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**Robert W. Andrews**  
**May 18, 1973**

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Oral History Interview

Mr. Bob Andrews

by Herb Evison

Reel 193

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## START OF TAPE

Herbert Evison: This is May 18, 1973. I am Herb Evison, and today I am in the penthouse studio on top of the Interior Department Building in Washington, D.C. – and with me is Robert W. Andrews, who was a part of my staff in Richmond when I went down to take charge of the regional office in 1936.

Herbert Evison: He is one of that numerous company of people who came into the Park Service by the C.C.C. route, and who stayed on to make distinguished careers for themselves.

Herbert Evison: Now, Bob, I want to ask you first to tell me when and where you were born and something about the family you were born into.

Robert Andrews: Well, I was born in Koniag, Ohio – that's in the northeastern corner of the state of Ohio, on December 1, 1907. I was one of four children; I had three sisters, all whom – my youngest sister is 10 years older than I am.

Robert Andrews: And my father had been – brothers married sisters, and they built these houses side by side in 1905, in Ohio, and prior to that they had a country store together out in a place called Cherry Valley, Ohio. And then as time went on, they moved to this little town, and interestingly enough, the (and these are probably superfluous comments) but part of the funds for that house were paid for by material supplied by people at Old Bill's from the grocery store that my uncle had. Stone for the foundation, and lumber and so on.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Did you go to school there?

Robert Andrews: I started out in school there, in a one room schoolhouse. We had outdoor facilities, we went up front – there were eight grades in that school, we went up front and sat on a bench, but we resided there from the first on up to the eighth grade. When you were a good boy, you were able to take a bucket and go over to the neighbor's and get a bucket of water, and you distributed it, went up and down the aisles with a dipper. Then we had a potbellied stove at the back of the room, and the biggest boy in the class was the one that kept the fire going.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

Robert Andrews: And I went there for four years, and never felt I was hurt by that educational experience. Then I graduated from that, on to a two-room school; then went on to high school in Koniag, in the town; we lived outside of the town, had a few acres there.

Robert Andrews: After I graduated high school in 1925, I went one year to Washington Lee University in Lexington. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do, and while I was there, took some aptitude tests, to see what career I might be

interested in, and decided that I would like to become a landscape architect.

Robert Andrews: Well, then I made inquiries on where it would be advisable to go – and I got some very favorable information from Cornell, and decided that's where I wanted to go. Well, at that time, I was in the college of architecture, and they had a relatively limited number that they would admit, and I couldn't get in the following year. I had to wait another full year before I could get in, which was probably a good thing because I was able then to work at the creamery there in Koniag and at the hospital and save a little money to keep myself going at Cornell.

Robert Andrews: So I entered Cornell in the fall of 1927, and in the college of architecture, and got a degree in February, 1932. Well, then, that was in the Depression and I couldn't get a job; I think I'd done a few odd jobs. I got a bid for a post office planning job, and I got it and I was scared to death for fear of how I was going to make out on it. I think I did it for – and in fact, the Postmaster, he even called me and didn't think I could do it. Well, anyway, I think I made \$100 on that one, which was wonderful.

Herbert Evison: Uh huh.

Robert Andrews: So I worked that whole year, really about 15 months – at this creamery, and I had a milk route with a horse, and did a little sidelight – my dad taught me how to harness this horse from a Sears and Roebuck catalog, and I remember, it was in the middle of winter I started, five o'clock in the morning, and it was cold – 15° below zero. And I came up by the boiler room where this horse was harnessed on the wagon, and had all the harness stuff there, and the boiler engineer came out and he said, "Who in the hell taught you how to harness a horse!" – because I had things all mixed up. Well, he got me straightened out.

Robert Andrews: Well anyway, I went on with my milk route, and kept that until I went back to school, and I made \$90 a month, and if you worked the extra day – you got one day off a month, and you got another \$3 for it.

Herbert Evison: Yeah?

Robert Andrews: And then I had a job at the hospital, this was in the summer time when we'd go on the milk route about, oh, one o'clock in the morning and go through it at six or seven and I'd sleep until 12:30 and take my hospital job in the afternoon.

Robert Andrews: So the hospital wasn't far from there – I took care of the grounds and that sort of thing. Well, anyway, these are kind of extraneous things, but I did get – as I say, I got my degree in '32, and I couldn't get any work, so I

went back to Cornell again, and in the fall of '32, for advanced study, and I had a job for my room, and another job for my board.

Herbert Evison: Uh huh.

Robert Andrews: In fact, I had a job for my board during part of my college career, and also sold a number of architectural magazines, which helped me quite a bit, and then I worked every summer.

Robert Andrews: Well, anyway, I kept going until along February, and I wasn't getting anyplace, I just felt I couldn't make it. And so I came on home, pretty discouraged, and I think I got one little job with a doctor I made \$80 on.

Robert Andrews: Well then, I was – the CCC was just starting there, this was in '33, in the spring of '33. Well, I got a list of all the camp superintendents in the country, and I don't know where I got it, but I got it from someplace – and this was before Fran and I were married. Fran was teaching, she was making \$900 a year, and sending it all to her brother who had five children and no work.

Robert Andrews: So anyway, she came up and we wrote letters – she typed them – to every camp superintendent that we had, there were 140 of them or something like that, trying to get a job. Well, then times goes on – I guess it was in July, and I was watching ads in the Cleveland Plain, and I saw an ad that I thought maybe I could do.

