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Narrator: ~~Georganne Sisco~~ Paul Young

Date(s) of Interview(s): 4-1-94

Place of Interview: 151 N. Woolsey Fayetteville, ARK.

Interviewer: Georganne Sisco

Description of Tapes: audio video

Subject of Tapes: CCC - work on Devil's Den State Park

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INTERVIEWER: GEORGANNE SISCO
INTERVIEWEE: PAUL YOUNG, JR., ARCHITECT
SUBJECT: CCC CONSTRUCTION/DEVIL'S DEN STATE PARK
DATE: APRIL 1, 1994

GS: This is Georganne Sisco, and I'm interviewing Paul Young in Fayetteville, Arkansas, on April 1, 1994. Please state your full name and your date of birth.

PY: Paul Young, Jr. I was born September 21, 1913, in Gilmer, Texas.

GS: Go on.

PY: My family moved to Little Rock [Arkansas] when I was about four years old. During World War One, my father was assigned to an airfield out at Lonoke, Arkansas that never did graduate a single aviator. The war ended before the first graduate class. But we stayed in Little Rock. We grew up in Little Rock and attended school there, and I graduated from high school there in 1929.

GS: Okay. How did you get started with the CCC? How did that work out?

PY: Well, back in those days when I finished high school, there was not a construction job in the state. It was in the depths of the Depression after the crash. The stock market crashed in October 1929. I was just fresh out of school, and I couldn't beg, borrow [sic] or steal enough money to go to college that year, so I went to work in a neighborhood filling station out in Pulaski Heights. I'd always been very fond of hunting dogs; I've always had nice dogs. I was at this filling station working one snowy, winter night and a good-looking bird dog came to the door and wanted in. It was pretty late--about 8:30 or 9 o'clock. I opened the door and the dog came in and I started petting it. It had a nice

collar on it and I looked at it, and it had Guy Amsler's name on the collar.¹

GS: Oh, okay!

PY: So, I had a little pay phone in the station. It was a Gulf Station there at Hillcrest, in Little Rock. So, at last I decided to spend a nickel and drop it in the telephone and call Mr. Amsler because I'd want him to do the same thing for me if it was my dog! And I called him and he was delighted to find his dog--to find out where he had missed it for a day or two. He told me if I'd just hold it there for a moment, why, he'd be right after it and he came. He offered me a reward, but I told him I didn't want to take a reward because I'd not done anything except telephone him.

PY: So, time passed and I was working at that station there at Hillcrest, like I said. One day in the [Arkansas] Gazette I saw a picture of some Dodge dump trucks that had been assigned to Boyle Park over there--that was part of the Park System at that time. And, the boy that managed the station had formerly been a company-operated station and they [Gulf Oil Company] decided they would put them all on a Commission. He was a young man that lived way over in North Little Rock, and he'd just gotten married and had a little baby. And my parents still owned an apartment about a couple blocks from Hillcrest where I lived with my Mother. They hadn't repossessed it yet; we were still living there in the Depression days! (Laughs) So, he [the Gulf Station manager] asked me if I would work for him for a dollar a day, and I told him I would. I'd open that station in the morning for him because it took him about two hours to get to work from over at North Little Rock on the street car and

I'd close it for him at night. We had to stay open until about 9 or 10 o'clock, I've forgotten which it was. So, when I saw those pictures of those trucks over there, I knew he needed the business bad, so I decided I'd go over there to Boyle Park and find out.² I knew they had to have gasoline to run them! So they said they bought the gasoline on a competitive bid basis, and that it had to be renewed every 3 months, or 6 months, or something like that. So, I asked them to notify me the next time they took the competitive bids, and they let me know. The Gulf Agent, Mr. J. B. Thomas there in Little Rock at the time, I told him and he went over and put in a bid and got the business and that was the closest station to Boyle Park at the time so we got to sell more gasoline! So it wasn't long until Mr. Thomas offered me--but before that, he did offer me a job as an assistant filling station superintendent and I'd go around and pick up the cash receipts from the day before at each one of the stations. But before I took that job with Gulf Refining Company, one day after he got the business, why, a National Park Service representative, a Mr. McColm from Denver drove in.³ And I waited on him and serviced his car, and cleaned it out and brushed it out and checked the oil and grease and everything for him. He gave me a charge/credit card for Gulf. So I got to visiting with him and I said I got to talking to him about what they were doing out at Boyle Park. He told me what they planned to do with the State parks in Arkansas. I said I sure wished I could get into that line of business. I'd studied architecture at school when I'd gone away to college--I'd gone, I think, two years at that time. So, he said, "Well, we're going to be

hiring technical personnel", said, "why don't you bring some of your work and come over to the Capital building there and see me". It was the Game and Fish Commission then, and Guy Amsler was Commissioner. So, I did that. I took it over there, and durned [sic] if he didn't hire me! (laughs) So, I went to work in the Capital building, in the Game and Fish Commission. And they sent me down to Mr. Thomas Harding's office in the Donaghey Building.

GS: What year was this?

PY: Now that must have been 1934.

GS: Okay.

PY: Well, it was the latter part of 1993, early part of 1934. I'm a little confused on those dates back then. I had thought I came to Fayetteville and got assigned--well anyway, I was working there and after we worked on the lodge up at Petit Jean, well then Mr. McColm sent me up there to Petit Jean. I was there at the time he drove in one day and said, "We're going to have a new park up in northwest Arkansas, out at Fayetteville, Devil's Den, and I'm going to assign you to that park up there". Well that just pleased me no end, because I wanted to live in Arkansas, and they had no Architectural School at the University of Arkansas, but I always wanted to come out--I considered changing to Engineering. But I always wanted to come to Fayetteville. At last the opportunity to come to Fayetteville was happening and I was thrilled about that. Well anyway, I came up here and had illusions of going out there and living with the hoot owls on Lee's Creek, and working hard and saving my money and everything, and I'd been out there about two or three weeks and I couldn't get to town fast enough to

see the bright lights!' So I came into Fayetteville and got started getting acquainted with people here and it wasn't long until I met a young lady and got married to her. She was the youngest daughter of George Appleby, who at that time was on the Highway Commission under Governor Bailey.

GS: Okay.

PY: Way back in the early thirties--about mid-thirties, I guess. There were two camps at Devil's Den.⁵ Bryan Stearns was the superintendent of the first camp. These had already been established when I was sent up here.

GS: Okay.

