Interview conducted by Darwin Lambert on June 24, 1977

Transcribed by Camilla Wilkerson, October 2018

[Notes regarding transcription technique]
[unintelligible] Unable to understand more than one word
[_______ (??) Transcriber’s best guess]
— Speaker makes abrupt change in sentence
Refer to the Baylor University Style Guide for consistency in transcription

Total interview length: 02:07:50 min.

[Begin Audio at 00:00:01]

Darwin Lambert: "The 24th of June 1977 and I have Ray Shaffner here to discuss some of the history of the Shenandoah National Park that he remembers. Well, when did you come here, Ray?"

Ray Shaffner: "Came here in May 6th, 1956 as Assistant Chief Naturalist to Kenny Dale who was, at that time, the Chief Naturalist. I came here from the Petrified Forests in Arizona."

Lambert: "Kenny Dale succeeded to Paul Favor."

Shaffner: "That's right-"

Lambert: "So I really have only been, uh, Favor, uh, I guess he didn't really have the title of Chief Naturalist because he was probably the only one that, uh, most of the time he was here, but..."

Shaffner: "Yeah. Park Naturalist probably."

Lambert: "But called Park Naturalist, but did Kenny Dale come to work for Paul Favor, do you know?"

Shaffner: "Yes, he was here for about a year or year and a half as Paul's assistant. I believe that's right. And then, when Paul left to go to Arcadia...I think I'm right on that...then Kenny Dale took his place as Chief Naturalist."
Lambert: "Uh huh. And then you came and as assistant to Kenny Dale. Were there others in the division then or were you-"

Shaffner: "No, we didn't even have a full-time secretary at that time. Kenny and I were the only two in the division for over two years except for seasonals. Plus, we did have a part-time secretary."

Lambert: "Uh-huh. Do you remember about how many seasonals you might have been having?"

Shaffner: "Well, the first year I was here they had some extra money, so they did hire six seasonals, but that was more than they'd had ever before. I think they'd had about three or, uh, three to four at the most under Favor, and they conducted only a very minimum interpretive program at that time under Favor; although, they gave talks at the Lodges in the spring and the fall and then campfire programs at Big Meadows. There was nothing that was-"

Lambert: "Was there an amphitheater there at Big Meadows then?"

Shaffner: "Yes, it was very primitive, but it was what you might call a amphitheater or campfire circle."

Lambert: "Wasn't any visitor center anywhere was there?"

Shaffner: "No, they did have a little contact station at the Big Meadows Campground in the entrance station building there itself. They had produced a few exhibits, and some of the exhibits, last I saw them, were still up in the attic of the warehouse at Park Headquarters, but they may have been torn up by now."

Lambert: "Yeah. Who was the Super Intendent then?"

Shaffner: "When I arrived Mr. Edwards, Guy Edwards, Guy E. Edwards, was the Super Intendent and had been for several years. Those days he was the Super Intendent there for...Oh...Uh 'til I think it was '58 or '59. I always get-"

Lambert: "When Hoskins came I believe it was sometime in '58-"

Shaffner: "'58."

Lambert: "'-when Hoskins came."

Shaffner: "Yeah, I was saying that Hoskins I think arrived in August of '58. I became Chief Naturalist in...I think it was April 19th, roughly anyway that I became, took over Kenny Dale's job as Chief Naturalist."

Lambert: "So '58?"
Shaffner: "Yeah."

Lambert: "Uh-huh, so about the time Hoskins--in other words you were Chief Naturalist during all the time that Hoskins was Super Intendent apparently."

Shaffner: "Yes...(unintelligible in background). I was supposed to take that--"

Lambert: "Well, you know I've worked on the history from the beginning up through Freeland's term. And I've, uh, I'm finding--I'm finding pretty good access to files and people and so on who remember. Back from the present, back to the beginning of Hoskins's term. But I'm at a loss to fill in Edwards's term, and just what was going on in Edwards's term, and what was particularly important of lasting or historical significance during Edwards's term. Apparently his term was only about six years. Freeland must have been here until around '52 or '51 anyway. I'm not positive right now the date that Freeland left. Maybe it was '50? But that would be..."

Shaffner: "Well, of course, Mission 66 started under Edwards. That is during that time, in 1956, that's when Mission 66 was presented by then director of...I can't think of his name--"

Lambert: "Conrad Worth."

Shaffner: "Conrad Worth, yes, and he sold the Bill of Goods to Congress, a ten year development program, and I remember working...especially Kenny Dale worked a lot on the Mission 66 program for the interpretive division, and of course I was more or less running the field operation at the time, so Kenny turned it over to me, and--"

Lambert: "Well, what was this involved? What did you get into?"

Shaffner: "Planning mainly and plans for the future, for this ten-year period of improving the visitor center concepts, the expansion of the campgrounds, the improvement of the picnic facilities, and such things as that. And the improvement of the roads and trails. Uh, all this tied in for the Mission 66--"

Lambert: "It really was a big thing, a big amount of construction that...I guess there hadn't been much from World War before World War II. Everything kind of ended with the start of World War, and then there hadn't been much construction I guess immediately afterward."

Shaffner: "That's right. And they'll say....they...I remember very distinctly that...under Edwards they did buy the Dickey Ridge Cabins and the Lodge from the Skyline Company. It was sitting there vacant because the Skyline Company hadn't operated it for a couple of years, maybe from 19--well, right after the War, I don't know if they ever reopened it or not. And it was sitting there--"

Lambert: "They never did do much business there. It was a poor location for business, or what, when did they abandon it I wonder?"
Shaffner: "Well, they seemed to be too close to Front Royal, and then I think...'ve heard rumors that this is just hersay that the people that worked there, of course they were mostly young folks, and they attracted people from Front Royal their own age, and had parties originally all night, and then were pretty snappy to the customers the next day, so it wasn't a very popular location as far as, service to the public went." Lambert: "I've run across some of that. I think that's probably true. I think I find it in those early reports before the War that there was vandalism and so on. There were just rowdies from Front Royal frequently up there apparently."

Shaffner: "Yes. Well, anyway, the Skyline Company has more or less given it up as a...as a location, and it moved some of the cabins farther down the drive. I think there were some moved to Big Meadows. I'm not sure about Skyline, but I know that a few of the cabins from Dickey Ridge moved to Big Meadows."

Lambert: "Maybe even a little swamp in there."

Shaffner: "And there may have been...yes. I don't know how many cabins there were originally at Dickey Ridge, but, anyway, some of the cabins been moved, and there were four left when I arrived here in '56. There was Apple, Cherry, Chestnut, and one other. I can't...Oak! Those were the only four left there, but, as I said, the Skyline Company had not operated the Lodge for a while, so Mr. Edwards did negotiate the purchase of that to be converted to a visitor center, and the cabins were used for quarters for the seasonal rangers and naturalists."

Lambert: "But it hadn't become a visitor center yet while Edwards was here, or do you remember just when that happened?"

Shaffner: "Well, uh, let's see..."

Lambert: "It happened during your time, your time here."

Shaffner: "Yeah, that's right...Kenny Dale left, and I gathered most of the material for the exhibits just after Kenny Dale left. He, uh, he and I together helped plan with the planning...what do they call it? Museum lab people."

Lambert: "Uh-huh."

Shaffner: "The exhibits for the Dickey Ridge Visitor Center, and of course he plans have been made to convert the old kitchen into the auditorium, and the projection booth was added onto the auditorium. The area that had been the kitchen was converted into the auditorium, and then the rest of the...well, the dining room and so on became the exhibit rooms. And the check-in area, where the guests registered, became the information center. You know, the information place where to enter into the visitor center. And some of the quarters for bachelor quarters were converted into the offices for the rangers and the naturalists. And they'd all be on that storage, in the back part, and restrooms for the public, but, this was mostly done right just when Kenny Dale, after he left, as I said I collect the materials and rounded up everything, the photographs,
and the rock specimens... and, uh, well, the content. Anything that we needed..."

Lambert: "Yeah, there some mounted birds in there that had probably been there for quite a while."

Shaffner: "And some of the animals we had, those, uh, mounted by, I forgot who did the work, but... trapped animals and caught...shot the birds, and so on, and sent them off to be mounted."

Lambert: "Well, there were...What, what would, I mean, we had the Skyline Drive. What, it wouldn't have been much extra road construction. Maybe the road was resurfaced? Skyline Drive during Mission 66, or..."

Shaffner: "Yes, part of it was resurfaced, and actually, mainly it was an expansion program of facilities. Now, if I remember right, Big Meadows Campground, for instance, only had about 50-something sites when I arrived here. And there was a little development of Lewis Mountain Campground there. Supposed to be for the minorities. And it consisted of...well, I think 20-something sites. 27 or something. Maybe not that many. It was very small, and that was, that was as far as accommodations. Plus, the lodges...I can't give you the exact pillow count or anything, but Skyland itself probably didn't hold over 150 guests, and Big Meadows probably about 40 or 50 at the most. Now this one thing Mr. Edwards did, when they started this expansion program, especially the concessionaire, he...during his administration I remember that he would not let the Skyline Company replace one of the family-like cabins with these big units. He said that each little cabin counted up the number of people that could stay there, say like a family-unit of 6 or 8. Well, that was all that he was going to allow them to have in their expansions was to replace what they had."

Lambert: "Mhm."

Shaffner: "But somewhere along the lines, this got lost after he left here. And these companies started replacing each one of these cabins with a huge unit with 14 rooms in each one."

Lambert: "Yeah, kind of a motel-type development, and Mr. Edwards didn't care for that."

Shaffner: "No, he said that was competing too much with the local business around the park, and that there's plenty of room for people to stay outside the park."

Lambert: "Were the local people complaining about, uh, this?"

Shaffner: "Well, yes, I think that he was fairly well tuned in with the local communities, and he, he tried to honor their wishes that the park not infringe on the business."

Lambert: "I don't know what there is in this, but I find that there's, there's quite a few records of complaints by motel people in the Valley and in the Piedmont against the development up here, and there was further things of this kind during Hoskin's time, quite a lot. Well, now was the...to get the Skyline Company to make these big expansions, they weren't--"
Shaffner: "Well, they had to promise them a 30-year contract."