Robert Andrews: So I went to Cleveland, and interviewed with this person, and it was selling refrigerators on a door to door basis, which in the Depression, you couldn't possibly make anything out of that, but anyway, I signed up and we had a two week training course that they paid you for.

Robert Andrews: Well, while I was up there, I went to see A.D. Taylor, and I don't know whether you know A.D. Taylor or not, but ...

Herbert Evison: I do, yes.

Robert Andrews: Well, of course, A.D. was a Cornell graduate and had been President of the American Landscape Association, and was very much interested. And was tied in with it with the forest service, through this whole C.C.C. thing. And he didn't know me from Adam, but he was very gracious, and saw me that – while I was in Cleveland and signed up for this other job. And he said, "I tell you what to do – you go on home and then write me a letter of what educational background you have had and what little experience you had" which I did and he said I'd be hearing from him.

Robert Andrews: Well, that was again, around the first of August and when I got home about a couple days later, I got a call from the creamery wanting to know if I wanted my old job back, which I had one summer, printing butter –

and I don't know whether you know what printing butter is, but it's where you put it into pounds, quarter pound packages, and wrap it and pack it.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

Robert Andrews: And I said I'd be delighted – at 35¢. an hour. So I went back to the creamery with my college degree and all this, but happy as a lark.

Herbert Evison: You know, this is just a wonderful revelation of what the situation was at the height of the Depression, Bob.

Robert Andrews: Oh, my father didn't have any money, nobody had any money. But anyway, I worked ten hours a day and they gave me \$3.50 a day, and it was perfect – you could work six days a week.

Robert Andrews: So, I kept on working and paid off my cigarette bill, which I think I had accumulated at \$50 or so at the corner, a country corner store. And then I was in touch with Mr. Taylor, he asked for a little more information, that sort of thing –

Robert Andrews: Well, finally, he said I ought to be hearing something from the Park Service. Well, I got a letter – oh, I think it was along the latter part of September, signed by Charlie Peterson, Deputy Director of Plans and Designs, under – offering me a job at Shiloh National Military Park at the \$1800, less 15%, as a landscape foreman. Well, boy, he got a letter right back saying I'd be delighted.

Herbert Evison: Right.

Robert Andrews: So I reported down here, I went by bus from – Fran loaned me the money, she took me to Cleveland, I got a bus from Cleveland and rode all night a couple of nights to get to Shiloh.

Robert Andrews: And I got there and reported for duty October 10th, 1933. Now, Charlie Marshall met me at the station in Corinth, Mississippi. Ronnie Lee was there, he was the historian there at Shiloh, and Tex Bradford was the camp superintendent, and he was a colorful, interesting character – and now whether you want these sidelights, or not, I don't know.

Herbert Evison: Oh yes; all you can remember!

Robert Andrews: Well, Tex had been an oil well firefighter, and he was a great big man and in the middle of the winter, it'd be cold and he'd never wear any coat, he would have about six sets of underwear under these army shirts, army outfit – and his wife was an old wheezed up thing (phonetic) – and well, anyway, Tex would try to keep the esprit de corps of the enrollees up on everybody, and so he'd have these little contests in the morning where he would take three, maybe, tennis balls and throw them up in the air and

have the enrollees scramble for them, and then the guy who got number one would get a Hershey bar or something like that or a cigar or something like that.

Robert Andrews: Well, of course, that lasted pretty good until a couple guys had a broken leg and an arm or something else well, then, Tex also had difficulty remembering things, so he evolved this elaborate card system, and his right hand pocket were the urgent cards, and the left hand pocket of his shirt were the less urgent cards.

Robert Andrews: So we'd have these staff meetings, and he'd pull out these urgent cards, and then he'd have them color coded.

Herbert Evison: Uh huh.

Robert Andrews: Under the degree of urgency. And he was always getting mixed up on the degree. Now this was to tell the foreman that that they will do thus and so on.

Robert Andrews: Well, these were just some little interesting things. Then also we'd be out riding with them in a pickup and he'd suddenly slam on the brakes and get out of the pickup and pick up a rock about so big, and put it in the car, and that was to remind him that well, tomorrow he was supposed to do something, and he'd take the rock back and put it on his desk.

Robert Andrews: So then, one other thing – he was quite an admirer of Elbert Hubbard, and he built himself a little place, a sort of a Shangri-La retreat back in the main office where he could go back and compose himself, and he tells a story on himself, he said he'd written for this book by Elbard Hubbard, and it came in the mail, so he was contemplating this with a great deal of pleasure, of reading this book – so he went back into seclusion and took a shower, and got in his pajamas and reclined on a couch that he had back there and got the light on and opened up the package, and the title of the book was Elbard Hubbard's "Essay on Nothing" and he opened it up and he didn't see anything, he kept turning the page and there wasn't a damn thing in it!

Robert Andrews: Well anyway, so much for Tex. Ronnie left along about December, I think, of that year, and came to the Washington office. Charlie, I don't know how long – he was one of the historians down there, but anyway, at that time, Senator McKeller – do you know this story?

Herbert Evison: No. Not in this connection, no.

Robert Andrews: Well, of course, being from Tennessee, he was vitally concerned – well, I don't know about vital, but anyway, he wanted to be sure he was involved

in the political situation at Shiloh. Well, the park superintendent was a man by the name of Livingston, a very quiet, fine man.