PY: Then, I was assigned to the second camp; Sam Watkins was the superintendent of the second camp. I went out there and went to work along with all the young men they had--I guess about 400--or was it 200 in each camp, or 400?

GS: Hm, that's a good question.

PY: I think it was 400. I can't remember.

GS: That sounds right, because all the jobs required so many men to do them, I think 400 would have....

PY: And, I had done the designs and drawings on some of the more permanent structures. I came into Fayetteville, and stayed in here on weekends some, but I had kind of difficulty meeting people here at first. I went back to Little Rock and I remember we had our construction foreman, three of them lived down toward Little Rock. One of them, Mr. Fizer, at Morrilton, another man--I've forgotten his name--lived at either Morrilton or Russellville. Mr. Fizer may have been at Russellville instead. Anyway, two of them lived in Russellville or Morrilton, I've forgotten which, and we would go back down on a weekend because they'd want to go

back and visit their family. And I'd go back to Little Rock and see my family--my mother and brothers that lived there at the time. So, that was the way I got connected up with the National Park Service. I see by reading this history here that was written by the Architectural Department. What'd I do with it? Here it is right here on the floor, [the book] by Miss Rollet, that someplace in here they listed me as the Architectural Foreman.⁶ But now I was assigned to the National Park Service and technically, I think I was assigned as an architect for that project.

GS: Okay. Okay. So you were like--I guess almost a consultant?

PY: Uh-huh.

GS: Okay.

PY: Well, not as consultant to them, but I did the work there at the park and in the office--when I made these drawings, some of them.

GS: Okay, you said that you stayed at the camp during the week?

PY: Oh yes. We lived in the barrack buildings there. We had a separate barracks building. Do you want to see the pictures of what the camp looked like at that time?

GS: Yes.

PY: Here is the lower camp, this is down in the park--down there in that area.⁷

GS: Okay.

PY: Now see some of the cabins up on the hill?

GS: Right. Yeah.

PY: Up in the timber there?

GS: So the barracks were---

PY: These are the barrack buildings here. And, let me see...

GS: Is that---

PY: This one right here is--that's the one end of that bathhouse building--that's behind it.

GS: Okay. Did you know that's no longer standing?

PY: Yes, it's burned.

GS: Oh, that's what happened to it. Okay.

PY: Yes. The foundation is there.

GS: Okay. We found the picture of that building in this book-- in the Parks and Recreation Structures book.

PY: Oh, was the entire structure built as planned there?

GS: I'm not sure. You would probably know that more than I would. We called; we talked to the people up at Devil's Den and they weren't really sure what had happened with it.

PY: Yes, this is it--right here.

GS: But it did burn.

PY: This end of it, the left end--that's the north end there. That's it right there. See? (Gestures to the photo.)

GS: Okay.

PY: And it seems to me I lived back up in here in one of these barracks up in here.

GS: How many barracks were there? Do you remember?

PY: Well, now see I was not assigned to this camp; this was Bryan Stearns' camp.

GS: Oh, okay.

PY: I was assigned to the one that lives up on top of the hill, manned by the name of Reef, Delbert Reef--a banker at Prairie Grove--his father's farm up there. It was right outside the boundaries up at the top of the mountain coming back toward West Fork.

GS: Okay.

PY: This is the first camp. They roughed in and built the road down the mountain into the park. That was about the time I went out there; you could just get in. I have other pictures. Here's where we were building the foundation piers for the bridge across Lee's Creek there in the Park.⁸

GS: Oh, the big one.

PY: The big one. See, it's gone now. They replaced it with a reinforced concrete structure.

GS: Yes. It's awful looking. (laughs)

PY: Uh-huh. You know those big stones that we used--we just picked them up out of the hillsides and everything. We had no equipment--heavy equipment to handle them with. We just did it with Gin-poles.⁹ One of those stones rolled over on one of the CCC boys one day and he died.

GS: Wow.

PY: And that stone we put in the wall over there at the north end of this bridge and we cut a cross in it. I've seen it there several times, but the last time I was down there--I don't know whether the--what do they call them--leeches [sic] that grow on the rocks.

GS: Oh, right. It covered it up.

PY: It covered it up. It was visible there for many, many, many long years. And that's the park--there's Lee's Creek at flood stage when they were building the dam.

GS: Wow.

PY: We had this Gin-pole here that we used to handle those big stones we put in the dam.

GS: That's amazing.

PY: Now, here are other views. This building right here. (Mr. Young is now looking through the Parks and Recreation Structures book.)

GS: The overlook, yes?

PY: Yes. I did that. (He means the structure was actually built in the park.)

GS: Uh-huh. Do I have the plan for that one in there?

PY: I don't know whether you do. I don't think so.

GS: Okay.

PY: I don't have a copy of the plans for this.

GS: Let's see, we have a picture of that one in here. (Ms. Sisco is looking through Albert Good's book now to find the Devil's Den Overlook Shelter.)

PY: Yes. (Sounds of pages turning)

GS: Hmm. This [shelter] is at Petit Jean.

PY: Well, here's a picture of it in this. (Mr. Young consults Karen Rollet's book now.)

GS: Here it is. I knew we had a picture of that. (Finds the photo in the Parks and Recreation Structures book.)

PY: Yes, this one right here. Now that's mine. I did this--the design on this.

GS: Oh, okay.

PY: The drawings of it.

GS: Okay. That's great to know.

PY: Well, I was surprised at what was said here. I had forgotten that they had written this about that. (He refers again to the Burggraf/Rollet book.) My goodness, that's always the way of it when you want something. Now here's the camp, here's the superintendent, Sam Watkins, with the doctor. I was injured down there where they were building the dam.

Mr. McColm showed up one day--I had located and staked out the cabins up on the hill and he wanted to go down in the park and see the cabin locations. It was the day that Arkansas played the Texas football game, and I had bought two tickets, and I was coming into town to go to the football game. And he showed up and wanted me to stay down there.

GS: Oh no. (Laughs)

PY: Well, we didn't have any way to go down in the park except by these old Dodge dump trucks in this picture here, so we got one of the drivers to take us down there. Of course, Mr. McColm sat up in the front seat with him and I sat back in that steel bed. We went down that mountain and got down there and we were crossing that creek. You just had to ford the creek. It was just real rough--chuckholes and everything, and I was sitting back there in that steel bed. I kind of held myself up every time they hit a bump, and I was lowering myself back down in the bed when he hit another one and it came up and hit me right in the tailbone and fractured my vertebrae.