Lambert: "Was this done during Edwards's time, the renegotiations?"

Shaffner: "I think it was, yes, and it may have extended into Hoskin's time where it was finally culminated, but I think probably this came mostly under Hoskin's."

Lambert: "Their first contract I think was 20 years, and it was from '37, so it would have been expired in '57, so there probably was a lot of negotiation."

Shaffner: "There was a negotiation at the time I came here I know of, just after I arrived they were still negotiating for a 30-year contract."

Lambert: "But they...I don't think the incentive... They gave him 30 years instead of 20, which might of been expected, and in turn they were to spend so much on expansion."

Shaffner: "I think it was 2 million dollars...expansion program. Of course, I think they spent a lot more than that now, but, uh..."

Lambert: "Wasn't one of the things included in this 2 million, even in those days, was Loft Mountain being planned?"

Shaffner: "I think so."

Lambert: "Loft Mountain was supposed to be a bigger development than it's ever become."

Shaffner: "Yeah."

Lambert: "And I wonder... you have to look beyond Mr. Edwards's term now, but I wonder if you have any idea why Loft Mountain has not been developed the way it was intended to be...because I understood the concessionaire was supposed to build extensive lodging facilities there, and I don't think there's any lodging there. Is there?"

Shaffner: "No, there's no overnight lodging. Just for their employees only, and that's all."

Lambert: "Yeah."

Shaffner: "And of course, the rangers and naturalists have seasonal quarters there, but I think one of the big things was they spent over their allotment before Loft Mountain really got going."

Lambert: "Oh."

Shaffner: "And, uh..."
Lambert: "They spent this mainly on Skyline and--"

Shaffner: "And Big Meadows's expansion, expanding their already developed areas, so that...so that they didn't want to go into Loft Mountain. They felt it would be a losing proposition. Of course, their construction costs have always escalated for many years, and they didn't see Loft Mountain as a viable, profitable area."

Lambert: "I ran across a thing in the file just the other day in which Hoskins referred to Loft Mountain in this way. He said he thought it was the most attractive development area on the whole park. That is the basic situation for development. Not what's there, but the natural situation, the natural advantages of the terrain, of the possibilities for development. That he was implying he thought was the best on the whole mountain."

Shaffner: "Well, I'm sort of partial to Loft Mountain, of course...I helped picked some of the sites there for instance for the amphitheater and the nature trails and things like that, and it's one of the areas that you can see out."

Lambert: "Eileen and I were down there Tuesday, and it's the first time we really went over that whole deadening nature trail, and I think it's terrific. It's got just about every type of thing on it. Of course, it hadn't got a waterfall, but--"

Shaffner: "No."

Lambert: "But it's got every type of country. Open country, rocks, woods, different kinds fo trees. Apple trees, yeah, and of course these dead intestine trees."

Shaffner: "Yes. Well, Loft Mountain, I know to many campers is considered one of the choice campgrounds of the Eastern United States, if not in the entire United States, because it has such a diversity. As it's, well, on clear days beautiful views of Piedmont and the Valley and the Mountains. It's just it's an openness. You can get it in the open, or you can get it in the woods..."

Lambert: "Yeah."

Shaffner: "Get it in the meadows. It's just a great diversity of habitats."

Lambert: "Apparently it would continue to be an unusual number of deer around there."

Shaffner: "Yeah, that's right."

Lambert: "An extraordinary concentration, and possibly that's because there's a lot of open country because they like...open country produces more deer food than forest does. Well, while we're still a little bit on that subject, in your time here, do you recall racial troubles?"

Shaffner: "Uh."
Lambert: "Was the concessionaire still segregating when you came or was that all over with?"

Shaffner: "I'm afraid that certain employees of the Skyline Company definitely were very much...and the company itself by their policies still insisted that...Lewis Mountain was...was for...the Blacks. I remember one of the first campfire, I mean lives talks that gave, it was, uh, it was well in May or June, may have been early June. At Lewis Mountain, a lodge, there was a campfire program scheduled or evening lives talks, and I drove down there in the fog, all the way down from Park Headquarters and up to Panorama and down all the way in the fog to Lewis Mountain, got there, and there was no one there except the manager of the lodge and dining hall. So, I waited a while, and a young couple came in looking for rooms. Well, the manager said, 'Oh, no, no. You didn't have any rooms.' Well, here all these cabins were sitting there empty, but he wouldn't rent this young white couple rooms at Lewis Mountain, and of course I didn't know that he really did until I checked up later that he really didn't have any rooms, but I found out afterwards out of my curiosity just why that couple had to drive up all the way to Big Meadows in the fog, and I offered since I wasn’t having the program to let them follow my tail light up to Big Meadows Lodge, and I dropped them off at the lodge. But then I asked, I said I knew some people in the company that worked, and they said, 'O Heavens, no. There wasn't anybody at Lewis Mountain that night. So, that was sort of a shock to me because I was, you know, I was, I grew up in a family where sometimes we had negro students in or African students in to dinner and so on, so it was sort of a shock to me that they couldn't allow a white couple in rooms that were supposed for black people."

Lambert: "Well, of course it was true that it was originally built for black people. Originally it was park policy, but this was way back in the 40s, and in fact, before the War I think where they had most of that trouble, and even in the 30s I think Lewis Mountain was possibly projected or maybe part of it even opened in at least a camp or picnic ground or something in the late 30s. And it was for Blacks, but this was a furor that was...got pretty hot along in late 30s and the early 40s, and as far as I know it was all settled in a policy way, but I was wondering about the practice."

Shaffner: "Well, I'm afraid the practice was different than the policy. I know that...one NAACP official came up to Big Meadows probably a year or so, well probably ’57 or ’58, and asked for a room at Big Meadows Lodge, and...he was told that they did not have any rooms left. So, he hung around the lobby, and very unobtrusively just wait, and the next couple that came in...went up to the desk and got rooms. And...well, they did not have reservations. So, this NAACP official complained through official channels, and that employee was fired, but that was going on all the time. I know personally it was, but they had to deal with token firing to make Washington happy you might say, or the officials that were trying to comply with the ruling of the Supreme Court and the Park Service policy."

Lambert: "I guess Hickeys was gone then. Who was Secretary of the Interior in those days? Do you know? Seaton? Or what's his name?"

Shaffner: "Hmmm....I can't remember government. I can't remember who it was. Uh..."
Lambert: "Well, that doesn't matter. That's something we can find out pretty easy."

Shaffner: "Yes, we can look back in the historic records."

Lambert: "Well, what else about Mission 66? The big thing I know about Mission 66 is that apparently it got you the Big Meadows Visitor Center."

Shaffner: "That's right. It got Dickey Ridge Visitor Center and Big Meadows Visitor Center."

Lambert: "But did it get anything else that was really new? What I've, what I've got to find is is what is of long-range and lasting significance. Not just another little cabin here that's built on a development, but what happened that was actually different that started a new departure, or that...I mean the Visitors Center is dead. This was a new thing that the Park had not previously had of any kind in any place, and it started a new phase of the whole operation, but I wondered if anything else did. Is this when the motel-type development started at Skyland?"

Shaffner: "Yes, I think so."

Lambert: "Uh, that certainly is a transformation from the old Skyland."

Shaffner: "That's right."

Lambert: "The Pollock Skyland. It's an utterly different thing now than it was then."

Shaffner: "I know when they were building the, or had just built, I can't remember, the new dining room at Skyland. It was quite a contention because it was modern architecture and did not conform to the rustic cabin type architecture that they'd always had at Skyland. And I know that, oh, Darell Butcher was very much opposed to that type of architecture. Of course, it had no shrubbery or trees around at the time, and-"

Lambert: "Of course the Park Service apparently didn't mind. They apparently had some modern architects in the Parks Service, too."

Shaffner: "That's right, and, uh, actually, uh, if you look at the building now after it's got a little age on it....20 years or so, it blends in very well with the surrounding. If you had to have a building that's an intrusion on the landscape anyway, but the outside is weathered now, and the rocks are just as good as the rocks around the cliffs and something, and the trees have grown up, and the shrubs have grown up, so that's softened some of the sharp corners, and really....I can't say that...you can say that you... shouldn't have a...that kind of architecture as long as it is it's more or less modified. For instance, even the Big Meadows Visitor Center was supposed to be of brick, aluminum, and glass, and Kenny Dale and I both objected very strenuously, and we got them to change at least to the timber and the rocks like they're too conformed or what's Big Meadow's Lodge for instance. And it blends in much better than we felt that bricks and aluminum, glass,--"
Lambert: "I think the visitor center and the lodge at Big Meadows are very appropriate architecture. Seemed to me at least very appropriate materials. The lodge, when you could see more of it, when it was first built, was a very attractive design and very impressive building. Now, it's so covered with trees all around here and there that you hardly get the whole impression of the whole structure. Well, what else was...do you remember the other personnel? Well, during the very early days, who was chief ranger? Or uh--"

Shaffner: "Jordan, Jordan Shulley was Chief Ranger here, and I had worked with him at the.... at the White Sands in New Mexico. I was just starting out. I was a seasonal, I was a seasonal at White Sands when Jordan Shulley was Chief Ranger there, and then he had been wanted at two other areas, and then came here as Chief Ranger."

Lambert: "Do you think they were having any particular--"

Shaffner: "Leonard, Leonard Byrd was Assistant Chief Ranger."

Lambert: "When did Granville Lyles come?"

Shaffner: "Granville Lyles had already left when I got here."

Lambert: "Oh he was, he'd been and gone. He was here with Freeland maybe."

Shaffner: "He was here with Freeland."

Lambert: "Yeah..."

Shaffner: "And let's see. I was trying to think...Woody Zanfell was the, what they call the...Park Engineer. They later changed the title to Chief of Maintenance later, many years later, but Woody Zanfell was the...and Dick Bones is Assistant Engineer in charge of maintenance. Um, let's see...um...there's landscape architect...was, uh....I can picture him, but I can't think of his name. If I had known you were gonna ask me this, so I..."

Lambert: "Well, I didn't really...no, I don't have these pictures."

Shaffner: "There are pictures in the files."

