in the arch parking garage for DUI and arrest them for drunk driving in the – because it is, to us, a public roadway. And the city brings down their bat mobile, blood alcohol, and does road test.
- Deryl Stone: And we have these guys, the city has city park rangers, but they are security guards. And these guys, "Well, you're just a damn ranger. You can't do anything to us."
- Deryl Stone: By the time we get them down to the city jail and book them in and the city jail explains, "No, you're being held on federal charges," they finally see this light. "Oh! This is not city park rangers that are watchmen. They are federal law enforcement officers." (Lu Ann Jones laughs)
- Deryl Stone: My tenure here, we had two murders. One was a transient that was killed by another transient. And then we had a shooting in the arch parking garage, probably in the middle of an attempted robbery.
- Deryl Stone: We introduced a horse patrol here when I got here. That was one of the things that I thought was really lacking. So, I introduced a horse patrol here, which really was a popular program public relation-wise, because how much more iconic can you get than a ranger with a Stetson on a horse. And practically speaking, great observation from sitting up on that horse.
- Deryl Stone: The day we introduced it; a television camera crew was shooting. And they chased down and caught a purse snatcher. That night on the news, it was on. And you know what they were playing as background music?
- Lu Ann Jones: What?

- Deryl Stone: The “William Tell Overture.” (Lu Ann Jones laughs) (singing) “He’s a lone ranger.” And everybody said, “You staged that.”
- Deryl Stone: No, I did not stage that. And you talk about great publicity for anti-purse snatching on the arch grounds is to have that on TV and see the ranger – you know, a guy with shorts and tennis shoes on can probably outrun most rangers that are wearing full uniform and leather. And here comes that horseman, just cuts him right off, and it was all over.
- Lu Ann Jones: Were there people who were already trained to be horse patrol?
- Deryl Stone: I had one ranger, Keith Temple, had come from the US Park Police. And decided he wanted to be a ranger, not a park policeman, and he came. And he’d been a horseman with the park police. And he was a farm boy.
- Deryl Stone: And the other two had never ridden. So, I sent them back and they went through the park police riding school in DC. And the park police then gave us three horses. We had to buy a horse trailer. And then we bought the saddles and all the accoutrements to go with it. And we housed them in the carriage, if you noticed there are carriages around town, the carriage stable over here, which is about eight blocks away. And we had one horse on each shift. So, five days a week, we had a horse on every shift.
- Deryl Stone: And so, it, you know, I told the rangers to make sure that the visitors petted the horse and talked to the ranger, not the other way around. (Lu Ann Jones laughs) But you know, anytime there were visitors out there, it was like this huge magnet. The families going up and the horses were really well trained. You know, kids running underneath them and hanging on their tails, etcetera, etcetera. And you know, the ranger would stop and explain to them, you need to stand up front where the horse can see so you don’t surprise them. And really educational. And I don’t know how many tens of thousands of pictures were taken.
- Deryl Stone: And yet they could do the job. We used them during fairs. The city asked us for help right after one of the VP fairs, or Fair Saint Louis. Right off the park grounds, there was almost a riotous situation going on there. We sent our horses out there, and here goes the horses through that crowd, sidestepping. Well, you separate them, they can’t find who they’re fighting with. And who’s going to argue with a horse? What do you do when a horse pushes you away? You know, and so it really worked well. And really a beneficial program.
- Deryl Stone: After I retired, the acting superintendent decided it was too expensive. And even before he mentioned it cost a lot of money, I said, “How do you put a price tag on that kind of public relations and fulfilling expectations with park visitors? Besides that, look at the bad guys we’ve caught with it.”
- Lu Ann Jones: Mm hmm. Mm hmm. Well one of the questions I have, and I think we’re going to have to kind of wind down, because I’m going to go to the dinner this evening, but one, kind of a couple of summary questions, maybe.

You've mentioned the idea and the image of the park ranger. So, when I say, "A park ranger is..." how do you complete that sentence?

Deryl Stone: A park ranger is, okay—

Lu Ann Jones: Or your idea of yourself as the park ranger, for example, when you were a ranger. What did you want to be?

Deryl Stone: My job was protect the park from the people, protect the people from the park, and protect people from people. After I retired, I started and ran a ranger law enforcement academy at Colorado Northwestern. And I told the folk going there that you are not going to be a cop in a flat hat. You are going to be a park ranger that does law enforcement. And you can do more law enforcement by preventing it than by trying to cure it. And that the best way to deal with people is to talk to them. And so, I kind of look at a park ranger, you know, times have changed. Ozzie and Harriet's not the only people in the park anymore. We do have problems. We do need the law enforcement skills. We know that. But when the gun starts wearing the ranger instead of the ranger wearing the gun, then you're in the wrong business. The ranger needs to wear the gun, not the gun wear the ranger. When you start seeing them tucking their thumbs in their gun belts, or putting their elbow on the butt of their gun then, no. They are still the friendly park ranger that can deal with anything.

