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George & Herma Baggley  
September 22, 1972

Interview conducted by S. Herbert Evison  
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Tape #149 – Side 1

EVISON INTERVIEW WITH MR. AND MRS. GEORGE F. BAGGLEY

Jackson Lake Lodge, Wyoming

September 22, 1972

FINAL

Typed by: Beverley A. Foltz

11/8/79

[START OF TAPE 149, SIDE 1]

- Herbert Evison: This is September 22, 1972. I'm Herb Evison and today I am at Jackson Lake Lodge in Grand Teton National Park with two very old friends of mine — Mr. and Mrs. George Baggley — Mrs. George Baggley being Herma Baggley. Now as I told you before we started this, Herma, I want to get under way first with some of the basic facts or the vital statistics about you. I want to know where you were born, and of course, if you're willing to tell me when you were born; then that's all to the good (chuckles).
- Herma Baggley: I was born in Inwood, Iowa, October 11, 1896.
- Herbert Evison: (chuckling) Good. How about the family you were born into; I'm curious about a family that produced a top-grade botanist.
- Herma Baggley: Well, I was the oldest in a family of six, three of whom passed away as children and three of us are still living — my brother in Boise, Idaho and my sister is professor of music in Portland State College.
- Herbert Evison: Yes. Now what did — what did; I'm still anxious to know especially, what your father did.
- Herma Baggley: Well, my father was a farmer when I was born but he soon moved to town and bought into a furniture store, and he was in that furniture store until we moved to Idaho in 1910. He had gotten some information on a irrigation project in Idaho. In those days, the Cary Act project was on in southern Idaho, and he drew land there and we moved up there in 1910. Within a few years the project went into litigation and finally closed up.
- Herbert Evison: Ooh.
- Herma Baggley: And then he went into Blackfoot, Idaho, and got a job in a hardware store and was on the roads for a good many years, traveling for them, and then later for other companies. We moved to Blackfoot and that's where I went to high school and graduated from high school there. Then I taught for several years because I just didn't have the wherewithal to go to — away to college.
- Herbert Evison: —You mean, you, a high school graduate, taught.

Herma Baggley: I taught right out of high school. And I taught for three years before — well, I went into summer school. I then went into the Blackfoot schools and stayed in the Blackfoot schools until I went to the University of Idaho.

Herbert Evison: I am curious to know what a high school graduate would teach.

Herma Baggley: I went to the Albin Normal School which is closed now — and they just taught you how to teach.

Herbert Evison: I see.

Herma Baggley: Not what to teach, but how to teach; and I went in to a little one-room school and I had the first four and the sixth and eighth grades and I, perhaps, worked as hard that year as I ever worked teaching school, but apparently was successful and the next year I got a position at nearby Moore which was a small Mormon community and I had the third and fourth grades up there. Then I went to Moreland, another Mormon community just out of Blackfoot, and I had the fourth and the fifth grades there. Then a friend of mine was going to have to be out of school for a year while she had a baby and she recommended me for the position in Blackfoot schools. So, I went into the Blackfoot schools without the proper training and I mean — I'd had three summers in summer school — one at the university — they told me if I'd go to a school like the University of Washington then they would hire me. And I taught in the Blackfoot schools for several years until I had enough money to go to the university.

Herbert Evison: Then you went back to the University of Idaho?

Herma Baggley: No. I went to the University of Idaho one year with three summers work — three six-weeks terms — before and so that made me a junior when I returned, and I was going to stay out one more year and earn enough to go back to school. Then a neighbor of ours, who was a real good friend and for whose husband I had worked in a store in the summertime on vacations, said, "You're not going to teach. You're not going to do that anymore. I'll loan you the money." And I didn't want her to loan me the money, but she insisted so she loaned me the money and I went to the university. So, this made my second year at the university and then I went out to teach in high school and I taught at Gooding — in Gooding High School for one year. I did not like high school teaching because of the discipline problems and one day I got a letter and it said, "Would I be interested in coming back to the university as an instructor?" And I ran all the way to the post office to put the letter in the post office to say I would! (Evison chuckles) So I went back to the University of Idaho then and taught at the university and became an instructor in the Botany Department at the University of Idaho.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Well now, you didn't have a degree yet when you became?

Herma Baggley: Yes, I had a degree then.

Herbert Evison: Oh, yes, well you had a degree — you got your degree in what year?

Herma Baggley: I got my BS in 1926 and my MS in 1929 because I went back to the university then as an instructor, with the understanding that I would teach half-time, work on my master's degree half-time. It turned out that I taught fulltime and worked on a master's degree in between times.

Herbert Evison: Yes. Well now, that brings you up to about the time when you became the first lady naturalist at Yellowstone National Park, doesn't it?

