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Herbert Evison's National Park Service Oral History Project, 1952-1999



Herma Baggley
September 19, 1962

Interview conducted by S. Herbert Evison
Transcribed by Unknown
Edited by Herma Baggley
Digitized by Madison T. Duran

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NPS History Collection
Harpers Ferry Center
PO Box 50
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
HFC_Archivist@nps.gov

HERMA (MRS. GEO. F.) BAGGLEY

Reel #XXXV

Including changes and corrections
offered with letter of May 5, 1964

[START OF TAPE 35, SIDE 1]

Herbert Evison: This is Herbert Evison at Estes Park, Colorado, and for a little while we are going to be talking with Herma Baggley, who is also Mrs. George Baggley, wife of an assistant regional director in the Midwest Region of the National Park Service, and herself a former National Park Service employee. What I am anxious to talk with her about this morning, though, is a job that she did several years ago as chairman of a committee of National Park Service women. And Herma, what I am after is how that all started, how it was organized, how you went about the work of getting your information, and analyzing it, and then what happened.

Herma Baggley: Well, it all started at the conference in Glacier National Park when the challenge was thrown out to the women that there was something they could do, and that the housing situation seemed to be the main point of — really the fly in the ointment, so to speak. Housing was very bad, and there were just a few words thrown out to us by the chief architect, really, from the Washington office, it was a challenge.

Herbert Evison: John Cabot?

Herma Baggley: John Cabot. And something that he said sort of piqued us all and the result was we decided to do something about it; and I being one of those who can stand up and say something, immediately arose because I felt that I had been in all types of housing in the National Park Service and that we could do something, but if we did we must be organized, loosely at least; you couldn't just get up there and make a motion — it had to be some type of organization that would tie us together. Out of this grew the National Park Service Women's Organization with a person appointed — elected, rather; we divided ourselves up into regions and then nominated women from which they would elect a chairman. And I was elected chairman, I suppose because I said the most, I don't know.

Herma Baggley: We had some very interesting women there and women who knew organization, such as Etta Mae Northington and Bea Freeland — women who were trained in parliamentary law and who knew how to organize. When we were finally organized, we decided that the thing to do was to group the Service wives, not according to Regions, as had been done by the National Park Service itself, but to group into areas which we felt were more nearly alike in their interests and all. So, we had the southwest area and the northeast area and the central area, etc., the women from each area got together, elected their own chairman, and those were my women to work with.

- Herma Baggley: My husband was a great deal of help to me, because he too had been in the Park Service a good many years and we both were acquainted with the various kinds of housing, he having been a chief ranger and I having been a naturalist. He helped me organize a set of questionnaires which we felt would meet the requirement of a housing report and yet get for us the vital information from every individual superintendent's wife and every individual ranger's wife or other employee's wife within the Service. When Dick Sutton came to Boulder City, we were then at Lake Mead — we asked him about it and showed him the preliminary outline that I had worked up. We made out a series of several questionnaires: a questionnaire that dealt with the present housing and the number of children and the type of housing; we divided it into various phases of housing, from trailers and tents up to the present housing that they had. And when we were through, this then went out to each regional chairman — I worked entirely through my regional chairmen, because I felt that they could accumulate that material, they could analyze it, and then they could send it on to me.
- Herma Baggley: We had said in the beginning when the first letter went out that a picture would do much more than many words. And so, we had pictures come in from almost every area. And out of all the areas — and I can't recall that number now — we had only I think four which never reported; so, we had really the housing picture of the whole Service, the whole United States; in fact, not only that, but we had worked even farther, because we had the Alaskan and Hawaiian housing too.
- Herma Baggley: It took a year to compile all this material, and then it came to me, and I went through it as the final comber and tried to put it all together into a final report which was published then and presented to the Director and he in turn presented it to the Bureau of the Budget. This of course included the final tallies for every individual area in the Park Service; also, the area tally; and it also included the individual pictures from the individual areas. That, however, we bound separately for the Director. Because we had more than one picture from each area — we finally bound up each individual area separately, put those together into the NPS region and those were sent as references for the Director and his committees and the Bureau of the Budget.
- Herma Baggley: We were told later that perhaps that report did more to influence the Bureau of the Budget as to the housing conditions in the National Park Service than any one thing that had ever been done.
- Herbert Evison: I think it would be interesting if you would give your impressions of what that report did reveal.