Lambert: "All down, and this, this I can probably find. Although, it's surprising in this middle period, how many records are missing? They don't have them in the archives, and they don't have them here, but they may have them out at Soupland, Maryland."

Shaffner: "Vic Defollet was the...what'd you call it? It was called the Administrative Officer. And Doc Blevins was his Chief Assistant in the payroll and finance department."

--SILENCE FROM 30:25.0-33:17.0--
Lambert: "That I, I can't really utilize anymore. I don't believe it. In fact, I'm gonna have trouble being brief enough to...for that period, they hope, the whole manuscript could be written about that 25-year period."

Shaffner: "Oh yeah, sure."

Lambert: "And I've got enough to do it. But that won't be, that wouldn't be what I contracted to do. I contracted to write the whole period of the park, at least through '75, and I've got to try to fill in this period of the '50s, and I'm...I've had my moments of thinking, 'Oh gee whizz! There wasn't anything interesting happened in that period. All the really important decisions were made, the policy was set, the basic development was here, but then, then I find that what we brought out here that they didn't have any visitor centers. Well, this is a very important part of a park, and, and so the coming of visitor centers is certainly of fundamental importance, so there's one that came in that period."

Shaffner: "Well, they didn't have any self-guiding trails either. They didn't have any..."

Lambert: "Wasn't there a white oak self-guiding trail in Buchanan, or had it already been abandoned?"

Shaffner: "There was, uh...it had already been abandoned. It was just too difficult to keep up, and took much vandalism I think."

Lambert: "Oh vandalism on the posts and the messages, and the uh...I wonder if it was such a steep trail that, uh, the thing would erode from usage, but that, there's never been a time I guess when it didn't have heavy traffic"

Shaffner: "No. But that, I guess that was, but it had been abandoned before I got here."

Lambert: "Well, you know Benton McCoy had a large part in, in developing that white oak nature trail. Well, he worked with Freeland and Bob Moore...That's something I didn't know until I delved into these records."

Shaffner: "No, I've ran across, you know, guide leaflet, or whatever you want to call it, or write-ups of that trail many years after I was here that I didn't even know about it."

Lambert: "Well, then you were you were developing nature trails in the early days."

Shaffner: "Yes."

Lambert: "Still in Edwards's term or...?"

Shaffner: "Yes, Stony Man Nature Trail was developed and the Swamp Nature Trail. Those were the first two under Edwards's time, and then they were later when they expanded the
campground. Of course, we had to redo the Swamp Nature Trail almost completely. There were...A lot of it, a lot of it had to be redone. And the....then...Let's see. I was trying to think. 'Course the campground expansion program was one of the biggest things during the Mission 66. They not only, uh, expanded the, uh, the, uh, Big Meadows Campground to over 200, almost 250 size from about 30-something. I think it was... It was less than 50. And they also expanded the Lewis Mountain Campground to more than double what it was, and also built Loft Mountain Campground. I think it was finished about '58 if I'm not mistaken. And then...then the Matthew's Arm Campground was begun under that program, and of course it was just finished not too many years ago, but the lodges themselves were, well, I'd say triple the capacity at least, each one of them."

Lambert: "Sky Manor and Big Meadow..."

Shaffner: "Yeah, at least. We can get the exact figures on that in the records I'm sure, but there must be an easy way to find this."

Lambert: "Do you know of anything that was ever written up as a report on the accomplishments of Mission 66? You find this so, so widely scattered, and you find so many discussions of proposals, and tentative plans that it's just awfully confusing to try to find out what really was done. Not what was talked about but what was done. And it seems like there should have been a summary report after Mission 66 was concluded as to what it accomplished, but I...I have never run across one, but it just seems kind of logical to me that there would have been sometime."

Shaffner: "I think there was probably, Darwin, and maybe you could get that from the Director's Office, I...I...I assume."

Lambert: "Yeah...Maybe, if there's one around here maybe June Campbell. Was June Campbell here when you...was she in the Park Office when you came?"

Shaffner: "Yes."

Lambert: "She was in and out for a little while."

Shaffner: "She's...she's been Super Intendent Secretary ever since I arrived in '56."

Lambert: "So, she was secretary for Edwards. She'd been even the secretary for Freedland, but she quit and had two kids, I think and the-"

Shaffner: "That's right. Uh-huh."

Lambert: "Then, she came back later."

Shaffner: "Two children and then came back, but she was here when I arrived in '56."

Lambert: "Uh-huh. Probably been here ever since."
Shaffner: "Yeah."

Lambert: "Yeah..."

Shaffner: "She's a very good source of information, of course. Now, I don't know whether there are any...any...Should be records up at the Byrd Visitor Center. Have you checked with Millie on that? Uh, on Mission 66?"

Lambert: "On Mission 66. She has in her bibliography about a, a six-page paper on Mission 66, but it doesn't seem from the title from what she has to make quite clear, and she no longer has it. She said she sent it down to Phil Hastings, and I haven't pursued it down there yet."

Shaffner: "Uh-huh."

Lambert: "A lot of these things I'm looking for an easy way. I'm...every once in a while if I keep asking questions here and there, I, I find that somebody that tells me fairly exactly what to look for, and maybe even where to look for it. And then if all my sort of teasing leads don't get me anything, why I ultimately really start single-mindedly pursuing it, but every once in a while I find a lot of things by, by fortunate accident. Just by noising around it. I want them, and it doesn't consume hours or days of time. The...I'll have to follow into this business of the shifting from...a...a sort of a family cabin type development at Skyline to a, a motel, what I call, motel-type development."

Shaffner: "Yeah."

Lambert: "This is quite significant, and along this line...Have you run across the...have you followed into water resources problem? Hoskins told me one time that...I said, 'Gee, whizz! I don't think you ought to build a lot more of these motel things up here,' to, to Taylor Hoskins, and he said, 'Don't worry. We won't.' He says, 'You don't have to limit the development of Skyline. You don't have to draw any more lines. The lines are drawn. Nature did it. There are just no more water you can get up there within reason.'"

Shaffner: "Yes, well, you see, under this program...they did go into a drilling...a water exploration program. Under Hoskins and with the State of Virginia, geologists, and they got federal funds as well as state funds to drill these test wells, and there were...probably...15 or 20 test wells drilled. Some of them quite deep. And those are all on record. There's actually a big, thick volume written on the water resources of the Park."

Lambert: "-water resources of the Park. This came out fairly recently."

Shaffner: "Geologic maps. Yeah, it just came out since I've retired."

Lambert: "I have seen it, but that's a thing I want to get ahold of. Because I, I have this...Yeah...I have this idea, which may not be very good, but, it seems to me that the Park really asks for trouble along that line by planning all these developments on top of the mountain. This
should...this is a place where water is a little bit hard to come by."

Shaffner: "Yeah."

Lambert: "And I wonder if they really thought it...Well, they, they probably didn't because the Park had Skyline Drive foisted on them really."

Shaffner: "Yes."

Lambert: "Skyline Drive was there before the Park was. Oh, of course the Park service was working with it a little bit, but they didn't have adequate time to study all the aspects."

Shaffner: "Yeah."

Lambert: "Hoover said, to Albright, 'Get going! Build that thing now!'"

Shaffner: "Yes."

Lambert: "Yeah, well..."

Shaffner: "Well, that was a...it was sort of like a WPA or PWA project. And to give employment to the unemployed."

Lambert: "But this I guess has been a continuing problem. How it was providing adequate water. Also run across references to their having to haul water to some of the developments every once in a while, during kind of a period of drought. Apparently Swift Run was one of the worst ones, but they have also hauled water I think to Panorama, and to Elkwallow, and to Lewis Mountain. I don't think they ever hauled water to Skyline or Big Meadows. In fact, they may not have tankerded capacity to, to haul water of significance in view of the usage at Panorama and Big Meadows."

Shaffner: "No. There was supposed to been a third visitor center in the south district near Loft Mountain. Or some other location. I mean, it was never really chosen, the location wasn't, but that was part of the development package..."

Lambert: "Was that to be under Mission 66, too?"

Shaffner: "Supposed to be three visitor centers, yes. Of course that was postponed, and not developed, and then, then an edict came out there would be no more visitor centers. Except, then they got into the Union Station and Washington D.C. and went bankrupt I think."

Lambert: "You mean this is a...has been kind of a final edict that no more visitor centers at all?"
Ray Shaffner
SdArchSNP-108

Shaffner: "Well, at one time, yes. One time, about ten years ago, they said there would be no more visitor centers."

Lambert: "Well, this isn't still enforced is it? I mean, you could..."

Shaffner: "I'm not sure. It's just sort of nebulous. I think probably they abandoned it, especially when they started building things like the big visitor center up at Independence. They spent a huge amount of money there building a huge visitor center for the Bicentennial, and they spent millions elsewhere to build visitor centers for historic and national areas both."

Lambert: "How about...tell me, you must have a lot of memories about getting together these things for the Big Meadows exhibit, and for the...choosing the theme."

Shaffner: "Oh yeah."

Lambert: "And...kind of think back and tell me...sort of how the Big Meadows Visitor Center got to be what it is."

Shaffner: "Huh...That's a long story, Darwin."

Lambert: "Well, I know it is, but it's one you were the key man in, isn't it?"

Shaffner: "Yes. Although, it had been merely an outline of...of the exhibits there. And then, uh, I felt that that was the place to show man's relation to nature, and nature's relation to man, and...so I took that tack from the very beginning as to try to show the interplay of man with nature."

Lambert: "Uh-huh."

Shaffner: "And nature with man. And there was a, to me, there was a...a matter of convincing the planning team that the museum lab sent down from Washington, at that time, and get them on my side to get the exhibits lined up to show the influence man had had on the area and vice-versa. So, you might say it's nature and man. Either way, you put one first one time and the other first the next."

Lambert: "Yeah."

Shaffner: "And, yes, I had a lot of fun...contacting people and rounding up appropriated artifacts..."

Lambert: "A lot of them were contributed, weren't they?"

Shaffner: "Yeah."

