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**Daniel B. Beard**  
**November 18, 1963**

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DANIEL B. BEARD

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SIDE I

Including changes and corrections submitted with letter of Apr. 10, 1964

## [START OF INTERVIEW]

Herbert Evison: This is Herbert Evison. This is the morning of November 18, 1963, and this morning I am in the Conference Room of the headquarters building of the Southwest Region of the National Park Service and with me is a very long-time friend, the Regional Director of the Southwest Region, Daniel Bartlett Beard, better known among Park Service people as Dan Beard.

Herbert Evison: And, Dan, I would like to start off this morning by asking you first to tell a little something of your personal background and training, how you happened to start to work for the Park Service – and I remember a little something of that – and in just brief outline what different jobs you have held with the Park Service. Go back to your beginnings first.

Daniel Beard: Go back before the beginnings, I guess, Herb. My first contact with the Park Service was back in the 1920's. At that time my father and I went to Yellowstone National Park, and as you know, my dad wrote many books for boys. Horace Albright was then the superintendent of Yellowstone, and he had been raised on my father's books and was a good friend of his, and so this was my first trip West. I was raised in New York City. And as a lad I went out to Yellowstone, and Horace Albright said that he was going to pay my dad back by giving me a good time out there. So, you can imagine what happened to me and the impression I got of the Park Service at that time.

Daniel Beard: Incidentally, Secretary of the Interior Fall was there at the same time with his party and we joined the Secretary of the Interior's party, and it was just a few weeks after that that events caught up with Secretary Fall and he ended up in jail. But we went all through that park. From then on, I was impressed with Horace Albright as a symbol of the National Park Service and of the National Park Service through the years, but I wasn't planning to go into it as my life's work. I thought I would go in with my dad on a boy's camp; which, after I graduated from Syracuse University, I did for a year or so. But that was the time of the depression and summer camps for boys were not very popular, they were not very economically feasible at that time and the camp kind of folded up.

Daniel Beard: So, I got a job as a clean-up foreman in a CCC camp. Old Major Welch up at Bear Mountain State Park gave me a job. And I felt very low about that, because here I was, with a college education and everything else, and was doing – cleaning out lake bottom with a bunch of kids from the slums of New York.

Daniel Beard: Bill Carr – William H. Carr of the Trailside Museum at Bear Mountain – and I were in the same Boy Scout troop in Flushing, Long Island, and we were both interested in nature. Bill was then in charge of this pioneer Trailside Museum up at Bear Mountain that you probably remember, Herb.

Herbert Evison: Very well, indeed.

Daniel Beard: Well, then they had a program of wildlife technicians in the State Park program of the CCC, and he asked me if I wouldn't like to become a wildlife technician and work up there with him in the State Park. I was delighted to do that. And a fellow named Hans Albert Hochbaum, now up in Canada, quite famous as a wildlife man, and I made an ecological survey of the some 40,000 acres of Bear Mountain Park. Those were very pleasant days.

Daniel Beard: From there I went to Bronxville, New York, as a wildlife technician for the Northeastern Region, still under the State Park program of the CCC. They were going to transfer me down to Richmond, Virginia, to the Regional Office. Well, I didn't want to get indoors, I didn't want to go to any Regional Office; so, I persuaded – I forget who it was who was Regional Director then down there—

Herbert Evison: Probably Mel Borgeson.

Daniel Beard: Well, Mel Borgeson was at Bronxville.

Herbert Evison: Well, the regional director at that time, the regional officer, might have been a guy named Herb Evison, or it might have been actually the first regional director of old Region One, Carl Russell.

Daniel Beard: I think maybe it was Carl who was there. I am not sure whether it was you, Herb, or not. But anyhow I persuaded someone to send me to Florida, because Florida is quite a magnet to anyone interested in wildlife. I went down there because there was proposed to be an Everglades National Park, and I went through the files in Washington and I found out that nobody in the Park Service except George Wright knew much about it, and George didn't know too much about it. You remember George Wright, one of the early wildlife people in the National Park Service.

Daniel Beard: So I went down there and camped in the CCC camp in south Miami as my headquarters, worked out of there, and began to study the proposed Everglades National Park, spent about a year-and-a-half on that, and wrote up the first – I guess you would say it was the first – official report on this proposed national park.

Herbert Evison: Dealing with the natural history of it?

Daniel Beard: Mostly on the natural history, a little even on things like the possibility of master plans, a little on the politics of the situation; it was mainly a natural history report, because this was going to be a biological national park anyway. And at that time, I had a great deal of help from the National Audubon Society, who were then protecting the few bird rookeries that were down there; they were the only protection in the whole area. They had boats and ways of getting around.

Daniel Beard: But the time wasn't right for Everglades National Park and so I moved on and went up to Washington for a time and was there for a couple of years as assistant chief of the wildlife division, as we called it then. Adolph Murie, who was then in Omaha, Nebraska – Doctor Adolph Murie – was being moved out of there to Alaska to make studies of Mount McKinley, so I was offered the job as regional biologist in our Regional Office, which is now our Midwest Region, in Omaha, where I again remained for several years.

Daniel Beard: At that time the war was coming on and the CCC program was beginning to fold up, and Arthur Demaray, then associate director of the Park Service, asked me if I wouldn't take the job as superintendent of Dinosaur National Monument in Utah and Colorado, which I was delighted to do. That was my first experience as a park administrator. There was a 200,000-acre park, and I was there, and I had one seasonal ranger, so it kept me pretty busy.

Daniel Beard: Then I went into the army for a while and came out. Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, the head of the Fish and Wildlife Service, asked if I wouldn't be the Refuge manager of what was then the Everglades National Wildlife Refuge in Florida, which I did, and then later became superintendent of the park.

