

An Interview with

W. J. “Dub” Crutcher

with Joel Montgomery, Coleman McSpadden, and
Mack Campbell

at Joel Montgomery’s house in
Carter County, Missouri

18 May 1998

interviewed by Will Sarvis



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PREFACE

The impetus for this interview session originated with my desire to gather information from W. J. “Dub” Crutcher and his role in appraising real property in Ozark National Scenic Riverways (ONSR) condemnation cases of the late 1960s and early 1970s. No one exceeds, and probably only a few equal Mr. Crutcher's knowledge of this particular topic, and the following transcript reveals invaluable information in this regard. But Mr. Crutcher had also arranged for me to meet with other important people who could offer a perspective on the ONSR. Joel Montgomery owns the former Leo Anderson property abutting the Current River just downstream from Van Buren, which has its own history of recreational use going back to at least the 1930s. Mr. Montgomery offers the perspective of a riverbank landowner who initially stood to lose his property, but then was able to negotiate a scenic easement with the Park Service. Mack Campbell has long lived on Mr. Montgomery's property as a caretaker. Coleman McSpadden gave a more full account of his perspective on the ONSR during an earlier interview conducted with him and his son, Dennis McSpadden (Collection #3966, a.c.12). But Mr. McSpadden offers additional information here with little overlap of former testimony. He relates a particularly funny story on page 25.

I met the interviewees at Mr. Montgomery's house beside the Current River. We all sat around the microphone, placed in the middle of the living room on a floor stand, where it could record everyone's comments. We broke for lunch part way through the interview, and did a fair amount of visiting after the actual recording session. In addition to the primary contributors to the interview, several other persons frequented Mr. Montgomery's home during various times of the visit, and altogether there was quite a lot of coming and going. The interview atmosphere was completely hospitable.

The interview was recorded on Sony type I (normal bias) audio cassettes, using a Marantz PMD-222 manual recorder (set on automatic recording level) and a Shure VP64 omnidirectional microphone attached to a floor stand. Some shuffling of items in the room or nearby, particularly ice cubes being thrown into glasses, create the worst passages of interference. A speedboat passing on the Current River nearby creates another passage of interference. Otherwise the audio quality is generally quite good.

The following transcript represents a faithful rendering of the entire oral history interview. Minor stylistic alterations -- none of factual consequence -- have been made as part of a general transcription policy. Any use of brackets [] indicates editorial insertions not found on the original audio recordings. Parentheses () are used to indicate laughter or a spoken aside evident from the speaker's intonation. Quotation marks [“ ”] indicate speech depicting dialogue, or words highlighted for the usual special purposes (such as indicating irony). Double dashes [--] and ellipses [. . .] are also used as a stylistic method in an attempt to capture nuances of dialogue or speech patterns. Words are *italicized* when emphasized in speech. Although substantial care has been taken to render this transcript as accurately as possible, any remaining errors are the responsibility of the editor, Will Sarvis.

WS: I imagine you all will say some things that will give me some spontaneous questions. What I came with, really, to start with, were some specific questions for Mr. Crutcher and the appraisal. Maybe we can just start with that. I realize, Mr. Crutcher, you're from down in the delta.

DC: Essex, Missouri.

WS: I wondered how it was that you came to work up here in the hills?

DC: I was interested in getting the Ozark Scenic Riverways established. After they *did* get established and started in on it, why, Senator Symington called me and said that he'd like to have somebody to do some appraisal work on it so that people would get a fair share over here. I told him I'd go over there and check on it. So I came over and talked to them and signed a contract with them. Then, after we got the contract signed, they said, "Now you know we've got a limit on what we can pay [the landowners]. We're going to have to make this land all average out to about \$125 to \$140 an acre." They got through telling me the story, and I said, "Well, I don't believe I'll be able to help you any for two or three years." (Chuckles) Because I wasn't *about* to make any appraisals with somebody telling me what to do.