GS: Oh, okay.

PY: And that night, I was at the camp. I lived up on top of the hill--I lived in the army barracks building just like this up there on Mr. Reef's farm. They had about four or five of them up there, or more, I've forgotten, to house all the boys from that camp. A captain was in charge of the military and supervised the CCC boys and then he had an assistant and then the doctor. I woke the man up who slept in the top next to me there; it was real cold. They had no heat. There were cracks in the walls and you could see

through it! (Laughs) We had little old pot-bellied stoves out in the middle there to keep us warm. I woke up in the middle of the night with this excruciating pain, and I waked up the masonry foreman, fellow by the name of Walker. His name's mentioned in here. (Mr. Young is referring to the Rollet/Burggraf book.)

GS: Okay.

PY: He slept next to me and he got up and went and got the doctor and came down there. They gave me some painkillers or something--pain tablets; the next morning they brought me into Fayetteville here to the hospital. I was in the hospital for a couple of weeks before I went back. But, I never will forget that experience! (laughs)

GS: I guess not. (laughs)

PY: And I missed the football game too! (laughs again) Didn't get to go to the Arkansas-Texas football game because Mr. McColm wanted to go look at where the cabins were going to be located! (Both laugh now) That shows them up there in the woods there where they were located. (Mr. Young is referring to another one of his photographs.) Oh, this brings back a lot of fond memories! And of course, one of the first things I remember working on is this lookout, right here.

GS: Okay, that was one of the first things you did?

PY: Uh-huh. And from that lookout here, I'll show you some pictures. Here was a view from that lookout looking back toward the east, more or less. Can you see a person standing on the rock there someplace along in that one--or is it in another one, another view, someplace? That's me. Maybe it's in another photograph I'm thinking of.

GS: I can't...find anyone in this one.

PY: Here's another view.

GS: From the overlook, okay?

PY: Looking down in the valley at the camp.

GS: Oh yeah! This is an excellent picture--you can see the barracks. Wow.

PY: Now, there's another little shelter there.

GS: There's a trailside [shelter]. Yeah.

PY: There it is, under construction.

GS: Oh, okay. Wow, that's amazing.

PY: Now, you know Devil's Den is a crevice, so there you are. Now this is back over in there where those crevices are....

GS: Yeah.

PY: And when those boys were there looking at it. Here's one of the big crevices. I think I might have been in that bunch of fellows that's out there.

GS: Okay. Okay.

PY: These are mostly just trails and things, that led from this around that ridge and across the creek up to the crevices over there at Devil's Den.

GS: Okay.

PY: I believe this was a picture where you went down into Devil's Den.

GS: Oh yeah, into the Den.

PY: I believe this might have been a picture of me right there back at that time. The reason I was showing you these is because these are that path that leads from this outlook on over into that area.

GS: These are great pictures.

- PY: Well, I've lost so many. I'm upset about that. But, this [photo] shows the size of the stones that we picked up.
- GS: Those are amazing.
- PY: And the little fireplaces. Here. (Mr. Young means the picnic area barbecue pits here.)
- GS: I've read that sometimes the CCC boys would look all day for one stone--just the right size. Is that right?
- PY: I don't remember that. Mr. Walker, I believe his name was Paul Walker, was the masonry superintendent, and I'd talk to him and I'd remember we'd go out and find stones, but I don't know that we looked all day for a certain stone!
- GS: Well that's what some people have said, and I just wondered if that was really true.
- PY: There's a sign pictured in here someplace. I think this is me right here on the right. That sign. (He gestures to another photograph here.)
- GS: Oh, that's the one at the end of the vehicular bridge. Yeah.
- PY: Do you have the drawings on that sign? I have them here, they're pictures in this. (Refers to the Rollet book.)
- GS: Probably. No, I didn't bring any sign blueprints. We have sign blueprints back at [Arkansas] State Parks.
- PY: I'll have to find that one another time. Now here's what it looked like when we'd build a road. We're just on the hillside there, and we'd just have to grate it out--I mean just kind of do it by hand, and then they'd backslope it there a little bit and cut it out like that.
- GS: Right.
- PY: This just really shows more road construction.
- GS: That's interesting.
- PY: This was one of those temporary garage buildings here....

GS: Okay. Yeah.

PY: ...in that valley. In the valley. (pause) We did have an old grater like this which pulled with a tractor.

GS: There was one like that up at Crowley's Ridge too. There's a picture of that one, and we just....

PY: I worked on some work in Crowley's Ridge.

GS: Really?

PY: But that was in Mr. Harding's office.

GS: Oh, okay.

PY: And you never did recover anything from Mr. Harding's office, in the way of drawings?

GS: Well, I don't know. I mean, there are a lot of his blueprints that we have for Devil's Den, and Crowley's, and Petit Jean, and Mount Nebo. I don't think he did anything for Lake Catherine.

PY: Huh-uh. I worked on drawings for those four.

GS: Okay.

PY: Petit Jean, and Devil's Den, and Nebo, and Crowley's Ridge.

GS: Okay. Yeah, we have drawings. We may not have all of them. Of course, we have no way of knowing how many blueprints were actually drawn up in the 1930's for these parks. We were hoping maybe you could help us out with that, if you remembered like how many you all drew up for Devil's Den.

PY: No, see I came up on here and the only ones I worked on after that were for Devil's Den. And what happened was, the army decided they'd do away with the CCC unit that I was assigned to as technical personnel.

GS: When was this? What year was this?

PY: Let me see, it was bound to have been in about mid-1935.

GS: Okay.

PY: And C. B. Wiggins was the administrator for--not the Civilian Conservation Corps--for the Resettlement Administration for the Department of Agriculture. He had an office over at the University in Old Main--on the top floor--that was before they had a museum up there. And, he heard about the camp--I mean, Devil's Den, that Camp No. 2 being abandoned--and he came down there and employed the entire technical staff. Moved us all over to the University and went to work at the Department of Agriculture on Resettlement Administration work out here at Weddington Lake.

GS: I didn't realize the Army dissolved the camp.

PY: Uh-huh, they did. About mid-1935.

GS: What was their reasoning for this?