Daniel Beard: Maybe I could tell you a little about the early history of this Everglades National Park. You see, very early, a long time ago explorers recognized the southern Everglades as a very unique part of the United States. The National Park Service later became interested in it. It was mainly through the efforts of a very fine old gentleman named Ernest F. Coe. Ernest F. Coe was a landscape architect from New England who had settled in south Florida and he became interested in promoting an Everglades National Park. He joined forces with Dr. David Fairchild, the great plant explorer. Doctor Fairchild got the interest of the scientists throughout the country in this proposed Everglades National Park.

Daniel Beard: Well, Coe was the constant sparkplug trying to get something through. He was able to get legislation in the State of Florida for the park, paving the way for it, in 1932 or '33. In 1934, mainly through the efforts of Coe and

Fairchild and people like him – there was some man Pancoast who was a big promoter of Miami Beach got in it, and he had a lot of knowhow on how to get things done. So they got a bill through Congress authorizing that a park could be established in the Everglades, and this bill included a metes-and-bounds description of the maximum park, but it said that at least half the land had to belong to the United States, had to be in public ownership available to the United States before the Secretary of the Interior could declare this place a park.

Daniel Beard: Well, it rocked along for a long time and nothing happened. Ernest F. Coe was a fine man, a dreamer; he was not a practical sort of a guy. The war came on and of course any activity about creating a new national park ceased. But after the war – well, during the war, I should say – I think it was in 1945, Governor Spessard Holland, who is quite a naturalist, became so interested in saving Everglades, mainly at the behest of John Baker of the National Audubon Society, became interested in it, that he got through Congress a bill saying that the Department of the Interior could protect this area for ten years unless a park was created in the meantime. So, the Department of the Interior made it a wildlife refuge, and this was the Everglades National Wildlife Refuge which had just been created, which I was made refuge manager of in 1946.

Daniel Beard: In the Wildlife Refuge, the Federal government owned no land at all, so we were working on leasing land for protection purposes. Meanwhile the time was ripe finally for an Everglades National Park. The State of Florida had profited during the war and the treasury was bulging. The conditions were right, so they reactivated an organization called the Everglades National Park Commission, which was an official State agency, and the job of this Commission was to see that the park was created somehow or other. They played it smart on this: they selected people from all over the State of Florida, prominent people from all over the State. August Burghard, an advertising man from Fort Lauderdale, was made chairman, and Mr. John Pennekamp, the associate editor of the Miami Herald, was the legislative chairman and he was the real sparkplug. Fortunately, John and I got along splendidly; if we hadn't, I don't know what would have happened, but we did, and became very close friends.

Daniel Beard: In the Governor's chair was Millard Caldwell, and Spessard Holland was in Washington and a very influential senator. So, they began to work on this thing, and each of these Everglades National Park Commissioners went to his own legislator and began to try to sell him on the park, and being influential men in the community, they were able to get somewhere.

Daniel Beard: We had a great deal of help from the Florida Power and Light Company. Mr. McGregor Smith of the Florida Power and Light Company was

extremely helpful, turning the resources of this company over to us, including his attorney, and this was most important. Will Preston was the attorney, and we needed that help.

Daniel Beard: So finally by the time the Florida legislature convened for the biennial session they were pretty well primed, and the first bit of business that came up for the Florida legislature was the donation of two million dollars to purchase private land, and the transfer of 640,000 acres, I think it was, of State land, so that the park could be created. It was agreed with Newton Drury, who was the Director of the National Park Service at that time, that this was all right.

Daniel Beard: Well, the first opposition that we got was up in Tallahassee when the oil – those who wanted to explore for oil in the Everglades, opposed the park. But they were shouted down. As I recall, the Senate voted unanimously for these bills, and in the House, they had one opponent and they wanted to know why he opposed this thing. He said that it looked like someone was trying to steamroll something through – which is exactly what they were doing. This fellow was in favor of the park, but he didn't like the way it was going.

Daniel Beard: Anyhow, it went through, and the Secretary of the Interior then created the park in June, I believe, of 1947.

Herbert Evison: I want to remind you of a thing there, that the park that was created at that time was a very small park, but it was one that contained a little bit more than fifty percent of fee simple ownership in the United States, so that it met the requirements of that Act.

Daniel Beard: That's right, and it was a small park, and the idea was that it would be expanded whenever we could clear away some of this oil opposition and a few other things. It was a minimum park, was really what was established.

Daniel Beard: I could continue on this oil thing a little bit. This was the big fight in the Everglades in the early part of the park. The park could not be expanded later on until a deal was made with the oil companies that they could continue to explore for oil in the park – this was an Act of Congress that was finally passed – they could continue to explore for a certain number of years, and if they found oil in merchantable quantities they could produce it; if they did not find oil after this period of years was up, then they had until – oh, fifty more years in which if the government found oil their heirs and assignees would get the customary royalties. And those problems were very big in those days. And they did go into the park and they did – I remember them drilling for oil in the park, and every time that thing went down it scared me.

Daniel Beard: But it went on and it ended up they created a nice pond for alligators, that's all they got out of it. But we were very relieved. And these problems kept us awake at night and had me scurrying around at television stations having debates with oil men, going to Tallahassee and arguing with the fellow who was later Governor, named Charley Johns, who was very much opposed to us, trying to fight this thing out. All those problems have now evaporated, and people have almost forgotten they existed. It shows how quickly those things happened.

Daniel Beard: Then the big problem was land acquisition. We were fortunate to get Albert Manly, who was the former chief appraiser for the Interstate Commerce Commission, to head up our land acquisition office. And the problem of land acquisition was very great because of the land boom after the war in Florida, and we were buying land right in the face of this boom.