After they got started taking them and condemning it, Judge [James] Meredith -- I was telling him how they were mistreating some of these people. They'd tell them, "You'd just as well sell it." They offered them \$125 an acre. "If you don't sell it, you'll have to go to court in Kansas City, and maybe have to go four or five times before you get it settled. You'll wind up, you won't have as much money as you did from what we

offered.” Several of them were selling to them because they were old and didn’t know any different of what was going to happen. I was in St. Louis, in court up there, and I told Judge Meredith what they were telling down here. He sat there a little bit, and he said, “Well. It’s never been done before in the history of the United States, but I’m going to declare Van Buren down there as a federal courthouse. You go down there and find out when we can get it and I’ll do the rest.”

So I found out and got the date and gave it to him. He declared it a federal courthouse and came down here. We held court right there in Van Buren Courthouse, the first few cases. Mr. Limbaugh (Steve Limbaugh’s dad),* tried one of the cases there in that week. Then there was a couple more. But anyway, they all got a lot more than what the [Park] Service had offered. It just started from there.

WS: What was it that made Judge Meredith want to declare the Van Buren courthouse a federal courthouse?

DC: He wanted to see these people [the federal government land officers] stop telling them [the landowners] that they had to go to Kansas City.

WS: Oh, I see. And then from then on most of them went over to Cape Girardeau, didn’t they?

* This would be Rush H. Limbaugh, Sr., whose sons included Rush H. Limbaugh, Jr. and Steven N. Limbaugh. Rush H. Limbaugh, III, is the conservative radio commentator who came to national prominence during the early 1990s.

DC: Cape Girardeau and St. Louis. Part of them were in St. Louis, where some of the folks that owned some of the property along Current River. They had a few of them in St. Louis. Most of them were there in Cape Girardeau.

WS: Did you handle any of the cases that went to St. Louis?

DC: I had three or four, but I don't remember now which ones they were.

WS: Was that Judge Regan up there in St. Louis?

DC: Had Judge Regan on part of them, and Judge [Roy W.] Harper on part of them. He was the one that was rough on all of them. He had fifty-five cases accepted for the docket for that month. He made his brags. He said, "I'm going to settle every one of those cases during this term of court."

WS: Judge Harper?

DC: Yes. What was the boy's name up at Ellington?

CM: That was Ira Moss.

DC: Yes.

[tape meter, 50]

CM: Ira had throat cancer removed from his voice box. He used a little old raspy box that he blowed through and talked.

JM: That was Phil's brother, was it?

CM: Phil's dad. There might have been some of your relatives over there, Joel.

JM: Anybody in that country is a relative. You can believe it.

DC: Harper had this Moss on the witness stand. He was really making it rough on all of them. I don't know whether Steve Limbaugh was representing him or his dad or Rush. But anyway, he got so rough on Steve that Steve just folded up and said, "Your Honor, that's my case." He was so rough on him. This Moss, we all started out to go across the street to lunch. Somebody said something to him. He said, "Yeah, that son of a bitch don't know nothing." Talking about Harper.

JM: Did he?

(Laughter)

WS: Judge Harper was hard on the landowners and their attorneys?

DC: Oh, you aren't kidding.

JM: Yes.

WS: Why?

DC: Ah, he was just that way. Just hard headed. One of these boys testified up there. He was a veteran and bought a farm out there, and how it all sowed down in permanent pasture. Nellie [Burrows] was on that case too.

JM: Yes.

DC: He told how much it cost for seed and to get a permanent pasture prepared like this boy had. And Harper, he just made all kinds of fun of it, and just disputed it. So Steve, he just folded his. Three or four months after that, Harper had some land down there. Johnny Hux's boy was managing it for him. He thought they were charging him too much for fertilizer and stuff. He asked me if I'd go down there and check it and tell him

the cost to put the fertilizer down. I had that, and I had the farm office up here, what it cost to put an acre in up here.