- Herma Baggley: Well, the report revealed some very astounding facts that just made you believe that it couldn't be possible in the United States and in the National Park Service.
- Herma Baggley: We found that many people in areas, isolated areas, and some in areas that were a long ways from being isolated areas, were living in very substandard housing. People were living in tents; people were living in trailers; and people were living in old army barracks, and many people were having to be housed outside the areas proper. While some people were well housed, the majority of the people were definitely not well housed.
- Herma Baggley: We also found that the housing, aside from being substandard, was also very inadequate; that many families of fair size were cramped together in quarters that should have been maybe for one or two people. And I was astounded. I could hardly believe, had it not been for the pictures and had I not known almost every woman who submitted a report, I would not have believed it was possible that an organization such as the National Park Service was having to house their people as they were being housed.
- Herbert Evison: When you talked about people living in tents, were there situations in which people in fairly cold climates were living in tents year-round, do you remember?
- Herma Baggley: I don't remember that anybody lived in a tent all the year round, but the southwest had some very bad housing, and particularly at Dinosaur National Monument, and that housing had to be used the year round, and some of it wasn't much better than tent. A good many of them, however, were in trailers and they weren't the trailers of 1962 by any manner of means. They weren't their own trailers; they were trailers that had been salvaged otherwise. But we did have people living in conditions that were not possible — that we wouldn't feel anyone should be living in in the wintertime, much less some of them in the summertime.
- Herbert Evison: Well, that has always seemed to me to have been a very wonderful accomplishment for the National Park Service women. I had forgotten, however, that the National Park Service Women's Organization was formed first in direct connection with this challenge to the women.
- Herma Baggley: That's exactly what it was formed for; to take care of this one particular project, because that project did have results, the women felt that perhaps the thing to do when we met at the second conference was to keep it going, and I myself asked the Director if he thought it was worthwhile. He said he felt if the women wanted to continue to have an organization, they would be ready at any time when there was a project they could do; that's

why they have continued. They have never taken up any big project like that since, but there hasn't been a big one of that type to take up again.

Herbert Evison: Now, you talked about this having been organized but you didn't say where. As I remember it, it was the 1952 conference in Glacier.

Herma Baggley: That's right.

Herbert Evison: So, the next conference you refer to was the one in 1955 down in Great Smoky Mountains.

Herma Baggley: That's right, and that's the time when I gave my final report to the women.

Herbert Evison: But meanwhile the report had been put to very effective use.

Herma Baggley: That's right. The conference in Great Smokies was the one at which the Director told the women what we had really accomplished and how it had been the influencing element in the Bureau of the Budget determination to do something about giving us enough money to start correcting housing.

Herbert Evison: Now, of course a great many people think that the beginning of improved housing for the Park Service began with the beginning of Mission 66, but actually a lot had been accomplished before Mission 66 started, hadn't it?

Herma Baggley: The program was in; because it took us exactly a year to complete this survey. We got the material out that very fall; as soon as I came home, I got to work on it, and I worked one solid year on it before it was finally published and ready to go. That much had been done before Mission 66.

Herbert Evison: And of course, that completed report was completed and was in Washington hands in time for presentation to the Bureau of the Budget in connection with the next year's appropriation right away, because you know they always appear before the Bureau of the Budget people sometime in October or early November, and it was available for that.

Herma Baggley: It was available. If I remember correctly it was completed in June and sent to the Director.

Herbert Evison: Well, I think that is a wonderful story.

Herbert Evison: I want to take a little bit more of your time, though, to go back to the time when you were an employee of the National Park Service yourself. You were a naturalist in Yellowstone, weren't you?

Herma Baggley: Yes sir, I was a naturalist in Yellowstone; Mr. Albright has always told me that I was the first permanent woman naturalist in the Park Service. I was the first one who took the civil service examination for an assistant park naturalist, and I was also told afterward that I passed with the highest grade in the United States.