Deryl Stone: Sometimes I lament, but when 6-C law enforcement came in, with that 6-C retirement came, what, 51 percent has to be law enforcement to qualify that retirement, I do lament the lack of non-law enforcement contact that they have with it. Because if you don't have the non-law enforcement contact, then you become very jaded and think everybody's that way. Yet I think in most cases, the rangers can get back to that by simply stopping at overlooks and talking to visitors. You know, you don't have to sit in that patrol car. If there's an accident down the road, somebody's going to flag you down, let you know, or they're going to radio you. Get out of that car. Stay in the proximity and talk to visitors. "How are you folks? Where are you folks from? Enjoying yourself? Hey, have you been up and seen this yet?" And make that kind of contact. And I think, you know, yes, we need to be law enforcement professionals. But yes, we need to be rangers that people are going to recognize.

Deryl Stone: And take that goddamn baseball cap and throw it away. Put the Stetson back on! That irritates me to no end is the, you see rangers now wearing baseball caps in many, many of the parks. "Well, I'm a back-country ranger. I'm going to hike five miles today, so I'm not going to wear my Stetson. You can't do it."

Deryl Stone: Bullshit! I wore that Stetson in the back country seven days a week, 14 miles from the nearest road. That's the iconic image of the park ranger you want to have. And that's the most recognizable thing. Not a damn baseball cap. Excuse me for getting off, but that just irritates me, you know. Look

the part of a ranger. And if you look the part of a ranger, then you're going to be a ranger.

Deryl Stone: And so yes, we've changed. But we still need to maintain some of the values that go back to the Albright and Mather days.

Lu Ann Jones: Well how did you go about just kind of learning the history of the Park Service? And once you got here, did you do it on your own? Did you do it through talking to people?

Deryl Stone: I've always been a history fan. And I started collecting little odds and ends. Well, the first thing I got to Yosemite, they gave every new ranger 30 dollars in credit at the bookstore. I got to buy some books. And I started then collecting Park Service stuff. And I spent 40 years collecting. My wife called it an obsession. I called it a collection. And I just donated 21 badges for permanent loan to the Grand Canyon Training Center, which included a Yellowstone Scout dating back to the 1890s. And my rare books, which some of them hadn't been seen before, to the University of Colorado. And then at this rendezvous, I'm setting out and selling – probably, in a lot of cases, less than I paid for – for the young rangers that might want to have some of the books, brochures, folders, pins, buttons, chinkaderos that I've collected. And I wanted to help towards the scholarship fund, the Wild Bill Scholarship Fund, or Bill Supernaugh Scholarship Fund, because he was a friend of mine for 30 years. So, I gave, paid for my table and then gave 25 percent of that to the association. And there's a lot of young rangers leaving with a lot of stuff that are really hard to find. Which I'm really tickled. But I just like the Park Service history.

Deryl Stone: And of course, the first day was kind of like giving away a baby. I sold my first edition of *Oh, Ranger*. Autographed by both authors.

Lu Ann Jones: Oh my gosh.

Deryl Stone: And I've had it for 25 years. But time to pass it on to somebody that is going to have it. And maybe they'll pass it on to somebody else, and down the road. So, you know, bittersweet. But I'm going to be cremated, so I can't take it with me. (laughter) So let the young rangers have it.

Lu Ann Jones: Well maybe that's a good note to end on here. I'm sorry we have to stop, but I've got my ticket and I've got to go to this dinner.

Deryl Stone: My wife's probably wondering what happened to me.

Lu Ann Jones: (laughs) Well, thank you so much.

Deryl Stone: My pleasure.

Lu Ann Jones: And I'm going to ask you to sign, we ask people to sign a release form.

Deryl Stone: Oh, no problem.

Lu Ann Jones: And if you could just fill out—

Deryl Stone: What am I, joining the Marine Corps again for another six?

Lu Ann Jones: Right. (laughs) Which you'll get benefits.

Deryl Stone: Okay. (laughter) No sequester?

Lu Ann Jones: No sequester. If you could just fill out this part, I can fill out the rest. It will be great.

[END OF TRACK 4]

[END OF INTERVIEW]