Robert Andrews: Well, the story goes – and I may not get this chronologically – but anyway, we had a number of road projects going on in Shiloh about then, those PWA projects – and I at that time, was working out of the southeastern field office under Ken Simmons and Harry Thompson. They had that area.

Herbert Evison: Uh huh.

Robert Andrews: Well, we had a main road project through the park, one of them, and were doing some work on the road to Corinth. Well, we had this terrible looking situation at the edge of the park, where the park edge cafe and the old hotel over here, the cement block, so we had kind of cooked up this deal – we lowered the profile of the road going through there a little bit to kind of help the entrance to the park.

Robert Andrews: Now I'll get back to this story in a bit. Well, anyway, there was this rumor going around that Keller was after Livingston. Well, Mr. Livingston suspected that his mail was being opened, and this is a gossipy sort of a thing –

Herbert Evison: No – it's very interesting.

Robert Andrews: Well, on the park there was this old country store down by the cemetery, the Shiloh Cemetery, and it was operated by a man by the name of McDaniel. Well, McDaniel was a good buddy of Keller's over in Memphis, so there was a kind of a tie in there.

Robert Andrews: After listening to the Watergate thing, I question whether I should be repeating hearsay evidence or not! But anyway, the post office was operated out of this little country store, for everybody in the park and for the park superintendent. Well, the postal authorities, in response to Mr. Livingston's request, placed (so the story goes) these little fine discs in some mail addressed to Livingston, made sure it was on the truck coming out of Corinth, and then this mail did not appear at its usual time, in the park office.

Robert Andrews: So the postal investigators immediately contacted McDaniel who also had a house over here, right near the office. They go over to his house and out in the kitchen on the table, they find some of these little discs. And it's his wife that opens them up, or so he says.

Robert Andrews: Well, that investigation is completely squelched. McKeller gets a thousand dollar appropriation for an investigation at Shiloh, and I've forgotten that



there were two others, one of them didn't come, but one other Senator – well, I remember being scared to death.

Robert Andrews: So we held the hearing at the back end of this hotel right at the edge of the park, the Shiloh Hotel, and it was in the middle of winter, and it was freezing and thawing, and they cut the road through, you know; tore out the old pavement and lowered the grade, and the dirt was piled up on either side, and so it looked like the dickens, you know; at the worst possible time, what with water running down and muddy.

Robert Andrews: Well, as soon as I knew what was – that they were going to have this investigation, of course, then we sent wires out from there, but we didn't dare send them from there, we sent them from an address in Corinth. They sent one here to Washington, and to Tom and Ronnie, and Harry and all my friends – and well, to apprise them of what was going on.

Robert Andrews: Well, anyway, they held the hearing – and the road job was ordered stopped, and then we were – through the Bureau of Public Roads, were ordered to put the profile back, which was done. Well, then Livingston was called to Washington, and I think Demaray was director then –

Herbert Evison: No, Cam was director at the time, although Demaray might well have been acting, because he was associate director then.

Robert Andrews: Yes, I think Demaray did handle the situation. Well, anyway – of course, McKeller was Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and I guess part of this, as I say, is hearsay, but the rumor was that McKeller wasn't going to deny the park's appropriation if they got rid of Livingston.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

Robert Andrews: So the next thing was he was no longer superintendent. And I think Livingston went with the state parks.

Herbert Evison: Yes, he did.

Robert Andrews: And anyway, Charlie Dunn from Chattanooga was made superintendent. Well, we'd been there for, oh, Charlie had been there for three or four weeks or a month, I've forgotten the time – but one Saturday morning he called five of us into his office, Oscar Ray whom I'm sure you don't know, he was an engineer, an awfully nice person, and one of the historians and myself and a couple of camp superintendents, said, "Well, boys, I've got orders to get rid of you, and I'm going to do it, and also that you are not to have any more jobs with the federal government – and I'll give you until Monday to do whatever you want to do about it."

Robert Andrews: And this was on a Saturday afternoon, now. So you know, for a young man – I'd just been married prior, well, a little longer than that; after I got

the Shiloh job, we got married that December, on December 23rd, on this six months assignment.

Herbert Evison: Uh huh.

Robert Andrews: Anyway, I came back and sent Harry Thompson and Tom and the usual compliment, the wires of what had happened. Well, I got a wire right back from Harry and I think – I don't know whether or not, I believe Harry said not to worry, that we'll find something for you.

Robert Andrews: And then I think on Tuesday, I got a wire that said head for Washington, and just leave. So, we sold a few chairs and stuff we had, and there was a hardware store I had bought a few things from in Corinth, and it was run by a man named Small and a man by the name of – who was the little one of the two, and I forgot the other one's name but I asked him where I might store my furniture, and I only say this to show you how kind people are. And he said, well, that wasn't a problem, just put it in the back end of the warehouse and I said, "I don't know where I'll be" and he said that whenever I got settled, you just send a penny postcard and he'd have it shipped to you.

Robert Andrews: Well, we stored our stuff in the back end of this warehouse and about two months later, from Charleston, West Virginia, I sent him a post card and he sent us our furniture.

Robert Andrews: Well, anyway, Harry said to get the hell out, so we came on to Washington and he told me to take some leave, working on the assignment. Well, the result was they sent me to Charleston, on that West Virginia park setup, for a year.