I went up there. Dorman Steelman was trying a case there. They just lacked \$2,400 to having it settled. The [Park] Service, they wouldn't move a penny. Dorman told me, "Dub, if you'll get word back to Harper -- he wouldn't let us try a case for \$2,400." I said, "Well, I've got a letter here and some information on fertilizer. It'd just be a good chance for me to take it back there and give it to him." So I went back there and showed him what that fertilizer actually cost, to put an acre of pasture in. We talked a little bit, and he said, "Are you up here on this case today?" I said, "Yes. But I just as well have been at home." He said, "What do you mean?" I said, "Well, they just lack \$2,400 settling it, and they wouldn't do it." Boy, he jumped up and he went in there. He said, "The lawyers on both sides of this case come back to my office." They went back there and he told them, "We're not about to try a case here for \$2,400. The Park Service will just pay you, and this case will be closed."

WS: Now I take it Judge Meredith had a different approach than Judge Harper.

DC: Meredith had the common folks more at heart than Harper did. And Regan, and there was another fellow up there that tried some [of the cases] -- I forget his name. His boy killed his girlfriend out there in his yard. He tried two or three.

JM: Philippine.

DC: No.

JM: It wasn't Philippine?

DC: No. It was a short name. But anyway, when we tried these down here, and people could see they weren't going to have to go to Kansas City, every one of them that was there that day, and then they told the rest of them. And then they all hired me to appraise their land for them to sell it. Just like the Maggard boys up at Akers Ferry. They had this Tom McReynolds [as an appraiser].

[tape meter, 100]

They had the ferry, 225 canoes, and a put-in place. They showed me their income tax, and they had paid taxes on \$110,000 the year before. This fellow that appraised it, he had his total value at around \$55,000 to \$70,000. That was all. It just didn't register to him what it was worth. They hired me, and then Steelman got them to hire two more fellows. One of them was on the MAI [Member, Appraisal Institute] board with this Tom McReynolds. One of them had \$310,000. One had \$307,000. And I had mine \$295,000.

We tried it there. These boys had a sister. She'd taken a video of the canoes and the business and things that they had. It really made an impression on the jury up there. They gave him just what I testified to. McReynolds was down there. It seemed to me like it was \$57,000. They were taking about twenty-five or thirty acres of ground. He thought \$130 an acre was all that this land was worth.

I've got an appraisal of his, whenever we go to talking about Eleven Point River, it'll show you just how his mind ran and how his prices ran. Really, there were two boys that settled here before him. The Forest Service had talked them into it. I think it was

\$170, \$175 an acre, or something. McReynolds used them too, putting the values on this land here and down on the Eleven Point River.

WS: I've come across quite a few of those court cases, where the government appraisal was so low.

DC: Yes.

WS: Then the private appraisal (and often it was your appraisal) was a lot higher. And the court would usually be near your appraisal, and sometimes even go higher. I'm just wondering why, if you can maybe say--

DC: Like they told me, I wasn't supposed to offer over \$125 to \$140 an acre for this land here on the Current River.

WS: So the government appraisers had been told that also, you think.

DC: Yes. And they went by it. McReynolds, he'll mention it. I've got his appraisal on Pigman Ranch; almost 13,000 acres. He used it, and he used those two sales on that. It was mentioned at Deer Run place, appraising 2,200 acres. He said there wasn't any recreation value to this land in here. This fellow tried to develop this for five years and couldn't do anything with it. The fellow would spend it faster than he could sell it.

But anyway, he agreed to sell the whole thing. He wanted \$650,000 for it. So he wanted to hire me to make an appraisal on it. He said, "If you'll appraise it for \$650,000, I'll give you two of the best lots there is, over there." The best I can remember, they were selling for about \$10,000 a lot. He said, "If you won't do it, who do you know?" I

said, "See Tom McReynolds. He's appraised the rest of it for what the government told him. Maybe he'll appraise it for you."