Lambert: "Did the Park Service buy any?"
Shaffner: "Oh, yes. We bought some, but most of them were donated by people, just by contacting them, word of mouth, and little articles in local papers and state-wide papers. Drop an article here and there in different newspapers, and then get on the AT, and people would write and say they had this or that they'd like to contribute, and we bought various..."

Lambert: "Did the Natural History Association...was that of any help?"

Shaffner: "Oh, yes! Now, I know I bought a lot of things that...the... what they call the Wynn Way Sale. This was the sale of the property out on, in the Sandy Hook area of the Shenandoah River. The two Wynn sisters. One of them had been very active in the early days where the mountain people..."

Lambert: "Mount Elizabeth....Elizabeth Wynn, yeah."

Shaffner: "Elizabeth Wynn. Yeah, I knew her. And her sister...Mary Day. Hey, I didn't know I still remembered. She had been a war correspondent during both World Wars. Female war correspondent...She was a woman liber from way back."

Lambert: "Yeah."

Shaffner: "But, anyway, Miss Elizabeth Wynn had worked with the mountain people, and actually established what she called Mountain Neighbors, which was an organization that she established to work with the mountain people and help them earn money from their, their crafts. Like weaving and making corn husk dolls and carving and making things with their hands. Things like that, and she was very instrumental in getting this Mountain Neighbors industry started. Well, from what I gathered from talking with her, uh...this nucleus actually moved south and became part of the mountain crafts set up down around Cone Park on the Blue Ridge Parkway."

Lambert: "Mhm."

Shaffner: "And some of their crafts down there, some of the people from here, and the ideas spread down there anyway."

Lambert: "People which she had trained helped her move?"

Shaffner: "Yeah, she had helped trained, so that, uh..."

Lambert: "Well, then you've got some..."

Shaffner: "Then I went to their sale, when they sold out. I forget...this was before the visitor center was completed, and I bought looms that they had that were from the actual Blue Ridge area and quite a number of objects, like cooking utensils and things like that. A lot of those are now either on display at Byrd Visitor Center or in the collections in the Museum of Collections up there. So that...when I was able to buy things very reasonable, she had donated some things
that weren't sold, at a very reasonable price because fortunately I had the Shenandoah Natural History Association money to bid with, and people soon learned that I was going on to my price no matter what, and I got a lot of things very reasonably. In fact, I got one loom for my first bid of $20 and another loom...I think was donated by Miss Wynn. She found out who I was and, well, she recognized me, and she came along about that time, and said, 'Well, I've got one out here in the barn you can have, too.'"

Lambert: "Yeah."

Shaffner: "So..."

Lambert: "Well, this, wasn't this...how fundamental a departure was this theme of...of man and the mountain or...bringing in man so strongly into the interpretation of Shenandoah? Favor wrote me that he felt his job was 90% interpreting natural history and only 10% interpreting human history, and included in that 10% was the history of the Park itself. So, that puts the Mountain Man say down to considerably less than 10% of the possible total interpretation of Shenandoah, and doesn't this represent a shift, the biggest visitor center, as Man at least on a 50-50 basis with Nature?"

Shaffner: "Well, I think it does. In fact, man wasn't even supposed to be in the picture at all. It was all supposed to be nature, but I found that the...in my, in my association with the Park and life itself that man was a very important part of nature, and was only supposedly, now, this may be putting man too high on the scale, he was the only that could alter nature to any great extent by what he did. In other words, the animals couldn't use tools and tear up the mountain sides and cause erosion and, in other words, man does that. He depends on the mountain side to raise his crops, and the first thing he knows is he doesn't have any top soil left. So, I think man is the most important thing to influence nature, but in turn, that importance of his cause to take place reacts and falls back on him, you might say, and causes catastrophes and so on, so that I felt that we should at least balance the picture."

Lambert: "Did you get into any involvement with the possibility of saving any of the old mountain structures or old mountain farmsteads or industrial...?"

Shaffner: "Unfortunately, unfortunately this...by the time I got here...there was very little to save after World War II and then '56. There was very little left; although, there had been the Steer Report written many years before. I can't tell you when. I think it in '35."

Lambert: "'35."

Shaffner: "'35. And I went back in the files and found out that...and even the Regional Director, when this was brought up, well, why shouldn't we try to restore or recreate or rebuild or build from the ground up similar structures to show that...what the life was like when, for instance, when the Park was created here or just before. And I found opposition from the Regional Director on it. The Director, 'Oh, no! The Great Smokey's has this. The Blue Ridge Parkway has this. Let's don't be copy-cats.' And it had been just as important here as it had been in those..."
locations, but we could not do it because we were being copy-cats, but you look back in the files...there had been attempts to save some of these original structures, and although there was lip service to it, there had never been any funds to really save any of these places. It takes reconstruction money or at least maintenance money to keep these things going, and to say, the Steer Report pointed out 20-30 areas that should be saved, but nothing was ever, ever done to keep the termites out or the vandals from burning down, having picnics in them, or anything else."

Lambert: "You know sort of by accident..."

Shaffner: "And the Park itself found that these were such nuisances, unattended nuisances, that they may have burned some of them down, as I have heard, just to get rid of them. Because otherwise people were moving in and becoming problems, thorns in the side of..."

Lambert: "You remember when we were interviewing Big Burt down at Elkton, and he told us about this incident of his foreman and a crew burning down a mountain house that they weren't...found out they weren't supposed to burn it because it was outside the Park. Well, now this couldn't be the only case of burning down one of those structures."

Shaffner: "No, no."

Lambert: "This is just one that attracted a great deal of attention because it wasn't supposed to have been done."

Shaffner: "Yeah."

Lambert: "And..."

Shaffner: "Well, it was an abandoned one I hope."

Lambert: "But, also, during Freeland's term, I found that there was quite a lot of this...whether burning or not, they always razed them."

Shaffner: "Yes."

Lambert: "And, the records say they were razed. Well, I suppose that unless there was a lot of salvageable lumber in there, which is unlikely, they were probably burned. I mean, that's a form of razing, isn't it? You can raze it by burning or you can raze it by just tearing it apart."

Shaffner: "That's right. Tearing the roof off was..."

Lambert: "But their word was always razed on the records, and Bob Moore signed most of these reports. He was a ranger then, I guess."
Shaffner: "Yes."

Lambert: "Maybe he was acting Chief Ranger for a while. Well, you got into another revolution in the interpretive, I think. This environmental revolution, environmental education...I think that was a lasting change. I know there's, there's even a recent allotment or something to carry this on, and now they're adding energy. The big push up at the training this year. Eileen and I were up to a couple of days of it, and the Park Services wants them to talk about energy. They want them to get this energy coordinated into the Park message some of, and of course it was pointed out that the Park operates on energy, of course, and the energy comes from the sun, and it's picked up by the trees, or it operates the weather, and you've got energy running down the streams. But in any event, I wanted you to kind of give me a little bit of your thoughts or your recollections of the beginning of this environmental emphasis in the interpretive program. You do think that's kind of a fundamental...new thing."

Shaffner: "Well, yeah, sure do. Well, it's new and it's old, Darwin. The thing is that some of the basic concepts back in Greek philosophy you'll find that the human concept of the universe...and the world...the basic elements for instance...they stress an environmental ed. The air and the water and the land and the sun..."

Lambert: "Mhm."

Shaffner: "You find those in Greek philosophy. They call them the fire, of course, and water and air and rock. But the same elements are stressed in environmental education about the Earth and their interplay, the interrelationship of these basic elements. Plus, of course, when you get into the green plants, producers and the consumers...and, of course, we're one of the consumers. And one of the biggest consumers of all these things are produced by the basic elements. And it's...I'd say it's new and it's old. It can all be tied together. Ecology is a peculiar term. It means not just one system but all systems related and how they interact with each other, and I've always found that very fascinating to see, as I said a while ago, or how man influences nature and nature influences man, and this, I think ties right into an environmental ed."

Lambert: "It really wasn't very difficult to coordinate this with the interpretation of the Park."

Shaffner: "Oh, no. I found it's--"

Lambert: "It seems so natural, doesn't it?"

Shaffner: "It seems a very natural thing. I think it was just a different...I wouldn't say it was a different, but it's just a re-emphasis of man's place in nature."

Lambert: "Mhm."

Shaffner: "And his influence. As I say, man is the only critter that can use tools to create advantage, and then, in other words, extend his power beyond his two hands and what-not."

Lambert: "Well, isn't this a new thing though in that the idea, at first, was to interpret the Park, to tell people about the Park and get them to understand the Park, and then...What is new is that this..."
is used as a way of teaching people about how to get along with the whole overall environment, not just within the Park itself."

Shaffner: "No, that's right."

Lambert: "But over the whole country."

Shaffner: "That's right."

Lambert: "And even over the whole planet."

Shaffner: "That's right, and00"

Lambert: "And this wasn't in the Park Service interpretation until later was it? Until at least the 60's?"

Shaffner: "Not in the...You might say it wasn't so much...there wasn't so much emphasis on it until about...the 60's...the late 60's. I think it's about 1968 that they really began emphasizing...'67 or '8...maybe...might be a little earlier than that. But anyway, let's see...I was gonna say that we always considered, when we were doing the environmental education with the teachers, we tried to point out to them that they could probably do this in their own backyards or a vacant lot near the school, but the Park was a nice, great, big laboratory. They could come up there and see how it was...things were interacting much better, and get out on a field trip, and we were up there to help them, and it was up to them to do it, and I found that most teachers were really more than willing to cooperate and incorporate the ideas into their curriculum."

Lambert: "Yeah...It kind of sharpens the attention to go out and get into a beautiful place, a wild place like the Park. I don't know. I've always associated this kind of ironically in my mind.... --SILENCE 1:03:52.5-1:04:05.1--

Lambert: "Well, we were talking about this environmental irony, and another one that...some of this stuff I just need into proportion. I just need somebody to talk to about it. I don't necessarily expect you to come up with any original information or thoughts, but just to sort of put my thoughts into some kind of perspective. I've been finding out recently that for years the Park up here was using 245T, and they were using it on their gooseberry program, and they even, for a time, allowed power companies to use it, and 245T is one of these very lasting herbicides that affects the soil apparently for a long time. It was ultimately put on... the Interior Secretary, I think, Udall put it on the, or maybe it was somebody before Udall, but I believe it was Udall that put it on a prohibited list for the Interior Department News. And, uh, was this generally known that...I mean, of course, originally we didn't know what these substances would do, and perhaps this is the reason it was used. But I..."