Herma Baggley: I really wasn't the first lady naturalist because Peg Arnold (a resident of Yellowstone Park) and I had been ranger-naturalists. I went to Yellowstone first in 1926 in the summer and those first two years — three years — I was on the payroll, but the next year I went into Mammoth and then I was a full-fledged ranger-naturalist and so was Peg Arnold.

Herma Baggley: Peg Arnold had charge of the museum and the information office, and it was after that then I — when I left the park in — 1930, when I went back I made up my mind I could not teach at the university anymore. I didn't want to, so went over to Tacoma, Washington, where my brother was, and he was a graduate in business and so I took a course in — typewriting and bookkeeping.

Herbert Evison: —Shorthand?—

Herma Baggley: Shorthand, so that I could go back to Yellowstone and maybe be George's — in George's (the Chief Ranger) office, as a what?

Herbert Evison: Clerk-steno, probably.

Herma Baggley: Clerk-stenographer, I guess, but in the meantime, I had written my report to take the ranger-naturalist — to take a Civil Service naturalist's examination.

Herbert Evison: Oh, yeah.

Herma Baggley: And — but I went ahead anyway and sent that in to Washington Office and then worked on this other and in the winter in January I got word that the examination for clerk-stenographer or whatever it was would be held on the fifth of January, I think, and the one for naturalist would be held on the sixth. The fifth would be held in Denver, the sixth would be held in Seattle. I was in Tacoma, and it was a naturalist's position that I wanted so I went to Seattle and took my oral examination under Colonel Thompson — Major Tomlinson— (Thompson was Superintendent of Yosemite, Tomlinson Superintendent of Mount Rainier)

- Herbert Evison: Tomlinson, Tomlinson?
- Herma Baggleley: Tomlinson. I passed the examination and got Newell Joiner's position in Yellowstone as Newell was going to go away to school again.
- Herbert Evison: Yeah. Now, I think that when I taped you in '62 I pretty well covered your years from Yellowstone, so I'm going to leave you for a little while and go to your husband.
- Herma Baggleley: Yes. I think so.
- Herbert Evison: When and where were you born, young feller?
- George Baggleley: Well, Herb, I was born in Sullivan County, Missouri. This is the second tier of counties west of Tom Sawyer's home.
- Herbert Evison: —Hannibal.
- George Baggleley: Hannibal and the first tier of counties down from Iowa; but when I was just a youngster, my family moved to Kansas — where my father was employed as a bridge foreman by the Santa Fe Railroad. He worked there for the Santa Fe for a few years and then later got interested in some sort of wheat-harvest deal in Kansas and later we moved back to the Ozarks where we lived for about four or five years near Lebanon, Missouri.
- Herbert Evison: One thing that you failed to mention was when you were born.
- George Baggleley: I was born November 6, 1898, in the Ozarks, my family owned about 40 acres of timberland there. They were clearing this, and my father was raising horses and mules which he liked to do very much. Later he took some horses and mules up to Iowa to a little town called Oakland, Iowa, just east of Council Bluffs, where they held a sale of horses and mules, and he liked the country so well that we moved up there.
- George Baggleley: Over the two, three years we lived there; he brought horses and mules from the Ozarks and sold them in Iowa. Then the Indian Reservation — the Rosebud Indian reservation in South Dakota — was opened up and he went out with my brother and they both registered out there to draw land. Neither one of them was successful. My dad later went back and rented a farm near Gregory, South Dakota. He came back to Iowa, and we moved to South Dakota in 1912 to Gregory County. We lived there a couple of years and had such poor crops we went back to Iowa. After a little over a year, we came back again to South Dakota and that's where I grew up.
- George Baggleley: My parents — my mother came from McComb, Illinois. She — her parents were in the South in Virginia, and I remember her telling about when she was a small person of Virginia and what Virginia looked like and so on. My dad was a first generation born in America, from an English

family of English parents who came over and settled in Illinois, I believe. One branch of the same family settled in Hamilton, Ontario, and we only just a few years ago established a contact with them. My father was alternately a farmer, carpenter, a contractor, but mostly he loved horses and mules and finally he was killed in an accident with a team of mules in 1924. The same year we lost our farm in South Dakota because of the drought and severe economic conditions. Corn that year, I remember, sold for eight cents a bushel and we had no money to buy coal, so we heated our home with corn. After my father was killed, my mother and I went to Sturgis, South Dakota, where we both worked. My mother was a cook in the recreation resort there and I was a guide in Crystal Cave for a year or so, and always wanted to work in a forest. So, I took a correspondence course in some forestry things and became acquainted with the Forest Service people in South Dakota and very much admired them and used to go with them every opportunity that I had. Finally, I landed a job in north Idaho on the Kaniksu National Forest in 1926 and went and worked there the summer of 1926 and well into the fall until the snow ran us out. I went back and worked in a logging camp in South Dakota during that winter and strangely enough only a few people even had jobs. We were making reasonably good money at that time — three and four dollars a day — working long hours — six days a week.