[tape meter, 150]

So he got a hold of him. McReynolds made an appraisal for him. Then, when we were trying all of these cases later on, [Deer Run owner James] Pender and McReynolds fell out. See we were having this court case up there. We got a hold of one of McReynolds' appraisals that he made for the government at that low price the first time. He was going to testify up there in court -- or, Hinder thought he was going to, until McReynolds found out that we had a copy of his appraisal for the Forest Service. He was afraid they were going to get him for perjury. He took a sick headache and had to go back to St. Louis and couldn't testify.

(Laughter)

WS: I would imagine Judge Meredith would have lost respect for some of those government appraisals.

DC: He did. He'd just nearly run them out of his office. That one down, right below -- I was thinking about him last night.

CM: A landowner?

DC: Yes. You know him. Carl Shockley. That's who it was. He had 300 or 400 acres down there. They were trying to get it off of him. They wouldn't offer it. And finally the court gave him about what we told them, but they held his money up and wouldn't let him have it. In the meantime, Shockleys went to the bank up here and borrowed the

money to go over and buy another farm. They told him, “You’ve got to get off of this one.” They hadn’t paid him. The banker up here called me and wanted me to talk to Judge Meredith or somebody up there and see if Shockley couldn’t get his money, because he said, “The examiners are on us wanting us to get that loan out of here.”

So I drove to St. Louis and talked to Meredith up there. While we were talking to him, Harper came in. We were talking about him. This boy [Robert B.] Schneider, that was an attorney for the government, he said what they were doing was, they were trying to buy it. The circumstances they had, like you had 400 acres and they’d only taken a hundred. The [Park] Service would buy that if they could, and then they were letting Leo Drey have it (he owns a 100,000 acres over here) at the low price. Because he had about 110, 115 acres of river frontage that he’d sold them up there. He was wanting to get himself all that land. He was getting wealthy off of it. Meredith had done told him he’d put a stop to that. He said, “That’s not going to happen any more with me.” So he said something again about Leo Drey, and Meredith said, “Goddamn you, I told you not to mention his name in my office again.” He said, “I’ll tell you what I’m going to do. You have Shockley’s money down at Van Buren in three days or I’m going to set that judgment aside and you’re going to have another trial and pay through the nose.”

[tape meter, 200]

[tape recorder off for lunch break; recording resumes, tape meter, 205]

WS: I think we were talking about judges. I guess Judge Meredith must have handled the lion’s share of those condemnation cases.

DC: He and Regan. Harper had some of him, but he got so rough they discontinued them and got them back over in [the court of] Wangelin or Regan. See, when they were wanting Wangelin -- [President Richard] Nixon told him he had to have all those endorsements to get the judge. Before he got the judgeship, he was trying Miss Sapp's case over here.

JM: Inez.

DC: So they picked the wrong one to try to trap Ken on, because he knew every rock that had been turned over in that country.

JM: Yes.

DC: He was raised up there. In fact, his wife lived just about two miles from that farm that was condemned. They hired this lawyer from New York to come down there -- boy, he really tried to put us over the coals, you know. He asked everything underneath the sun and all. I remember one time there I was telling how many front feet they had along there, and he said, "Do you think you're qualified on this stuff? How many feet is there in an acre of land?" I said, "A flat acre or a hill acre?"

(Laughter)

JM: That's a good question!

DC: He turned to Schneider there that was with him and talked to him just a minute. He said, "Your Honor, we withdraw that question."

JM: We were talking about the appraisals that were on that. Mine came in, some really ridiculous price. But in the meantime they had dedicated the park right here. They came in; Patricia [Nixon] came in and flew in right here on my gravel bar. So you truly found

where all the action was on the Riverways. It was a great time. We had a lot of fun here. As a result, they decided, perhaps, that this was what they needed for their headquarters, I guess; whatever. So they sent me a notice that they were going to take my property. I was lucky. Dick Ichord was our representative. He wrote the [ONSR] law. He spent two weeks every year here, with his family. So I called Dick and told him, "Man, they're going to take my place away from me, Dick." He said, "Yes. I notice that there was no negotiation, no nothing. Let me see what I can do."