PY: Well, they just didn't need that many boys down at Devil's Den. They had two duplicate set-ups. So, I moved into Fayetteville and lived in town and worked over there until they got started again out there. (He is referring to Lake Weddington here.) Then we moved out there and stayed out there at Weddington, but I was not there but about a year. Then I got married and people wanted us to start staying around town. That was about the year that Federal Home Administration came into existence and financing was available for homes. I had an opportunity to design some. T. Roy Reed was the administrator for the Resettlement Administration for the state of Arkansas, and Dr. Regales wanted to build a new hospital out in Prairie Grove. They had dealt with a couple architects in Fort Smith, and they hadn't been able to get them a building that would fit what Dr. Regales wanted. And he had heard about the work that was going on out there. One day a man was injured severely

and the closest doctor was Regales in Prairie Grove. So they put him in a truck and rushed him over to Prairie Grove and then he took care of him. We got him in the little hospital they had over there, which is a residence I think. Dr. Regales was asking this truck driver that had drove over there about who was in charge of the design and planning out there and the truck driver told him I was. He said, "You take him a message and ask him if he'll see me next weekend when he's off". So, I got the message and I went out there and asked what he wanted. He wanted to talk to me about this little hospital. So, in the meantime, I had told him I thought he could do it, but he couldn't do it with fireproof construction like most hospitals were. But if he would build it like this residential-type masonry veneer construction--he could probably do it. But I was inexperienced and hadn't done any commercial building or anything at that time, so I was afraid to assure him possibly that he could do it. So I contacted the contractor here in Fayetteville and told him and sketched off the kind of plan and so forth and asked him if he thought he could build that with the budget that the doctor had. And he said he thought he could. So, I took that information back to Dr. Regale, so he wanted me to draw the plans for him. Well, I was going to charge a regular architectural fee, and these architects in Fort Smith heard about it. They complained to Mr. Reed in Little Rock, so I just told him I had about two months accumulated in leave established at that time--never had taken any since Devil's Den, so I just said I'd resign. So they said, "Oh no." Mr. Wiggans, who was the project superintendent, he said, "You can't do that Paul, we've got to do some

buildings out here." And I said, "I'll tell you what I'll do, I'll stay and do the plans for the buildings, and then I'm quitting." I went down to Little Rock and asked Mr. Wiggans if I could take my leave and he said no, that would not be real good. So I just said I'll stay and do the plans for the buildings, but not over two months, and then I'm going to resign. I resigned and did the little hospital building and made enough on it to get married. Then, like I said, the Federal Home Administration came into existence and people started wanting me to design things, and I never did get caught up from that time on until I retired about ten years ago when I had quadruple heart bypass surgery.

GS: Just been going strong.

PY: That's kind of the history of my life. (Both laugh then.)

GS: Well, okay, getting back to Devil's Den. You said you worked on the overlook, the trailside shelter.

PY: Yes.

GS: The bridge.

PY: Uh-huh.

GS: The bathhouse.

PY: Yes.

GS: And then some cabins.

PY: The cabins. All the cabins.

GS: You worked on all the cabins?

PY: All of them.

GS: How many cabins were built at first? Fifteen?

PY: No, about ten. Nine or ten of those--see, those permanent cabins that had the big stone around them. There are some that were all frame that were built later.

GS: Okay, those were later. Right.

PY: Yes.

GS: You said you worked on the lodge.

PY: Yes, I did the lodge down there too at Devil's Den. Yes.

GS: Okay. My question is the lodge the same as the community building?

PY: Yes, I think so.

GS: Or the Combination Building? Because on the plans it keeps coming up with different names and the designs are essentially the same.

PY: The same, yeah.

GS: And we were just getting curious. Now, the plans for Devil's Den were just really impressive. Lots and lots of buildings and a large number of cabins and most of that-- well, not most of it, but I guess a significant amount of it was not built.

PY: I think it was because of monetary reasons.

GS: Was it because of the money? Oh, okay.

PY: They ran out of money. Well, as a matter of fact, that and the fact that the army withdrew one of the camps and took away half of the CCC boys.

GS: Okay, then that makes sense. Because we always wondered, you know, what happened. Because, like, at later camps, like at Lake Catherine, you know they were working on that in the late 1930's. Work at Lake Catherine stopped because the War [World War Two] started and they needed the men to join the army.

PY: Yes.

GS: But Devil's Den was so early.

PY: Yes.

GS: We were just kind of curious about that.

PY: Well, I don't know why. I did become acquainted in recent years, oh, twenty five years ago, with a general in the Army--Bruce Kendall. He was in that CCC organization; he was kind of over quite a few CCC camps and the Army personnel that ran the camps. He retired back here in Fayetteville. He was telling me about why they had to cut down and he was the one who kind of gave me the idea that they removed that second camp from Devil's Den was because of monetary reasons.

GS: Oh, I see.

PY: He's moved back to Pennsylvania now. His daughter lives up there and he lost his wife and he moved up there to be close to her. We used to reminisce and talk about those days back when, and we didn't know each other then. Got acquainted in the years later.

GS: Okay, now at Petit Jean, you said you worked on Mather Lodge.

PY: Yes, but that was while I was in Mr. Harding's office in Little Rock and at the Capitol building.

GS: Right. Okay.

PY: I went up there.

GS: Right.

PY: I was kind of helping supervise the construction. We worked there, and I was there when we were building the Bathhouse and the Lodge.

GS: Oh, okay, so the Bathhouse too.

PY: But I was not there long. From the time I left Mr. Harding's office--well, I worked at the Capitol Building first, as I remember. Then I went to Mr. Harding's office; then we worked there several months, drawing plans

on these different things. Then, he sent me up there to Petit Jean, out there kind of supervising the construction of the lodge when he came up and said, "We're opening a new camp up at Devil's Den and we're going to send you up there."

GS: Right. Okay. You also said you worked on drawings for Mt. Nebo. Do you remember?

PY: I did very little.

GS: Very little.

PY: It was just one building; I think it was a lookout of some kind. Isn't there a lookout building that's down there at the east end?

GS: Okay.

PY: Isn't there a building kind of separated from the other parts of Mt. Nebo?

GS: Yes, I think so. I think I know what you're talking about.

PY: I think it was that building that I worked on the plans, as I remember.

GS: Okay.

PY: You know, honey, this has been about fifty years!

GS: Well, I know! (laughing) I understand that, and whatever you can tell me is great! You mean the big Pavilion, or a small shelter?

PY: It was a small shelter.

GS: Okay, a small shelter. I think I know which one you're talking about. Okay, now, you said you worked on a few drawings for Crowley's Ridge?