Herbert Evison: —Yeah, a wonderful wage.

George Bagglely: And working real hard six days a week. The following summer I worked again for the National Forest Service that year in Black Hills Forest in South Dakota. In the meantime, I had been corresponding with a number of forestry schools to determine whether I, at my age, could have the opportunity to take some courses in forestry. I was accepted at Fort Collins as a special student and went there at the close of the summer season in 1927, and through Professor Morrell, who was the head of the forestry department at that time; he designed a program for me which consisted almost entirely of junior and senior forestry subjects. He figured that I had had enough experience to by-pass most of the freshman and sophomore work, so this is what I did.

George Bagglely: Then in February or January, I've forgotten which, of 1928, the Civil Service Commission gave an examination for park ranger. This was the first one opening the park ranger field to through civil service. Several of us took this examination including John McLaughlin and Freddie Johnston and Rudolph Grimm and two, three others. We all passed, strangely enough, with reasonably good grades. John and I were offered the jobs first, I think, and since John was graduating he had to stay on until mid-June, but I left the school about the 15th of May and entered on duty as a

park ranger in Yellowstone 18th of May, 1928, fully intending to go back and finish and get some sort of certificate or degree.

George Bagglely: I did not expect to get the degree because I wasn't undertaking to do the full four-year course, but the work in Yellowstone opened up and became so interesting and the opportunity seemed so great, I, just like a foolish youngster, didn't go back to school. Then in June of 1929, I was for some reason made chief ranger of Yellowstone Park and continued there in that capacity until June of 1935.

Herbert Evison: When you went back to become a member of the Bond Building faculty, huh?

George Bagglely: Yeah. Before that I had worked over in Mr. John Coffman's office in the CCC office of the NPS in the Interior Building. My experience in Yellowstone had been built around an attempt to bring a little bit different type of management and protection to the park than they had in the past and this involved rather detailed work with George Wright and Ben Thompson and with the Wildlife and trumpeter swan and so on. So, when I was working in Coffman's office in Washington, George suggested that — George Wright — that I might be useful in the state park program and that's when I came over to the Bond Building and then we worked there about 18 months as I remember before going to Denver where I went back into a field job again.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

George Bagglely: And offered a job at Denver which was as a sort of district office, as you remember — I think you were in the Director's office at that time or McCarty's office—

Herbert Evison: No, I went to Region One at the same time that those districts were set up. June 1936.

George Bagglely: Ooh, I guess that's — right, that's right.

Herbert Evison: I was Regional Officer at Region One.

George Bagglely: Well, in Denver that office was sort of supervisory over Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana and the western half of the Dakotas and Nebraska — the CCC program. This was a most rewarding thing. It was wonderful to take part in such projects as the Red Rocks Theater in the Denver area which has now become nationally known. It was good to help in some way — to get the state park program started in all those states. Colorado was the most advanced, but the others had almost no state park programs. Then the Isle Royale project had advanced by that time to where Mr.

Cammerer wanted someone at Isle Royale full time, so he asked if we would go there which we did and stayed on until 1946.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Well now I'm pretty sure that we covered your Isle Royale assignment when in that previous tape. One thing that you didn't mention was when this lady became your wife.

George Baggley: We were married Thanksgiving Day in 1931 in Herma's hometown of Blackfoot, in the Methodist Church at Blackfoot. This was November 26th that year. Thanksgiving was on the 26th.

Herbert Evison: Good thing he remembers that anniversary date, isn't it? (chuckling) Yeah, I think, we've caught up with the others and I want to jump you up to 1962 when I taped you and George, carry you both forward from there. Did you go abroad when he did?

Herma Baggley: Yes, he went abroad before I did and came back to this country and then later, I went with him on the project.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Well now, you were an assistant regional director in what was then, I guess it had become the Midwest Region by 1962.

George Baggley: Yes.

Herbert Evison: At this distance in time it's a little difficult to figure back to a cut-off point up to October 1962 or late September 1962 and remember what took place before it and what took place after it, but I'm particularly interested, of course, in what you remember of any events of interest or importance or unusual while you continued in that position as assistant regional director in Region Two or the Midwest Region?

