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Diane Moses  
October 24, 2014

Interview conducted by Lilli Tichinin  
Transcribed by Thea Garrett  
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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

WITH

DIANE MOSES

By Lilli Tichinin

October 24, 2014

The Ranger Rendezvous

Estes Park, Colorado

Transcribed by Thea Garrett

## [START OF TRACK 1]

- Lilli Tichinin: All right, so this is Lilli Tichinin, and this is October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and I'm here at the Association of National Park Ranger [ANPR] Ranger Rendezvous doing interviews for the oral history project. So, if you could just introduce yourself and tell me a little bit, you know, where you were born?
- Diane Moses: Diane Moses: My name is Diane Moses; I was born Diane Giesecking – that's G-i-e-s-e-k-i-n-g. I was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa but I didn't live there very long. I was raised outside of Detroit, as a child of the suburbs. Went to school at Michigan State, majored in Fisheries and Wildlife and decided to leave there shortly thereafter and haven't really been back much since then. I was hired as a seasonal at Shenandoah [National Park] in 1980 and *that's* where it all started [Lilli laughs].
- Lilli Tichinin: Growing up were you really into, was there a certain subject that you were really interested in? So, you went in as a major, as a fish and wildlife major, but earlier in school—
- Diane Moses: Well, I started as a pre-vet major but that did not last long. [laughter] I did not have the dedication to keep up the grades that other people had. So, I switched Fisheries and Wildlife, and really wanted to work mostly with large animals like herd animals. I would have loved to have been on an elk project or a bear project or something. I didn't really have any background in that aside from studying in college, so I kind of had to start over. So anyway, so then I thought, oh wow, Park Service, that sounds cool – and actually for two summers in college I worked here at the Y [the YMCA of the Rockies].
- Lilli Tichinin: Oh really? Here at Estes Park?
- Diane Moses: Here at Estes Park, yep, cleaned these very cabins. [laughter] Those two summers convinced me that Michigan really was not the place to stay. So, I applied to Shenandoah, got hired as a fee collector at an entrance station.
- Lilli Tichinin: Great, was that right after college that you went there?
- Diane Moses: Yep. I finished – let me see, wait a minute. Well, no, I stayed one extra semester. So, I graduated in December and then got hired that spring.
- Lilli Tichinin: And who hired you? [laughter]
- Diane Moses: This guy – named Dan Moses called me from Shenandoah and somebody that they had hired had shown up and turned around and left, so I was the next name on the list. He called and hired me, and the rest is history. [laughter]

- Diane Moses: He was actually my second line supervisor. I worked at the entrance station and I worked for a supervisor and then he was her supervisor.
- Lilli Tichinin: And so, you were there for one season, at Shenandoah?
- Diane Moses: I was there for one season. We got married the next spring. We got married almost exactly a year after I got there and that, of course, made it more difficult to work in the same park. So then, the first summer we lived in the park, he worked there, I had to drive up to the next district to work at the campground. Then we moved out of the park and I still had to drive to work somewhere else in the park because I couldn't work for him anymore.
- Lilli Tichinin: Yeah, was that difficult? Aside from just the driving, what was sort of the attitude about having a married couple?
- Diane Moses: Well, we weren't the only ones. There were a couple that were doing that. It was just a matter of making sure that you were out of each other's line of supervision. So, there were three districts so people could work in different districts. It's just that the way Shenandoah is set up, if you work in one district you are a long way from the other districts. And then, the winter of '82 he got transferred to Yellowstone. And then things got really interesting [Moses laughs].
- Lilli Tichinin: Yeah?
- Diane Moses: Yeah, he got the call in October, we moved in November. I had a baby due in February and we got there in November. We got into our housing at Madison Junction, our furniture got there. We drove down to Old Faithful – I got to see Old Faithful once and then it started snowing and we couldn't drive anymore. Then it was all snowmobiles after that.
- Diane Moses: We snowmobiled in and out to go to the doctor's appointments and all that. There exists a picture, but the people who took the picture are no longer married to each other, they both claim the other one has the picture [they laugh] and I have not been able to find the picture of me riding on the back of the snowmobile sled, nine months pregnant. We towed a sled to carry groceries and all and then I stood on the back of the sled because that was much more comfortable than sitting on the back of a snowmobile and hitting every bump. So, we did that. Kristi was born February 1<sup>st</sup>. But we made it out. Only we had planned to move to the housing out in West Yellowstone so that we could at least eliminate the snowmobile ride in labor [Moses laughs] and only drive the ninety miles to Bozeman because there wasn't a hospital or a clinic in West Yellowstone. It had closed the year before and they didn't

have anybody new to come into man it, so we had to drive to Bozeman.

Diane Moses: Yep, so that morning, Dan got up and he went to work and about a half hour later my water broke, so I had to call him and tell him to come back home and then drive to Bozeman. It turned out we had plenty of time because I ended up having a C-section the next day, but everything went fine after that. Except my mother still doesn't really believe that [laughter] because they were so worried. She was born in '83. We had called our parents to let them know that we were in Bozeman and everything was fine and then had to show up at the hospital – we were staying in a motel – had to show up at the hospital first thing the next morning and didn't have time to call everybody. So, as they made the decision that I needed a C-section they were literally wheeling me out of the room towards surgery and a nurse poked her head in the room and said, "Mr. Moses, your mother-in-law is on the phone wanting to know how things are. What should I tell her?" Dan's like, Um, okay. So, he talked to her and told her what was happening. It all worked out fine, but it's not like today where you can just talk while you're doing everything.

Diane Moses: Then she actually flew out a couple days later once we got back home. So, she had the adventure of riding the snowmobile and everything too. It was a very memorable birth.

Lilli Tichinin: It sounds like it.

Diane Moses: So, there we were, in Yellowstone, with the snow.

Lilli Tichinin: And a brand-new baby.

Diane Moses: Yeah, the brand-new baby and elk for neighbors. There were only six, eight – I think eight people living in Madison Junction at that time. We did not have a lot of neighbors. That was how life was. People keep [asking], "Oh, my God. How did you do it?" And I say, "Well, what was I supposed to do?" [laughter] You know that's just— "Tell them, no, you can't take the job?"

Lilli Tichinin: So then, when did you – I know that you worked for Fish and Wildlife. When did you start that?

Diane Moses: That wasn't until we moved to Utah.

Lilli Tichinin: How long were you in Yellowstone?

Diane Moses: We were in Yellowstone until – Kristi was born in '83. Leanna was born in '86, in August.

Lilli Tichinin: No snowmobile [Diane laughs].

Diane Moses: That's right. Planned that one. By then we had moved on to Old Faithful, and we were living at the house in Old Faithful.

- Diane Moses: Madison Junction is between Old Faithful and town, so when we were at Madison Junction, the family that was at Old Faithful had a five-year-old girl and twin boys who were, like, three. Their mother was snowmobiling out on Monday with all the kids, staying in one of the trailers in West Yellowstone so that the daughter could go to kindergarten, and they would stay out there during the week and then come back home on Friday and spend the weekends at home. And I saw that, and I told Dan, "You got five years, because I'm not doing that."
- Diane Moses: But it worked out fine. Then we lived in the house at Old Faithful and I took Kristi into town once a week for preschool, daycare just so she had other kids to play with. We had a strict rule in the winter that we did not leave the house on the snowmobile until it was at least zero, so she did miss a few weeks. But she enjoyed that. She was riding the snowmobile – Dan had her in a snuggly and then put the snowmobile suit over it and rode with her that way until she got too big for that.
- Diane Moses: Leanna was born in '86 and we moved in June of '87. And so, and then we moved to Utah.
- Lilli Tichinin: And where in Utah did you move?
- Diane Moses: He went to Dinosaur National Monument, so we were living out there, in park housing there, at Dinosaur, which is near Vernal. That's where everything happened. We actually moved there a year before Kristi started kindergarten, so she had a year of preschool there and daycare and then started kindergarten.
- Diane Moses: The first summer I worked for the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge as a seasonal, just doing various stuff around there. There're three Fish and Wildlife Service offices together: Ouray National Wildlife Refuge, the Jones Hole [National] Fish Hatchery, and the Colorado River Fish Project, which is an endangered species project. I worked the first summer for the refuge and then I got on as a subject-to-furlough on the research project, so then I was working fisheries for that. Then it was going back and forth to town and out to the hatchery. We put a lot of miles on [a vehicle], but the girls did get to go to school, and no snowmobiles involved. It was still the seven miles to the mailbox and to the nearest gallon of milk but at least we could drive it.
- Lilli Tichinin: Yeah. And how many other families were there in the park?
- Diane Moses: At Dinosaur?
- Lilli Tichinin: Uh-huh.
- Diane Moses: There were four houses that had families in them and then seasonal apartments, I think there were ten apartment units there. People kind of came and went out of there. But there were actually people

in the housing area and so it – it made it nice because that was back in the days when the people you worked with were the people you lived with, were the people you hung out with. We had the potlucks, and Halloween parties were a big thing there, we always had fun with those.