Shaffner: "Well, then too, the people that were using it...were....they were after results. They didn't...they didn't know the side-effects. In fact, it was still on the market, and they kept buying
it as long as it was on the market, and..."

Lambert: "Well hadn't there always been no, not just in recent years, but hasn't there always been a feeling since the Park Service was originated that the Park Service should be more careful in caring for nature than the average agency, or...?"

Shaffner: "Yes, that was always my impression. In fact, that was one reason I joined the Park Service. Because I felt that they were a little bit more aware of the problems that you...that can be caused by man, by his careless actions, and....I felt that the Park Service was a little more aware of this than the general resident. I think the business--"

Lambert: "The Park here was using DDT for quite a while!"

Shaffner: "Oh, yes, definitely. In fact, they sprayed with DDT two times from helicopters against the, what do they call...fall webworm, yes, because it was unsightly, and instead of accepting it as a part of the natural scene, and it wasn't, it was not killing the tress...It was...if it was, if there were some attrition, it wasn't a great deal...among the forest trees, but that it was...part of the natural scene, and this took an awful lot of talk and convincing to have them reverse their policies. Once they get started, down the road on a policy, why, to eliminate the...fall webworm...There they go! Barging in with helicopters and all the modern technology and...No matter what they..."

Lambert: "Well, they got a...I guess they got some pretty strong complaints about these fall webworms, but I don't know how many it was. Do you have any idea whether they got a lot of complaints, or?"

Shaffner: "No. Just people said, 'Well, what are those unsightly things?' Well, if you told them what they were, and that they didn't hurt the trees, that they only occur in the fall, and gone, and it doesn't appear until the next fall, and the cuckoos eat them, and..."

Lambert: "Then you could just...They could feel alright about it."

Shaffner: "Yeah, but no...because they had a few complaints, right, they had to do something about them."

Lambert: "Well, I just wanted to see if I was all totally by myself in having this kind of a grinding in the gears over the inconsistencies so to speak."

Shaffner: "No, in fact, in fact, I think probably the best thing that came out of the environmental program was that it did re-emphasize that man can mess things up as well as any other part of nature, or mess nature up much more than any other one part of nature can itself, even from natural catastrophes and so on."
Lambert: "I wonder if the environmental education program didn't help us get the money for our new sewage systems."

Shaffner: "Probably. Well, you know, this sewer system, the yellow, actually is one that went back even when Pollock was in Skyland in the early days. They didn't bother to even have a semblance of a treating sewer plant. They just dumped all their sewer out the pipe over the cliffs. They didn't even have a septic tank."

Lambert: "I wonder what the people down in Kettle Canyon thought of this."

Shaffner: "Say, well, nature was supposed to purify it, you see."

Lambert: "Well, actually it probably did, but that quantity wasn't anything like the quantity there put now."

Shaffner: "No, that's right"

Lambert: "I guess nature, perhaps, will purify it in a, in a mile with a lot of drop in elevation and so on...But that's a small quantity."

Shaffner: "Yeah."

Lambert: "Well, there was another thing that, that isn't really in your field, but I know you must have some thoughts on and maybe some recollections. We've always had this terrible boundary problem that...you just got 400 miles of boundary where you should settle for 150 if it was reasonably drawn, enclosing about the same amount of territory. Do you remember that...along in the '60s, I think Senator Byrd Sr. was...maybe it was even as early as about '60. Anyways, he was gonna help straighten this thing out, and Hoskins was getting together a recommendation, and they were gonna acquire a certain amount of land and give away a certain amount, and Congress was going to authorize them to do this, which would straighten the boundary, and that bill, apparently, was pending and pending, and Byrd was always said to be for it, and yet it never passed. Do you recall anything about this at all?"

Shaffner: "No, I think probably the best source on that would Hoskins himself, who's now in Tappahannock, Virginia. But, my impression was that just about that time Senator Byrd began...his health began failing, somewhat. And the last dedication that he was at was in 1963 or 4."

Lambert: "That was the one--"

Shaffner: "That was the Number 4 Byrd's Nest Shelter at, what we call in the Neighbor Mountains Spur, north of Panorama, about ten miles."

Lambert: "Yeah.."
Shaffner: "And at that time, he was at this dedication, but he looked very feeble, and he kept licking his lips every few seconds, and Vera said to me, said, 'I had an uncle that did that just shortly before he died, and he had a brain tumor.'"

Lambert: "Hm."

Shaffner: "And this is exactly what I found out six months later; Senator Byrd had and died of maybe six months after that. So, he was in failing health, and I think his mental capacities were probably affected before that, and he was not pushing anything, and that's about the time her turned over the reigns of power to his son by appointing, stepping down and having his son appointed to senator."

Lambert: "Yeah..."

Shaffner: "And, of course, when this happened, it was a change from father to son, and the father didn't, really wasn't in the position to...you might say indoctrinate his son on what was happening and everything, and...it was a very touchy situation there for a while until his son got used to it. By that time there had been complaints that the Park was gobbling up all the country and everything and all that sort of propaganda."

Lambert: "Have you noticed this, this flurry of protests over an alleged expansion program just in recent months?"

Shaffner: "Jim Aleshire, I think you know the guy, a character, started all that."

Lambert: "But it's been going on in the other counties, too. Most of the counties have taken this thing up, and issued, or started to issue, some kind of protest."

Shaffner: "They don't realize how valuable the Park is to the community and to the State of Virginia as well as the country."

Lambert: "But it's also...they've taken a false impression from this thing."

Shaffner: "Yeah, sure."

Lambert: "It was...there wasn't any proposal to expand to that old Camerer line. It was just presenting the...of course, Jake came out with that, and it was in the local paper."

Shaffner: "Yes."

Lambert: "But I knew that in the first place, and yet, the way it was presented in there, some people could misunderstand..."

Shaffner: "Expect the Park to spread out and take in all the town..."
Lambert: "You see a map there that say, with a certain kind of line, and it's got decoded down here for that kind of line, says, 'Authorized and intended boundary.'"

Shaffner: "Yeah. Original. It should say original. Originally proposed"

Lambert: "Yeah, it should have said 'originally authorized and originally intended'. But anyway, what do you think ought to be done about this? Does this boundary business worry you or does the problem of access to the boundary worry you at all? Or did it ever, in your work, that...The Park administration maybe never considered much about the outside boundary."

Shaffner: "No, I don't think so because when Hoskins came here as Super Intendent, I think it's '58, he asked his staff what problems that there were that probably needing attending to, and I imagine that, although, it probably wasn't critical, that I felt if they straightened out the boundaries it'd probably be easier to administer and get along better with your neighbors without having all these embayments and pieces of land that stick out if they just went along and cut off the part that stuck out, and filled in the, a little bit, where it didn't stick out. It would be much better as far as (unintelligible) law enforcement and ranger patrols and people annoyed with where the boundary was, and there wouldn't be near as many game violations by hunters and things like that, encroachments, if they could just have a definite, straight boundary, down at the base of the mountain. Now, this didn't concern what was going on much up-top that I was in-charge of the interpretation at that time because people just didn't get down there. They all came up on-top where the cool weather was and the action was, so to speak. But it still was a problem, and I pointed that out to Hoskins, and he said, 'Well, that would take a lot of doing,' and I said, 'Well, the longer it waits, the more, the more problem it will be.' But I think they just waited too long because now the land is selling for what? A thousand or two thousand an acre up against the Park and most any place you can go over because the people want to be against the Park because they know that one boundary will be...no problem."

Lambert: "Well, then you have this thing of loss of access. Like Jeremy's Run. Jeremy's Run, ever since I can remember, has been one of the hikes that people from Washington and elsewhere like to take from the mouth up to Elkwallow and maybe back over the Neighbor or back over the Knob, as well as the other way around. Of course, they start up there and then go down to the mouth, but in recent times, why Jeremy's Run has got a very hostile landowner. He's the one that's been there for a long, long time, and he was very agreeable for a long time, but I guess the hikers got to be such a nuisance that, and they're parking their cars in his way, and finally he's got so that he just won't let them in there. And the same is true of Overall Falls, and I guess the same is true, or has been true, at Big Run."

Shaffner: "You know, access is a one of the things for the lower reaches of the Park, and I think that this is regrettable because anyone that really likes to climb mountains shouldn't start up at the Skyline Drive and climb up to the top of the last little stretch of peak that's sticking up there, but you start down at the Valley and hike up to really get in it. They're always making fun of these mountains over there as look at the Rocky's; they're two times or three times higher, but you start down at the bottom in the Valley and climb up to three to...over three thousand feet,
you've got quite a rugged climb."

Lambert: "I arrived here fresh from the West, and decided I was going to climb Stony Man. I looked up at the thing from the Valley, and yeah, I can see where I can go, and I can go right up there."

Shaffner: "Yeah."

Lambert: "And I thought, 'Well, it's four thousand feet tall, and I'll be up there and back in time for dinner.'" And I started out, and, of course, it wasn't all together the mountain, it was, to a large extent, the vegetation. A lot of the area had recently been abandoned, and I wasn't on a trail. I'd all my life had gone where there wasn't a trail if I took the notion, and I still do, but that was quite an experience that day. I got into briar patches and some really dense places, and I fought my way up that mountain all day. And it was about dark when I got up there to Skyland, and I got over to the Camp One. I walked around there and got over to Camp One, I knew where it was, and they put me up for the night and gave me some dinner. I wasn't prepared. I thought I'd be back for dinner. And that's what happened to one over-confident Westerner!"

Shaffner: "Yeah. Well, as I've always often told visitors that say, "Oh, these are small mountains." I said,'Yeah, from up here at the top of the Skyline Drive, which is around 26 to 2800 feet, then you got only about a hundred feet or so to go to the top. I imagine it didn't look like much, but you start down in the Valley you have a different matter. Yeah, I think it's unfortunate, and there was a drive here about ten or twelve years ago, quite a push to establish a low-level campground so that the area could be used more year-round because you know in the winter time the weather's pretty unpredictable as far as ice storms and blizzards go up on top, and you get to the Valley, why, the lower reaches of the Park, why, it's not too severe, at least in comparison to what's going on up on-top of the mountains of the Ridge."