Herbert Evison: The Central Design Office –

Robert Andrews: Well, we worked that under Tom Cheek's setup –

Herbert Evison: Yeah, but it was a central design office in West Virginia State Park.

Robert Andrews: Right, but your office – the region – was handing out all these funds, I guess, and then we would review the plans, and we were sort of the representative of the park service, the regional office, in his office. With a raise in pay, I got, too. Which pleased me.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

Robert Andrews: So this was in 1936, so we headed for Charleston, and lived there for about roughly a year, and while I was there, I remember Cheek wanted me to stay on, and with him, resigned from the Park Service, but I decided that no I would come back, and that's when I came back to the regional office.

Herbert Evison: Oh yes.

Robert Andrews: And that's when I literally reported for the first time, physically, in the office there.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, even though you had been an employee.

Robert Andrews: Right. Well, out in West Virginia was the usual – well, you know that story pretty well. And Bathurst was the inspector and Shaw I think, was the engineer and then Clyde Trudell was the architect working out of Ohio; he had three states. And I'll tell you an interesting little story about Clyde, if you want to hear it.

Herbert Evison: Oh, yes.

Robert Andrews: Well, at least this is what Clyde tells. One time he was going back towards Louisville (and maybe he's told you this story) and he had a very tiring day. And he didn't know whether he could get to Louisville or not, he was just so darned tired. And along about then, while all these thoughts were going through his mind, he saw this big sign advertising a (UNINTELLIGIBLE) mint julep at some motel in Louisville. Does this strike a chord with you?

Herbert Evison: No, no.

Robert Andrews: So that kind of revived him and he said, "Well, I could make it to Louisville" – and so he registers at the hotel and gets, takes his shower and gets all refreshed and goes down to the bar, and orders a mint julep, and the bartender says "I'm sorry, but we're all out of mint". Well, Clyde said he was so damn mad that he went back and he wrote a letter to Cobb out in Santa Monica.

Robert Andrews: Well, you know, Clyde was a pretty clever person with the ways of the English language – I think he published a book in Yorktown once – but anyway, he said he got a letter back from Cobb telling him that he would be perfectly justified in cutting the bartender into pits and tarring and feathering him.

Robert Andrews: Anyway, that's a little aside.

Herbert Evison: Do you remember what the reason was that you finally set up in Richmond?

Robert Andrews: As I recall, it was one of these periodic curtailments of funds, and Kent Ford was a kind of a district guy out in Cincinnati.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, just outside of Cincinnati.

Robert Andrews: Yeah, in Marymount –

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

Robert Andrews: And he was from Clifton Forge, had a beautiful place there.

Herbert Evison: Yes, I've been there.

Robert Andrews: Well, anyway, as I recall, this was just a design office request, so we sent him to come on back, that they wanted to beef up the staff there in the regional office, and I don't know...

Herbert Evison: Well, I don't remember, either.

Robert Andrews: I've kind of forgotten, too, because I remember, apparently Cheek had wired the regional office as to whether he could interview me to stay and he had wired back and said yes, and sent me a copy of it, and told me to let him know whether I wanted to stay or didn't want to stay.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

Robert Andrews: And I'm not sure – I don't know but I think they were kind of drawing in on some of these state parks, because there was a bit of a duplication of effort, really, I mean here we were kind of passing on the judgment of a central design office which a person was qualified to do that, and he was doing this and sending them into another layer of review in the regional office, and then Charlie gets back in.

Robert Andrews: Well, then you had a little run in with Bathurst about that, I think –

Herbert Evison: If I did, I don't remember it at all.

Herbert Evison: Well, Bob, I'm interested in whatever you can remember about events during your regional office days; of course, that was a period when I was there as associate regional director and Carl Russell was first director, and then Tillotson.

Robert Andrews: Yeah.

Herbert Evison: I imagine you served there under both of them, didn't you?

Robert Andrews: Well, let's see, I came back here as I said, and as I remember, it was in the Fall of 1937, I believe.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

Robert Andrews: And Fred Fay and I had an office together, and then I think Simmon and Red Ewald were in the next pew and then Ludden in the corner, and Major Gray was downstairs, and then the architectural staff was across the hall, something like that.

Herbert Evison: Uh huh.

- Robert Andrews: Well, at that time, Fred and I had sort of the review of – gee, I forgot what we called those things; all these applications that came in for funds and plans and everything else, well, I had the southern part and Fred had the northern part of the country.
- Herbert Evison: Yeah.
- Robert Andrews: And Al Higgins, I remember Al – and then again, little funny instances you remember, oh – the architect, you remember him?
- Herbert Evison: Oh yes, Laren Burn.
- Robert Andrews: Burn, yes. Well, Laren and Al would exchange this wild necktie on each of their birthdays and they'd have this elaborate ceremony, you know, and knowing Al and Laren, too, you can imagine.
- Herbert Evison: Yeah.
- Robert Andrews: Well, we had, I thought we had a very good office setup there. Red was a talented guy, and funny as a – I had Red at Cornell as an instructor.
- Herbert Evison: Yeah, I wondered about that, if you ever had him.
- Robert Andrews: So I knew him there; he was working on his advanced degree, but he had worked with Brian Flemming up there as a landscape architect. And Red was always, he could never keep track of how much leave he had, and he was always late, you know; he didn't mind working half the night, but he never could get to work on time. And I remember one time when we were having lunch, and along about the middle of lunch, he pulled out his watch and he says, "I've got to leave – I've only got five minutes of annual leave left!" and so he dashes out the door.
- Robert Andrews: Well, we had some interesting assignments there. I went out to – I was trying to think of that area, it was out in Virginia, where we were working on a little state park, and I made a master plan for it, funny I can't think of the name of it.
- Herbert Evison: Well, it might have been Hungry Mother or it might have been Dogwood, or ...
- Robert Andrews: No, it wasn't that – I'm not sure whether it was a park that was finally developed or not. They were going to build a dam on this area, and it seems to me it was kind of a cooperative thing with some local authorities I know they built dams at Dogwood, as we were working on some of those, too, down in Hungry Mother, and Ferrystone and Dogwood.
- Herbert Evison: Yeah, there were no dams at all in all of those.