Diane Moses: But my kids had an advantage that they could come home on the school bus even though I wasn't there, starting when Kristi was about – I think starting when she was about in third grade when Leanna was in kindergarten or first grade. We just let them come home on the school bus because Dan was fifty yards away and it was only like an hour until I got home. But there were neighbors around. There were people around and if anything happened, they could – and they knew, kind of, their limits.

Diane Moses: The one neighbor, one of her favorite stories is when Leanna was in first or second grade and they had done that, they had come home on the bus. And we were in the first house and Charlene was in the fourth house. She said there was a knock at the door and Leanna was there and she said, "There's some water coming out from under the washing machine."

Diane Moses: Charlene was like, "Oh, I figured there was a pool of water under there." She tried calling Dan, but he was at headquarters or on the road or something. So, she said, "So, I came, we walked over there. We were talking and I asked her how school was and everything and it was fine" – and the house that we had, the washer and dryer were in the kitchen – and she – [Diane laughs] she opened the door, and the hose has split and there's water spraying out all over the kitchen. She said, "Oh!" [laughter]. So, she's trying to turn the water off and everything. Leanna was perfectly calm, you know, *Oh, there's water coming out of* [laughter]. No panic here. It was nice to have neighbors like that and there was somebody around when things like that happened.

Diane Moses: My kids found out later that they were raised with far fewer restrictions than other kids they knew because kids who grew up in town couldn't cross the street, had to stay on one block, could only go to so-and-so's house or whatever. My kids pretty much had free reign of the place. They knew all the seasonals in the apartments every summer because they would go down there. And some of them were more than happy [to visit with them].

Diane Moses: Let me see, there were my two kids, there was a set of twins, there was one family that was in there for a while that had three boys. So, we had several kids in the neighborhood there and they would all play together. So, the seasonals, they would come out and play guitar for them. They knew the new seasonals better than I did. But they could go climbing. They went hiking up on the rocks. They

went to places I never went to. They'd climb up on the rocks right in front of the house there. As they got older, when they went to high school and even college and they found out how some kids were raised, they were like, Wow, really? Our way was so weird. [laughs]

Lilli Tichinin: Yeah.

Diane Moses: It got to the point where I got one of those old-fashioned triangle dinner bell things and I hung it from the tree outside because I had no idea where they were when I would ring the bell for them. [laughs] And Kristi, when she got to college, she says, "I would tell people that story and they would look at my like I was crazy."

Diane Moses: "Your mother just rang a dinner bell?" [laughs]

Diane Moses: Didn't know where you were – if you were in the housing area or climbing on the rocks with the dog, but I knew you could hear the bell – that was the thing. Wherever you were, I knew you could hear the bell. Nothing ever happened, so I guess we were lucky. So, they have rather fond memories of living out there. I don't think there's anybody living in those houses now. I think they're all offices. They gave everybody permission to move out to town. Which is nice because we fought for years to try to buy our own house and move into town. It took a long time.

Lilli Tichinin: How far is the park from town?

Diane Moses: Well, it's seven miles to Jensen which is just a gas station, a post office. And then, fourteen miles to Vernal, which is where everything really happens.

Lilli Tichinin: School and—

Diane Moses: Right, school and grocery stores—

Lilli Tichinin: Anything that's not the gas station, right?

Diane Moses: Yeah. [laughs] If you didn't need gas or – they did have milk there, you know. Yeah, that was, we thought, quite a reasonable drive for everything that we were doing.

Lilli Tichinin: Yeah.

Diane Moses: Vernal was so much bigger than West Yellowstone. Because in Yellowstone when you went out – in Yellowstone you could do some stuff, but then, Bozeman was where you really had to go to – that's where we did our big grocery shopping when we were stocking up for the winter and go buying stuff in bulk, putting it all in the freezer and all that. So yeah, moving to Vernal was just like living downtown. Phew! [laughs]



- Lilli Tichinin: The other families who were there in the park housing with you at Dinosaur, were there a lot of dual-career people or was it a lot of one park employee and a park spouse?
- Diane Moses: It was mostly, yeah, it was mostly one park spouse—
- Lilli Tichinin: One park, one non-park spouse.
- Diane Moses: Because once again with the districts, they would have had to drive all the way to the Colorado side or work in different divisions. We did have one, he was the paleontologist and then she [his wife] actually worked for Dan at the fee collection, at the entrance station, when they put in the entrance station. There was some of that. Let me think, I'm trying to think of who all rotated in and out all the time. Because one guy who worked for Dan, his wife was a teacher, and then there was Nate and he was single—
- Diane Moses: Anyway, most of it was one in the park and one out.
- Lilli Tichinin: So, how long were you there?
- Diane Moses: We were in Utah for eleven years, from '87 – almost twelve years – '87 to '99. And so, our kids, we moved when our kids – I remember everything by how old my kids were. [laughs] And I remember this one because it was quite dramatic.
- Diane Moses: But first we did get permission to leave government housing, so we did get to buy a house in town. So, we actually, literally, moved two blocks from the grocery store and one block from the junior high school. Then my kids found another whole new freedom where they could go to their friends' houses after school. It was okay, because I didn't have to figure out how I was going to pick them up and all that stuff. They could just go and be home at dinnertime. They just thought that was just the greatest, even better freedom from being able to go out and run around where you wanted, you could actually play with your friends after school.
- Diane Moses: So, we lived in town for, that was, two years – two or three years. And in '99, then, Dan got transferred to North Cascades [National Park]. So, we moved up to Washington and that's when Kristi started eleventh grade and Leanna started eighth grade.
- Lilli Tichinin: In Washington?
- Diane Moses: In Washington. They almost didn't forgive us for moving at that particular time, but they did eventually [laughs]. They did eventually see the advantages [laughs]. But it took a while to get over that.
- Diane Moses: That worked out good but then, there wasn't any Fish and Wildlife Service or anything there for me. There was a fish hatchery but that was forty miles away in Leavenworth so that wasn't really too feasible. So, then I had to start over.