Their appraisal on this whole property, if I'm remembering correctly (of course, time goes along), was \$20,000 for 250 acres and the (chuckling) buildings. It was in that area somewhere. It was just unbelievable.

[tape meter, 250]

WS: Did they offer you a scenic easement?

JM: No, no. They wanted to take the property.

DC: See, he had it in a corporation at that time, and they could take it if you kept it in a corporation. This [Park] ranger that burned a barn up here, and Veryl Riddle got him out of it -- he came and told me, "You better tell Joel that they're figuring on taking his property down there and make our headquarters out of it." So I told Joel, then he got a hold of Ichord and got it out of corporation to where you can keep it, you and three generations or something like that?

JM: No, I've got it forever. I had an agreement with them, and I gave them a scenic easement. So we've lived happily ever after as far as anything is concerned about the

matter. They never bothered with us. Oh, they think Mack grows a little marijuana or something. Every once in a while they'll run in down here. (Laughing) Mack kept saying to me, "I'm tired of this." And I say, "It's not the marijuana." That's just sort of a colored joke that Mack and I have. But anyway, they'd come in down here. They're looking for the Lost Owl's Ear or something; some sort of species.

(Laughs) I was sitting here one day. Mack says, "Who's that parked down here at the bottom of us?" I said, "I don't have any idea, Mack." We went down there. He said, "One of those government people. I'm tired of this. If its all right with you, I'll just block the driveway here." I said, "Fine." So we went along. After a couple of hours here, this lady came. She's back where she can't get out. We're sitting here. Mack can tell the story better, because he was there first hand.

MC: I said, "What's your business down here?" She said, "I was down there at the bay looking for--" I can't even pronounce the name of the lily pad that she told me. I said, "I've never heard of that." She said, "You mean you've lived here all your life and never heard of that particular lily pad?" I said, "No, I haven't." And she said, "Well, I don't know what to think about that, that you don't know." I said, "Well, I know what to think about you. The next time that you're down here without notifying me, your rig's not going to be here when you get back." And she hasn't been back.

You know, things like that go on. I don't pay much attention to it. That was back when there were people growing marijuana and this and that. I never grew any of it in my life; never did use any of it. But anyway, that was the story on her.

JM: We don't have much of a problem in that sense. Cokie hit on the subject, the real problem. You know, there's an old maxim in the law that says, "Does the utility of the use outweigh the gravity of the harm?" And that's always any test that you have to put the subject to.

[tape meter, 300]

What would we have been, had we not had the park? I don't know what we would have been. What are we now that we have the park? Well, the problem with the natives (and I can speak, I think, basically to what that is), is that very few people enjoy the benefits of the park financially. Those who are enjoying the benefits of the park otherwise, physically, are doing it at the expense of the natives. Now there's a certain amount of proprietorship that all of us have. If we live in a county, it's our county. If we live in a state, it's our state. If we live on a river, it's *our river*. You know? And they have been deprived of that. The natives have basically been deprived of it because they can't run their boats the way they would like to. They can't, on a Saturday and Sunday, get up through the traffic because of the problem with the traffic with tubes. At one time we had a problem here with the canoes to some degree, but not anymore. It's too hard. It's getting worse [with the tube traffic]. You can't go up through here on a Saturday and Sunday without fear of hurting somebody.

So, if you're going to be given the authority that the government presumes to have obtained through this bill, then also, in law, there's a responsibility. For every privilege we have a responsibility. I think they lack a great deal in that, seeing that the

river is properly used. Now they will say, "Well, that's the state." The state says, "We don't have--" It just flip-flops back and forth.