- Robert Andrews: Yeah. And then – well, it was pretty much routine, as I remember it, I'm trying to think of another name that comes to mind and the reason, because we used to live out in a county that we were not too far from, it was John Munich, now you might have known him – a I think he worked in accounting or something there.
- Herbert Evison: I have a bare remembrance of him.
- Robert Andrews: Well, he is in Norfolk, and his mother is still living, and we exchange Xmas cards with his mother. They were kind of peasant stock, and she took in roomers and did ironing and that sort of thing.
- Herbert Evison: Yeah.
- Robert Andrews: But – well, I'm going to backtrack a bit on another little incident with Tom Bent.
- Herbert Evison: Good.
- Robert Andrews: If that's all right, of course. When the – I was working basically, when I was at Shiloh, part of the time, at least, out of the southeastern field office in Atlanta, under Kenneth Simms and Harry Thompson.
- Herbert Evison: Yeah.
- Robert Andrews: Harry being Simm's assistant. They both had gone to Harvard together and they were good friends. Well, Harry tells the story that he had never met Tom Bent, and Simm was out of the office, away on a field trip and he got word that Tom was going to visit the office on a particular day, so he advised everybody in the office and the staff that the big boss was coming from Washington to visit them. So they cleaned up the office, and everybody was all dressed up in their best, and on the day that Tom was to arrive – Harry said he happened to be out in the hall and he saw this fellow with no necktie on and a kind of torn straw hat, and unpolished shoes, and no press in his pants, and a packet sticking out of his hip pocket, and he seemed to be kind of lost out there in the hall, and he asked him if he could help him. And he said, "Yes, I'm Tom Bent and I'm looking for the southeastern field office" and here he was dressed up in a white suit. So I thought that was kind of cute. That was typical of Tom.
- Herbert Evison: I know he was one of the most thoroughly informal people you ever knew.
- Robert Andrews: He sure was.
- Herbert Evison: Uh huh.
- Robert Andrews: Well, I'm trying to get back to the Richmond days. See, I left there before, the war, and went to Yorktown –

- Herbert Evison: As landscape architect?
- Robert Andrews: As landscape architect of Yorktown.
- Herbert Evison: Uh huh.
- Robert Andrews: Now, some months prior to that – and I left, gee, I forgot when – well, it must have been in '40, either late '39 or probably – yes, late '39, time does go on, I was scheduled to go to the Smokie Mountains to take Frank Matson's place as landscape architect, and Len and I went down to spend about a week down there going over all the projects, me and the staff.
- Robert Andrews: And everything apparently was on the up and up. So they put my papers through. And time goes on, and a letter came back, and I think it was over Icky's signature, saying that they were disapproving this move. And that this was no reflection on Mr. Andrew's ability and that they would be glad to consider some other assignment.
- Robert Andrews: Well, of course, you could read between the lines and this got back to my involvement down in Shiloh, you see. So after that, why then they shifted Bill Wilhelm down to the Smokies and sent me to Yorktown; Elbert Cox was down there and that's how I got there.
- Herbert Evison: Yes.
- Robert Andrews: And I believe that Charlie Marhsall was down there for a while then.
- Herbert Evison: At Yorktown?
- Robert Andrews: At Yorktown, yes. I'm not sure.
- Herbert Evison: Well, of course, he lives down in the neighborhood nowadays, you know.
- Robert Andrews: Yeah.
- Robert Andrews: Well, so I ended up by going to Yorktown. I'm trying to backtrack a little bit and think back if any more instances occurred, and maybe they will come to me, in the Richmond days.
- Herbert Evison: What were you concerned with down at Yorktown during the period you were there?
- Robert Andrews: Well, I was resident landscape architect; there was the tunnel project underway, you know, under Williamsburg, you know, the Bureau of Public Roads ...
- Herbert Evison: Oh yes.
- Robert Andrews: Then at that time we were working on the parkway towards Jamestown Island, and the Bureau had the rough graded parkway, and of the bridges

underway, across Halfway Creek, and then I was making studies of the terminal of Jamestown Island, you know, shifting the roads around and how we could come in with a parking area and take that old road out – that was one of the things I was working on.

Herbert Evison: Yes.

Robert Andrews: And then we had several planning operations going. Then – talking about a golf course.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, about getting rid of it.

Robert Andrews: Yeah. And then the waterfront, and then there was a concern, too; of course, you see then the December 7th comes along while I'm there, and of course, we're right between the naval mine depot and the other base up there, so there's really blackouts down there, and then there is concern about the Park Service providing recreational facilities, so we worked up quite a temporary bathhouse facility and so forth along the beach up there at Yorktown.