- Lilli Tichinin: So, you had worked for Fish and Wildlife for almost all the time that you were in Utah.
- Diane Moses: Yeah, ten, eleven years that we were there. I ended up working for all three offices. Well, they kept rearranging the admin of the three offices and seeing what they could consolidate because that was during the downsizing and right sizing and all that. And so, then I was working in part with the CRFP and in part with the Jones Hole Fish Hatchery. But I was in the same office, I didn't go to either of those places. I was in the office [laughs] so I could do *their* books and do *their* books. I ended up working in all three of the offices at one time or another, so. But then that just all got cut off and then I had to find something else. So, once again, that's just part of the adventure. So, we moved up there right after school got out, so we were there for the summer. I didn't work anywhere for the summer because we were renting a house, we were looking for a place to buy and all that, and trying to get the kids settled and acclimated, ready to start school and all that. They did that with a minimum of trauma, [laughs] I guess. We moved into the house right before school started. Like, I think the week school started was the week we finally got to move into the house, so it was rather hectic. But once again, we were close to both schools, so that wasn't too hard. So, it worked out.
- Diane Moses: That fall I found a temporary agency and I only ever had one job with them, and it was working in a psychologist's office, just as a receptionist thing. And then, I finally said, Okay, now it's time to go find an actual full-time job with benefits and all that. Just waiting for life to – just waiting for everything to settle down in stages. I did that and I started working for the branch of the state government that does aging and adult care. They do in-home care for seniors and Washington has a really good program for that because they, you can go through the training and be certified as an in-home care provider for, like, relatives, so people who have to quit their jobs and stay home and take care of their parents. It only pays minimum wage, but at least it's something for having to quit your job or whatever. It's a very big program. It's very popular so I was back in the admin stuff on that. The biology degree started gathering dust about then. [laughter] Then, I worked there the whole time we were in Wenatchee.
- Diane Moses: We got the kids through high school and started in college and mostly through college by the time we left there.
- Lilli Tichinin: And where are you now?
- Diane Moses: Dan retired from North Cascades because his position essentially ended.
- Lilli Tichinin: What was his position when he transferred?

Diane Moses: He was a management assistant. But North Cascades, the headquarters is on the other side of the mountains, but it extends over through Lake Chelan and there's a dam on Lake Chelan and it has to get recertified every twenty years, I think, and it was recertification time, so they needed somebody to work in that office through the recertification process which takes, like, four years.

Lilli Tichinin: Wow.

Diane Moses: So, he did. Once the dam was recertified then the job was done. So, he was eligible to retire, and it was a choice of moving somewhere else, trying to get another transfer, figuring out where to go, or taking the retirement. At that time, that's when they were starting to question park rangers' retirement as law enforcement and firefighting – trying to say that they didn't really do that much law enforcement, that they didn't deserve their twenty-year retirement and stuff. There were a lot of them getting questioned, so he said, "I better take it while I can get it, so they don't question it." We did that and then moved back to North Carolina to be closer to our parents. We had told the kids that as they were going through college, "At some point, our parents are going to need us to be close more than *you* need us to be close." They understood that.

Lilli Tichinin: Are both of your daughters still in Washington?

Diane Moses: One is still in Washington and one is in Washington again [laughter]. Our younger daughter, the reason she didn't want to leave was because she was in the middle of college and she was engaged and planning a wedding. There was something about having a fiancé that she did not want to just—

Diane Moses: That was another whole story because we actually knew him from Vernal. His mother was our girls' babysitter that first summer that I was working for the refuge, and it was only that one summer. Then they met again. He's a year older than our older daughter and she came home from high school one day with this guy that she was going out with and his best friend. They gave me the name and I said, "Oh, are you one of Sylvia's kids?"

Diane Moses: And he looked at me and he said, "Yeah." And I said, "She babysat these girls for that one summer."

Diane Moses: Kristi goes, "I thought that house looked familiar. I couldn't figure out why I knew that house. That was so long ago." So, they hung out together.

Diane Moses: When we moved [to Washington] then Jesse and Kollin moved up there. They were both a year older than Kristi, so they moved up there while Kristi was finishing her senior year in high school, and

Jesse when up there to be with her, and took Kollin with him so that they could room together and all that stuff.

Diane Moses: Kristi and Jesse didn't work out, so Jesse left but Kollin stayed. We didn't find out for a while [laughter] that instead of dating our seventeen-year old-daughter, it was actually our fifteen-year-old daughter. [laughter] But he was always a complete gentleman.

Diane Moses: They ended up staying there. He got a job. He's a truck driver for Con-way [Freight] and he was working for Pepsi at the time. But anyway, they ended up staying there.

Diane Moses: Kristi was in college at Central Washington [University] and did two quarters of study abroad in Scotland.

Lilli Tichinin: Wow.

Diane Moses: Well, when she was in high school, when we first moved there she was in a German class and she came home one day and said, "My German class is going to Germany next summer, so I'm going with them."

Diane Moses: I'm like, "Okay. [laughter] Thanks for letting us know." Boy, once she had that passport [kissing sound]. She went to Scotland twice in college and then after she graduated and we had moved, she stayed there for a while and couldn't decide what she wanted to do, then decided to go to grad school. So, she went to grad school in Maryland, so she was actually close to us. She had applied to the Peace Corps and the Peace Corps called, and three weeks after she got her master's degree, she was on a plane to Africa for two and a half years. Now she's back.

Lilli Tichinin: Back in Washington.

Diane Moses: Yeah, she got home after two and a half years in Ghana and spent nine months looking for a job and then got the Peace Corps recruiter job in Seattle.

Lilli Tichinin: Oh, wow.

Diane Moses: So, she's back there recruiting. Now, she's got the administrative job there. So at least they [Kristi and Leanna] are close together. They see each other quite regularly and we're kind of [laughs] stuck off on the other coast but that's okay. We got it. So, they came through all those years of trauma and it all went quite well. [laughter] They managed. They both managed to get through school and college and have jobs and careers and everything. So, it's fine.

Diane Moses: But yeah, it was just so funny when they were talking to other kids they knew in college and stuff. Even when Kristi was in Africa and people were saying, "Wow, she's kind of prepared for living there."

- Diane Moses: “Well, no. Not really.” [laughter]
- Lilli Tichinin: It’s a little different.
- Diane Moses: “She’s got electricity but no running water. So, you know, it’s a little rougher than they had it growing up.” But she did enjoy that, so—
- Lilli Tichinin: What did they both study in school?
- Diane Moses: Kristi majored in anthropology, undergrad and grad school. Leanna was elementary ed[ucation] and she’s now a teacher’s assistant at Head Start. And they’ve got two kids: the oldest one is six, she just started first grade, and the younger one is three, so she’s kind of in that preschool mode. She started out wanting to do, like, first, second grade. But those jobs weren’t available, so she worked at a different preschool for a while. She likes that too, so that worked out good. And she likes the Head Start program.
- Lilli Tichinin: Yeah, it’s a great program, yeah. Did either of them ever have any interest in the Park Service?
- Diane Moses: Kristi worked a couple seasons. She worked two seasons at Glacier [National Park], entrance station and campground. She worked the summer before she started grad school – she worked at Shenandoah and lived with her grandpa; he lives there in Luray right by Shenandoah. So, she went there and stayed with him and worked there and then started grad school. It was kind of a gradual move across. She’s had a few seasons and she’s looking at jobs in the Park Service too, now that she’s a federal employee, looking at jobs there. And then she worked a thirty-day emergency hire in Mesa Verde [National Park] as a dispatcher.
- Lilli Tichinin: Oh, okay.
- Diane Moses: While she was waiting for the Peace Corps job to start. But anyway, she likes the Peace Corps life, but she likes a lot of things [laughter]. She’s got a lot of things she wants to try and do and stuff. But yeah, she enjoyed her seasons in the park too.
- Lilli Tichinin: Yeah, I’m always curious, children of Park Service families, if they are interested in it at as well.
- Diane Moses: Yeah, and from the people I know, some are, some aren’t.
- Lilli Tichinin: Yeah.
- Diane Moses: And I think it makes a difference too whether they were kids that were raised in the park, like our were where they actually lived there, instead of living in town where that was just where dad went to—

[END OF TRACK 1]

[START OF TRACK 2]