Daniel Beard: For instance, we bought some property at Long Pine Key in which we had a very friendly sale with the fellow, and we bought it for \$5.50 an acre. Two years later the property next to it, the same kind of property, was worth \$150 an acre; now it's worth around \$200 an acre. So, we just got in under the wire. I think that if we had waited for a couple more years, we never would have had Everglades National Park; in fact, I'm sure of it. We ended up with a hard core of resistance. The people of Flamingo, which was a commercial fishing village at the end of the road, they were rough and tough and some of them were squatters and some of them old men, and they weren't about to move. But it was right in the middle of the place where we had to put our nature development. So, we ended up by a declaration of taking, and condemnation proceedings went on for several years, and finally we were able to get all the land in the park.

Daniel Beard: In February 1950 we added Florida Bay to the park and the area up by the Tamiami Trail, thus almost completing the entire park. It then became an area of over a million acres of land and water.

Daniel Beard: Meanwhile we had some fights with the State. A man named Watson was Attorney General, and Watson went to the Supreme Court of the State trying to nullify the two laws or the several laws that the State had passed creating the park. That was a terrific fight, in which our friend John Pennekamp of the Miami Herald and the members of the Everglades National Park Commission stood by us. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the park. And Watson then ran for Governor and he ran mainly on an anti-park program, so things were pretty hot there for a while.

Daniel Beard: But when we had to move the people out of Flamingo – and this was tough, because they didn't want to go, and they were very tough people.

Herbert Evison: Just how did you do it?

Daniel Beard: Finally got a court order on it, and we went down and told them that they had to move, and they said they were darned if they would – some of them did – so finally we built a fence across the road and put a gate up and put a sign on it and just fenced them out. They then went to court, and we had a meeting with the Judge in Miami in which this group met with me, and they were far from friendly, I can tell you that. But the Judge told them that if they stayed in there they would be in contempt of court and he would send the U.S. marshal down to bring them to jail, which was a really high-handed way of doing things and pretty tough, but we had to do it.

Daniel Beard: So, they all moved out and got out in houseboats out in Florida Bay and there they lived for several years out in these houseboats out in Florida Bay, doing everything they could to thwart anything we were trying to do. I'll say one thing: they were certainly staring when some of them came back to Flamingo years later and found out what had happened to that place. They never believed it would happen.

Herbert Evison: Well, they would have been squatters on Florida Bay, wouldn't they, with their houseboats?

Daniel Beard: They were. They were squatters. We let them stay there, though. It seemed the best thing to do. Then there were some other people up the – the Hamiltons lived up at the mouth of Lostmans River. The Hamiltons were a tough breed, and they moved up to Chokoloskee Island near Everglades City, which is where the old plume hunters used to hang out. And that was a pretty rough outfit too. But the Hamiltons moved out without much trouble. And so, we burned Flamingo down. We just – we were down there one time, the property belonged to the government and there was nothing you could do with this place except there was one house that a fellow named Irwin built that looked like it was hurricane-proof.

Daniel Beard: We kept that as our first ranger station, but we took a torch to the rest of it and burned it down. And I can imagine what those fellows thought, sitting out there in their houseboats and seeing the whole place going up. We thought they would come ashore with shotguns after us, but nothing happened.

Herbert Evison: Weren't there ever threats against you or other Park Service people by those Flamingo people?

Daniel Beard: Oh, yes, all the time, and a couple shots fired at us, but I don't think they were really fired at us – they tried to scare us away by firing over our heads a few times. But these were 'Glades rats, swamp rats, and there was a place where people who wanted to get away from civilization and law chose to live; quite a nest of them, all kinds of names: Barrelhead House

and Sweettater Smith and Cootie Roberts – they all had nicknames, every one of them.

Daniel Beard: Well, then the job came of trying to tame the ‘Glades, to get it under control. Alligator hunting went on, and we had a great old ranger named Barney Parker, who has now passed on, who knew the country well and who used to be an Audubon warden, helped us a great deal along the west coast. Barney used to tie little threads across the streams, and he would patrol around and see one of those threads broken and he would know there was some gator hunters in there and he would go in after them. So, it was a constant running battle between our rangers, some of these rangers coming, like Tiny Semingsen who was our first chief ranger, from Yellowstone to a strange environment. So, we tried to balance out these fellows from western areas with local fellows, like Barney Parker and a fellow named Erwin Winte, who was still down there, was a game warden for the State.

Herbert Evison: Would you spell his name?

Daniel Beard: W-i-n-t-e is the way he spells his name. He was an expert with an air boat. We had deer hunters; the deer in the park had always been hunted out of season. They would go in with ‘Glades buggies, which are these vehicles with big tires or tractor-type vehicles, and they would go in with air boats, which are these swamp sleds with an airplane propeller in back and go after deer. We finally had one case that kind of broke it up, where we caught the police chief of Homestead, Florida, his assistant and the deputy sheriff of the County poaching deer; we got them red-handed. This was quite a thing, because I remember they came into my office and made some rather strong threats what would happen if we prosecuted this case.

Daniel Beard: But again our newspaper friends came to our rescue, and some people say we tried the case in the newspapers, but it got to be quite a famous case, and I remember one of the newspaper fellows called it the case of the United States versus Homestead, Florida.

Daniel Beard: We finally won the case, and they were fined, and so then everybody knew that we weren’t afraid of people down there, and it pretty much stopped the deer hunting in the park.

Herbert Evison: One thing: you mentioned this U.S. versus Homestead. Homestead was the town in which you had headquarters of the park.

Daniel Beard: That’s right. I remember that they called up the United States Attorney in Miami and they said, “Your fellows have to park their cars here, they have to drive through this town. It’s liable to get a little tough with them.” And he said, “Will you make a statement, then, that you are threatening United

States officials in the performance of their duty?” “No, no,” he wouldn’t say anything like that; but they never harassed us, we didn’t have any trouble from then on; in fact, they thought it was kind of fun, it was kind of a game they played, anyway.