Lambert: "Well, I really, don't you think that's gonna come yet? I mean, or is died away?"

Shaffner: "Well, there would have to be quite a bit of...a little bit of Valley land, the flat lands in the, what are they called, the Hollows purchased because the Park doesn't own them. It was too valuable at the--"

Lambert: "Jeremy's Run was one that was on that program, and Hawksville Creek, and was Staunton River on it? I think it was."

Shaffner: "Yeah, what possibilities, but there was, there was quite a bit of opposition because they figured the Park was taking over land that could be used agriculturally, or taken out of tax revenues, and so on and so on and so on."

Lambert: "Yeah, I know, and that still, of course, exists. Well, there was a..."

Shaffner: "This doesn't take into account that the...I'm sure it's much more now, but ever since the Park was established, except probably during the war years, the people that came to visit
Shenandoah spent at least 12 million dollars every year to come to see the Park from other states, and now, that's a small amount. That was way back when it was first established. I imagine it's a lot more than that now."

Lambert: "Woah, it must be, yeah."

Shaffner: "Probably must be 30 or 40 million that they spend to come see Shenandoah Nat. To get here and to have lodges and meals and actually camping equipment and all that can be thrown in for that matter."

Lambert: "Well, do you have any ideas to...methods of maintaining access, like to Jeremy's Run or Overall Falls from the lower side without buying land? I mean..."

Shaffner: "Well, I should think there should be a matter of rightaways that went to the mountain in the first place, went to the people whose property it was in the first place. The Park took that property; it seems the rightaways should go with it without having to go to court about it."

Lambert: "Well, it strikes me now, let's take this thing of ours here, it always strikes me that if somebody wants to come hiking up that road that I really haven't got any right to stop them. I think I, do as, we kind of assumed one day when, you were here too that day, we stopped the motorcycles. I think that's something else."

Shaffner: "Yep. That's something different."

Lambert: "Especially, I wouldn't have really have tried to stop them if they hadn't just come riding at us full-tilt and kind of made me mad."

Shaffner: "Yeah."

Lambert: "But I don't think they have any business coming up with those noise-makers, but because there's no road, there's no road proper, but there is a trail. This is a fire foot trail, and I think that anyone who wants to walk on that trail, and will behave in any reasonable fashion, as you behave in a public place, that...has got a right to do so, and I wouldn't think of trying to close this as a trail to the Park, my Park, our Park."

Shaffner: "Well, I think this...was part of that programs also. Not only lower-level campgrounds but trailheads. The idea of trailheads for parking cars, where people could leave their cars and then go on hiking trips without having to worry about their cars. And most people don't want to park on private property or block roads and things, but they have to have a place to leave their vehicles while their out hiking, and it's too bad that they haven't established trailheads, been able to. Of course, the Park can buy no land without it being donated now, unless Congress changes the law so that the water...what is that...Water Conservation Act? Water...what do they call it?"

Lambert: "Land and Water Conservation Fund."
Shaffner: "Land and Water Conservation Fund, which the Park has contributed to for years and years, and yet they have received no benefit. Nothing."

Lambert: "That's right....Well, I'm going to ask you before we get through what do you think the future holds for the Park, but first I have a couple little details that maybe you could help me with a little bit. I've been finding in the files over the last few days that I have been going through, and I found in the monthly narrative reports, for years, several years there, during Hoskins's time, about the mid-60s I think, that they were expecting to have two, I believe it was two, job core conservation center camps. And then I began to find that he's reporting in his monthly report that he's going to county supervisors meetings and so on to explain to them about the job core plans for the Park, and then pretty soon, it dies, and there's no more talk about job core camps, and no job core camps ever materialized, and I suppose there should be a set of clippings or something somewhere because apparently the public rose up and said they wouldn't tolerate them. Is that true, or do you remember anything?"

Shaffner: "Well, I know that...I know at the time I remember that there were articles and talk about...There was local opposition I think around Elkton. It's one of the places I can remember, and I just think with Elkton now, but there were several other places that objected to the job core because it was...they said it was a bunch hippies and they didn't want their daughters associated with them, and so on and so on and so on, and besides that, they were, they were supposed to be integrated, and they couldn't stand that. They had these black people coming into town...And they were afraid of all the crime rate and all that, you know?"

Lambert: "They had one in Kentucky, and then at (indiscernible). They had one in the Great Smokeys. That's south, even more so than this is. Well, anyways, you do remember something about that."

Shaffner: "There was a--"

Lambert: "If it was probably the public objections that prevented us from getting them because apparently Hoskins really wanted them."

Shaffner: "Yeah."

Lambert: “Well, let's see...Well, before I ask you what now or what's coming in the future, there was...I don't know whether we really got as much as we could have about Edwards. What was Edwards like personally? A typical park service man or did he have any particular characteristics that made him different or...?"

Shaffner: "Uh...Edwards had an engineering background. He'd been with the Army Corp engineers. Of course, he was, I guess he was in his late sixties when I knew him."

Lambert: "He retired from here I guess."
Shaffner: "Yes, he retired from here. He...I always felt that he was in very good physical shape. It must have been about less than three months before he retired. I'd down to Dark Hollow Falls and back with him on, well some of the staff did, on improving the trail down there. They'd had a flood from one these hurricanes, and it'd torn up the trail, and we'd hiked down to see what needed doing to the trail, to see what we could do to resurrect it, and put it back in shape. Now, I remember that going back up, he outwalked all the staff."

Lambert: "You say he was in late sixties?"

Shaffner: "I think so, yes."

Lambert: "Beyond 65?"

Shaffner: "Oh, yeah."

Lambert: "No mandatory retirement at 65?"

Shaffner: "No, and no, it was only mandatory at 70."

Lambert: "But he had served in quite a lot of other park service areas."

Shaffner: "Yes, he had. I think he had been in Yosemite and several western parks. I was astounded that he would be able to, you know, at his age, just practically outwalk all of us, and then it wasn't too many months later though that he had a...a replacement...a valve in his heart was replaced. One of these artificial valves installed, but he had a leakage of some sort, but he certainly was in pretty good shape when he retired."

Lambert: "Did he have any, in a sense, this attitude about the cabins that...that Skyline was a little different from what's happened? Did he have any other policies or tendencies that were different from the later administration...that you can recall?"

Shaffner: "Darwin, I can't...See, most of the time, he was... I was here, Kenny Dale was the Chief Naturalist, that is...what's that...what was only about...yeah, only about--"

Lambert: He would have attended the staff...they were having staff meetings, I suppose."

Shaffner: "Only about several month...April...Part of April, May, June, July, August. He only had three or four months in there that I was the Chief Naturalist. And Kenny had dealt with him before that. I was trying to think...what he...I always felt he was very fair-minded. He tried to...encourage his staff to...to...make their own decisions, and then contact him and explain them to him why they should be that way. He was very fair-minded that way. He always tried to give you enough rope to hang yourself if you wanted to."

Lambert: Been trying to put myself, in a sense, into his--"
Shaffner: "He was a very good administrator."

Lambert: "You know what worried him? Did anything particularly worrying...? Did...? You know why I don't know about what worried say Hoskins, but I think Hoskins was more aware than most of the Super Intendents of a sort of inherent hostility all around the boundary."

Shaffner: "Yeah."

Lambert: "He was always...had a feeling that people were trying to burn the Park up."

Shaffner: "Yeah."

Lambert: "That the residents around the boundary were just looking for an opportunity to set fire so they could burn up the Park. And I don't mean this in an extreme sense, but this did worry him, and I wondered if Edwards had any particular things that really worried him, or if you were aware of them. He probably wouldn't talk about them particularly, unless it was to the person in whose department this came, but..."

Shaffner: "No. There was one, one thing about this park though that's maybe also present in some others to some extent, but one of the about Shenandoah is that you have so many pressures from the outside, just like this boundary thing, and you also have so many demands from the neighboring communities for interpretive programs or talks from civic clubs and civic groups, and to try to establish a good rapport with all these neighbors, as you say born in 50 miles of park boundary and the Park itself only 75 miles long...All these pressures, to me, and I report this in one paper I had to write on why, in justifying the grade positions in the civil service system, at one time they asked why we felt that we should have certain grades in the civil service set-up. And they were giving special consideration to the western parks, what they called isolation. They gave them a higher grade or higher salary because they were isolated. Well, I felt that all the pressures here in Shenandoah, that not only the travel to the park was one of the greatest in the country, but was also had all these problems of...."

*SILENCE 1:34:53.5-1:36:39.5*

Shaffner: "--But not just consider that isolation makes your salary go up. I felt that the...all the pressures from all the communities and all the boundary problems and all the pressures of like Hoskins was saying they want to burn up the Park and things like that, I felt that the staff here had more problems on their hands than any park that was isolated. And therefore their salary should be equal or greater than any of the great western parks where they had sat around all winter waiting for the snows to melt so they could let people into the place."

Lambert: "I have met Edwards, and one of my guidebooks came out when Edwards was here, and he had his letter in there with his picture. I guess his picture was in there and signature, but...And I had talked with him, but very briefly, because I didn't live here while Edwards was Super Intendent. I just was down here on a couple of visits for not more than two or three days each time while Edwards was here. So I never really got the feel of Edwards. I did more with
Freeland; although, I didn't really live here most of the time that Freeland was here. I did a little bit of the time. Of course I knew Lassiter very well, and I guess I knew Hoskins very well."

Shaffner: "Yeah. Have you talked to Doc Blevins?"

Lambert: "Not very much."

Shaffner: "I think he was here a lot longer..."

Lambert: "We were...we were...You think Blevins would be a pretty good source on Edwards?"

Shaffner: "I reckon so, yes."

Lambert: "And June Campbell, too."

Shaffner: "Uh-huh."

Lambert: "I mean to talk with June Campbell. I've talked with her just a little bit, but I mean to really sit down with her and have a period of time with June because...June has got a lot to, I think, to offer, and she also knows a lot about what's available in the records. You know I can't possibly go over everything."