- Herbert Evison: That's something.
- Herma Baggley: —but not by the Director; he didn't tell me that.
- Herbert Evison: Well, how long were you a naturalist there?
- Herma Baggley: I went first to Yellowstone in 1926, and I went there that summer — Mr. Albright had said if I was willing to come and work as a naturalist but not have the rating of a naturalist nor the title of a naturalist, live at the Old Faithful cabins and be a pillow-puncher for my board and room, as there was no place for a woman to live other than that, and work for the Government in the afternoon, they would like try me out. That's what I did.
- Herma Baggley: And so I was paid as a laborer for three years; I worked as a pillow-puncher the first year, but the second year I graduated to the puphouse, which was an old Army cabin with one door and one window, which they moved in over near the mess hall because they had a woman cook that year — I could live in that little house and I didn't have to work for the camps company in order to have a place to sleep and a place to eat. I could eat with the rangers, and I could live next door.
- Herbert Evison: You had achieved at least partial acceptance by that time.
- Herma Baggley: That's right. And I stayed three years at Mammoth — I mean at Old Faithful. And then one day Mr. Albright and Director Mather — I mean Director—
- Herma Baggley: No, no, cut it off 'til I think.
- Herbert Evison: Secretary Hubert Work?
- Herma Baggley: Yes, and the Director Mather were at Old Faithful, and they sent for me to come up to the campus office. Of course, I went with fear and trembling, because I was sure I had done something I shouldn't do. Mr. Albright asked me then if I would come the next summer and be stationed at Mammoth and become a naturalist — a ranger-naturalist, temporary. We were called temporaries in those days.
- Herma Baggley: So, the next year I went to Mammoth and worked full time as a ranger-naturalist, I guided and lectured. I also served in the museum. It wasn't until 1931 when I took the examination that I became a permanent employee and went to Yellowstone.
- Herbert Evison: What I would like to know, during these years which began with the year as a pillow-puncher, that you were working for the government afternoons, what did you do?

- Herma Baggley: The first thing we did at Old Faithful was to try and lay out a nature trail. There had never been a nature trail at Old Faithful. There were two young men — J. Robert Van Pelt and Robert Delliver — working there that summer who were on the ranger-naturalist staff. They were both temporary people; and we laid out a nature trail, and I guided on that nature trail the rest of the summer. Mr. Woodring, who was then the chief ranger, sent me a trail crew, I knew nothing about trail crews, but we worked out this trail, which is still used as a nature trail at Old Faithful.
- Herma Baggley: I lectured in the evenings; I also kept a flower exhibit in the old Lodge and in the Old Faithful Inn. I hiked about fifteen miles a day to get flowers, because they had to be gathered far away. The second year I was there, Calvin Coolidge came. I was appointed the one to do the lecturing at the Old Faithful Inn and to get the flowers to decorate their rooms and the tables in the dining room where they were being served.
- Herbert Evison: You lectured at Old Faithful to Calvin, did you? Was he a listener?
- Herma Baggley: No, he did not listen; he stayed in his room, but his Secret Service men stood around on the outside of the circle.
- Herbert Evison: Was Colonel Starling one of them, do you remember?
- Herma Baggley: Yes, he was.
- Herbert Evison: Well, now, you became in 1931 a permanent year-round—
- Herma Baggley: I became the junior park naturalist, and I took Newell Joyner's place. Newell Joyner had been the permanent junior naturalist but was leaving to go to school, and I took his place. I had passed the examination as an assistant park naturalist but there was not an opening at that time.
- Herbert Evison: So, you were a junior park naturalist. Do you remember what that paid at that time?
- Herma Baggley: If I recall, it paid \$1700; it seemed to me it was \$1700, but it might have been \$1600, I am not sure.
- Herbert Evison: My bet would be \$1620; there was a grade at about that in there at that time, as I remember it.
- Herbert Evison: Well, how long did you stay on at that job?
- Herma Baggley: I stayed on until 1934 — 1933.
- Herbert Evison: That was the year you became Mrs. George Baggley, was it?
- Herma Baggley: No, I became Mrs. George Baggley in the fall of 1931, Thanksgiving of 1931.