Herbert Evison: You have talked about the deer hunters, but if I remember rightly there have been hot spots, and probably still are hot spots, in the Everglades as far as bird killing is concerned, in spite of the fact that the plumes are not the object of search so much.

Daniel Beard: No, they can’t sell the plumes anymore, but they kill off white ibis along the west coast for food. This they had habitually done, and it’s pretty hard to catch them. There’s a great mass of waterways there; these fellows have fast boats and know their way around.

Daniel Beard: Then the next great battle in the Everglades came when they tried to round out the park by adding some of this west coast and Ten Thousand Island country. Up in Everglades City on the west coast there were three boys – Miles, Barron, and Sam Collier, the sons of Barron Collier of advertising fame, a very rich man. I knew the Collier boys when they were kids. Two of them died, one of them with polio and the other in a hot-rod race at Watkins Glen, New York, so there was left only Barron Collier. But meanwhile they had deeded to the United States about 10,000 acres, I think it was, of land and water of the very unique Ten Thousand Islands country off Everglades City. But part of it was within these maximum boundaries of the park set up in 1934; some of it was beyond those boundaries but it was not added to the park right away.

Daniel Beard: Then we went through an extremely difficult legislative fight in Washington trying to add to the park a section of the west coast which included Duck Rock, which is a famous bird roost in the summertime, a fabulous place where some hundred thousand birds come in at night – white ibis and wood ibis – no, not wood ibis, but the egrets, herons, roseate spoonbills – one of the most fantastic sights of nature. This is where the birds had been killed, and the Audubon Society was continuing to protect them.

Daniel Beard: So, I don’t remember exactly the year, but we finally got the bill through just shortly after I left Everglades. I left there; I went to Olympic National Park as superintendent. But everywhere, every bit of the thing was a hard fight all the way through, because here is a national park that is situated right on the outskirts of the biggest metropolitan area in the South. It’s kind of like, I guess like Nairobi Park in Africa which is located right on the edge of Nairobi, Kenya. And so, the problems are great and the problems always will be, including that very tremendous problem of

having enough fresh water for the park, which is an extremely involved problem which will go on for years and years, where there is not enough water throughout the year. There is a great mass of it during the rainy season, which is in the fall of the year or during hurricane season, and then there's kind of drought conditions. And the need for water for farming and for irrigation for farming in winter for the growing metropolitan region and for the park presents problems that are almost insoluble.

Daniel Beard: So, this problem still exists and has not been solved, and we are still working toward doing something with it.

Herbert Evison: I suppose you noticed that a good deal of that report by the famous National Academy of Sciences Committee dealt with the Everglades problem.

Daniel Beard: Yes, it did, because it's one of the – it's a dying park if we don't watch ourselves, because water is the ecological kingpin of that park. And the water structures built by the Corps of Engineers and maintained by the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District north of the park, they could cut your water off to a drip, let us say, if they want to. So, something must be worked out, so the park gets a sufficient amount of water. It will never get natural water conditions again, it's impossible; so now you have saltwater encroachment up in the headwaters of the Shark River and some of the other rivers during the dry season.

Daniel Beard: During the wet season it's all right, it's wet enough, but in the dry season it dries out and causes fires, causes an oxidation of the soil, and it completely alters the conditions; so in that country where say the soil disappears, an inch of soil disappears, it's like fifty feet of soil disappearing in this country; it changes the whole picture ecologically.

Daniel Beard: So that's very much a problem I left with the park which has not yet been solved, and which has to be solved. Now meanwhile we felt we should go ahead with development. As I said, I was at Dinosaur, Herb, and when I was at Dinosaur they were trying to get that dam in, the Echo Park Dam, and I felt that one of the big reasons that we were having so much trouble there was that we had created Dinosaur National Monument and everybody expected that the government would do something in there. But the government didn't do anything in there for years and years and years, and it's not until right now that we are really going into a development. So, someone came around and said that if you build a dam here it will help employment in the community and the economics, so everybody got behind the dam at Dinosaur. And I was afraid that in Everglades if we didn't do something there we might lose the park just by sheer inaction, by these many, many forces that were fighting against the park, because, as I

say, the park was right in the middle of a settled big community – a big wilderness area right where you could see the lights of Miami at night from any place in the park; here's the most primitive wilderness any place on the earth and you can still see the lights of Miami through it.

Daniel Beard: So, we began to work on developments of the park under the Mission 66 program and developed the road to Flamingo which is mainly an interpretive road. One of the big jobs in Everglades National Park is interpretation, because you don't see the things as you see the Grand Tetons – it is more subtle than that. We used to use the example, there was a big mahogany tree there and you would drive people by it and nobody would look at it, and you'd say, "Did you see that big mahogany tree?" and they'd say, "No, where was it?" "Right back there." "Well, back up and we'll look at it." And they would get out and tap it and look it all over, but you had to tell them about it. So, there is no park that I know of where interpretation is more important than it is at the Everglades.

Daniel Beard: We got as a concessioner the Everglades Park Company, some local people who knew their way around locally. And then we began to develop Flamingo as a base down there in the wilderness, and that has now been done.

Daniel Beard: And much to my surprise, Herb, I heard last year – we put a campground in down there and I thought, "Lordy sakes, nobody is going to camp down there in that mosquito-infested area, but we'll put a campground in here anyhow, and a picnic area," and now they have had to expand the campground twice already because so many people camped down there; and they built another campground up in the Pineland.