- Diane Moses: —work every day, or mom went to work every day. Or in the regional office, where you weren't as connected to the Park Service as people who actually lived there.
- Lilli Tichinin: When you were at Yellowstone, so, in addition to having to drive a snowmobile in and out of your house, were there any other houses right around there. Or were you, like, the only one?
- Diane Moses: There were plenty of people there in the summer but in the winter, we were pretty much the only ones. There was a quadruplex across the road from us that had four apartments in it, but none of them had kids and they were people – and they all worked there, and they were gone all day. It was pretty much just Kristi and me while we were there and she, since it was just the two of us, she did what I did. She wanted to do what I was doing. So, if I sat down to write a letter she wanted to sit down and write a letter. Some stuff she learned really fast; she could write her name before she was three.
- Lilli Tichinin: Wow.
- Diane Moses: She sat down one day and wanted me to teach her to read so that she could do something in one of these workbooks that she had. “Well, you just have to teach me to read so I can do this.”  
[laughter]
- Diane Moses: I was like, “Umm, I don't think that's going to work. I'm a lot of things but I'm really not a teacher.” I mean, she learned to write all the letters and everything, but I'm going, “Oh, God, I can just see me screwing that up by the time you get to first grade.” [laughter]  
But like I say, it was the two of us and that's what we did. Then when Leanna was born, we were there for one winter with the two of them after that it was summer – the rest of the time it was summer. But, yeah, it was an adventure.
- Lilli Tichinin: Did you, do you think if there had been other districts closer by, or if there had been other positions available would you have wanted to go back to the Park Service?
- Diane Moses: In Yellowstone?
- Lilli Tichinin: Yeah, yeah, or in Vernal, either way.
- Diane Moses: Um – no, probably not. In Yellowstone I did work, I worked part-time out at the visitor's center in West Yellowstone for the Chamber of Commerce, handing out the information, you know, people come in and look for the information. Then they ended up doing a partnership thing with the park so that I was getting paid half by each of them. So, I was actually sort of with the Park Service. But I still just worked there in town and I did a couple of slide programs and stuff for people going through the park.

- Diane Moses: But then, in Vernal, no, not really. Because that was, once again, couldn't work for Dan. I could've worked for interpretation but that was the time when *Jurassic Park* came out and everybody was a dinosaur expert, and everybody wanted to come work at Dinosaur. I learned about dinosaurs, but they weren't really my thing. [There was also the childcare issue – I'd have had to drive to Vernal to drop them off, then back to the Park to work.] After working there, the first summer with Fish and Wildlife Service, that was fine with me. I was glad to be doing something related to my degree. [laughter] It's good to know I had ten years of it anyway that I got to actually use it, which is more than some people get.
- Lilli Tichinin: What's one of the – one of the highlights? Is there anything that really stands out to you about your time as a park spouse, as being a highlight of that experience?
- Diane Moses: Well, yeah, pretty much the whole time in Yellowstone. Because it was just something that nobody else could really relate to. I would try to explain to people what it was. On weeks that I couldn't go into town or something and I needed something, I could call the grocery store down there [in W. Yellowstone] and they would pack up a box of groceries for me and put it on the snow coach that came in every day and take it over to the Old Faithful Lodge. I'd just go over and pick it up. So, I'd bundle up the kids, put them in the sled, drag the sled over to the Lodge and wait for the snow coach and there were people standing there waiting and, of course, they want to know about the kids and everything. So, I'd tell them, "Well, actually we live here."
- Diane Moses: And they're, "Ooh, that must be so exciting!"
- Diane Moses: "Lady, I'm waiting for a delivery of frozen corn on a snow coach. [laughter] You know, this is really not that romantic."
- Diane Moses: You know, and they were all, "Oh really? You can do that?"
- Diane Moses: We would go over there in November and March when the park was closed because they were either waiting for the snow to build up or waiting for it to get plowed and melt, and the roads were closed so we were the only ones in there. So that's the best time to be in the national park, is when you don't have to share it with anybody. I would bundle them up in the sled and go over there and we'd watch Old Faithful go off at our own private showing, with the bison standing around, or whatever, or watch the coyotes in the snow. It's a side of the parks that people wish they had but most people don't get to do it.
- Lilli Tichinin: Absolutely.

Diane Moses: When I would snowmobile out to town, I'd pull over at an overlook and just watch. Because one time I was out there and there was a coyote chasing something under the snow and he's just jumping up and down. There was, like, a mouse under the snow and he just kept diving into the snow trying to get it, and I just sat and watched him for a while. So, yeah, it was kind of nice to have that little perk that other people didn't get.

Lilli Tichinin: Yeah, absolutely.

Diane Moses: But at the same time, there was a lot of time when you couldn't go anywhere. The last winter we were there, we got a snowstorm and we got, like, sixty inches of snow in three days. [Tichinin laughs] This was at the end of winter; this was towards the end, so we had already had pretty much—

Lilli Tichinin: You had already had pretty much everything. You already had a plentiful base layer.

Diane Moses: We had two dogs when we were living there, and we put a – one was on a leash and the other one had a running chain between the house and the trees so we could hook them up so they could go. And when Dan put it up, he reached up as high as he could, and he reached up and put it on the tree. That winter, I had a little terrier mutt – well, whichever one we hooked up out there. He could actually jump over the wire that it was on. The snow was so deep they could actually – when they went out there to run. [laughter] So, there was a lot of snow that winter.

Lilli Tichinin: Yes.

Diane Moses: Then we got this snowstorm and Dan was shoveling the roof, like, every day.

Lilli Tichinin: Yeah.

Diane Moses: He would shovel it off and I would be down below on the walk shoveling it off of the walk so that we could – and it got so high up I couldn't throw it over the top anymore. So, we just had to cut steps into it and go over it and it was. I mean, it just snowed, and it just did not stop snowing. That was like February or March, so it did start melting shortly after that, but it took a while for those steps to melt.

Lilli Tichinin: There are pros and cons, of course, to all these things, but is there anything that for you was particularly challenging about being, you know, being a park spouse. Especially living in the parks.

Diane Moses: Oh, sure, yeah. Those winters in Yellowstone; the isolation. It was me and the kids, you know, and waiting for Dan to come home so I had another grownup to talk to. Because that was before computers or Internet. We didn't even have a microwave, we didn't have a



VCR, we had nothing like that. We had a satellite dish, but it was a community satellite dish and if somebody decided to move it to a different satellite than whatever you were watching, that was it. That was kind of spotty. No, it was basically by ourselves. To be honest, I can't tell you what I did all day [laughter] through the winter. I don't remember what I did all day except raise toddlers, but that was apparently enough work. But there were days I was like, "Isn't it time for him to come home yet?" [laughter] You know, I've spent a long time here.

Lilli Tichinin: And what was his position at Yellowstone?

Diane Moses: He was a district ranger.

Lilli Tichinin: Okay.

Diane Moses: First, up at Madison and then, down at Old Faithful. He was also getting the callouts at night and stuff. The phone was ringing, the radio would go off. Especially in the winter, he was the only one to go. He couldn't call somebody else and tell them to go. He had to do it.

Diane Moses: But there's always these kind of quirky things that would happen. When we were at Madison Junction, we were living in an apartment, which was in the building that was the district office there in the center and then the two wings down this side was seasonal housing, and over here was our two apartments. Our door was the next door over from the office. This was when Kristi was a baby, so she was in the playpen and I was in the back room, and I heard the dog bark so I went up to see what was going on and there's this guy standing in my living room and [laughter] I said, "Can I help you?"

Diane Moses: And he says, "Is this the district office?"

Diane Moses: I said, "Yeah, this is the district office. We have kids in playpens and dogs." You know, it's that door over there that says, "District Office" next to it. You know, but sure walk in the house.

Diane Moses: People knocking on the doors, say they hit an elk on the road or a bison at night, because that was the first light they saw. The one guy I remember, I always remember his face, his eyes were just big saucers. He says, "I just hit a buffalo on the road." So, Dan's getting his stuff together to take a report and everything. And he [the visitor] just keeps having this look in his eye and one of the things he said was, "How am I going to explain this to my insurance company?" [laughter]

Diane Moses: I said, "Believe it or not, they've heard it before." [laughter]

Diane Moses: Dan asked him about the buffalo. He says, "He walked away. My car won't start."