Shaffner: "No."

Lambert: "I need some little guidance as to where I might find some fruitful papers. Of course, I'm getting some from time-to-time. They're...nobody seems to know everything. A lot of them..."

Shaffner: "Well, for that, all during that period we did do monthly reports, I know."

Lambert: "Yeah, well, I've got--"

Shaffner: "I don't know whether those are helpful or not."

Lambert: "--monthly reports for just about every period but that, and maybe I can find some in the--"

Shaffner: "Staff minute notes."

Lambert: "Yeah, or the division, the different divisions, but the--"

Shaffner: "And annual reports."

Lambert: "--the summary the Super Intendent's monthly narrative reports, which were written during that period, are not available. I've got them in the archives up to 1950, and that's a good
slug of them, and I've got them here from 1961 to 1967."

Shaffner: "Mhm."

Lambert: "All of which are Hoskins. And from 1950-1961, I can't...they're not in the archives, and they're not here.'

Shaffner: "Hm."

Lambert: "And if they're at Suitland, Maryland, which is a federal records center to which some of these things are sent, they're not in the place they ought to be."

Shaffner: "What about St. Louis?"

Lambert: "No. I think I've got the straight story on this St. Louis thing. St. Louis was a...set up as a record center for personnel. At least this is the guy, the archives guy tells me, and that he knows. He says he knows."

Shaffner: "Yeah."

Lambert: "That all the records that were sent to St. Louis were personnel records."

Shaffner: "Oh."

Lambert: "And there were both military and civilian personnel records. And they had a big fire, of course, and some of them were destroyed, and he said those were all military personnel records."

Shaffner: "Huh."

Lambert: "No civilian records whatsoever were destroyed, and the only civilian records there would have been personnel files."

Shaffner: "Hm. What about Chicago? What happened to the records from there?"

Lambert: "Well, this I don't know. You mean when the park service was stationed up in Chicago?"

Shaffner: "Of course, that was, like you said, already moved out of Chicago, isn't it? No, it seemed to me that they stayed in Chicago quite a while."

Lambert: "Chicago was supposed to have been just during the War, but how long they really stayed--"
Shaffner: "They hung on quite a while after the War I think."

Lambert: "Drury was Director."

Shaffner: "Yeah."

Lambert: "And when did Drury...Worth succeeded Drury?"

Shaffner: "Yeah."

Lambert: "When did Worth take over I wonder?"

Shaffner: "About '56."

Lambert: "I don't think Worth was ever in--"

Shaffner: "I think it was about '55 or 6 that Worth took over. '55."

Lambert: "--Chicago. Oh really? That late? I don't know how long the office was in Chicago. I had the impression that shortly after the War they came back to Washington, but..." 

Shaffner: "Well, they drug their feet a little while there. A few years I think, but that could be found out easily up in Washington."

Lambert: "Well, Wilderness. You were right in the middle of this wilderness study thing."

Shaffner: "Yeah."

Lambert: "Was Drew Chick into this?"

Shaffner: "Yes, he--"

Lambert: "He was a part of the team."

Shaffner: "He ended up, more or less, riding hard on the thing, and the thing is that he's very skeptical about Shenandoah having any wilderness. And...then by the time he got out and over the country that he'd been on before, but when he was acting, you might say acting, he was dabbling in naturalist work, and he was...this was before there was a naturalist here. He was taking pictures, some of which are still very good and still in the files, and he was, during what little bit of interpretation was being done of the natural scene...but the thing is that he'd more of less, it'd been turned over to him to...Oh, I know. One of the kicks they got on was motor nature trails, and Drew was bound and determined that we were gonna have motor nature trails."

Lambert: "We were going to have them?"
Shaffner: "Yeah, because Washington said we would, see."

Lambert: "Oh."

Shaffner: "Well, I think we could more of less convince Drew that it'd be rather impractical if we were gonna have wilderness to have motor nature trails."

Lambert: "But he didn't think when he first came out to look, he didn't think there was any wilderness out here that he found."

Shaffner: "That was my impression in a way. Of course, Drew is surely higher than art can fathom because he has always has a poker face. And you don't know what he's thinking really, but that was my impression."

Lambert: "Well, you know what, he was out here in the 30s, and I was too, and I had this feeling, when I came down here from Alaska I would...nobody had really recommended or thought of any wilderness quite when I came down here in '64. And Eileen and I got hiking a lot, and we went, for one thing, over to this sisk place, and it took us, it took me several hours to find that place. And I began to perk up, and I said, 'Hey, this is a entirely different thing here than it was.' There's been a kind of a fundamental transformation going on around here, and Hoskins felt that same thing when he came back. He hadn't been here for 20 years approximately, and he said, 'I went over these places that I thought I knew,' and he says, 'I couldn't tell where I was!' He said it was just forest, forest everywhere, and he said, I put this in the earth man story, there was a big pile of sawdust. He said, 'I think it was, oh what, 25 or 30 feet high! It was an immense pile of sawdust down there, and there'd been a, one of these miles down there on Hazel Mountain somewhere.' He said, 'I went down there and hunted for that thing, and I couldn't find it, and finally I did find some sign that indicated that this was the place,' but he said, 'That great pile of sawdust had just melted into the ground. It was gone!' And Chick must have had this kind of reaction, and I think he began to explore--"

Shaffner: "Yeah, I think that he realized, finally that yeah, there was a great possibility of having wilderness there, and he...But then when they, somebody in Washington, you know these things come out of the Director's Office or one his assistants decides they should have motor nature trails. Well, if you have wilderness, you don't want a motor nature trail running through it."

Lambert: "You sure don't."

Shaffner: "And so we finally convinced Drew that we didn't have any suitable sites for a motor nature trail going down to the bottom of the mountain and back up. But one thing about this area. I kept running across this all the time I was Chief Naturalist and assistant. Since this place was supposed to return to nature, why the maintenance crew and everybody should get out and clean up all signs of any cabins or any stone walls or any orchards. Cut them down. Get rid of them to help nature out, and I told them, 'No, that's not the way it's supposed to be done.' I said, 'To me, it's much more impressive to come across an old stone foundation with just a few animals (?) lying around, with trees growing up in the middle of the foundation, maybe 20 inches through
that is to...no sign of what has been here before. It's much more impressive to see what nature has done herself without any help from man."

Lambert: "Yeah, actually the fact that those things that were there are gone--"

Shaffner: "Yeah, and it's hard to find traces of it."

Lambert: "--If anything that's just a little bit, that's an indication of man's interference."

Shaffner: "Yeah, that's right."

Lambert: "Recent man's interference, and they're stumbling into this same trap to some degree right now. They're trying to eliminate these old roads. Well, nature will eliminate those old roads."

Shaffner: "Certainly! Just stop using them and nature will take care of them."

Lambert: "And yet there might be some little trace, like a gun emplacement or a cannon emplacement or which adds immeasurably to your experience without taking away from the wilderness feeling, but here's where man was, or here you find an Indian arrowhead--"

Shaffner: "An old cemetery."

Lambert: "Or an old cemetery, and this adds to the resonance of this thing and your feelings."

Shaffner: "And that shows that man did have a place in this."

Lambert: "And yet it's not no less wilderness--"

Shaffner: "Yeah, that's right."

Lambert: "And I feel this very strongly, and I think that just a little bit...they're going a little bit overboard to eliminate these things. Of course, I can see taking out a coalport (?). That's kind of obtrusive there, and it's..."

Shaffner: "And they had a nice, Darwin, they had a nice aluminum corp of engineers bridge, you know, down in the Limberlost at one time when they had gone in there to drill and for water for Skyland, and they said, 'Shaffner, we're gonna leave that bridge down there in the Limberlost,' and I said, 'What?! You're gonna leave that aluminum bridge down there?' And here they're darn fools that cut down the...about an 8-inch spruce tree to put the road in there in the first place. They said, 'Oh. no. We won't disturb the thing, you know. They're just gonna put a little trail in there, so they can get their rig in there and drill. They cut down these beautiful spruce trees that you don't find many of in the limberlost, you know. Plus, they cut down some mountain ash, that you don't find many of them in the Limberlost. And then they put in this darned aluminum bridge and generally wrecked the place, but then when they pulled out, thank goodness they
didn't find enough water for Skyland. Then, they wanted to leave the aluminum bridge to see it was easier to leave than it was to take out. I said, 'That's just too much.' I said, 'They practically wrecked the place getting in there; you're gonna take that darn thing out!'"

Lambert: "Well, that's going a little far. Well, how about just...thinking...trying to imagine a Shenandoah National Park 50 years from now. 2027 or anywhere around there. Anytime in the future and what will be different? Anything?"

Shaffner: "Well, this is awful hard to predict as I have often said that you can't tell what man, especially his representatives in Congress, be there good or bad, might decide is best for the country. They might decide that, 'My gosh! Here we've got this beautiful ridge of mountains, and there's no housing except for a few idiots that go hiking there every weekend or come to spend a few weeks in the summer. Why don't we make the most beautiful housing development and apartment house complex you ever saw! That has ever been built on this world, and we'll just vote the funds and we'll do it right now!' So, I can't predict what Congress is going to do with the national parks and especially Shenandoah, which is surrounded by pressures from all sides, and especially idiots like some people who say, 'Oh, the Park is going to take over the whole country! They're gonna up all our farms and we won't have any place to live! They're ruining our economy by taking stuff out of the tax brackets,' and so on. So, I don't know, Darwin. It's awfully hard to see into the future, but I think if the Park is allowed to exist by the pressures from all around and they don't decide they need the timber or the rocks to pave the roads or something else, I think Shenandoah's probably going to serve more, continue to serve more people for a longer part of the year than any park in the country, and as far as some people saying, 'Well, they're going to have to ration the Park. There will be too many people,' I see, around the D.C. area for instance, they're closing schools because they don't have enough students. I think there is going to be a leveling off of the population; that is zero population growth is going to take hold, and we're not going to gobble up all of our resources, and we may go back to wood-burning stoves, wood-burning locomotives, steam locomotives, and so on."