Daniel Beard: So, the park is going along good and it's very popular, except there's this dread of what's going to happen to the water. But now we have got something on the table to deal with, we've got an investment of several million dollars in that park; and the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control program is a Federal program and so is the park a Federal program, so it looks as though maybe we can get something out of this. But if we didn't do anything down there, I think we would have lost the park by now, by this time.

Herbert Evison: There is one very important thing that you haven't mentioned and that is in connection with interpretation, and this antedated any start on building a new road across the park or anything else, and that's two nature trails for which I think you're responsible – the Gumbo-Limbo and, more important still, the Anhinga.

Daniel Beard: Yes. Those were built – we had people coming into the park, and I remember my wife and I went down there one time, and someone was

coming out. I was just driving my own car and I stopped the fellow and I said, "Is this the Everglades Park?" and he said, "Yeah." And I said, "What is there to see down there?" And he said, "Don't miss it, brother. Not a damn thing." Well, this was kind of a shocker to me, but people, unless the things were pointed out to them, they didn't see them.

Daniel Beard: Royal Palms State Park was a place right near the entrance, a place called Paradise Key, and Paradise Key was an island in the Everglades, a hammock they call them, where royal palms grow, which is a climax growth, and it was protected on the east by a slough called Taylor Slough. It has another name more bawdy than that, but we call it Taylor Slough. And this kept the fires from burning into the hammock in the years gone by, and this hammock developed into a lush tropical vegetation.

Daniel Beard: The Florida Federation of Women's Clubs purchased that from the State years ago and protected it for many years as well as they could. I must admit a fire or two went through it and did quite a bit of damage. But one of the first acts in that land acquisition was for the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs to give us the State Park, and that became the Royal Palm area.

Daniel Beard: And there, there was an old lodge there at the time in the middle of the hammock, so we built a little wooden board walk up this Taylor Slough where this was one of the few places that stayed wet all year and you'd get concentrations of wildlife. We had no idea, Herb, of what was going to happen, except this pressure of people: what are you going to do out there in the park? The State has given you all this money and land; aren't you jokers going to do anything? It's the same as when we had the dedication of the park in December of 1947 and President Truman came down, and we couldn't even hold the dedication in the park; we had to go over to Everglades City to hold the dedication, because we didn't have any place in the park for it.

Daniel Beard: And that drew, of course, a lot of attention. Everybody went down to see what had happened, and nothing had happened in the park. So, we built this little Anhinga Trail, just a boardwalk on stilts up in the Slough, hoping that maybe some of the wildlife would stick around, and it did. It did, and the alligators and egrets and animals – otters – everything came in there, and it seemed like they came more than there were before the people showed up. The people didn't bother them at all, because the people were up on the boardwalk. And so, they became used to them.

Daniel Beard: This little Anhinga Trail is named after the bird that is the snake bird or anhinga or water turkey that is found so abundantly there – that's why we called it that, and it had a rather pleasant sound to it.

- Daniel Beard: And then in the hammock itself we built the Gumbo-Limbo Trail named after the Gumbo-Limbo tree that was on the nature trail wandering through the hammock. These have become fixtures, and those have become prototypes of what we did later on as we built new road. We built the tower down at Pa-Hay-Okee, we called it, which was a sea of grass overlook.
- Herbert Evison: How would you spell that?
- Daniel Beard: Pa-hohokee, I think it is – Pa-hay-okee. And then Mahogany Hammock. We almost lost the mahogany trees. These were tremendous big mahogany trees. The Swietenia is the scientific name for them. We found this mahogany hammock and we didn't own it, and a fellow from Homestead was coming down the road with a 'Glades buggy and a trailer behind it and saws and things, and I met him, and he said he was going down and cut those mahoganies out. And I said, "You'd better not. You'll go to Federal jail if you do that. It's absolutely prohibited; it's in the national park and you can't do it." And we bluffed him out of it.
- Daniel Beard: He could have done it if he had wanted to, but we just bluffed him out of it and saved Mahogany Hammock. And now we have a trail down in there, which is a very nice place with orchids and mahogany trees and things.
- Herbert Evison: Now, as I remember it, that road down to Flamingo is one of the roads – one of the very rare roads in the Park System in which planning a road and planning interpretation were tied right closely together, and I think you ought to tell something about the planning of that road, Dan.
- Daniel Beard: Well, there was an awful lot of squabbling about it between the Regional Office and my office and the Washington Office, because, see, a road went down there but it was a lousy road, went through very uninteresting country. This had been built away back by the Flagler interests who were going to make a railroad down there at one time. The railroad was going to go to Key West, and they changed it around and made the Overseas – what is now the Overseas Highway, which was a railroad down along the Keys. So, it was just in straight lines. And we argued that the scenery in the Everglades, subtle as it was, we ought to take the road down past these various scenes and stop along the road to go out and look at the Pineland, to look at the Everglades, the mahogany hammock, the mangroves, and the various country as you went down, should be a progressive experience of learning the country. And so, the road was laid out finally, almost all of it. I lost a little of the argument, I must admit, as you get down farther. I got the first two thirds of the road set up entirely for interpretive purposes and laid out. I remember Frank Masland, chairman of the Advisory Board, and I went out wading through the mud with Frank Craighead, who was a

collaborator down there – we waded through the mud for about a mile-and-a-half to find the location for this Pa-Hay-Okee Overlook; climbed up in a tree and thought we had it, and we took a chance and it turned out all right, because we put in \$100,000 of road on that kind of reconnaissance we took there, so we took quite a chance, but it came out fine.

Herbert Evison: That was for a spur off the main road?

Daniel Beard: That was a spur off the main road. And from aerial photographs and by reconnaissance from ‘Glades buggies and airboats we figured out where this road should go so it could tell the story of the Everglades. There were turnouts; a turnout went into Royal Palm station, another turnout to Pa-Hay-Okee, another turnout to Mahogany Hammock.