Robert Andrews: I remember, I had one interesting experience – I went out fishing with the architect, a chap down there, in a rowboat, and we got in a little after sundown, and it was partially dark, but you could still see – kind of dusk – and there were these navy boats out in the York River, and my golly all of a sudden these great, tremendous floodlights come zooming down on us in this little row boat and then this booming voice over a loud speaker asking what we were doing there and to identify ourselves and everything – I thought we were going to be blasted out of the river there. But we held up our small fish and went on in.

Herbert Evison: Oh, you had gotten some fish, then!

Robert Andrews: Yes, we did – we had some proof to show. Well, then the big curtailment came in March, I think it was, and then I went with the Corps of Engineers and then the Richmond General Depot. I worked there, and we moved back to Richmond.

Herbert Evison: Uh huh.

Robert Andrews: And we were on camouflage work, and then I moved to Baltimore with the Corps, and was there up until just about the end of the war. I expected to be drafted, it was kind of touch and go, we were in and out kind of.

Herbert Evison: Yes.

Robert Andrews: But anyway, then after – oh, it was getting close to the end of the war, and we were working primarily on the camouflage installation at the Martin plant there in Baltimore, which is a big project.



Herbert Evison: Yes.

Robert Andrews: Had a rather catastrophic experience there where we had 80 acres of parking lots under nets – these camouflage nets, and they changed the setup, and I fortunately, where we had prior to this, had a prior contract to do maintenance on these nets – well, they cancelled that contract and decided that they would go ahead and do it on their own.

Robert Andrews: Well, fortunately, I had prepared a rather elaborate report on the – what could happen on these things if they weren't properly maintained. And had pictures, and it was very voluminous.

Robert Andrews: Well, anyway, we get this – on about the middle of winter, we get this very heavy, wet snowstorm. Well, they start over at one edge of this parking lot and these nets go right down, and they go clear across until they got maybe 40 acres of cars, stuck under these nets. This is like the Watergate investigations – with lawsuits, you know, from the people and the army trying to get out of the blame, you know, with everybody trying to pass the buck.

Herbert Evison: Uh huh.

Robert Andrews: Well, of course, I had my little report which I pulled out, so I had no problem. But anyway, they finally got it straightened out. Then there was one other little funny incident that occurred there, among several.

Robert Andrews: The – we painted the tops of these buildings, and of course, we made plans for all this where it looked like from the air, and so it looked like cultivated fields from the orchards and we had dummy buildings and so on – and so these parking areas were covered with these nets with spun glass in them and what not, that gives you the effects of shadows, and it looked like woods and everything else.

Herbert Evison: Depth, yes.

Robert Andrews: Rows of vegetables and that. Well, we had this contract for this big paint job, we were painting this roof of some of these buildings and the buildings were about 80 ft. high, and they had these big air hoses, big spray guns, and the air hose was draped across an opening between buildings, and down below on the ground, there was a little sitting out area, with some benches on that.

Robert Andrews: Well, you can guess what happened. Four or five women were sitting on these benches, and this air hose that spanned the gap where these were, broke, and this paint came and sprayed them.

- Robert Andrews: Well, we had quite a time getting that one straightened out – new clothes and all new hairdos and so on. But well, I was following that – Harry wanted me to come back with the Park Service.
- Herbert Evison: This is Harry Thompson, now.
- Robert Andrews: Thompson, right.
- Herbert Evison: Yeah.
- Robert Andrews: And he also at this time, there were two possibilities – one, the park's local National Capital Parks, handled all the planning and maintenance work for the District of Columbia Recreation Department, which basically, was a relatively new department at that time, which you may know from –
- Herbert Evison: Christi.
- Robert Andrews: Under Chris, yes. Recreations board. Well, the Park Service was, not necessarily having problems, but things weren't going too smoothly. So Harry wanted me to sort of take a job up there with them to be their liaison, in a sense, for planning and development, maintenance for the Recreation Department, and National Capital Parks.
- Herbert Evison: Now, would you have been a National Capital Park or a recreation employee?
- Robert Andrews: A recreation employee, yes.
- Herbert Evison: As I remember it, I thought Christi was saying the other day he brought you in as his assistant.
- Robert Andrews: Right.
- Herbert Evison: Yeah.
- Robert Andrews: So I went up there and then Harry said any time that I wanted to come back to let, him know. Well, I was up there, and I set up the department, and set up this organization, or whatever you'd call it – and we got plans out for most of the areas and I got that down on a pretty good keel. And then I left there, I was up there for about 8 or 9 years, and then I went back with Harry at National Capital Parks.
- Herbert Evison: Yeah.
- Robert Andrews: Then I was on these PCP's with Harry. And hooked up with Harry Langley for a little while, just when he was short of help for a little while. Then when Merle went back up with – Merle Sager – went back up with Tom, then I took Merle's place, as landscape architect of National Capital Parks.