- Herbert Evison: Now, what was George at that time?
- Herma Baggley: George was a chief ranger, and I stayed on to finish paying my school debts and because I loved the work. I had been teaching at the University of Idaho and this work appealed to me more than anything I had ever done, and I stayed on until December of 1933.
- Herbert Evison: And that was when George was transferred back to Washington, wasn't it?
- Herma Baggley: No, not until November 1934; that was when he went to Washington.
- Herbert Evison: And became part of my group, the group of which I was also a member. You mentioned having taught. You were an instructor at the University of Idaho? In what?
- Herma Baggley: I was an instructor at the University of Idaho in botany.
- Herbert Evison: You were a botanist, but I would judge that your education in the natural sciences extended considerably beyond botany.
- Herma Baggley: Oh, yes; when I went there as a freshman, I was determined to go in the School of Forestry but of course women were not acceptable. So, then I thought, "I'll just have to know something too about rocks, so I'll go into geology." I took forestry my first year, forestry and geology and botany, along with the other things you are required to take as freshmen. The second year I was there I was asked to be an assistant in the botany department, a lab assistant, which I did. I completed my work in three years, so then I went out to teach in high school. I wasn't there when school opened up, because I was still in Yellowstone; I was working, you see, in Yellowstone in the summer and completing my bachelor's degree at the University in the winter. The children at the high school where I was going to teach didn't see the teacher, as they were all enrolled before I got there; they thought they might have a real soft science teacher. And I had four classes in general science and two classes in biology, and all six of them filled to the brim. And one little girl told me when I arrived that they had all gone into science because the science teacher the year before they could make cry, and they thought this would be a soft course.
- Herma Baggley: Discipline was a thing that I disliked very much. In the spring of the year, I went to the post office one day and received a letter from the Department of Botany asking me if I would return as an assistant and work on my master's. I ran all the way home and wrote the letter and ran all the way back to the post office to tell them I would be there.
- Herbert Evison: Well, now, your undergraduate work you had taken at the University of Idaho too.

- Herma Baggley: I had taken undergraduate work at the university, and I had been an assistant, a lab assistant, for two years, so that's why I was asked back; I guess they thought I had done a fairly good job.
- Herbert Evison: Well, you know you have had I think an extremely interesting career and you certainly have been a pioneer. I am awfully glad to have gotten this all down on tape, and I am certainly much obliged to you for having taken the time to do it this morning.
- Herma Baggley: Well, thank you. I am glad to do it. It has been a pleasure to me always and my Park Service experience has been very interesting.
- Herma Baggley: Did you want to know anything about my book?
- Herbert Evison: Here you were the first woman naturalist among quite a considerable group of men, and I think it would be very interesting to get on the record something of how you as the lone woman got along in those surroundings.
- Herma Baggley: First of all I would like to make a correction, I was not the first woman naturalist, because Peg Arnold and several others had served as temporary naturalists and Peg had been a permanent ranger doing naturalist work, but I was the first one to take the examination, the Civil Service examination; and by the way, Colonel Tomlinson sat in on my Board in Seattle, Washington, when I passed the oral part of the examination.
- Herma Baggley: I think that I have never had a finer experience than I had in Yellowstone working with the rangers. I never once felt that they felt a woman was on the staff. They treated me the same as they treated all the others, only with much more finesse of course. They always admired me because I wore the uniform well, they thought. When I became the so-called boss of some of these men they were just as fine to me as any group of people could ever be. In fact, I was convinced it was easier to work with men than it was to work with women. I always tried to keep my place; I didn't try to make them feel I was out there hunting for a husband, which I was not doing; and I know that if anybody worked hard I worked hard, but our men all worked hard, for those were the days when there were no hours, there were no holidays, there were no Sundays, there were no Saturdays, there were no days off to go running around the park. You worked 24 hours a day if you were needed, and you worked not only on your own particular phase of work, but you might have to help out on something else besides. Of course, I didn't go out and fight any fires, although I did find a few fires and put them out and I did find some bigger ones and report them.
- Herbert Evison: Well, now, I hadn't realized that at some time in this career of yours you had been a supervisory interpreter or naturalist. How long was that the case?

Herma Baggley: When I became a permanent naturalist, that of course involved supervising temporary employees and that was our job at the beginning of the season to acquaint them with the park; we took them on a three-day trip; and often times it was my place to present the problems — always the problems and the information about the plants and the trees and the flowers. We had a change of administration in the naturalist — the head naturalist — he was called then the park naturalist — and we had a change in assistant naturalist — three of those changes while I was there; and I had to be the one — the only old head carrying through. These people were people who had had no park experience but came in because of the examination, so I really was the one that kind of pulled the threads together and carried on with trying to acquaint them not only with the areas but with the various phases of work we had to do, because that was at the time when we were building and staffing and cataloging and accessioning all those new museums, and that was the time when we published the Nature Notes. I organized the herbarium; I also organized the library; and those are the things that we did, and of course part of — much of that was our winter work. The summer work was the supervisory work of lectures and guide trips and so forth.

Herbert Evison: By George! You pioneered an awful lot of things.