Daniel Beard: And then when we built the road great care had to be exercised not to hurt the country, because that country, once it’s bulldozed or something like that or heavy equipment goes over it, it lasts for years. We kept the contractor within the limits of the road. Even turning his trucks around he had to be careful not to go out.

Daniel Beard: They were very good contractors and did it. So, we had to dig out – to get the fill for the road, we had to dig out places. So, some of these spots we dug out, one of them we now call Paurotis Pond, because of the paurotis or saw palms that grow there. We left an island in it; the edge was raveled down so it wasn’t too deep. Then another one is – I don’t know what they call it now – Nine Mile Lake, I think they call it; one of the best bass fishing places in the Everglades.

Daniel Beard: These borrow pits became part of the scenery, and we weren’t fudging too much, because it was an attempt to restore some of the ecological water conditions that used to exist there and become islands of wildlife.

Daniel Beard: But that’s how the road was developed. I don’t know as I have anything else, Herb.

Herbert Evison: Well, there’s one other thing: you had on your staff at one time or another down there some rather interesting fellows. I know one who went from you over to the Virgin Islands and is now down in the Regional Office, in the person of Waring Mikell, who in his letters to me swore by you as a superintendent. But I remember there was a biologist down there, a guy who got very badly smashed up in an airplane accident.

Daniel Beard: Joe Moore, Doctor Joseph Moore, who I got from the University of Florida. And it was in the early days when everybody, when there was a fire in the ‘Glades everybody, the chief clerk and everybody else, ran out to fight the fire. They were kind of robust old days. And Joe went out on reconnaissance in an airplane and he was up above Long Pine Key and the

fellow told him he was going to throw a note to Tiny Semingsen, who was down on the ground – the airplane pilot was going to throw a note to him, and he said, “When I get down there you push this and pull that.” Well, Joe pulled that and pushed this, just the opposite way, and the plane nosed into the ground. He was crippled in a way for life; one of his ankles is stiff and will never – he can’t bend his ankle. Joe is now with the Smithsonian in Washington, I believe.

Herbert Evison: The last I heard he was with the American Museum of Natural History.

Daniel Beard: Yes, he went with them for a while, and now he is down with the Smithsonian.

Herbert Evison: I hadn’t heard that. Well, what kind of a contribution did he make in the early days in there?

Daniel Beard: He made studies; he found out for one thing, studied water conditions and found out that during the winter season that you can’t have too much water, that you have to have small ponds where the organisms for feeding the birds are concentrated.

Daniel Beard: And he explored and found where those ponds were and how much dependence the bird rookeries had upon them and the weather conditions and their effect on the bird life.

Daniel Beard: Later on, he was followed by Doctor Robinson, Dr. William Robertson – who is now the park biologist and a great authority on the Everglades.

Herbert Evison: Now who else? Do you think of any of your other early employees in there who—?

Daniel Beard: Well, there was Dave Bogart, was one of our early employees. He is now at Katmai National Monument in Alaska. He married Pauline, who was my secretary, and went from there to Rocky Mountain and finally wound up at Katmai. He was a real outdoorsman and woodsman. He used to go around Florida Bay in a canoe, checking at night on the fishermen down there. Dave was an expert shot, and they said it became known up and down the west coast of Florida that that good-looking ranger there, you’d better get the first shot in. So, he did us a lot of good. Everybody knew he was an expert shot.

Herbert Evison: Well, now, you had previously mentioned one who I think probably was the most famous of your early employees and that’s Barney Parker. I wish you would have a little bit more to say about him.

Daniel Beard: Barney was a magnificent man. Barney loved the ‘Glades. He started off in Kissimmee, Florida, where his father was postmaster. He was a sheriff and various other things and finally he got a job with the Audubon

Society. And all during the war Barney was down there all alone trying to protect those bird rookeries, with practically no contact with other human beings except when he would come out for supplies, rarely.

Herbert Evison: Was he being paid by Audubon at that time?

Daniel Beard: Yes, he was being paid by Audubon at that time.

Herbert Evison: How were we able to take him over? He wasn't a ranger.

Daniel Beard: We took him over as a maintenance man, of all things, and then with the Fish and Wildlife Service as a warden. And I had him as a patrolman with the Fish and Wildlife Service before he came with the Park Service. They finally moved him up – he lived at Coot Bay when that was rough and tough. And he was a fellow that had to handle that Flamingo crowd. Later on we moved him up to Lestman River – on the west coast, which was another outpost, and there Barney worked and slaved up there all alone, going back and forth in an outboard motor and sometimes sleeping with a tarpaulin pulled over him in the cold and rain.

Daniel Beard: He got rheumatism so bad that he could just crawl out of his boat on his hands and knees, but he wouldn't quit. And finally, we made him quit on a disability, and he died about a year ago.

Herbert Evison: I would call him one of the early heroes of the Everglades Park campaign.

Daniel Beard: He certainly was. If it wasn't for Barney, we wouldn't have had anything to protect down there. He was a wonderful old gentleman.

Herbert Evison: I'd like to get a little something more on the record, too, about John Pennekamp, if you think of anything else in your experience with him.

Daniel Beard: John Pennekamp started, was from Cincinnati, Ohio, and he became city editor of one of their papers there, then the Knight Syndicate – I don't remember whether he was on a Knight paper there or not – but the Knight papers put him down in Miami, because he was such a forceful man, as city editor of the Miami Herald. The Miami Herald was a failing paper then. Stoneman Douglas, I think was the editor, the father of Marjory Stoneman Douglas who later wrote the story on the Everglades. So, John got the paper on its feet, and he was quite a crusader, quite a fighter. There was a very famous case on freedom of the press that John fought where they criticized the courts, criticized the judges, and they were held in contempt of court for doing it. It went to the Supreme Court and the newspaper won. This was an important milestone in freedom of the press.