I was born on the banks of Current River -- truly on the banks of Current River -- in Arkansas, right down the river here. I've been fishing it for fifty years. We don't have anything like the quality or the quantity of fish that we had at one time here. And it's because it's been abused. Everyone today can use, with this modern equipment, can throw a plug out. And that fish doesn't know that it's Joel or Mack or John or Cokie or whomever. He just bites it. And they will keep these fish. If not, they'll kill them while they're taking them off [the hook]. They don't have the sense of responsibility that they should have toward nature. So there should be a control of some kind, to truly preserve this thing "in its natural state." I think that's the language they use. But it's not being preserved in that state.

[tape meter, 350]

They're coming here. They've brought those things that have not been good for the physical nature that it was supposed to create. That, basically, is what I would say is the complaint to that. On the other side, I'm sure that they have eliminated some development that I probably wouldn't have liked. You know? And maybe it has helped us to some extent -- but -- I'm saying that what they brought in has destroyed the physical nature of it. The use of it and such as compared to what it would be if it had been left alone. They should, really, give more consideration to the true commitment that they have to us, to get it back to its natural condition. As an example -- this is me talking --

I'd take every motor off of this river except the troll motor. There'd be no motors.

There'd be no boats out there except for the ones on a troll motor.

[end of side 1, tape I; tape meter, 379]

JM: [If that's what we're going to do, let's do it. Let's get the noise off the river]. And let's restrict the fishing. If a man wants to fish, fish for fun. Don't call in people from Poplar Bluff and southeast Missouri out of here to fish in these tournaments, this sort of thing. Having fun at the expense of the natives here? There's a certain amount of things that people live in the country for, that benefit them. And they like it that way. If they stock this river, you understand -- they don't stock it. It's only through natural development. Can you handle a small mouth bass.

And if they would bring it back to its natural state, as they promised us, we'd have people from all over the world coming in here floating this river. It would be tremendous public we could get. There is nothing more beautiful than the Current River any place in the world. There's just one Current River.

So I think that it needs to be reassessed. As I say, it's not all bad. But there's some good that they could do, that they promised to do. When they took this man's property and gave him nothing -- well, that was fraud. That's just out and out fraud. *Fraud!* And I'm not so sure that they have discontinued that attitude even to this day, in relationship to the other responsibilities that they have to us on a daily basis. That's about all I've got to say.

CM: Very well said, I think. I can concur with what Joel had to say about the purpose of the bill. The law was written mainly by Dick Ichord with some input of George Hartzog. They had a responsibility to pay. This goes back to Dub's first statement there, that they were scaring them to death with some of their appraisals. The appraisers that they brought in here -- the first, I believe, they had a contract with an appraiser in the state of Mississippi. His office was out of Mississippi. I asked him one time, "Do you know the value of a foot of Current River bank? Down at the water's edge?" He said, "There's no difference between the bank of Current River than there is back up on the hill." And that goes back to what he had to say a while ago. Well, that isn't true.

I have six acres up there above Van Buren. I don't know what it's worth. It's worth a bunch of money. But I wouldn't take what they offered originally on *any* appraisal for it. Fortunately enough, we kept it out of that development up there, the Deer Run Development. The fellow was very unsuccessful, and been bankrupt and bankrupt and bankrupt. But we have a group of people who have made a career with the Park Service, and you never know where they're coming from unless you ask them. "Where were you born and raised? How did you get here?" They have a system of transferring. Seniority transfers and stuff, like any government job, I suppose. But not one of them that I ever talked to realized the value of a foot of Current River frontage. And that's where you go back to the Shockleys. Back down there at the river they had a mile and a half, two miles of river frontage.

DC: Yes, and had a chute with a nice cabin on it.

CM: Oh, yes. But the purpose was to preserve and maintain the natural state of the Current and Jacks Fork River. They haven't done that.