PY: Yes, I worked on something at Crowley's Ridge and I don't recall what it was. It was very little too--it was very little at Crowley's Ridge and very little at Nebo.

GS: Okay. That's interesting. I had no idea you had done work for the other parks. That's great to know.

PY: Well, it didn't amount to much.

GS: I went through and counted the designs that you drew, that State Parks has. There were fifteen in Devil's Den that you did on your own, and then twenty that we have that you worked on with Tom Harding, and then one you did with Homer Fry.¹⁰

PY: Who?

GS: Homer Fry.

PY: Homer Fry? That name rings a bell, but I can't place it. Who was he?

GS: He was another architect who did work for Devil's Den.

PY: He did work at Devil's Den?

GS: Yeah.

PY: Well, he was assigned to the other camp then.

GS: Okay.

PY: Yes, I know that name rings a bell!

GS: Okay, okay. Now, do you think we have all the designs that you did? Or do you know that you did more and they just disappeared, or can you remember that?

PY: I can't remember that. I think this is probably most of it. You don't have all the cabins--you don't have many plans of the cabins here.

GS: I didn't bring everything up.

PY: Oh, you didn't? Well, I imagine you have the biggest part of it.

GS: Okay, okay. Well, we were just kind of uncertain about that.

PY: I could kind of go through here and place where I have marked these and show you things that I did. (Mr. Young is referring to the Rollet/Burggraf book again.) I didn't know whether that was the kind of information you wanted or not.

GS: No, that's helpful--that would be great.

PY: Well, there's a picture of Mr. McColm, right here. (Mr. Young is gesturing to a photograph in the book mentioned above.)

GS: Uh-huh.

PY: You know which one that is.

GS: Yeah.

PY: Oh, it was over here. I didn't know if you had this. What's that? (He gestures to another picture in the book.)

GS: "Stone Construction, Petit Jean".

PY: Oh, well it was something I was reading the other day then. Then this?

GS: That's the Master Plan.

PY: Is that Bob Kreilick's?

GS: No, it's Leo Diederich.

PY: Diederich. Yeah. (Turning pages to another plan here.) Not Leo Diederich.

GS: And Hunter.¹¹

PY: Oh yes, that's right. He was a landscape architect with the other camp--Diederich, which would have been Camp No. 1.

GS: Okay.

PY: I was assigned to Camp No. 2.

GS: So you didn't have much contact with...?

PY: With Diederich? Not like I did with Kreilick.

GS: Okay.

PY: Kreilick and I lived together. This is the building at Petit Jean like I said that I did some work on. (Mr. Young is referring again to the Rollet/Burggraf book.)

GS: Did you know David Hunter? He might have been in the other camp too.

PY: I think he was.

GS: Okay. What about Rex Conner?¹² Is that name familiar to you?

PY: Rex Conner? No, I don't believe I remember that.

GS: What about Cecil Doty?¹³ Cecil Doty D-o-t-y?

PY: Yes, that rings a bell. I can't place it.

GS: He, I guess was another architect who seemed to have done work for a number of different parks in the state system. I just was curious if you....

PY: I don't believe I worked with him. But now there were other people that worked at the Capitol Building out there at the same time that I was.

GS: Okay.

PY: See, I was just brand new. (Mr. Young begins turning pages again.) There's, like I said, that's the superintendent that I was under--the park superintendent. (Pages turning here) The doctor under the army setup. (Again turning pages) Here's that same picture I showed you there a moment ago.

GS: Right.

PY: And this is the bridge up here, and that stone that rolled over on the boy and killed him was over there at the north end of that bridge--right there. (Mr. Young is gesturing to the correct spot in the photograph.)

GS: Okay.

PY: Then, this is...Bob Kreilick's work there. (He is again referring to the Rollet/Burggraf book as he points out pictures.) That's the location of the lodge down there and here's the dam and the lake. We're going down the road--we just went right across in here like that--and that was where I was injured there in the truck that day.

GS: Oh, okay. (Sound of more pages turning)

PY: I didn't know they'd had so much trouble with the logs rotting around here and being replaced, but I did want to look at this Pavilion here. (Gestures to photo in book.) This was all framed with big logs--the rafters on this structure--but it's all been replaced with small ones--2 x 4's or something.

GS: Right.

PY: We split the handshake shingles ourselves.

GS: Right.

PY: But when they redid it, they bought wood shingles or asphalt shingles.

GS: The State Park System is trying to go back and correct a lot of the things that they did wrong when they were doing upkeep on the CCC structures. I don't know if you know this, but they've done a lot of work at Petit Jean, renovating the cabins, trying to take them back to what they looked like when they were first built. They're doing that, in fact, at all the parks that were built by the CCC.

PY: Now, this building is still down there. That was a dog trot in through there. (Mr. Young is gesturing at the Rollet & Burggraf book now.)

GS: I think they've turned one of the bedrooms into a kitchen.

PY: Yeah.

GS: Yeah.

PY: Now see, there was about ten of these buildings of that nature. The ones that had the stone up to the window sill or all the way up even. There's one here. Yes. (Gesturing at the book again here.) Yeah.

GS: That one?

PY: I know that that was one of them. Here's the bathhouse under construction.

GS: Okay.

PY: I remember that was one of the permanent ones. Now this is Then after the cabins, we did, you know, paths, fireplaces, benches, little bridges. I did a little bridge there that's a whole lot like the one that's...not Kreilick's. This one here. (Mr. Young gestures to the picture of the bridge.)

GS: Harold Marsh?¹⁴

PY: Marsh. He did one. This is not the one he did. (Gesturing to a photograph of a blueprint now.) These are pictures of the one he did. (Points to photograph of the bridge here.)

GS: Oh, okay.

PY: This is a different bridge than this one. (Pages turning here) You can see the difference in the design.

GS: Right.

PY: I think that's me.

GS: Okay.

PY: In that picture right there. (He points to the picture of the three men sitting at the end of the Vehicular Bridge.)

GS: Okay.

PY: This one here has a big stone abutments at each end.

GS: Stone. Right. (Pause) We have the prints for this bridge.

PY: Do you know where that bridge is?

GS: No. I don't.

PY: Oh. I don't know whether this bridge was ever constructed or not, but this is one here that I have the drawings, I think, for this bridge. (Pause) I think you have the drawings for that. (Turns pages here) That's one that's been publicized. You know, have you ever seen that little tablet that's mounted there that's weatherproofed for outside exposure; it has a picture of somebody standing there?