Lambert: "You foresee possibly a further increase in hiking by comparison with motoring say in view of this energy?"
Shaffner: "Oh, yes. That's already--"

Lambert: "It's going on right now."

Shaffner: "--portion is increasing all the time."

Lambert: "Do you foresee further developments like Skyline to Big Meadows or Loft Mountain? Do you think there will be more of these?"

Shaffner: "No, I don't."

Lambert: "I think that's the crop."
Shaffner: "Yeah, I think they've...that's...I think they've seen the light there that they have enough for most people that want to stay in the Park. If they're still finding at peaklows, where there are plenty of places in the surrounding Valleys and towns."
Lambert: "Yeah."
Shaffner: "And it's only a half-day's, well, one or two hours drive from Washington D.C. for that matter. And so..."
Lambert: "In one sense, in some of the standards that they use out West, there's not a great deal of excuse for developing any lodging facilities in the park."
Shaffner: "No, I think the only, I think the reason that it started here is because originally, before the Park was ever created, there was a place like Skyland, and of course Big Meadows just..."
Lambert: "There's no concession in Smoky's except this one hiking--"
Shaffner: "Way up on top."
Lambert: "--You can reach it only by hiking. There's no concession for motorized, for motor people, not even a restaurant."
Shaffner: "Yeah."
Lambert: "Inside is straight Smoky's, and yet Great Smoky's is a lot bigger park than this one."
Shaffner: "Yeah."
Lambert: "And that road is 30 miles from Gatlinburg to Cherokee."
Shaffner: "Mhm. No, I don't see any great push for any more concession developments."
Lambert: "How about transportation? Do you think that there might be public transportation ever, primarily over the drive that there would not be so many automobiles?"
Shaffner: "Well, this was proposed about three years ago. Two and a half or three years ago. And the concessionaire actually was rather interested, at the time, to at least try it on an experimental basis. Maybe in the north district. And they were going to develop a parking area down on that property they acquired from the Remount station, or near there anyway. Have a parking lot, a protective parking lot...people'd park their cars and they could get on the buses. See, the Skyline Company has a lot of school bus...I don't know what to call them...Concessions or contracts or something or other? The ARA is what I'm talking about. The American Restroom Association. And these buses are virtually sitting vacant, empty in the summer, and they would have, and whatever happened that'd you have to ask Jacobson why this thing fell through because he was all in favor of trying it out in the north district."
Lambert: "I don't know whether it's fallen through. I wonder if it wasn't delayed partly by this delay in the master planning operation."
Shaffner: "Maybe that's it."
Lambert: "They see they still haven't gotten forward with their master planning, and it seems like they're about to do it again. How about hang-gliding? Do you think that will amount to anything here? That seems to be the novelty of the last couple of years, this hang-gliding idea. I'd like to see it once."
Shaffner: "Well, I once saw a guy on top of Stony Man with his kite, and I was going someplace in a hurry to get there, and I didn't never go up to the top of Stony Man to see what happened, or I didn't ever stop, but he was definitely up there with his hang-glider, and I guess he took off, and I don't know. I don't think you can stop idiots if they want to do this, and they say it's probably safer than...riding an airplane. I don't know."
Lambert: "I can't really see anything wrong with it if they don't cause a kind of a disturbance of other people in the park. If they can do it in a sort of place where it doesn't attract a great crowd,
and just--"

Shaffner: "Man's always wanted...been...on a...he thought he ought to be a bird anyway, like to be a bird., and soar around. I don't know. There's even a...they once set a world record from the Big Meadows, you know, on gliders."

Lambert: "Yeah, yeah."

Shaffner: "And there's one time a push to reinstall this is a gladdening sight, but it was blocked as not being appropriate."

Lambert: "Well, on an interpretation in particular, do you think there will be any fundamental changes in interpretation in the next 20 or 30 or 50 years?"

Shaffner: "Well, I'm not a seer."

Lambert: "More complete audio/visual or eliminate audio/visual...or?"

Shaffner: "Well, this is...one thing that, of course, I worked many long hours trying to build up the audio/visual in this park so that the people that put on the programs, and be available to them if they wanted to use it. And I think any interpreter or any person that puts on a program should be able to get along without it, but it is always embellishes or enhances the presentation if you can have some good illustrations and some good sound effects that's more, you might say, professional. It's more enter...I hate to use the word entertaining because I think interpretation is not especially to entertain but to inform. And..."

Lambert: "Sometimes a little bit of entertainment and quality helps the information get through."

Shaffner: "Yeah, it helps to get through just like, well, I still am not word-shy in the sense that I think interpretation is also education, and education of course itself, in the true sense, is life, and the more we can get out of life, and the more we can understand the processes of life or of nature and how man and the other life should combine or, as they say, fit into the ecological picture, and get along compatibly, the better it is, and I think we can do this better with good presentations, good illustrations, good education, and use any means in our power to do it, yet we should be able to carry on if these, if the electricity goes off, for instance."

Lambert: "You don't foresee any reaction against this ecological emphasis in the interpretation do you? I mean, there's...this is like a menu or...?"

Shaffner: "Well, I would hate to see it I would hate to see it, Darwin, because I'm firm believer in and always have been, even my father, who was probably ahead of his time, used to hassle the governor of Kansas for messing up the environment in Kansas by letting the oil men spill their overflow of their slushponds into the creeks and kill off the fish, and the governor appointed him as special representative to go around and inspect these oil explorations and see that they didn't do this. So...I think as long as we can contribute to a clean and decent environment, for not only
ourselves but all things in nature and out in the universe, and not pollute the air and the oceans and the streams and our environment, why I'm all for it, and I think everybody else should be or they're not gonna be here long."

Lambert: "Yeah...Just lately there's been some talk about...that they're gonna...somebody is proposing to stop hiring so many of these young seasonals and contract out interpretation to professionals, to actors and professional lecturers, and so on, and not have these, these young seasonals so much. You ever heard of that?"

Shaffner: "I've heard of that--"

Lambert: "Just within the last few weeks, there's been some talk of this."

Shaffner: "I've heard of it....that's leaves me cold."

Lambert: "You don't think that's a good thing?"

Shaffner: "No."

Lambert: "You don't think it's a serious threat or do you? Sometimes somebody gets a funny idea down there in Washington and..."

Shaffner: "Yeah, yeah, you get a dictum from the Director's Office that we're not gonna hire any seasonals; they're gonna hire all the actors in the country, and..."

Lambert: "But truly, you must over the years develop a feeling as to what would be feasible. I mean, one man down there, even if he's Director, can't totally change everything. It's just like President Carter. He might want to totally change the Federal government, but he can't. There's this momentum, or this tendency which is kind of building to the..."

Shaffner: "Well, I think, I think probably that might go the way of...what do they call it? I've even forgotten the term for it now, but at one time, we were all going to be equal in the eyes of the public. We were all rangers. There were no such thing as interpreters, and the rangers were gonna put on the programs, see. There'd be no specialists in the interpretive field. In other words, they were gonna combine law enforcement and the interpretation. Well, this, this fell flat on its face. They tried it down at Rocky Mountain, and I think this was Hartzog that was the one that was pushing it, and finally, gradually, they came to realize that you have specialized jobs, but I don't think that there had such specialized jobs. We need to hire professional actors to do them, and you know what I mean. I think..."

Lambert: "Yeah, yeah. I think that interpretation, I think an actor by enlarge carrying his art very far would be a detriment rather than an advantage because nature is supposed to be the actor. Nature is where the focus is. Not on the performance of this individual. Although, how well he performs certainly has quite a bearing on how well the visitor sees the real scene, but you don't
want him to occupy the full stage. You want him to reveal the--"

Shaffner: "Alright, what happens when he has to vary from the script that he has written, you know, to produce this production? And the curtain goes down, and then he comes out to answer the public's questions. How much depth does he have in this line? He has no depth at all. And this is one thing, the qualifications for interpreter or naturalist, he has to know the basic subjects that he's supposed to be interpreting, and how many actors are actually rounded in the field of science?"

Lambert: "Apparently they were just...somebody was just overwhelmingly impressed with their success of these touring groups in the Centennial and Bicentennial."

Shaffner: "They put on quite a good show, but..."

Lambert: "Yeah, but that has no relation really to interpretation in a natural area--"

Shaffner: "No."

Lambert: "--at least I don't see how it does. They might be able to put on some pretty good interpretation in certain types of historical areas."

Shaffner: "Mhm."

Lambert: "But how do you act out a wildflower?"

Shaffner: "Yeah."

Lambert: "Or a...anything about there or--"

Shaffner: (Unintelligible; possible bird) or its nest"

Lambert: "Yeah. Well, I'm about run down if you are, but if you have any thoughts about the future--"

Shaffner: "Well, if I think of anything. Darwin, maybe we can have another little session. There's so much to think of in 21 years that, of course, I've been associated with this park...some of in my retirement years of course. The last two years I've been retired."

Lambert: "Yeah, but you haven't been much separated from the Park really."

Shaffner: "No, Dennis still comes around and asks me questions. I'm glad to help when I can."

Lambert: "Yeah. Well, it's pretty--"
Shaffner: "Oh, before we quit, maybe you'd like my reactions to the new exhibits at Dickey Ridge. Have you seen them?"

Lambert: "I haven't. We've gotta go up there and look at them."

Shaffner: "Well maybe I shouldn't give you my reaction then."

Lambert: "Oh, no, go ahead! Go ahead while we're talking. We'll see if we agree--"

Shaffner: "My only great criticism: I felt that of course they're entirely different in content. They don't try to go into the history and the geology and the human history and geology and things like that so much, but they do emphasize what you can do in the Park, which I think is good, but unfortunately the structures that they have these things mounted on are very modernistic in this chestnut-paneled grillby. It just sort of hit me the wrong way. It was just like sharp knives sticking you all at once. Several sharp points jabbing you all at once, and that's the only criticism I have was the content which is entirely different than what it had been. The theme had been entirely changed. It was more what we used to have in the program in the auditorium to see what to see and do in the Park. They've taken that and put it into the exhibits now, and I don't know what they are gonna do with the program.

--SILENCE 2:07:50-End--