- Diane Moses: “Yep. Yep.”
- Diane Moses: And that’s what he was thinking, “So now, how’s the insurance company going to believe me if I don’t even have a dead buffalo to show for it?”
- Diane Moses: And when we first moved there, I thought, “How could people do that? Even at night, how can you miss something as big as a buffalo?” And then I was out driving one night, “Oh yeah, if they’re not facing you and their little eyes don’t shine up [laughter] it’s real easy to not see a buffalo in the middle of the night.” After that I understood it.
- Lilli Tichinin: Yeah. What was it like during the summers there, like, with so many more people? You went from complete isolation to many, many visitors.
- Diane Moses: To frantic activity.
- Lilli Tichinin: Yeah.
- Diane Moses: At least we could get out. We could go, I could take the kids out for a walk, we could go down visit the volunteers where they lived in a trailer over there. We’d go down and talk to them or talk to other people in the park, or go to town, or just do something. But just to be able to get out of the house without having to wear six layers of clothes and wrap the kid up like a mummy was just nice.
- Diane Moses: Dan was busy then too but at least he had other people there, so he didn’t have to do it all. But there was enough, with the accidents and just the callouts at night, and then being gone for training, and stuff like that. Just being able to have a little control over where you could go and what you could do made it nice.
- Diane Moses: Then, in the summers I was working and so the kids were at the babysitters. I was getting out and talking to adults again. [Moses laughs]
- Lilli Tichinin: Where were you working during the summers?
- Diane Moses: At the Chamber of Commerce.
- Lilli Tichinin: Oh, that’s right. Yeah, yeah. Was your house in a place where a lot of visitors came by during the summers?
- Diane Moses: No, it was set back from the road. And we were at the far end of the loop. So even if somebody did wander in there they had to go through the dorms where all the concession employees worked, all the ones that worked at the Old Faithful Inn and they had to go through all that. So, getting back to where our house was – you had to really look. So, if we saw somebody coming down the road, we were pretty sure we would know who it was. It was probably somebody who worked there. And we were out there by the horse

stables, so I could, you know, go over there and just watch the horses or whatever.

Lilli Tichinin: So, when you moved to Washington was that – what was sort of the – you were talking about how your daughters were quite [laughter] displeased with that decision.

Diane Moses: Yeah.

Lilli Tichinin: Was it, when you went, Dan knew that it was going to be, like, a set amount of time for that position?

Diane Moses: Yeah, he and I pretty much knew that, because that was the only reason for having an office over there. All the visitor stuff is actually done by the Forest Service because they operate the land around there. The Park Service is only there because of the lake and the dam itself and there's no campgrounds or anything around there. In fact, when he left and his assistant left, they had an office in the Forest Service office, they had a little suite to themselves, and when they left, they closed up that office. I think the Forest Service even closed that office and consolidated it with something else. Once he was gone that door was shut. [laughter] It was done, so.

Lilli Tichinin: Had he been looking to leave? So how did that transition happen when you left Dinosaur to go up to Washington? Had he been looking to leave Dinosaur for a while?

Diane Moses: Oh yeah, for a long time. There's kind of a long ugly story there, but it was a lot of politics and he finally ended up working a trade. They traded people in a position there, somebody who wanted to leave North Cascades. They ended up working the swap. But I don't know, six months later or so that the superintendent at North Cascades did tell him that he got the better end of the deal. So [laughter] Dan was happy about that. I had intended to be out of Utah before my kids were out of elementary school. Only missed by four, five, six years. [laughter]

Diane Moses: But, you know, it's Utah, and it's not so bad over in Vernal because you are a little farther from Salt Lake but, at that time, it was still heavily Mormon. And there was still a lot of issues, for some people, between Mormons and non-Mormons. Fortunately, Vernal has a lot of government offices: there's the Park Service, there's Fish and Wildlife, there's the Bureau of Reclamation, there's BLM [Bureau of Land Management]. So, there are a lot of people coming and going from out of there, so it's not quite as – it's a little more diffuse than it is around Salt Lake where it is so heavily Mormon. But there was still a pretty good division of people.

- Diane Moses: And when we moved there, I wasn't sure how noticeable that was going to be. And after being there for a while and once the kids started school and stuff, and I'm thinking, "It is going to be really hard to raise girls in this place," you know, with the attitude that people had. But we did manage to get around that and, like I say, we weren't the only ones, so that helped. We did eventually make our peace with all that and we had good friends and all, that were there. But, yeah, when we first got there – [laughter] Well, for one thing, it's the desert and I really had no intention of staying, [laughter] watching the red sand blow around for that long. Like I tell everybody, and they said, "Well, how did you move from that to North Carolina?"
- Diane Moses: I said, "Well, all those years in Utah we had plenty of beach, but we had no ocean." [laughter] So, now we have the ocean to go with it, so that makes a lot of difference. But I'm just really not a high desert person. I mean, I would much rather have green things around. So, moving to Washington wasn't as big a change as I thought it would be, because central Washington is a lot more like Utah than people think it is.
- Lilli Tichinin: Yes.
- Diane Moses: When we got up there, I was like, "Wow, this weather is very similar to what we left." People keep talking about the rain in Seattle and all that, but we didn't get any of that. "At least we don't have to worry too much about acclimating; we're kind of used to this." [laughter]
- Lilli Tichinin: Yeah. Did you visit many other national parks during that time?
- Diane Moses: Oh yeah. We did most of the Grand Loop down in Grand Canyon and Zion, Arches, Canyonlands [National Parks]. One summer we went up to Glacier [National Park] and up into Canada, into Banff and Jasper [National Parks], Lake Louise, and all that.
- Lilli Tichinin: Did you visit many National Parks growing up? Was that something that was kind of on your radar at all growing up?
- Diane Moses: Not really, we took vacations, but the parks weren't really a destination. We did different places, but we did go to Shenandoah one year. Which I've tried to remember over the years why I decided to apply to Shenandoah, and it may have been because that was the only name I really recognized, that I knew anything about. We had been there, and we had been to Acadia. Those are the only two that I remember that were actually national parks that we went to. But we did take vacations, we did go around, we even camped occasionally, which still amazes me, because my mother is really not a camper and I'm not sure how my dad ever talked her into that. [laughter] But we did a couple years, go camping and rented

the trailer. And I was one of six kids so that was not a small project to undertake. [laughter]

Lilli Tichinin: Yeah, yeah. Absolutely. Do you continue to visit many parks now?

Diane Moses: Oh sure.

Lilli Tichinin: Yeah?

Diane Moses: Yep. Every chance we get. North Carolina, well, when we moved there, there's seven North Carolina lighthouses, coastal lighthouses, and so it took us a few years, but we got to all of them. Of course, only two of them are in national parks. You know, we've been up to Kitty Hawk, you know, the Wright Brothers [National Memorial] and all that. Well yeah, whenever there's one around, "Oh, yeah, we've got to go."

Lilli Tichinin: Yeah.

Diane Moses: "Got to go check it out."

Diane Moses: And Dan turned sixty-two this year so now he can get his Golden Age Passport. So, woohoo!

Lilli Tichinin: Do you have a favorite park?

Diane Moses: Well, Rocky is one of our favorites and we could tell people about stuff and they [would ask], "When did you work here?"

Diane Moses: "Well, we never did work here. We just came here a lot." I worked here [YMCA of Rockies] for two summers while I was in college. When we lived in Utah, we could drive over here in a day and so we'd come and stay at the Y or go up to the rodeo in Cheyenne [Cheyenne Frontier Days]. We've been back and forth across Trail Ridge [the road thru Rocky] several times. And he tried to work here. He applied here for a long time. We actually owned a lot down in a little town of Glen Haven, which is down the canyon. We had bought a lot down there and we had fully intended to someday work at Rocky and live down there and la-de-da-de-da. And it just didn't work. After we owned it for eight or ten years, we were looking at it and going, "You know, there's a lot of snow there, and we've already had a lot of snow." [laughter]

Lilli Tichinin: We've already done that.