George Baggley: Well, going back to — this '62 period — the Director, Mr. Wirth, was in the office in Omaha in 1962 and Tolson called from Washington and said, "Connie, we have been invited to send a representative of the National Park Service with the South African Expedition to the Antarctic. Well, who do you suggest we send?" And Connie said, "I don't know. Have you any ideas?" I said to Connie, "Well, tell Hillary I'll go if he hasn't anybody else." And Connie said to Hillary, "Well, George Baggley wants to go, put him on the list." This was along in September, I think it was, late September and about six weeks later I received word I had been approved by the Antarctic office and I was to go and should be ready to leave by the 15th of December. So, I made preparations for the trip and left Washington December 16th for Cape Town, and then went with the African Expedition to the Antarctic. We sailed from Cape Town December 27th, 1962, and it took 45 days from Cape Town to the Antarctic and back. We sailed just ten miles less than 6,000 in the process of going from Cape Town to the polar cap. There the Africans (Afrikaan

rather than African?) occupied the old Norwegian base and it took nine days to unload the ship and transfer supplies to the base and to exchange the crew. Then we started back again.

Herbert Evison: Well now, you were a National Park Service representative on that trip but what were your duties and responsibilities?

George Baggleley: Well, the Antarctic Treaty which was a result of the Geophysical 1967 Year. The treaty was approved in 1959 and it provided that each of the signature countries exchange observers with each other. In those days they could only be supplied during the Antarctic summer. Now ships go in there almost any time of the year, and they fly in from Christchurch, New Zealand, every month of the year. The duties of the observer are to observe the activities of the country with whom they are traveling. Every activity in the most minute detail, what kind of clothing do the people wear, what kind of equipment do they have, who makes it, serial numbers of it, what kind of food do they eat, how is it cared for, how to prepare the food, what did they do down there, what are their projects underway, what scientific projects they are studying, what scientific equipment are they using, and my report was about 30 or 40 typewritten pages and I understood it was about typical of the observer's reports. This is available and if you ever need a copy, I believe I still have one.

Herbert Evison: I would like to suggest that you resurrect one and not give it to me but to the Harpers Ferry Center, because that's the kind of material that they're looking for for the archival project of which this is a part.

George Baggleley: On the way back from South Africa I had another project. Just as I was leaving the Interior Building that morning to go to New York to take the plane to Cape Town, Dan Beard called me in and said, "Hey, we have a project in Tanganyika that we'd like to have you look at on the way back." This was Tanganyika before the name was changed to Tanzania.

Herbert Evison: I know, I was there then.

George Baggleley: And he explained to me that I should hurry up and run over to the Federal Court Building and see Russell Train, who was heading this up and wanted to discuss it with me. I did this and found that Uganda, Tanganyika, and Kenya were setting up a wildlife training school just at the foot of Kilimanjaro and that I was to stop there and evaluate a request that they had placed with AID for \$90,000 to help start this school. So, on the way back from the Antarctic trip I spent three weeks in South Africa visiting parks and other areas and then two weeks up in Tanganyika and Kenya; visited the school and visited a number of parks with the officials and one of the men, this Dr. Hugh Lamprey, is here today.

- Herbert Evison: Oh, really!
- George Bagglely: He was the head of the school. I haven't seen him yet, but he's here.
- Herbert Evison: With one of his former instructors by the name of Tommy Gilbert.
- George Bagglely: Gilbert. Yeah, Tom Gilbert is here, too.
- Herbert Evison: Yes.
- George Bagglely: Well, when I came back then I went to visit with the AID people and recommended they give the school its \$92,000, which they did; and this started them on the road, and they have now become quite a successful school I understand.
- Herbert Evison: Yeah.
- George Bagglely: Then I came back to the United States and went back to my job in Omaha until 1966 when I was asked to go over to Jordan and evaluate a request that AID had made of our National Park Service. Basically, Jordan had been receiving \$25,000,000 a year budget support from the United States and AID was seeking some way to — to overcome this and they believed that by developing the historic sites of Jordan as we had developed our historic sites, the tourist travel would help to bridge this gap. They had tried a team from the University of Michigan — it didn't work out. They had tried a couple of other efforts, but they did not work.
- George Bagglely: So I was there about five weeks in Jordan in February and March of 1966, developed a project, came back, and discussed it with our own people and with State Department and I think it was the 24th of August when the Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. William McCumber, now Under-Secretary, okayed the project and gave us the go ahead, allocated money, and so on. We then selected a team of 12 people and began moving them to Jordan. We were all there by the 5th of November of '66.
- George Bagglely: We started work as soon as we could with the facilities available, which were very limited although the Jordanians in the initial stages of the negotiation had promised to provide us with everything — office space and interpreters, transportation, counterparts, and with supplies and everything of this nature. This was not ready when we arrived. It was several weeks before we were really underway. Then the morning of the 5th of June, when the '67 War broke out, (it was the day before) we had delivered our first draft of the master plan for Qumran, the Dead-Sea-Scrolls area, to the Jordan government. War broke out the next morning and we were all housebound then until the war was over. After the airport was repaired, so we could get out, we went to Iran.