GS: I think so.

PY: Yeah, I think that's me.

GS: Oh, okay.

PY: But I'm not for sure. I know I did the plans for that.

(Turns more pages here to find the lookout shelter. He is actually referring to the Trailside Shelter that he helped build.) Now here's that little lookout shelter, called it-- what we'd call it? Shelter, yes. Yes, overlook shelter. We did that. We built it; I showed you the photographs of it there a while ago. Then, there's that sign, that I showed you where the three fellows were sitting back. (Gestures to a photo in the book.) And I think it's a little different when it was built than when it was drawn.

GS: Yeah. I wanted to ask you about that. We've noticed that, okay, you've got this design, but then what they built--

PY: Is different?

GS: Isn't like the design, so what happened?

PY: I don't know, I don't know.

GS: When you got to building it, did you just decide, oh well, this isn't practical and we need to do something else?

PY: I don't think so. I think it was just trying to get more accomplished. The one they built was not as elaborate as this.

GS: Oh. Okay, I see. Well then, that makes sense...to save time.

PY: To save time and expense. Well, that's about it. (Mr. Young closes the book here.) Yeah. I think you've seen all these pictures.

GS: Yes, you've shown me these. Now, you talked about Mr. McColm and the first time you met him. He told you what he wanted to do, or what the National Park Service wanted to do with the State Parks in Arkansas. Could you talk about that a little?

PY: Well, I was just interested in what was being done. I was working for a boy trying to make a living to support his wife and little baby over there at that filling station and help him. Of course, I was interested in eventually getting involved in construction and design--architectural design work--and I guess I told him about my interest and he said well bring some of your work and come out there and let me see what you can do because we're going to be employing technical personnel--what he called it at the time. I took some work from school; I'd attended Washington University in St. Louis. It was about the year I'd considered going to Illinois, but it was further from Little Rock. (Mr. Young is referring to the University of Illinois here.)

PY: I don't remember Mr. McColm saying anything about what his--

GS: Specific--

PY: Plans--specific plans--were. But he was just telling me that as a whole that they wanted to develop state parks in Arkansas and were starting out with these five and I guess I don't remember whether Lake Catherine was the fifth of the original five.

GS: Lake Catherine was Number Nine.

PY: Number Nine. Well, which was Number Five?

GS: Let's see. Okay, Petit Jean was one, Mount Nebo was two, Boyle is three.

PY: Three.

GS: Crowley's is four.

PY: Four or five?

GS: Crowley's is four, I think.

PY: And Devil's Den?

GS: And then Devil's Den was five and six.

PY: Five and six.

GS: I never understood why it was both State Park 5 and State Park 6, but maybe it was because of the two camps.

PY: The two camps. That's right.

GS: Okay. That makes sense. I don't know what State Parks 7 & 8 are, but State Park 9 is Lake Catherine and 13 is Buffalo River, which is now a national park.

PY: I always thought it was just the original five. I didn't know they'd assigned Number 6 to Devil's Den either, until you just told me a little bit ago.

GS: Well, I went to the National Archives last fall in Washington, D. C., and went through some National Park Service records and I went through the monthly reports that Bryan Stearns filed, and they say State Park 5 and State Park 6 on them.

PY: Bryan Stearns was my wife's cousin. He lived down at West Fork.

GS: Oh, okay. He managed to work through the Park System after he started out at Devil's Den.

PY: But I was not assigned to his camp.

GS: That's really interesting about the two camps. It makes so much more sense now to know, because there were so many things that just weren't explained. You know, why did they have the two state park numbers for one park? That's really interesting. Now, back to the blueprints. Did they say to you, we want you to draw a cabin. Let me start over here. Did the National Park Service Office tell you what you were supposed to draw, or was the state in charge of that? How did that work? Do you remember?

PY: As I remember, I'm not clear in my mind exactly what happened, but I was told by the superintendent that I worked for.

GS: Oh, okay.

PY: I think that we want to build five--uh, ten cabins.

GS: Uh-huh.

PY: And that's about all. I don't remember anybody telling me what to do or anything about it. But Bob Kreilick was the landscape architect, and his home was in Ohio. He attended Ohio State University.

GS: Okay.

PY: And vacation time came around, and he wanted to go back home and asked me to go with him. And here are pictures of some structures in a state park in Ohio that we visited, and I went up there to his home to visit his parents with Bob Kreilick that summer. Those are not my designs or anything

like that, but they were just pictures. We visited a state park in eastern Ohio over there in that Hemlock Forest area. Those were some of their structures.

GS: This must be a cabin, and that looks like a lodge, maybe?

PY: I don't know what it was. It was closed up when we were there that summer.

GS: Wow.

PY: Not even open as I remember. But, they didn't use any of the heavy stonework like we did.

GS: No.

PY: Altogether different materials.

GS: The stonework really makes the structures neat. They just have so much charm and character. So, okay, they would say we need ten cabins and you would come up with ten cabins.

PY: I would design them.

GS: So, it was....

PY: I was just on my own out there.

GS: Okay.

PY: As far as I remember.

GS: So you could do whatever you wanted?

PY: I remember in the evenings we'd have conferences and talk with each other--the technical personnel--the engineer for my camp was Carl Smith.

GS: Okay.

PY: He was the city engineer here.

GS: Would that be W. C. Smith?

PY: W. C. Smith.

GS: Okay. Great!

PY: He was a fine man. His wife just died recently. I'm real fond of Carl. He was the one that got up and drove me into

the hospital after I'd been injured that night. He and I did some work later...you know, private practice work. Then Bob Kreilick and then there was another landscape architect that was assigned to the other park.

GS: Max Hall?¹⁵

PY: Chuck Clayton.

GS: Charles Clayton!

PY: Charles Clayton.

GS: Yes! Yes! Okay.

PY: Now, he married the head of the Chemistry Department there at the University--married his daughter. We kept up with them, and he's dead now--died about three or four years ago.

GS: What about Robert Kreilick?

PY: I completely lost track of him.

GS: Did he go back to Ohio?

PY: He must have.

GS: Okay.

PY: And I never have been able to find him. And Marsh. Marsh was one of them.

GS: Harold Marsh?

PY: Harold Marsh. Harold Marsh was assigned to our camp, and Bob Kreilick, and myself, and W. C. Smith and I think we were about the only four.

GS: Okay.

PY: We would sit around and talk.

GS: Talk over?