Diane Moses: "And it's kind of far from town and I'm not really into all that driving anymore." But then when we got the chance to buy the house, we had to sell the lot so that we could buy the house. So, it served its purpose. We were just down there yesterday, and Glen Haven is one of the towns that got pounded with the [2013 Colorado] floods that took out everything. The place where we had the lot, you go down into Glen Haven, down to the bottom of the canyon and then cross and then go up. The place is called the

Retreat [Landowner's Association] and is up there on the hillside up there. They were untouched, but they couldn't leave because the bridge blew out at the bottom. And we went through there yesterday and just looking at the scarring down at the bottom of the canyon was amazing, but then we drove up there to look at the lot. We have seen it before and the houses that have been built up there, they're just these log palaces. God, we would have never fit in. We would never been able to afford anything like that on that lot. It worked out for the best, because when I think of that now it's like, "Why on earth would we have wanted to move there?"

Diane Moses: We like North Carolina. It did snow three times last year; I actually built a snowman and everything. I took pictures of it to post it just to show people, "See, I did build a snowman in North Carolina." Hopefully that's the last one. [laughter]

Lilli Tichinin: You've had your time with snow.

Diane Moses: But it's nice, we live seven miles from town and everything we need, pretty much, is right there. We don't need to go here for one thing and over there for something else. That's why we had picked New Bern because it's close to the coast, we're a forty- minute drive from the ocean, but it's big enough to have everything we need: shopping, medical, whatever-wise. But it's not so big that we can't stand it and we don't actually live in town itself, so it's nice.

Lilli Tichinin: And you mentioned that Dan's parents are nearby?

Diane Moses: Well, he grew up in Virginia, and that was the other thing that was the other thing about New Bern when we did the math. It put us almost exactly halfway between parents; he grew up in Virginia and his parents were still there and my parents had retired to South Carolina. So, we were almost exactly four hundred miles from each of them. So, no favorites being played. Close enough to be available, but not so close that we're on each other's backs all the time. That worked out too.

Lilli Tichinin: When you moved from Shenandoah to Yellowstone, that was the first move that you had done together because of a Park Service job.

Diane Moses: That was the first time he had ever moved. He'd spent all his time in Shenandoah since he'd been in the Park Service. So that was his first move too. So, what was the transition like?

Lilli Tichinin: Yeah.

Diane Moses: Well, once we convinced our parents that I wasn't going to give birth under a bush somewhere at Yellowstone and that they did actually have doctors. Because they kept asking me about it and I just kept saying, "Surely somebody in Yellowstone has had a baby before. I mean, this can't be totally new, okay?" But then when we

got there and found out that the clinic in West Yellowstone had actually closed it was like, “Oh, well, that's kind of a problem.”  
[laughter]

Lilli Tichinin: Right.

Diane Moses: So, our parents were nervous, which we really didn't really understand at all. We couldn't understand why they were so concerned. [Moses laughs]

Lilli Tichinin: Yeah.

Diane Moses: And then we became parents and we found out why parents get so concerned about such things, you know. Whatever insecurities, or whatever we had about the snow situation, just the driving and the getting around and all that was just completely magnified for them because they didn't know anything about it at all except what we told them. And it sounded “awful,” and “terrible,” and they didn't understand how we could possibly stand it. I didn't really mind it, except for the part about getting to the hospital and the isolation thing. But the park situation itself, I didn't mind. That was one of the reasons – that's one of the reasons I'm glad I married Dan. I was looking forward to that kind of thing. I didn't want the suburban life, so I didn't get it.

Lilli Tichinin: Was Yellowstone somewhere that he had been really wanting to go to?

Diane Moses: Oh sure, everybody wants to go to Yellowstone. [laughter]

Lilli Tichinin: *The* park.

Diane Moses: It's one of the “big four.” Everybody at some point wants to work in at least one of the big four, and some people get to do all four of them. But he [Dan] always wanted to be in a western park of some kind. So, after Yellowstone and then in Dinosaur and then we were starting to think – well, especially in Dinosaur with the desert thing – “Well, wouldn't it be so nice to be back on the east coast, and be near the ocean, and warm weather, and all that stuff?” And then he got transferred farther west. [laughter] “Not working the way we anticipated.”

Diane Moses: So, when we got to Washington we said, “Well, that's about as far as we can go without going to Alaska or Hawaii and we're too old for that.” So then, when he retired, we got to move wherever we wanted. So, we didn't have to follow the jobs.

Lilli Tichinin: It's just interesting to hear, sort of, the trajectory of moving and jobs for everyone in the Park Service because it pans out – there are some common threads for everybody, but it also happens so differently for everyone.

- Diane Moses: Yep, it does. And some people move so often, and some people rarely move at all.
- Lilli Tichinin: Right, exactly.
- Diane Moses: Because when he [Dan] was trying so hard to get out of Dinosaur and, I mean, there were people that moved three times in the time it took him to get one. “How does he keep doing that?” “What’s so great about him?” [laughter] “Why does he keep getting the jobs and I can’t?” But you never know which one is going to be the one that changes – that has the repercussions down the road. When we were at Dinosaur, he had a temporary assignment down at Padre Island [National Seashore]. And he was down there for, like, three months and he really wanted that chief ranger job. I was ready. I was so anticipating moving to Padre Island and then he didn’t get that job. And I was like [Moses sighs]. And then you have to, like, refocus everything, you know, because making long-term plans—. We had a family thing that we were doing the next year for my parents’ anniversary and stuff, so I was making all these plans. And when you’re in that mode of applying for jobs your mind is always working: “Well, okay we might be here, so then I have to do this. Or we could be there, and I might have to do that. Or we could still be here.” So, you’re always making alternate plans depending on where you might be in the future. I had just made all these plans and I was figuring everything from Padre Island and then I ended up doing everything from Washington. I went, “Okay, wait a minute.” [laughter]

[END OF TRACK 2]

[START OF TRACK 3]

- Lilli Tichinin: That was one thing that I wanted to ask you about is your involvement with ANPR. How long have you guys been coming?
- Diane Moses: Dan had been to one the summer before I got to Shenandoah – the one at Shenandoah, which was the second one. The next year he went, that was right after we got married, and I was still working, and I couldn’t get the time off. That was the one, I think, in the Ozarks. When we moved to Dinosaur – trying to think what my first – no, my first one was when we were first married, was at Lake Tahoe. That was the first one I went to, so that was kind of a combined vacation. And that’s when the organization was just hitting its growth spurt, so it was really impressive to go there and see all these people. There were superintendents and regional directors hanging around like real people. They didn’t have an aura around them or anything, it was just like real people. I didn’t know much of the hierarchy or anything, but it was fun. Then, after we got to Dinosaur, he was a regional – back when they had regional reps – he was a regional rep for a while, that’s when we started



going pretty frequently. There were a few years that he couldn't go, but we started going to most of them.

Diane Moses: At some point, I think it was the first one in Jackson Hole, where I got asked to do something. I said, "Sure, I'm not doing anything." [laughter] It was helping with the raffle, and I ended up doing a raffle for the next, like, ten or fifteen years, [laughter] which was great. If you want a job at the Rendezvous that you don't have to spend a lot of time or concentration on, do the raffle. That was our big fundraiser, and everybody brought stuff from their park, stuff that they had made, gotten from their bookstores – their partner organization, and for a lot of those years our raffle was really huge. I mean, there was a lot of stuff there. So, I had to check everything in, and everything had to have a value on it for tax purposes, we had to keep a list of everything, keep everything tagged with what it was, who donated it, and then, sell the tickets, and pull the tickets.

Diane Moses: The whole purpose when it started was strictly as a fundraiser, because the first few Rendezvous they ended up having to pass the hat because they didn't have enough to pay the hotel bill. They came up with all these ideas for fundraisers and that [the raffle] was a big one. And it brought in a lot of money because people were buying hundreds of tickets and they always did the drawings before the business meetings, because they wanted everybody to show up for the meetings, because you had to be there to win. So, that got everybody in the room.