- George Baggley: In the meantime, Herma had left with other women from the AID community two weeks before and they were all over in Athens. We left then about ten days later or so, two weeks maybe, to Teheran where myself and other members of the team stayed two weeks studying historic sites and so on in Iran. Then we went to Athens and to rejoin our families.
- George Baggley: In the meantime, in 1965, I had met the Turkish park people — at the university — at Michigan State College. When they heard we were sort of loafing in Athens, they asked us to come to Turkey and go to work. I went over in late August and negotiated a contract with them and by September 5th we moved a part of the team to Turkey, and Herma and I worked there until the conclusion of the project, 16th of December 1967, and then we came home. Then I went to work in the Director's office as assistant to the Director in the Division of International Affairs until retirement in June of '68.
- Herbert Evison: Yeah. Now I'd like to put a little more flesh on that sojourn on the other side of the Atlantic. You scouted out the project first for Jordan.
- George Baggley: Yes, right.
- Herbert Evison: Then you came back to the United States and Herma — when you went back over again, Herma went with you.
- George Baggley: Yes. Right.
- Herbert Evison: Now in what capacity did you return and what was your relationship to Bob Gibbs in this set up?
- George Baggley: Well, I was the team leader of our planning team and Bob was the advisor to the Jordanian National Park Group. Bob was — Bob's problem, his field of endeavor, was working directly with the Jordanians and I was responsible to Joseph Wheeler the director of the AID program in Jordan.
- Herbert Evison: Oh, yes. Bob had no direct supervision over the operations of the group, I take it, then.
- George Baggley: No. We were unrelated in that respect.
- Herbert Evison: But he was, I would take it, a liaison between you and — Jordan Government.
- George Baggley: He was the — Bob attended most of our staff meetings. He did not attend the staff meetings of the AID offices which I attended. Bob's major project, as I understood it, was to help the Jordanians set up an organization and to give of advice on the organizational infrastructure. We were charged with producing plans.
- Herbert Evison: Yeah.

- George Baggley: I devoted a good deal of my time to — in addition to planning — to helping our team and some of the prominent Jordanians to get a feel of what the public's responsibility was, if they were going to have a park system. This meant contact with university people — we met through this with quite a number of people in the educational field — Dr. Quasem who is here today. He's a Jordanian representative. We visited him there at the university many times. He's head of the department of biological sciences at the University of Jordan.
- Herbert Evison: —Is that at Amman?
- George Baggley: Yes. And we met some people of the banking field. One of the reasons for this, Herb, I think happened that when I was there in 1966 in scouting out this project, I arranged a special itinerary for the Minister of State of Jordan who was visited by our Government to travel in the United States. He was here about five weeks — so when we came back over there, because of our close relationship with Muhammed — what was his name?
- Herma Baggley: Tukan.
- George Baggley: Muhammed Tukan, Minister of State, we were invited to nearly all of the state functions and we attended a number of those in which we and the Ambassador were the only Americans present simply because we had this close association with the Minister of State.
- Herbert Evison: Were you possessed of the proper clothes?
- George Baggley: Strangely enough, no special clothing was required— (Evison chuckles) But—
- Herbert Evison: Now—
- George Baggley: — Okay. You have a question.
- Herbert Evison: Yeah. Do you know? Has anything more been done in or by Jordan in connection with this—?
- George Baggley: Yes. I wanted to finish that. After our sojourn in Turkey, the AID people asked what should we — what did I think we ought to do about the rest of the project. In the meantime, you see, the war took away three of the projects from Jordan since Sebastian and Qumran and Jericho were all three areas we were supposed to work. So — Amman, Jerash, and Petra were three areas still in the Jordanian territory. So, it seemed that we ought to send a small group back to — so, Bob went back in a dual capacity: both as team leader and as advisor to the Jordanian National Parks.
- George Baggley: Bob and John Moseley, Lynn Spalding, Paul Spango and Hugh Miller went back, and they finished preliminary reports on these three areas.

Then they left and now I understand — the Arab people have told me here they have done quite a little work in Petra and some more work in Amman following the master plan that we left with them. And the Turks also have gone; well, they've gone quite a long way with the master plan for the Göreme area that we prepared in the late — the last half of '67.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Well now tell me something about how you worked in Turkey. What were your working conditions? What did they provide you with?