PY: What we were going to do and how we were going to do things. As far as any supervision on design, I didn't have any on what I did when I was here.

GS: Now, some of the monthly reports talked about submitting plans. After you got these things drawn up did you submit them to the National Park Service or did you just start working on them? Did you just start constructing?

PY: I don't know. I guess I gave them to the Superintendent.

GS: Okay.

PY: Because that's really who I was working for--the superintendent of the park. If he wanted to build such and such. Well, I guess it was Mr. McColm, when he would come there for inspections and things he would tell us. He'd evidently tell the superintendent what we should be doing next. Then the superintendent would tell me to design it, so that's what I'd do.

GS: Okay.

PY: And then I'd give it back to him and I guess he'd submit it back to Mr. McColm.

GS: And then he'd?

PY: His office, which was in Denver at that time.¹⁶

GS: Right. Right.

PY: Then they'd either approve it or disapprove it.

GS: Okay, then it would come back and then you'd start working on it.

PY: I didn't know anything about the administrative end.

GS: Well, okay. The monthly reports seem to indicate some kind of system like that. I wanted to be sure and ask you about it. Now, in going through the blueprints for the state parks that I've been working on, we've come across blueprints for state parks in Oklahoma and Texas and then National Parks like Grand Canyon, Petrified Forest, Mount

Ranier. Did the plans travel around a lot, or do you know anything about that?

PY: I don't remember seeing those.

GS: Okay. Because there was one specific [plan]--it was a suspension bridge from the Grand Canyon that had been sent to Devil's Den. They had requested the plans and I just wondered if you knew anything about that?

PY: I don't.

GS: Okay. (Pause) Everything I keep coming across for the CCC in Arkansas constructing the state park system talks about this master plan concept for designing the state parks. Do you know anything about that? Like, the central vision that was behind the designs?

PY: No, except that it seems to me that Bob Kreilick and I, when we went up there that summer, to visit this state park here in Ohio, we talked some about some conversations in the organization somewhere about a general overall concept.

GS: Park planning?

PY: Park planning. Park design. It seems to me that someone said at one time, "Well, it ought to be more regional." What would apply in the arid west of Arizona would be different from what would be in the mountains of Arkansas.

GS: Right.

PY: But there was never any definite instructions along that line that I recall. Not at my level.

GS: Do you see consistent planning, I guess, or blueprint design among the four parks you worked on.

PY: Yes, yes.

GS: So, you would say that Arkansas--the state park system here possibly had a general plan.

PY: In the beginning, when it was this style of park structure. Now see, there's a lot of park structure they built later--back here--that are altogether of different character from those that were done when I was there.

GS: Yes. (Laughs) Right.

PY: Let's see--buildings of that nature and swimming pools and dams and things of that sort--you know. Now, we wouldn't have done anything like that at Devil's Den. (Mr. Young is pointing to a specific shelter drawn by Karen Rollet in the CCC book.)

GS: No.

PY: I think the character of the native area has something to do, because we were told to use everything we could off the site. We didn't have any money to buy stuff with.

GS: To buy stuff.

PY: We had to make everything we and go a long ways. I remember one time we were buying nails, and we couldn't buy any, and I said how we going to hold anything up if we don't have any nails? (Both laugh here) What funds we had we had to spend for plumbing fixtures and pipe and electrical wiring, even though it was very meager. We didn't have funds to go out and subcontract that or get a subcontractor.

GS: Right.

PY: Like that picture.

GS: Oh, I know. That's terrible.

PY: That's the sort of thing I was referring to.

GS: Well, like I said, the park system is trying to go back--Planning and Development, which is the division of Parks I work for--and they're really trying to correct some of the

things that were done, especially in the 1970's. That seems to be the time.

PY: Maintenance and upkeep?

GS: Yeah, but the 1970's seem to be the worst period in park history when they really went through and messed up a lot of stuff.

PY: Oh, you're talking about new work.

GS: Well, at Petit Jean they took off the wood framing and put up board and batten and they took a lot of the stone off and they did things like that.

PY: Off the buildings?

GS: Off the cabins. So, it's been a real problem, and that's why we're trying so hard to gather up as much as we can and find these original plans and pictures so we know what these looked like initially, so it's easier for them [Parks] to go back and build something, or renovate it or rehabilitate it so it looks like it would have when it was first built.

PY: H.V.! Come in here and meet this young lady.

PY: I don't remember one like this being constructed. (We are now looking at the blueprints.) We have that one--we have pictures of it.

GS: Yeah, this one. Right.

PY: We have.... (Noise from shuffling blueprints here)

GS: This is the cabin.

PY: We have that--that one was built. (Noise from blueprints continues)

GS: Okay.

PY: That one was built. (Turns to next design) That one was built.

GS: The small cabin, okay. Yeah.

PY: This is the one I was thinking about.

GS: This is the one that is on the State Parks Poster--but I could be wrong. No, maybe it's this one.

PY: Well, it could be. That one was built. (Pages turning again and then a pause) Was this built? I don't remember.

GS: I thought it was.

PY: Yes, I think it was too.

GS: I think we have pictures of that one.

PY: And this is the bathhouse that I worked on here drawn by me too. That was done when we were in....

GS: Mr. Harding's office?

PY: Mr. Harding's office. Now, do you know his son?

GS: The photographer? I know about him, but I don't know him personally.

PY: Well, I was thinking about you talking about these drawings here; he might be able to tell you what happened to them after his father's death.

GS: Okay, okay.

PY: Tom and I both decided, we were friends, Tom Jr. that we were going to be architects. We decided that after his father came out to high school in little Rock there and gave a lecture--whatever they call those things--meetings they'd have of the whole school population once a week. Mr. Harding came out and spoke about architecture.

GS: Oh, okay. That's how you got interested in it.

PY: Tom and I were sitting next to each other--we were friends--and I said, "Tom, you know, I think after listening to your Daddy speak and tell us about architecture, I'd like to be an architect." Tom said, "Well I would be too." And we

both became architects. I never did vary; I knew from the time I was in high school what I wanted to do with my life. And now, I have four sons--we did have five but we lost one a couple years ago but out of the four, two of them are architects. They're both in Florida practicing architecture. They were with me in the office until they wanted to get out on their own, you know. But Tom Jr., he lives there at Rivercrest apartments, I think.