Herma Baggley: Oh, I surely did.

Herbert Evison: Now, do you think of anything else in connection with that experience, not merely with in your relationships with others on the staff, but with the public there must have been some interesting experiences there if you think back on them.

Herma Baggley: Well, for a long time I tried to keep a little notebook of the important people I met. People were always very much interested to find a woman in uniform, and wanting to know what their education was, why had they gone into that field, and so forth. I had many very inspiring experiences which I shall never forget, and I also had some very humorous ones.

Herma Baggley: I remember one night at Old Faithful when I had finished with a lecture a woman came up to me and she said — wanted to know — of course they always wanted to know where I got my education — and I told her I was a graduate of the University of Idaho, and she said, “Idaho! Idaho! where is that?” I thought that’s a rather sad state of affairs, and I talked with her more and she told me before the conversation was finished that she was from an eastern state which I will not mention, but that I would never be fully educated until I came east, but she was kind enough to suggest that maybe I would like to come and I could stay with her. So, if I had gone, I would have completed my education.

- Herbert Evison: Well, now, did you ever take any notables that you remember on your guided walks?
- Herma Baggley: Oh, yes. When Mr. Albright was there, he was one of the finest persons to signal out — to sort of point out of his staff the people he thought could do a certain job like he would like to have it done. So once when the International Botanical Congress had met in the United States and part of those people had come to Yellowstone to see the Yellowstone, he asked me to take some of the leading scientists from Europe on a little field trip. I decided the thing to do was to take them up to a little lake that tourists never saw in Yellowstone but one which most of the employees knew about.
- Herma Baggley: One of the men was the leading forester from Sweden and he was very anxious to get back into the woods. So, I took that party. I had a master's degree not a Ph.D., and I didn't pretend to know everything; but those men treated me just as though I was the greatest botanist that Yellowstone had. Well, I guess maybe I was the kind of only one. But one thing that I shall never forget was their astonishment at finding eggshells and orange peels around a lake so isolated and far removed from the regular habitat of the ordinary tourist going through the park; and that has stayed with me always, because I think that he said you would not find that in their country. I feel that is one of the things we have had to fight against very hard is the litter that our American public leaves.
- Herbert Evison: No question about that. That has always been a problem, still is, although they tell me it's improving somewhat.
- Herma Baggley: Well, we were in Yellowstone just a week ago and I marveled at how clean Yellowstone was in the fall of the year after a season, the greatest season they have ever had, I believe 23% above any other year. So, we are accomplishing something.
- Herbert Evison: Now, I wish you would give me a little more on that. We are nearing the end of this side of the tape, and I want to get something on your book, but I don't want to have to cut it off in the middle.
- Herma Baggley: I'm afraid that I can't just specifically say certain people, because some of it is rather vague in my mind now, but every time I ever went on a trail and discovered a real scientist there, a Ph.D., one who was famous in his field, I wouldn't discover it until the end of the trip and then they would always be so complimentary about the work we were trying to do in Yellowstone. Never did I ever come in contact with anyone who made me feel inferior.
- Herbert Evison: That says something for the American public, doesn't it?

Herma Baggley: Yes, I think it really does. And of course, I was much photographed because I was sort of a freak, you see; a woman running around in a Park Service uniform and doing the thing that a man does. I had many interesting experiences. People were always concerned about whether I was too hot wearing this heavy uniform, because in those days we didn't wear the twill that they do now; we wore 16 or 18 in weight and now I think it's 12 or 14. And they were always concerned about didn't I dislike to wear the hat, and oh, one woman even suggested that I buy a blouse that didn't have sleeves in it so that I wouldn't be so warm.

[END OF TAPE 35, SIDE 1]

[START OF TAPE 35, SIDE 2]

Herbert Evison: I want to know something about the book, but I don't want to go into that if you have some other interesting reminiscence about your experience as a naturalist in Yellowstone. If you don't think of anything at the moment let's talk about the book, and maybe you'll think of something later.

Herma Baggley: Well, while I was guiding and lecturing in Yellowstone the question that came most often, "Isn't there something we can buy that will help us understand something more about the trees and the flowers?" because that was my main subject in lectures. There were two little booklets, but they were only booklets, and they did not give but very brief information.