George Bagglely: Oh, they — when we moved from Athens to Turkey, they had offices all set up. Everything was ready. Transportation was there; counterparts, everything, even the pencils and the erasers were on the desks. You could walk in and just sit down and go to work. They were very ambitious people and knew what they were doing. They had never done any park planning before. They were all foresters — most of the Turks are.

Herbert Evison: Oh, yeah.

George Bagglely: And we got along well with them and went right to work. There was no problem at all.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Well, now, working with foresters — I can remember in this country there were certain difficulties at times getting forestry-trained people to accept the slightly different viewpoint toward use of land that's involved in establishing of such things as national parks.

George Bagglely: There's quite a lot of difference, you see, because in a country like Turkey the average so-called "public" is completely different than what you see here this morning. When they were talking about the various small peaks of the pyramid? Only a few really know what is going on.

Herbert Evison: No.

George Bagglely: The leadership in all of those Eastern countries makes the decisions. Ninety percent of the rank-and-file have nothing to say about what happens to the forests and the parks.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

George Bagglely: So, it's problem; if the leadership wants to do something, they go ahead and do it. And the land is completely unsurveyed. I remember asking the Turks if they would give us a map of the ownership — land ownership — in the Göreme area. It was about six weeks before we discovered they didn't have anything like that because the land was all unsurveyed and they were occupying the land on the basis of what their grandfathers had said to them and they they — a stone marked this corner or a tree marked that corner and there's no fences. Nothing with fence anyplace at all, but they respected each other's rights and—

Herbert Evison: —But there were squatters rights, were they, or had they actually been given title?

George Bagglely: It's much like the —. No, they had not been given title. It's much like the — like the Indians. Much like the Indians and this is true in Jordan. They had the nomads; the Bedouins in Jordan move about from valley up to the hills. But if you happen to occupy permanently a small piece of land, this right is respected too, and they herd all the animals. There's no fencing, so they graze and herd. They respect each other's crops and seldom will you see a group of animals invading somebody's wheat field. They'll be grazing in the road or a field, but, oh, they have a completely different land ethic and a different base than we do.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

George Bagglely: Nobody lives out in the country. They all live in a little village in town. You drive through either Jordan or Turkey at night and there are no lights — just a large blank black area.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Of course, there are parts of Europe in which that comes near being true too. Everybody lives in a town but farms the outlying country.

George Bagglely: We're approaching that in this country in a broader and a larger way, because many of these little towns are drying up; but, of course, our land units are much larger.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Yeah. Herma, you were both in Jordan and among those exiles from Jordan and did you stay on through the Turkish study?

Herma Bagglely: Yes, I did.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Well, let's get anything that you remember about that adventure that George hasn't told.

Herma Bagglely: Well, while we were in Jordan, it was a marvelous flowery year, that year. They had — we had rain in the spring and we had snow on Easter Sunday and there were just all kinds of flowers, so I — all the spare time that George could spare to drive our VW out so I could collect plants I did, and I had a big collection when it was time to leave there, and, of course, there was no chance to do anything with it. I just had it in a box, but when I came back over here to this country I went to the Smithsonian to the National Herbarium and I had a brand-new compound microscope which my husband had ordered from the U.S.A.—

George Bagglely: Myron Sutton brought it for us.

Herma Bagglely: —Myron Sutton. Myron was going to order it for me and send over there and it came one or two days before we were evacuated so I never had a

chance to even take it out of the box, but it was over there with my specimens and when George went back to Amman to pack up our things in late August those things were put into a box and sent along with our things to America and that — when we came back here I went to the Smithsonian, to the National Herbarium, and I told them that I had this microscope and I had all these specimens; if they could give me a little corner I would be glad to complete the identification because I didn't have the books to finish up with over there and then I would turn the material over to the National Herbarium which I did.

Herbert Evison: How long a job was that?

Herma Baggley: Oh, I worked on it about maybe two months or something like that.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

Herma Baggley: And turned over something, well, around a hundred and fifteen or twenty-five specimens to the herbarium and they were pleased because they had very little material from Jordan. That was my contribution.

Herbert Evison: Well, I was interested in it as a contribution. Where were you? Was it a labor of love, or were you on the payroll during that time?

Herma Baggley: Ooh, no! I wasn't on a — it was a labor of love like most of the things I've done for the Park Service since I quit being a naturalist. When I worked on the books — the flowers — the plants of Yellowstone with Dr. McDougall, — of course, I never had any compensation for that and didn't expect to. I did it because I wanted to.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. And hurray for you!

George Baggley: (chuckling) Well, I think Herma contributed a lot to the morale of our working crew in Turkey because three of the families had a number of children.

Herbert Evison: Oh yeah.