JM: Look what they've done up there. They've allowed this horse trail thing up there at Eminence. It's unbelievable. Crossing over and over. They've got, sometimes, as high as 3,500 or 4,000 horses tramping through that, with the flies, with everything. It's just 180 degrees away from their commitment. How can that ever? I'll tell you what happened. Politics got in it. Bill Emerson got the thing okayed. His wife Jo Ann is running on that same platform.

[tape meter, 50]

And it is in violation of everything that is in the concept of the National Scenic Riverways, letting those horses come back and forth across that stream.

DC: Then they tried to outlaw the few little wild horses that you've got up there.

JM: Yes, fifteen, sixteen wild horses.

CM: Well we blame that -- or *I* did -- blame that wild horse issue on our local superintendent at the time, Arthur Sullivan. He tried to explain to me one time what a feral horse was. And it's a horse that is doing aesthetic damage to the ecology, and the flora and fauna, of its surroundings that you live in. Well now, explain that to an old hillbilly. Years ago we had free range here, and we let them run through and run loose.

JM: And we can remember quite well, can't we? (Laughs)

CM: Yes. So they used these big terms of "feral horses," and it got the uproar and the attention. Bill Emerson didn't jump on the bandwagon on that thing until he saw what

was happening, as far as the multitude of people who were against them doing anything with these wild horses. Now I've never seen them.

MC: They're beautiful.

CM: They're in an area there around Shawnee Creek.

MC: Two Rivers, yes.

CM: But they're there.

MC: Joel and I saw them. We see them every once in a while. Beautiful!

JM: Linda saw them last year.

CM: It's an area that the Park Service should never have entered.

JM: Absolutely.

CM: Absolutely. They should have kept their mouth shut about it. But they didn't it.

MC: [The wild horses] added a lot of color to the river.

JM: Complain against fifteen to twenty horses, as opposed to -- on one given day -- 4,000 horses crisscrossing back and forth over that beautiful Jacks Fork with *all* of the things that wash into that river from all of the horses; the manure and urine.

DC: They did just do it twice a year, but now it's every month or every week.

CM: That fellow [Jim Smith], he's got the largest trail ride in the whole Midwest, operating out of there.

JM: *Unbelievable.*

CM: Makes lots of money.

JM: Oh, of course he does. Unbelievable.

WS: It's interesting that you'd mention the Shockleys, because a retired Park Service man told me that the way they approached the Shockleys in getting their property was "less than polite," I guess you might say. They were pretty rough, the Park Service land people, back when the office was in Eminence. The stories I've heard was the guy came in and put his feet up on their table and said, "We're going to take your land," which of course they had the legal authority to do. In fact, Mr. Bailey confirmed that too, that they kind of got off to a rough start, how they treated the people.

CM: They just usurped the power that they had and scared the living daylights out of the landowners.

DC: And they did it to the older people that didn't know the difference.

CM: Yes, right. Bob Shockley was the father of Carl, and then Al Shockley and Goldie was the mother of this Shockley boy that worked for the Park Service some; I don't think he's working for them any more. But you could talk to them, and each of them would say the same thing, that they just scared the living daylights out of them.

After all of this came to pass, then whenever they quit scaring people, Dub can attest to the fact that he was as busy as a cranberry merchant getting all these appraisals in. And he had his good friend Noel Burrows with him that would answer any question you wanted with almost another question. He was a well-known character that we had here. He was born and raised in Fremont and Van Buren, and was a pretty smart fellow. He had an abstract company here.

JM: And he had nineteen-foot canoe with a twenty horsepower on it, and drunk he could make that river better than most sober men.

CM: Yes. He *did* drink a little bit.

MC: Nellie was known to have tipped one occasionally.

(Laughter)

DC: When we were working up there at Alley Spring and Round Spring, we'd get to Eminence there, he'd say, "Dub, I've got to have a pack of cigarettes." But he'd come out with a six-pack of beer.

JM: (laughing) Yes!

CM: Warm beer.