Herma Baggley: I had worked up quite a lecture of telling people something about where the names came from, what the plants had been used for, whether they were exotics or whether they belonged in our own country; and that had become very interesting to people and many people had asked me if it wasn't available in a book. So, when I was through being a permanent employee — being an employee of Yellowstone, I decided to go ahead and work on a book. Dr. William. E. McDougall, who was a famous plant ecologist and who had been with us as a naturalist in Yellowstone, a temporary naturalist, and a very fine botanist, and I decided to do it together.

Herma Baggley: His name of course really meant something in a book, and mine didn't mean very much but I could do the work of searching out and going through the material.

Herma Baggley: I had stayed late one fall when I had worked for Dorr Yeager, who was the park naturalist when I first came into the park; I had stayed late at his request to take all of the herbarium materials which Dr. Henry S. Conard, a very fine botanist from Grinnell University—

Herbert Evison: How do you spell that?

Herma Baggley: Connard — no, Conard, one ‘n.’ He had been head of the department of botany at Grinnell College for many years; he is now retired and living in Florida, and a man I am sure getting close to 90. He was the seasonal naturalist under whom all the ranger-naturalists worked when I first went to Yellowstone. And he had made this fine collection of plants all over the park, but they were all put away in newspapers and were bound up with cord, tied up with cord, and put away down in the old paint shop. No one knows what an old paint shop is unless they have seen the one in Yellowstone.

Herma Baggley: Dorr asked me to stay and organize that material, which I did, and then it wasn’t until after I was through working in Yellowstone that they ever had a staff and the money to mount that material and put it into a real herbarium. But that was the beginning of Yellowstone’s herbarium.

Herma Baggley: So, I had been through all this material, and I knew pretty well what was there; I was still living in Yellowstone, so I went through everything that was in the herbarium and started to work toward publishing a book. I would get the material all together and get it written up, then I would send it to Dr. McDougall and he was the senior author, really, and we worked together on it and finally when I went to Washington, D. C., — my husband was sent there on a special assignment — I spent my time at the Smithsonian at the National Herbarium where I saw every plant that had ever been collected in Yellowstone that is in the Smithsonian Herbarium. I completed the notes and completed writing — getting the manuscript ready, sending it back and forth to Doctor McDougall. They helped me proofread it in the publications office of the Park Service, and it went to the printer. When the gallery proof was back and read and corrected and before I left Washington in the spring, it went to the press; I think we left in May, and in June we received the first copy, and that was the first edition.

Herma Baggley: That was in 1935 — 1936; it came off the press in 1936. While I was living at Lake Mead, I knew that it needed revision and we knew that the thing that people wanted was a book with colored pictures, but the government would not — or could not — afford to publish that kind of a revision. Finally, after talking with the Yellowstone people a great deal, we decided to use money from the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association funds and publish the book as a completely revised book and use colored pictures. I worked on that for about five years, Doctor McDougall came to Lake Mead, and we went through all the material again. I spent two summers again at Yellowstone going through new collections that had been made and checking on old specimens I wasn’t

too sure about, and then we brought it off the press as a book under the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association.

Herbert Evison: And it's still available, I trust.

Herma Baggley: Yes, it is available, and we find that people are very much interested because it does have the colored pictures. And this fall since I have been up here in Yellowstone and Teton and even here yesterday when I met Ruth Ashton Nelson again, who authored the first book published for Rocky Mountain National Park and who is now working on one for the Rocky Mountain area which is going to come off the press before too very much longer we hope — she told me that she used it all the time, and more people have told me that they used it constantly. So, we do feel that it has filled a need in the Park Service.

Herbert Evison: I am very, very glad that you thought of that and that we have the story of it. I feel very chagrined that I hadn't thought to bring it up myself.

Herbert Evison: I don't want to close this off if you have anything more that, you feel that you would like to get on tape in any national park connection at all.

Herma Baggley: I have often said to my husband, "If we both had it to do over again, would we go into the Park Service?" and we both agree that's exactly what we would do. I think that it has been one the most rewarding although one of the most difficult jobs that I have ever done, but to me it has been a fulfillment of something that was in the background apparently that had to come out; because I had taught grade and one year high school and university work, but this filled something that I had never had before. The public contacts are wonderful, but there is something deeper than that. It's that tremendous love that you have for the out-of-doors and you don't belong there if you don't love it. It isn't the remuneration that you get; you get nothing for your publications; but it is the satisfaction that you have of helping other people to appreciate what God has put in this great outdoors of ours.

Herbert Evison: I think that's a wonderful wind-up.