George Baggley: And sometimes the children were sick and some — no! Four of the families had children, didn't they? And they were living in these cramped quarters in this hotel. It was the only thing we could get at the time. Lynn Spalding finally found an apartment, but it was so poorly furnished there wasn't much in it except a stove and a few chairs and a table, but I think the opportunity for these women to talk with Herma about some of their problems — well, you can imagine taking a family of three small children and living in a room and a half or two rooms in a little hotel — all the people are foreigners and the food problem is terrific and you can imagine what these women had — what problems they had with these children.

They all came through real well. They came through with wonderful colors I thought.

Herbert Evison: Fine. I like that addendum. Now, we still have a lot of tape here. I still have even more than a half hour of time. I would love just to turn you both loose on this with anything that you want to add here — any recollections, any ideas, any observation. Herma, I give you the floor first. Do you think of anything that you want to add on this? I hope you do!

Herma Bagglely: Well, it was rather unexpected. I — I really will always be a part, feel that I am a part of the National Park Service even though we no longer are on payroll or have any special position; that is because the Park Service means a lot to both of us and we feel that — we hope that we've made enough of a contribution that we have made a little bit of an impact on 'em.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. You can certainly set your mind at rest about that!

Herbert Evison: George, what would you like to add on this? When you do, I'll hope that you get a little closer to the mike than you are now.

George Bagglely: Well, Herb, I think it's all — in so many cases — it's a matter of — opinion. My feeling is that so many times people spend so much energy looking back that they have no time to look ahead. Our experience in the Park Service has been wonderful; I often think to myself, wondering how we could be so fortunate as to have had this and have such a nice retirement time and both be relatively well and have an opportunity to come and take part in things of this kind and my experience in Argentina in 1969.

Herbert Evison: You didn't mention that.

George Bagglely: Well, this was a — a Ford Foundation grant which authorized the three months work down in Argentina. They had been trying quite a long time to get someone to come and help them with their park program, particularly in the field of setting some method of hiring rangers and in organizing a procedure for planning, physical planning, master planning, like we had been doing.

George Bagglely: So, I was asked to go down and did this. Went down in February '69 and came home about the first of June or the end of May of the same year.

Herbert Evison: Were you along?

Herma Bagglely: No. I stayed home. (Evison chuckles)

George Bagglely: I traveled all over the country. Visited most of their 13 or 14 national parks from the very tip of South America to the northern borders to Iguazu

Falls, which is on the northern tip of Argentina and left with them a report outlining a procedure that I recommended to them for employing rangers and setting up a ranger training school which they now have done. Their training school is now open to Chile and Brazil and Paraguay and Uruguay and any of that area; and it's set up at Bariloche and this one of our friends, Natalie Evans, who is an Argentinian, headed this school up at Bariloche. Now their procedure — what I recommended to them — in the way of a master planning procedure — they have not implemented as yet although they have employed a number of outside architects and engineers. They have no landscape architects there, but for some reason they — I have urged them to associate themselves with a university in Argentina, but because of the political unrest in Argentina they have almost lost faith in the university. They just wouldn't go and tie into any of the universities with this training program, but they do go outside and employ private architects and engineers to do the planning, but they have yet to take this step that we recommended of a park-wide master plan. Their most heavily visited park (Nahuel Huapi) at Bariloche is a large and beautiful park with a huge lake, beautiful forest, resort and so on. It so badly needs a master plan, but they had never done this.

Herbert Evison: Well, I just wondered, when you mentioned their failure to follow up on your suggestions, how badly they done without master plans.

George Bagglely: They had done quite well. They just haven't realized that they're on a point of park use explosion. They're industrializing so fast; they're building campers, motorboats, outboard motors, trailers, highways, all these things; and I told them why I think in five to eight years, "You will just be here with your hands full." And they have no campgrounds and no signs, no interpretive signs. Nothing like this, "and you won't be able to take care of your people. What're you going to do?" Well, they know that, but they haven't done anything about it yet.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. I remember several years ago talking with a couple of men from Argentina who said that at that time — and this must have been, oh, maybe before I taped you before — that they were — there was a movement underway to turn the national parks for management over to the states. Now do you know whether that's—

George Bagglely: —Yes, that's never been done. It's — it was proposed when we were there and there were stories in the papers about it — but the ministry of forestry under which the parks are managed said nothing doing; and they have held solid to this line, of course.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. That's wonderful I think that—

George Bagglely: But they do have — they do have rather strong state government there. All military when I was there; they had military people at the head of all of them. Now Italia Concertina, who is here today, head of the Argentina Forestry Service, headed a movement at that time to try to delete and reduce in size many of the parks because just the reverse situation existed in Argentina. There the national — the forests are in the national parks. Here and in Turkey our parks are not that way at all. In Turkey the parks are in the forest, but in Argentina the forests are in the parks and Concertina wants to reduce the parks and get the forests outside, but that too has never been done.