- Herbert Evison: About when would that have been? Do you remember?
- Robert Andrews: Well, let's see, I should have jotted down these dates. I left the Recreation Department in August of 1953, and came back to the Park Service with National Capital Parks at that time. I was working then on PCP's and other assignments that Harry gave me; we were working on this Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, this Freedoms Foundation proposal on the Nevius track, and these other sort of special things that Harry was particularly interested in.
- Herbert Evison: Now was Harry superintendent of National Capital Parks at that time?
- Robert Andrews: No, but he was later on after Kelly died.
- Herbert Evison: Oh yes.
- Robert Andrews: So Harry would kind of give me these special projects he was involved in and he would want me to prepare reports, and that sort of thing, for him, and do that type thing. And I think then when Merle Sager went up with Tom then, I took his place, and I'm trying to think it seems to me that would probably have been about 1956 or somewhere along in there. I could be wrong on that date.
- Robert Andrews: Well, then –
- Herbert Evison: Was this before the organization of the National Capital Park's design and construction office?
- Robert Andrews: Well – no, this was before. Before.
- Herbert Evison: Uh huh.
- Robert Andrews: And – well, now wait a minute, I think it was before. I think – gee, isn't that strange? You know, I jotted all this stuff down and then I forgot to bring it. This was a long time ago, you know – when you first called me, you see, I kind of have to refresh my memory.
- Herbert Evison: Well anyway, I don't know that that's too important, but came the time when there was a design construction office, we were the third design office.
- Herbert Evison: And as I remember rightly, a guy named Bob Andrews was the head of that.
- Robert Andrews: Well, Bob Horn was the first one. And then, Bill Houseman, following Bob – when Harry became superintendent, Bob I think, became assistant superintendent or something like that and then Bill became chief of design construction for this National Capital Parks region.
- Herbert Evison: Uh huh.

- Robert Andrews: And then when Bill retired, I took Bill's place.
- Herbert Evison: Yes.
- Robert Andrews: Then I held that until we reorganized; well, everybody got reorganized, and –
- Herbert Evison: One of the interesting things about that situation was that at the time you were head of that office, Bob Hall was head of the Philadelphia office, and Red Hill was head of the San Francisco office, and all three of you came into the Park Service through the same CCC route.
- Robert Andrews: That's right –
- Herbert Evison: Which was really something, as proof of the quality of the people that came into the Park Service in that period.
- Robert Andrews: Well, they all – as I look back at my Shiloh days, the men that we knew that had come in there under the CCC were fine quality people. The engineer, for example, that was living right next door to us was from the University of Mississippi, a graduate, and he had been up – married a woman, a graduate of Northwestern University in Chicago, they had spent much time up in Alaska, and she had been in an Indian school up there, he was a location engineer for the Illinois Central Railroad, they lived on these cars, you know?
- Herbert Evison: Uh huh.
- Robert Andrews: And here, the man was completely out of work and he had joined this as a CCC enrollee at \$40 some dollars a month, just for something to do.
- Herbert Evison: Yeah, yeah.
- Robert Andrews: But they made him a park engineer, and he went on with the Corps of Engineers after this flareup at Shiloh, and he died not too long ago, oh, he was one of their top men down at Vicksburg with the Corps, and on soil analysis. Well, then J. Gordon Bennett who was down there with me, worked for me, he is still I think with the TVA down there in Paris, Tennessee.
- Herbert Evison: On really? I haven't heard his name in years.
- Robert Andrews: Yeah, and he was a good little Illinois graduate. Mrs. Agee was – well, you wouldn't know her.
- Herbert Evison: I have heard that name, though.
- Robert Andrews: Sheila, she was the superintendent's secretary and we used to have chicken dinners over there occasionally, and she was a wonderful person, her husband died. I stopped back at Shiloh one time on one of our trips

coming back from visiting our daughter, and the children – and I didn't recognize the place, what with everybody gone.

Herbert Evison: Well, you were for this period, until the office was abolished, you were the top man in the National Capital Design and Construction Office, the Office of Design and Construction.

Robert Andrews: Right.

Herbert Evison: Was that your last job with the –

Robert Andrews: That was the last – no, the last job then was when we had the reorganization, and they sent us over to Roslyn and basically consolidated the Philadelphia office and this office over there –

Herbert Evison: Into the Washington Service Center.

Robert Andrews: Right.

Herbert Evison: Yeah, yes.

Robert Andrews: And then I was landscape architect over there.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Were you kept busy during the time that you were there?

Robert Andrews: Part of the time; I would say kind of yes and no, to be honest with you.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

Robert Andrews: Everybody was kind of in a dither, literally. The whole morale was very low.

Herbert Evison: Yeah? Somebody was saying yesterday that George Hartzog's modus operandi was to keep everybody a little bit off balance.

Robert Andrews: Yeah, and he did. That he did.

Herbert Evison: He did some remarkable things, but he also raised hell on many occasions with morale, there's no question about that.

Robert Andrews: Yeah, he sure did. You had to admire him, but some of the things he did. Well, I can understand where, as a landscape architect, we had been the chosen few, in a sense. Connie was a landscape architect, that had been his background for most of the years of my career, where he was the head man, and Tom was the Reverend Father. So you couldn't help but have that type of association with those connections.

Robert Andrews: Whereas George was an entirely different personality and probably the Park Service needed an upset like this, although I'm not quite so sure, but anyway ...

Herbert Evison: Well, we seem to have wrapped up your career here, Bob. There's a whole other side of this tape if you want to fill it, if you have more to contribute.

Robert Andrews: Well –

Herbert Evison: You retired in what year, Bob?

Robert Andrews: I retired in January of 1969.