Daniel Beard: So, I think it was John Baker and I that got John Pennekamp interested in the Everglades Park. John had been a promoter in Miami all through the years; anything that related to south Florida, that would help the economy

or culture or anything in south Florida, John was for. So, we got him into it, then Mr. Knight, the head of the Knight newspapers, agreed that this was all right; we had to get his approval. So, John went into it with both fists and feet and everything else and he was very, very helpful in getting, as I mentioned, in getting the park started, he was helpful through the newspaper in protecting the park, with editorials and cartoons and articles and at meetings and everything else through the years when the park was under attack.

Daniel Beard: And then he became a very close friend of Leroy Collins, who was Governor of Florida. They became very close friends, and Leroy Collins named the Pennekamp Coral Reef after his friend John, off the coast of Key Largo, which is now a State park.

Daniel Beard: So, during the battle to get the park boundaries extended, the last battle when Leroy Collins, who was a magnificent man, was Governor, John Pennekamp and Leroy Collins almost single-handedly put that across.

Daniel Beard: Then he became head of State Parks, State Park Board, and I think he is still on the State Park Board. But he loves to fish. My golly, he goes down to Florida Bay and he just loves to go down there and go fishing. I wouldn't say he's a nature lover, but he likes the country and he's crazy about fishing.

Herbert Evison: Dan, back in the early part of this recording you mentioned your employment as one of the early CCC or ECW wildlife technicians. And as I remember it, you came on at the same time as a number of also other people, some of whom stayed on with the Park Service, also came on. What do you remember of those people?

Daniel Beard: Well, remember, Herb, this sort of started with George Wright too. Remember George Wright enunciated some policies on wildlife early in the 30's, and a lot of us associated ourselves as disciples, I guess, of those policies and became very ardent admirers of George Wright and the things he told us about.

Daniel Beard: Now, some of these fellows were Walter A. Weber, who is now with the National Geographic, their wildlife artist, was one of the early ones in Oklahoma City; and I will mention later, Walt and I have been associated on several other occasions.

Daniel Beard: James O. Stevenson – Jim Stevenson, whom we called Butch, now legislative liaison for the Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, was another one.

- Daniel Beard: W. L. McDougall, the renowned botanist of the Southwest – I saw him the other day – now retired, he is over at the Museum of Northern Arizona working on the plants of Grand Canyon.
- Herbert Evison: That's at Flagstaff?
- Daniel Beard: Flagstaff, yes. Let me think. Oh, O. B. Taylor, who was gassed in the first war and it finally caught up with him and he died a few years ago in Richmond, was another one.
- Daniel Beard: Adolph Murie I think came in a little ahead, but he became a part of that particular group.
- Daniel Beard: Lowell Sumner, who was on the West Coast and in Alaska and is an authority on the Sierras, now a biologist in the Washington Office, was another one of those who came in at that time.
- Herbert Evison: Dan, I wonder if you ever thought about this: how many of the people who came in by this so-called back door, not through regular Civil Service appointment but in connection with those early emergency activities, how many of them stayed on with the Park Service and actually have gone to quite high positions? You're one of them, of course.
- Daniel Beard: Well, when you look around, they have. There was a great infusion of blood there, a lot of eager beavers we were. Now the regional director of the Northeast Region, Ronnie Lee, started as an historian, historical technician. The Southeast Region, Elbert Cox, I believe was not a member of the CCC. The Midwest Region, Baker, was a CCC man, although I am not sure he came in with the CCC; he became associated with it.
- Herbert Evison: No.
- Daniel Beard: Myself, down here in the Southwest Region, came in that way. Ed Hummel, who was Regional Director in the West; and Clark Stratton, the Associate Director, was one of them. And pretty near all of the high positions in the Park Service now are held by people who either came in through the CCC program or the emergency programs or became associated with them and were actually employed by them later, such as Johnny McLaughlin of Grand Canyon.
- Herbert Evison: Yes. That brings me to another question and a rather leading question: Don't you think that the Park Service might benefit from another infusion of fresh blood?
- Daniel Beard: I certainly do. It's just about the time we should do it. It helped a great deal, because we were able to employ people who ordinarily we couldn't employ then, you remember. Now we're getting to a condition again where we might employ people, because the salary rates are better now

than they used to be. It would help a great deal in our long-range requirements staff, there's a little of that blood is there, that eagerness exists there.

Daniel Beard: As you remember, Herb, there was a lot of friction between the CCC and the regular Park forces in the beginning. You and I were in it, and we stood up for our end of it and they – there were two camps in the Park Service, now all gone, all forgotten, but at the time very tense.

Herbert Evison: That's right. It's very interesting that nowadays nobody thinks back on how you got into the Park Service or how Ronnie Lee got in or Ed Hummel or Red Hill or – who's the guy up in Northeast? Bob Hall. I think both of those heads of Design Office came in through the emergency activities. But nobody ever thinks of how they started.

Daniel Beard: No, nobody cares anymore; nobody should care anymore; it doesn't matter.

Daniel Beard: There's one thing we haven't talked about, during my Washington assignment. I might add this, Herb, that during some of these assignments around, finishing up my career, by the way, I went from Florida to Olympic National Park as superintendent, then went to Washington as Chief of the Division of Interpretation, and then served a time as Assistant Director in charge of Public Affairs a rather strange activity for me, one that I never fully grasped, but it was an interesting experience – and now I am here in the Southwest Region. I guess this is the end of the road.

Daniel Beard: But while I was in Washington on my first assignment, we developed a book which had a great deal of promise and it did some good but not as much as it should have. Walt Weber and I worked on it together; Walt did the illustrations, and his illustrations, his canvasses, are all over the Department of the Interior Building now as a result of this book.