Herma Baggley: Thank you.

Herbert Evison: You do have something more, Herma.

Herma Baggley: Well, I feel that I shouldn't let this opportunity go by without paying tribute to Peg Lindsley Arnold, who was my ideal of a woman in uniform. I met Peg first when I first went to Mammoth. That was after I had been on the staff three years. She was one of the most beautiful women in a uniform that I have ever seen. She was a well-educated girl, had been born

and raised Yellowstone. Her father had come out there as one of the early superintendents under the Army—

Herbert Evison: Chester Lindsley.

Herma Baggley: Chester Lindsley. Then he had become the postmaster. Peg received her early education from her mother, then went to Bozeman where she received her bachelor's degree, then went on to Pennsylvania to the University there, and was the first person to put acidophilus into a form other than liquid. She became so homesick while she was back there working on her master's degree that she got on her motorcycle and rode all the way to Yellowstone Park alone. Now that was a long time ago when women didn't ride motorcycles, neither did they go across the country alone. Her folks were flabbergasted when she called them from the East Gate. Here she was.

Herma Baggley: Peg lived in Yellowstone all her life. She was a very fine botanist although she was not trained to be a botanist. She was an excellent illustrator. She worked with Jack Haynes when Jack Haynes was made the head of the museum at Mammoth, before we had any other museums, we just had one room in this old building in Mammoth. Peg worked with him in that museum, and she was the original worker along with Edmund J. Sawyer, who became the naturalist. She worked with Mr. Skinner, Milton P. Skinner. She was really the beginning of naturalist work as far as women are concerned in Yellowstone; although she never became a permanent naturalist, she did become a permanent ranger and did this naturalist work, then afterwards became a ranger-naturalist.

Herma Baggley: I will never forget what part she played in Yellowstone both as the intelligent, sympathetic, understanding employee but also the contributions she made with her artwork, with her poetry, and with her great love of the out-of-doors. For the first year I worked at Mammoth one of the naturalists who is now the president of a college in this country, said to me, "She could marry anybody she wanted. She could marry any of us." Everybody admired her and she was a very fine person.

Herma Baggley: When I came back to work on the revision, Peg had been very ill. She had been back to Mayo's and she had had a very serious operation. I called her at the East Gate and thought maybe she could come in and stay a day or two with me while I was there checking on the herbarium, and she said she would. She had been called in as a witness on a speeding case, so when she came in, she went directly to the office of the Commissioner. She collapsed in his office; and never after that was Peg able to do anything. She was in bed most of the time afterwards, and that of course has always been a very heartbreaking thing for me because she wanted to

come in and help me check, and of course she would have been a marvelous checker.

Herma Baggley: But she is one of the women that much credit is due in Yellowstone's early development of museum and the nature walks, the nature trails, and the lectures.

Herbert Evison: I am just delighted that we made this addition, because I think a person like that and that person's work is in great danger of being forgotten, and I had never heard of this marvelous person and I am sure there are lots of other people in the Park Service even in naturalist work who never have; and I am just delighted to have this on tape.

Herma Baggley: I don't know whether you know or not that both Mr. Skinner — all three of those early workers — Edmund J. Sawyer and Mr. Skinner and Doctor Conard are still alive, and those are the early workers in naturalist work there, and they are the people who came and worked — that Peg worked with; and Jack Haynes of course was another one, because Jack Haynes had charge of the beginning of the museum work.

Herbert Evison: One of my great regrets is that after I had suggested this project but before I could get it under way, Jack should have died, because he would have been a marvelous one to tape.

Herma Baggley: Well, he had a wealth of information that seemed never to fade in his mind.

Herbert Evison: Tell me this: You say these three are still alive. Do you by any chance have addresses for them?

Herma Baggley: I can get the address for Sawyer, because he's out near Seattle; and I think I can find out about Skinner, and I do have Doctor Conard's address.

Herbert Evison: Would you make a note, mental or otherwise, to get those for me as soon as you can and send them to me in care of Lon Garrison at Yellowstone?

Herma Baggley: I shall be glad to.

Herbert Evison: Wonderful. Now we have had all this latter conversation taped, but anything else?

Herma Baggley: I don't think of anything right now. If I do, I'll let you know.

Herbert Evison: Well, it has been a wonderful tape.

Herma Baggley: Well, thank you.

[END OF TAPE 35, SIDE 2]

[END OF INTERVIEW]