George Bagglely: Then I had another little project which I failed — forgot to mention; at Clemson University. Clemson University inherited 18,000 acres of land around the Corps of Engineer Reservoir there and they wanted to set up an outdoor recreation training laboratory. So Ted Swem asked me if I would go down and give ‘em some ideas, which I did and their plan was to establish what amounts to a small state park of about five or 6,000 acres, completely plan it, develop it, manage or — and operate it with students there, so that the students in all these different fields would be getting experience and would come out of school with actual experience. This, I think, is a grand idea and since they had the land and the academic will to do it and the money, I don’t know quite why they haven’t gone ahead with it. This project is still under consideration.

Herbert Evison: —Still hanging fire.

George Bagglely: Still hanging fire, yes, although I had correspondence with them just a few months ago and they’re reviving it again now and I hope they take it up. Nothing like that exists in the United States.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Well, I think I’m able to observe that you’ve not only left your imprint within the National Park System but in a number of places outside of it.

George Bagglely: Well since we moved to Idaho, we’ve had lots of fun. I’ve this summer designed a walking nature trail or hiking nature trail for the Bureau of Land Management of three and a half miles which they hope to use to show that this type of land can be used for a lot of other things other than four-wheeled vehicles and motorcycles and what-not. This they plan to build this fall in October or November. And this included interpretive stories for the whole trail and the designing the signs and the grading of the trail itself, rest areas, and so on, and then I’ve been doing some interesting work for free with the Forest Service. It’s going out on to some of their proposed cutting areas to discuss with them the environmental

impact of their proposed timber harvests in these sales areas. They had one on this week and — but we chose to go here rather than to go there.

Herbert Evison: Yes. Well, do you think you've made an impression on them in your comments you offered?

George Bagglely: Oh, I think so. I have been able to talk with both sides of the fence and the lumbermen have told me that they would like for me to go along because I can talk with both sides of them. This made me feel good because so many of the environmentalists are so emotional that they can only see one side and they accomplish very little with this attitude. Well, it's fun anyway. We get quite a little pleasure out of it.

Herbert Evison: Yeah. Well, I would say of your retirement that you've been as busy as you want to be doing what you wanted to do when you wanted to do it. Is that correct?

George Bagglely: Well, we have had lots of fun and keep busy sure enough all the time. I would like to write more. I just detest writing; I put it off and I put it off, but after I get it done I'm glad that I have done it; and I would like to write more because I feel that if you have had experiences like we have had you can and should put something down on your views on these current projects. It would be helpful in — in forming public opinions. I — the conservation movement, I think, Herb, is largely impeded because people don't understand. They really can't communicate. You're just amazed when you get into it deeply how misunderstood statements are — misunderstood conservation ideas. And parks are just so difficult for people to understand clearly — the basic language of conservation.

Herbert Evison: I would like to see much better agreement on the meanings of the basic language of conservation because one man uses the word conservation when what he's talking about is complete preservation which in my mind isn't conservation unless there's an element of use involved, but we need some general agreement what the heck does that word conservation mean?

George Bagglely: Like right here now using the word developing countries — this is lieu of the under-developed countries that we were using ten years ago.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

George Bagglely: But developing countries is just as bad a word and this man — this Spaniard I was just talking to when you came over — he agrees that it is a poor word. It's just a very poor word and we are trying to figure out a different word rather than using that poor word.

Herbert Evison: Well, I think it's badly needed because when two people talk and use the same language and completely different meanings nothing can result from it that amounts to a hoot.

Herma Bagglely: Didn't one of the men say this morning that they are working on a plan whereby they will define various words so—

George Bagglely: —Yeah.

Herma Bagglely: This would help — words can be applicable the world around instead of just — and he referred to Park Service policies — there's one thing here but they're something else in another country.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

George Bagglely: That's right, they should be. They should not always be the same, but we, should understand what is meant by the statement when it is used.

Herbert Evison: Yeah.

George Bagglely: Well, Herb, I think we have talked enough.

Herbert Evison: Well, I will say of both of you that you have talked to a wonderful purpose. This has just been as pleasant and as productive an interview as I've had with anybody. Wonderful to have it with old friends.

Herma Bagglely: Well, thank you.

George Bagglely: We thank you.

Herbert Evison: Thank you both so much.

George Bagglely: Now where do you go from here?

[END OF TAPE 149, SIDE 1]

[END OF INTERVIEW]