GS: Now, the Department of Arkansas Heritage, or Arkansas Historic Preservation Program--whatever you want to call it--Ken Storey, he's their National Register historian. He told me that Tom Harding, Jr., I guess, was a photographer now and that he did some consulting work for DAH sometimes.

PY: Oh.

GS: So, I guess you would be about the same age then if you were in high school together.

PY: We were in high school together in Little Rock. (Sound of pages turning again.) Well, I would love to have these prints.

GS: You can have them.

PY: I'll be glad to pay for the prints.

GS: No, that's alright. I do have a favor to ask of you.

PY: Yes ma'am?

GS: Would you let me borrow those pictures so we can make copies of them?

PY: Oh, these things of mine here?

GS: Yes.

PY: These photographs?

GS: Would you be willing to let us do that?

PY: Yes, if you'll send them back to me.

GS: Yes.

PY: I had a whole lot more than this, someplace, sometime.

GS: Well, it's easy to lose photographs.

PY: Do you think you know what?

GS: I will remember what they are.

PY: I've got Devil's Den....

GS: And the date? Okay, good.

PY: And the date on some of them.

GS: That's great. (Pause) I did want to show you some other pictures that State Parks took.

PY: Where's that picture of the trucks lined up there and the campsite? Oh, here it is. Do you want these taken up in Ohio, do you want those?

GS: No, I don't need the Ohio pictures. I'll leave those here. Here's another picture of the overlook.

PY: Yep. That was back when it still had the log rafters.

GS: Right, they hadn't cut them off.

PY: Yes ma'am.

GS: Another thing, they are making a concerted effort to go back and use the original size logs--the 12", 14" or whatever they were. They're trying to be careful about that.

PY: Well, let's see. that detail is not--the size of the log rafters if 8"--I don't believe this is the same detail.

GS: Here's a picture of the bridge.

PY: Alright. As I remember, that stone that killed the boy, almost center on the bridge, is right here. It was up about that level, next to the top row.

GS: Okay.

PY: I think it's right there. But I couldn't find the cross anymore. That's one of the stones--we carved a cross, about a foot.

GS: About a foot or so?

PY: These are nice 8" x 10"s.

GS: Yeah, these were in the Publicity folders. You might be able to tell us about that. Do you know where that is? The men on horseback?

PY: I remember we had some horses down there, and some of those fellows rode them, but I don't recall being involved in that. Or it might have been a riding club that came down to the park from Prairie Grove or Hogeeye or someplace around.

GS: This is one of the Cabins.

PY: Yeah, that's one of the cabins. But now, that's a recent picture.

GS: Yes.

PY: That has the asphalt roof on it.

GS: Right. Now this is one--that's an older picture. Is that one of those cabins that was built later?

PY: No it wasn't built. It was an old farmhouse that was down there on the park. I had some pictures of those old farmhouses and that's part of what I can't find right now.

GS: Okay.

PY: As I remember, that was an old farmhouse that was down there in the park that was demolished or torn out.

GS: Okay. Well, because we couldn't figure out where this would be in the park now.

PY: It was already there at the time.

GS: Okay. (Flipping through photographs now) Here's another picture of the bridge.

PY: Uh-huh. Yeah. That gin-pole that was in the water at flood stage--it was helping build and lift those stones up and build those piers. This picture here....

GS: Yes.

PY: Now, that's some of the barracks.

GS: The barracks.

PY: Those were army barracks. If this is down in the park, we had an office down in the park here, but I slept in the barracks up at the top. (More paper shuffling as Mr. Young tries to locate the two missing photos.) Here they are-- there they are right over there.

GS: Oh, yes.

PY: There they are. Now, you have that picture enlarged, don't you? Or one very similar to it that you showed me a moment ago. The piers out there.

GS: Okay.

PY: Now, this is the one I was looking for.

GS: Yeah.

PY: Might as well take them and use what you want.

GS: Okay. Well, listen, I appreciate this so much.

PY: You're more than welcome.

GS: You have been very very helpful.

PY: Well, I hope I have. Like I said, after fifty or sixty years your memory kind of fades a little in the meantime!

GS: No, this is really really great and I appreciate it more than you know.

ENDNOTES

1. Guy Amsler helped establish Arkansas State Parks and became the first Commissioner.

2. All the state parks built by the National Park Service, in cooperation with the Arkansas State Park System, the CCC and the Army, were numbered. Petit Jean was State Park 1, Mt. Nebo was State Park 2, Boyle was State Park 3, Crowley's Ridge was State Park 4, Devil's Den was State Parks 5 & 6, Lake Catherine, was State Park 9, and Buffalo River was State Park 13.

3. The National Park Service has a regional office in Denver. Milton McCole made many trips to Arkansas during the 1930's overseeing the work on the state parks here.

4. Lee's Creek is the creek that runs through Devil's Den State Park.

5. I cannot find any information explaining why Devil's Den was assigned two state park numbers, and for each park division, there was a camp. The two camps seem to have done different types of work at the park. Camp No. 2 seems to have done the major structural work, while camp No. 1 possibly worked on roads, trails, sewer lines, and the like.

6. Mr. Young is referring to a book titled Manmade Elements in Natural Settings: The CCC in Arkansas, written by Karen Rollet and Frank Burggraf at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville School of Landscape Architecture.

7. Mr. Young is referring to the lower camp, which was located just past the Combination Building, on the left, at Devil's Den.

8. Mr. Young is referring to the stone Vehicular Bridge at this point. This bridge is no longer standing.

9. A gin-pole is the simplest type of derrick. It was used during this period to move the heavy rocks and stone.

10. Homer Fry was another landscape architect for the National Park Service who did blueprints for several parks, but according to Ladd and Janice Davies (in a later interview on April 19, 1994), Mr. Fry apparently lost his job because of his design for the water tower at Petit Jean. Many people thought the stone structure did not fit the park's style.

11. David Hunter was a landscape architect working for the National Park Service. He started out at Petit Jean, but did plans for other state parks as well.

12. Rex Conner was a landscape architect for the National Park Service who did a number of blueprints for several Arkansas state parks during this period.

13. Cecil Doty was an architect for the National Park Service too.

14. Harold Marsh was another landscape architect who did work for Devil's Den State Park.

15. Max Hall and Charles Clayton were other landscape architects who worked for the National Park Service. Max Hall did work on several parks, while Charles Clayton only did work on Devil's Den.

16. Arkansas was a part of District VII, Region III in the National Park Service. The regional office for Arkansas was located in Denver, Colorado.