Herbert Evison: Yes. Now you live out in Silver Spring.

Robert Andrews: Yes, we live out near Colesville.

Herbert Evison: Oh yes.

Robert Andrews: We have a place out there roughly of about an acre. It's wooded, so we don't have a garden; I have enough to take care of though, lots of leaves. If anybody wants any Oak leaves, why I'd be delighted to have them come get them. Then we have had over the years, we have had considerable interest in property at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, in Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina.

Herbert Evison: Yes.

Robert Andrews: In fact, when I – Chris and I formed a little corporation, and he may have mentioned this to you, where we built some rental cottages together and gotten rid of them, and we each have our own beach cottage down at Kitty Hawk.

Herbert Evison: On the Atlantic Ocean.

Robert Andrews: Oh, it's delightful. We've got a little vertical bank we're a little worried about, but I think it'll see me out.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Now I think you said something about having been in Europe, didn't you? You and Fran.

Robert Andrews: Yes. Well, I was going on with this – we had some property also at Kill Devil Hill, and I had been fooling with it a bit since I retired. I'd been designing, I had been working with a contractor down there designed some cottages for him, and then we built a cottage together and sold it, and then I'd been fussing with it, selling his property off here and there.

Robert Andrews: Well anyway, after we retired, I thought that this would be a bit of a letdown, and it was, a little bit, so we thought we better do a little traveling, so we drove to Mexico, and we're – we had been gone for about a month and we enjoyed it very much, and then that following Fall, we went to Europe and took a three week tour, a regular tour, but we left before the tour did, we picked it up in London.

- Herbert Evison: Uh huh.
- Robert Andrews: We went over on the Normandy, and came back on the France. My wife doesn't like to fly and I don't particularly care for sailing, but anyway, the point – and you may remember this person, we visited the Ray Julians in Salisbury. Now Ray was an architect, was with the Park Service, worked in Richmond, and was there when I was there – and was a very – when Charlie Lesick and Earl Dick and that crew were all there, and Ray was a Yale graduate and a fine, his specialty was church architecture. (CUT)
- Robert Andrews: Ray, when he left the Park Service, had an office in Syosset and did a lot of –
- Herbert Evison: Syosset?
- Robert Andrews: New York.
- Herbert Evison: Oh! New York, yes.
- Robert Andrews: And did a number of churches out in Long Island. He was an Episcopalian, and then he moved to Charlottesville and then set an office up in Charlottesville, Virginia and did a number of churches in the south. Well, he had a heart attack and had to give us his practice and moved to – and they loved England and they moved to England. And lived in this place that he has – it's a crown property, that was part of it built in the 1600's and designed by Indigo Jones.
- Herbert Evison: Oh yes.
- Robert Andrews: And Ray has done some restoration work on it; they could only do certain things, but of course they could do it to meet the requirements of the consular. So we had a very enjoyable two weeks we spent there – he was there in the headquarters, and into Coswell, and traveled from there.
- Herbert Evison: Oh yeah.
- Robert Andrews: But he does some work, but not a great deal. But he had been in the Richmond office and was a very talented architect.
- Herbert Evison: Yes.
- Robert Andrews: Well, then we did the usual tour of three weeks – the three week tour of London down into France and Italy and so forth, and then came back and to Paris then, and I rented a car and went up to Lar Valley and sailed from Mojave.
- Robert Andrews: Well, then in our other travel experiences, we went with George Harding and his wife. Now George used to be head of maintenance for National Capital Parks. About a six week trip to Greece, and the Greek Islands and

to Yugoslavia and up the Dalmatian Coast to Venice, and then we rented a car, had a car in Venice, Italy and then down along to Spain and Portugal and then another little side trip over to Fez, Morocco and then back from there.

Robert Andrews: So that was another trip. Then last year, Fran and I went to the Norwegian countries and were gone for about a month, and loved that, and came back.

Herbert Evison: Oh yes.

Robert Andrews: So that's been kind of our traveling experiences.

Herbert Evison: So, it's apparent that you've been enjoying your retirement and –

Robert Andrews: Well, I have.

Herbert Evison: Of course, it interests me that you have been enjoying it in somewhat the same way as we have. Doing so much of this European travel, especially.

Robert Andrews: Well, we'd never been to Europe and I just – I'm very fond of it and Fran is, too. We had a little setback. Fran had this heart problem develop, but I think we've got it under control now, so we're encouraged about that.

Herbert Evison: Well, good.

Robert Andrews: She was – it took us quite a while, several months, and had her in the hospital quite a while, but she wouldn't perform while she was in the hospital and they had to get a reading, an EKG, while she was actually having one of these attacks – and we finally got her to the time when she was having one and then they knew what to do.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Well, it was just wonderful to talk to her. I was so darn glad you were a little bit late.

Robert Andrews: Well, fine.

Herbert Evison: Well, I think we have this fairly mopped up, don't we?

Robert Andrews: I don't know of anything else, Herb.

Herbert Evison: I don't know what else to ask you. I will say I'm just immensely obliged to you for being willing to come down here on a Friday afternoon.

Robert Andrews: Well, I'm sure there is a lot of extraneous stuff here, but you can always edit it out.

Herbert Evison: Well, it's wonderful to have it on tape and to sit here and chin with you. Again, thank you very much.

Robert Andrews: All right, Herb.



(END OF TAPE)