Diane Moses: My job was basically to wake everybody up for the business meeting. And so, it just gets to be a stand-up comedy routine because you're just trying to [snaps three times; laugh] get everybody awake and lively. There were a couple people that did it quite well and would be very excited when they won something, you know, and jump up and down. Good! That's what we're after.

Diane Moses: But we just had great stuff donated then, all the stuff that people did in their spare time: the woodworkers, and the quilters. I mean, there was just all kind of – there was stained glass, and like I said, the books and the posters and everything from the bookstores.

Diane Moses: Some people went a little crazy. There are legends of the, I think it was the Arkansas whetstone, something from the partner organization. And it's just a little stone to sharpen knives on, but somebody got, like, twenty of them donated. [laughter] Everybody got sick of those darn little whetstones after a while.

Diane Moses: I did that for a long time, until he [Dan] retired. He was doing the site coordination for it. So, he was really busy with it and so I had something to do too.

- Diane Moses: And we usually brought the kids with us because they were always in great places. So, it was a great place to combine a vacation and all that.
- Diane Moses: But that's all I had to do. Once the raffle was done, I was done for the day, you know, until the next raffle session. I didn't have to do anything in between; I didn't have to go to any meetings or anything. It was great. But now, apparently it has petered off, they've changed the way they do it. "Well, that's fine. It's your organization now. You figure it out." But everybody, people just really enjoyed that, and the things that people really treasure from those are the things that people made.
- Diane Moses: There was one guy, he used to make knife handles, and, so man, if you won one of those, that was really impressive; and another guy who did wood carvings. And then, I did cross-stitch, and I'd cross-stitch a Smokey [the Bear]. Those things took me a long time, but I lost track of how many of those I made. I made eight or ten. I mean, I did one a year for a long time. It's like we'd get home from a Rendezvous and maybe I'd wait until after Christmas and then, "Okay, I've got to start on another Smokey." There were people who – somebody would win it, and then, there would be, like, an auction. Somebody would be trying to buy it from whoever had won it because that's what they wanted to win, which was great. It was just a great way to raise the funds for the organization.
- Diane Moses: And it was nice to be able to claim a job and, like I say, not have to worry about it too much [laughter]. Because when he [Dan] was doing the organizing – and for months beforehand the phone calls, and the e-mails, and the site visits. You know, have to go and see what the place actually looks like and work with the hotel; and get the contract all set up; and what's included and what's not included. It was a lot of work that he put into that and then, I would show up and go, "Okay. I did my job, I'm done now."
- Lilli Tichinin: And you said you brought your kids with you. Did a lot of people bring their kids to Rendezvous?
- Diane Moses: For a while, but then some people apparently had some, like, compunction about taking their kids out of school. Ah, big deal. But I think we were among the first that brought kids, because Kristi was a baby, and she slept in one of those porta-crib things. And that's back when they did dances, like, the last night, and during the dance she was under a table at the back of the room sound asleep. You know, go back and check in her every once in a while. [laughter] She was fine. Over the years, yeah, they would come.

- Diane Moses: There were a few that, if sometimes that the timing was right, that they would bring their kids, but most of the time ours were the only ones, or of the very few.
- Lilli Tichinin: Have you stayed in contact with some of the other people who you knew when you were living in the parks?
- Diane Moses: Oh yeah. Now with Facebook, we can keep in touch with anybody we want. My first supervisor at Shenandoah ended up being a good friend of mine. Let's see, when I was dating Dan, she was dating Dan's roommate, so we could coordinate our days off that way, so that worked out well. Then we moved, and of course, that was before e-mail and everything, so you kind of knew where people were, but you didn't really keep in close contact with them. And then, she got married and they moved down to the Smokies and then they came back to Shenandoah. Our daughter actually ended up working for her, that summer she went back to Shenandoah, she was working for her. And she had taken – she's the same age as Dan, but she had taken several years off when the kids were born and so she had years to make up, so she worked a lot longer. We've seen her now a couple times in the last year because her son is a marine at Camp Lejeune and so she stays with us on her way down to see him. So, we've seen her a couple of times and she's back up at Shenandoah.
- Diane Moses: And then, from the Yellowstone years, the only ones – occasionally we see somebody here, but not too many of those. Dinosaur people, we do. It depends on who's on Facebook, you know. [laughter] But a lot of the people we know from our Park Service years are people here who we never worked with.
- Lilli Tichinin: Yeah, that's what I was going to ask next. What is the role that Ranger Rendezvous has played in your connections with other people in the Service?
- Diane Moses: But yeah, people that we saw once a year like Theresa Ford, she's been coming a long time and we've been friends for a long time, but obviously she never worked in a park and she's never moved. She's always lived in the same place, but when Dan was on the board working with her all the time, and then, at the Rendezvous. There are some that don't come any more, they're either retired or, for whatever reason, they just don't come anymore. But there are several people that we never worked with that we're friends with through the association.
- Diane Moses: Well, the Chetwins, they come almost every year, we've seen them. They have a daughter the same age as ours, and they are one that would bring their daughter occasionally, so our kids weren't the only ones. But yeah, there are a lot of them there. And Lisa Eckert, who was on the SET [Special Events Team] team with

Dan, they didn't work in the same park, but they worked on the same SET team. And her mother lives in the same place in South Carolina that my mother does, and they know each other. [Tichinin laughs]

Lilli Tichinin: Small world.

Diane Moses: Yeah right, so it's things like that. And like I say, even though you only see people once a year, you know them, and it makes it nice. That was a big reason for me coming back to Rendezvous was – because they could have certainly done the raffle without me, anybody could do the raffle. You know, I didn't have to come. I didn't work for the Park Service. And there were a lot of people like that, their spouses didn't come because they weren't Park Service and they stayed home with the kids or whatever. But I thought, "Well, that sounds like a fun place to go. [laughs] Let's go there and make a vacation out of it." Yeah, just keeping in touch that way.

Lilli Tichinin: What was it like while you were living in park housing? What was that like as other people were circulating in and out? What was it like to develop friendships with people or relationships with people?

Diane Moses: You get used to it in the Park Service, because that's just the way it always works people come and go. But once again, you could kind of keep track of where people went and stay in touch. Every once in a while, people would see each other's names as a reference for somebody or something and say, "Oh yeah, I remember so-an-so." Or they would use you as a reference, so you kind of keep track of where people are even if you didn't really stay in contact with them and you kind of knew what they were doing, saw where they were going in the Park Service.

Diane Moses: Because when Dan went to FLETC [Federal Law Enforcement Training Center], which was before we were married and his law enforcement training. And he's got the picture of the class there and he'd go through and say, "Oh yeah, he's a duhdaduh [phonetic]." Well, his roommate down there was Jon Jarvis. So, he's always kind of watched his career and go, "Man, how did that work?" It's always been one of his [Dan's] claims to fame. "Oh yeah, I remember you." He's just really funny because they were – what? – twenty, twenty-three, twenty-five when they did that. You know, I mean, they were young Turks and they had fun when they were down there [laughs].

Diane Moses: And when Kristi was in DC, and she was going to be doing something at the Park Service building and he says, "Well now, if you see Jon Jarvis, tell him that I still remember the day that we had to drive that other guy home because he was too drunk."

[laughter] He goes through this whole long story, and it's like, a) she's probably not even going to get into that part of the building; b) she's not going to talk to the director of the Park Service; and c) there is no way that she would say any of that to him if she did! [laughter] But he just loves telling those stories, you know.