Daniel Beard: We thought that if we could get a book out telling the story of endangered wildlife, profusely illustrated with fine oil paintings in full color, we could draw attention to things like the plight of the grizzly bear, the wolf, and get sympathetic understanding. So many of these animals, like the roseate spoonbill, a very beautiful – and if we could show it and appeal to the general public – we felt that the biologists knew all about it, but the general public didn't know about it. We worked on this book for a couple of years. I was the head of a committee of rather well-known scientists who helped me on it, and Charles Newton Elliot finally did the final editing because I moved out of Washington before it was absolutely complete. We worked on this book and we had the illustrations made and then we had trouble with the Joint Committee of Printing, the good old

Joint Committee of Congress, on using color. We had the money to publish the book, CCC money.

Daniel Beard: So, we went up to Harold Ickes's office one day. I remember old Harold sitting there with his galluses on, frowning at us; and we took all these pictures and set them around the wall of that big office there, the whole array of pictures; and he kept looking over the top of those funny little spectacles he wore, wondering what we were doing. And finally, Arthur Demaray and Connie Wirth, Walt Weber and I explained what we were trying to do.

Daniel Beard: Well, Harold Ickes just about jumped out of his chair. He thought it was wonderful. He said, "By golly, we're going to publish that book." He said, "I'll go to the Joint Committee on Printing in Congress and I'll show them this and we'll get permission to print this in full color." Well, we were delighted.

Daniel Beard: So, Harold Ickes went over to the Joint Committee on Printing in Congress, and they turned him down unanimously. So, we had to go – we didn't know what to do then. The war was coming on; it wasn't a very good time for book publishing. So, we finally went to MacMillan Company up in New York and they published the book, and any royalties that we got would go to the National Park Trust Fund.

Herbert Evison: After ten thousand of them had been sold.

Daniel Beard: That's right. So, I don't recall that any of it went there.

Daniel Beard: One of the most gratifying things about that, though, Herb, was I saw a copy of that book that was in an Austrian prison camp and it had been read by these prisoners and I got letters – a letter from one of them – they loaned me the copy, and boy! They had gone through that book from cover to cover a thousand times, I guess they didn't have many books to read.

Herbert Evison: Of course, I imagine one of your disappointments, though, was that only three or four of those paintings actually were reproduced in color.

Daniel Beard: Oh, it was a terrible loss there, and it could have been a very valuable book. The timing was bad, I do say, because of the war that was coming; and of course, Harold Ickes had a little opposition on the Hill anyway. We could have had a better emissary than our valued Secretary of the Interior at the time.

Herbert Evison: Well, I'd like to know: do you have an opinion as to whether it would be advisable to make some arrangement for updating that and getting it out again?

- Daniel Beard: It might be. The National Geographic has photographed all of those paintings and they used a few of them, and it might be worth something, revising and getting it published outside the Government sources.
- Herbert Evison: Of course, even the Government has gotten a little bit more generous on the use of color.
- Daniel Beard: Oh, they are bound to come to it. They are getting better now all the time, but they are still away behind.
- Herbert Evison: I suppose it would be very difficult with whatever copyright arrangements MacMillan may have in connection with—
- Daniel Beard: We have the copyrights.
- Herbert Evison: That copyright is still in the Government, is it?
- Daniel Beard: Yes, I think it is.
- Herbert Evison: Now, you mentioned one or two other things, I think, after Fading Trails, that we ought to get on this record. One thing that I would like to ask you about: you weren't out at Olympic very long. How long, about two years?
- Daniel Beard: About two years.
- Herbert Evison: What kind of a situation did you run into out there?
- Daniel Beard: Well, there was an opposition to the Park Service in that whole community. This surprised me, because I had been down in Florida working with wilderness groups, Audubon groups, and people like that; those were my best friends. And I got up in Olympic and I found that they were our enemies, quite frankly. Because of the logging, the salvage of timber there, they thought that we had gone overboard on it. And so, I had a rather simple job; I just didn't cut any trees down while I was there, so everybody thought I was a great guy.
- Herbert Evison: Didn't you find, though, that there was also remaining opposition there from people who thought that too much had been included in the park?
- Daniel Beard: That still exists, and someday we're going to have to fight that again. I don't think that that battle is over yet. I am not sure that they want to monkey with the park boundaries again, but they will try to harvest timber or something like that, in the park. There is some hope, though, that they are getting on a sustained-yield basis of logging in that peninsula; they are not cutting as much virgin stuff anymore, they are using smaller – the equipment is being devised for smaller logs, so maybe someday they won't be able to handle the virgin stuff. But there is a danger there, a very great danger.

Daniel Beard: I don't know how they ever saved that park. It's just amazing. Of course, I always tell everybody it was the people from the East that did it, it wasn't the Westerners. It was; it was Rosalie Edge from New York City and what's his name? – Irving Brandt, a St. Louis newspaperman, who were most influential in saving that park.

Herbert Evison: That's right.

Daniel Beard: Well, it isn't the loggers and the stockmen and the miners that are the conservationists; it's the people that live in the cities; and this is the hope of conservation, that more people are living in cities now.

Herbert Evison: And seeing the value of—

Daniel Beard: And seeing the value of it. It's the lawyers, the doctors, the people that belong to the Sierra Club that live in San Francisco, that saved the Redwoods and things; nobody else. And Mount McKinley National Park was created in New York City by the Campfire Club of America.

Herbert Evison: Well, Dan, I notice we're getting toward the end of this side of this tape, and I am going to cut off here. There's still a whole other side of it in case you think of anything else you want to put on, but I don't want to end it in the middle of a sentence.

[END OF INTERVIEW]