Diane Moses: When we were at Rendezvous at, the last one we went to, one of the last ones we went to – up at – which one was it? Gettysburg. Jarvis was director then, I think, and he was coming in and I was at the registration table doing the raffle thing and Dan was over there doing the coordination thing. Jon Jarvis walks in and he walks up to the table to say something and before the man says a word – I can't remember what he [Dan] said, but it was something to him [Jonathan Jarvis] and it was something about their FLETC days. And it was like, "Can you wait until the man gets into the room? He's the director of the Park Service for crying out loud!" [laughter] But he just smiled, and they have a good time when they see each other. Yeah, keeping track of – looking at that picture and going, "Oh yeah, I know where he went." Back when they were all on even ground, you know, they all started from the same—. And some of them left the Park Service and most of them stayed in and just went, with their paths, on. Very different: regional directors, superintendents.

Lilli Tichinin: Yeah, well actually one last thing that I'm kind of curious about is what are some of the changes that you – you know it's interesting, especially as you, I feel like you have this observer role. What are some of the changes that you've seen in the Park Service, from when you started at Shenandoah through to now?

Diane Moses: Oh man, well, there's a lot of them, [laughter] and most of them are related to things out of anybody's control: budgets for the last several years, and the administrations that come through, and what pressures get put on the Park Service, and the reactions that they have.

Diane Moses: When we were in Yellowstone was when they first started all these, what they thought were drastic cuts at the time, which were like two percent [laughs]. And they would say, "Here's your cuts. Figure out how you're going to do it."

Diane Moses: Well, I did not realize at the time how smart the superintendent was there, because when they gave the cuts and he looked through it and he says, "You know what, we got to cut the campgrounds. We don't have enough people to operate the campgrounds." So, he said that he was going to close Madison Campground, which is the closest one to West Yellowstone and one that they get a lot of business out of. Well, the uproar that that set off. And he said, "What do you want me to do? Not repair the roads? You know, if

you had something else you wanted me to cut, you tell me what it is. But you told me this is what I got to work with.” But when he first did that, I was like, “Oh my God! How could he possibly think of doing that?” Which is exactly what the people in West Yellowstone said.

Diane Moses: I don't even remember what the outcome was. I think he got some of the money back, or they told him, “No, cut something else,” or they told him what to cut, or something. But it sent up that flare that said: You can't keep cutting the budget. We can't do more with less forever, because pretty soon we're doing everything with nothing and that doesn't happen. So, it's mostly been those kind of pressures that have caused the changes in the Park Service because they just have to figure out how to make it work and fulfill the mission and all that, which is really sad.

Diane Moses: Last year, during the government shutdown, where the Park Service was the football was – that was just sad. It was just sad that Congress allowed that to happen and actually fed it. It causes good people to leave. People who actually want to do a job, they find somewhere else that they can do it where they don't have that hassle.

Diane Moses: I think the BLM has probably profited a lot from that kind of thing happening. But it causes good people to leave and that leaves the not-so-good people behind. Then you end up with the people with the political know-how and not necessarily the commitment to the resource or to the service. It's the people who can survive in the political environment and that just makes it harder on everyone else who is actually trying to do the job. The people closest to the ground suffer the most. So just knowing the supervisors and all that that Dan has had and hearing all the stories from everybody else about people who, like I said, they can survive the political environment, and that's not necessarily the best ones you want running the service.

Diane Moses: Oh great, it's a good thing he's retired. Now that's all on there for posterity. [laughter]

Lilli Tichinin: Have you seen changes in ANPR?

Diane Moses: Yeah, oh yeah. Well, sure. The retirees now, we could all sit in a corner and say, “Oh God. Why are they doing this? Why are they doing that? [laughter] What's the matter with them? That's one thing I pointed out to Dan, one of the advantages that you had at the beginning, you didn't have thirty-year members that were retirees telling you how everything used to be. They had to figure it out for themselves. They had to find out, they had to make the organization work for what they wanted it to do. And it was completely free for them because they had no pattern to follow.

They just had to figure out how to do it. It took a lot of creativity and imagination, and a lot of hard work to get that done.

Diane Moses: So then, it went on for a while and it had a good form for a while, and then, as their basic missions were accomplished then they kind of floundered a little. Once they got the ranger careers thing done and then they took on housing, which was a little bit weaker of a stance, but it was still a common goal. Once they accomplished those things it was a little harder to find a focus, to really rally the troops and say: You've got to join the organization so we can get this done.

Diane Moses: Then it became more of a networking thing, which is fine too, keeping in touch with other people from other places and find out what's going on, because people are always interested in moving around. They had that as such a solid focus when they first started, everything else was extra. Now without that focus – and now, with the retirees off to the side going, “These young pups don't know what the hell they're doing” – it makes it hard for them. But they're not fighting the same battles. They don't necessarily need the same organization. So, that's what I keep telling them, you just got to let them figure it out for themselves, just like you guys did.

Diane Moses: And now, there's the focus on the international stuff, that's keeping one segment of it going, because they're interested in the international stuff. So, there's that group that's really focused on that.

Diane Moses: Yeah, there's a lot of things. I mean, there are some things that I disagree with, but I was never a member of the organization. It's not my thing. Like I said, the retirees they just have to let them – if that's how they want to do it, that's how they've got to do it. If they need your advice, they will ask you for it.

Diane Moses: I can kind of see both sides of it, because I can see how it's a pain having that group sitting off to the side doing that. At the same time, the people who shaped this organization, seeing it change into something else, it's hard for them too, because they spent a lot of blood, sweat, and tears making it into what it was. Then seeing it kind of lose its focus and stuff, that's hard too. But that's the nature of organizations.

Lilli Tichinin: Right, so you said they aren't fighting the same battles anymore, so the organization – they need different things out of it. What do you see as a future goal that they might take on?

Diane Moses: Well, I don't know. A lot of that depends on the Park Service. It appears now, they're trying to make it more of a professional thing and not so much of a social – because that was a big part of it at the beginning, because people did lose track of people that they

had known, because they couldn't pick up the computer and check and see where they were.

Diane Moses: Getting back together was a big focus of it and comparing notes and seeing what was happening in other parts of the Service, and whether you were having the same problems with ranger careers as they were having over here. And that being the only way to get everybody together because there was no other corporate meeting except the regional directors and who cares what they think? So, that was the only way they had to do that.

Diane Moses: Once again, they were all the young guys back then, and so socialization was a big part of it. I'm sure you've heard all the stories of the beer kegs in the back of the meeting rooms and all that. So, nobody even minded going to business meetings. They were probably not as productive as they could have been, but they at least got people in the room to discuss it. While they were doing all of that they were also getting that work done. And the guys who formed it and set that, they could find that balance. But now, after the thirty years has gone by, those are the only stories that survive, is all the years of big drinking and all the rather illicit stories of how we had to do things in states that didn't allow raffles and stuff like that. Those are the stories that have sifted down, but they forget the big part of what they actually accomplished.

Diane Moses: From what they have said, they want to make it a more professional organization. They don't need the socialization. I know at one time they tried to change the charter to actually take the social aspect out of it, because they said that shouldn't be in a professional organization. And it's understood that that kind of thing will happen, but it shouldn't be in your mission statement. Of course, all the old guys were horrified that you would take that out of there, because that was one of the main reasons was to get together and fun was to be had. So, they don't think they need that, because like I keep telling people, the generation that is working now and is running the organization, they have never lost track of anybody they wanted to keep track of. With social media they don't have to lose anybody, so they don't need that. They don't have to get back together every year and tell the stories of what happened, because they already know them all. [laughter] They've all been on the news websites and they've heard about it on Facebook, so that function is not as necessary now. If they want to make it all a training session and people can get here for the training – well, training is a wonderful thing too. Yeah, it's kind of sad to see it go, but, like I say, it's not your organization anymore. They've got to adapt to what they need.

Lilli Tichinin: Well, is there anything else, before we wrap up, that you want to add that we didn't get to touch on?



Diane Moses: No, I mean, I pretty much covered my whole life with the Park Service. [laughter]

Lilli Tichinin: All right, all right.

Diane Moses: I can't imagine there is anything left.

[END OF TRACK 3]

[END OF INTERVIEW]