JM: Nellie was the greatest.

[tape meter, 100]

WS: Well, they tell me Mr. Burrows pretty much had the county memorized, in terms of every single tract of land. He really knew the abstract of each and every one.

DC: He did. And he started it [the abstract business] all on his own, too.

CM: I lost an abstract to my place of business up there one time, and I was doing something with it. I had an attorney that was supposed to have been taking care of it. He had since left the area and moved to Springfield. I called him. I said, "You wouldn't happen to know where my abstract is?" "No." Well, it finally dawned on me that Nellie Burrows might know. I went in his office, and he had a stack of abstracts that looked like at least

three or four foot high. And in about five minutes he handed my abstract to me. It'd been there for ten years.

JM: Isn't that something?

CM: I'd forgotten about it.

MC: He had some help that was pretty good, though.

WS: Now he ended up doing appraisal work, also, for the landowners?

DC: Yes. He helped me on nearly all of the landowners. I know we were trying one over on the Eleven Point River. That was in the Kansas City district. They had commissioners over there in place of a judge. They'd appoint three commissioners. And we'd hear the cases over there at West Plains at the Holiday Inn. They let us just sit around like we are here. Nellie, knowing him, you know, just looked like Ichabod Crane. Tall, skinny. But he had a good college education and knew what he was doing.

He was testifying there. He smoked Prince Albert tobacco and rolled his own cigarettes. This fellow asked him a pretty sharp question. Nellie, he just took his can of tobacco out and set it on the table. He got his rolls of cigarette [papers] out. He got one out; rolled it up; put it up there; lit it; looked up to him and said, "Yes."

(Laughter)

MC: That's old Nellie for you. Hey.

JM: That's right.

CM: I'm going to tell this one more story about Nellie's father. At Fremont there was a Midco Mercantile store up there. At the time there was probably three employees: Burt Clay

and Nellie's father, Spensor Burrows [spelling? Spencer Burroughs?], and Nellie's mother. So Burt Clay kind of did all the running back and forth. They had a pretty good-sized store and a warehouse in the back. This fellow came in and told Mr. Spensor Burrows, "I'd like to have half a length of stove pipe. It's going to get cold and I've got to put up my stove. But all I want is a half a length." "Well," he said, "I'll have to go back here and have Burt Clay get that for you." So unbeknownst to Spensor, this fellow was following him pretty close down. He ran into Burt. And he said, "Burt? There's a son of a bitch up there that wants half a length of stove pipe--" and he turned around and saw this fellow "-- and this gentleman wants the other half."

(Laughter)

MC: That actually happened.

CM: Yes, that's a true story.

Well gentlemen, I think I'm going to go. I'm glad that he got Dub's and Joel's point of view on this. A lot of this -- people are reluctant to talk about some of the adversities, especially if you've got a tape going there, and he's looking you right square in the eye. But they've given you the truth on the very beginning of it. Having served on the first [Ozark National Scenic Riverways Advisory] Commission, we tried to give them some advice, and a lot of times they would not take our advice.

WS: Yes, somebody told me that commission did not function the way maybe some of the people thought it was supposed to function.

[tape meter, 150]

CM: It didn't. We would advise them. They started out talking about the size of motors back then. I said, "Well, having been born and raised here on Current River, don't ever fear about the size of the motor." We were talking about the conventional prop type motors back then, which was thirty-some odd years ago, or so.

MC: Before we knew about jets.

CM: Yes. I said, "This river will control the size of the motor very easily. They'll tear the living daylight out of a lot of them if they try to go up much further than, say, Powder Mill. Even that far." But they wouldn't take our advice on it.

JM: I think I would be remiss in my duty, in a sense (if there is a duty involved in this thing) by not calling on my friend Coke to tell about the fellow that came in at this meeting and got right in the fellow's face and said -- you say it better than anybody. That's the cutest thing in the world. It's a great story.

CM: That's another one of the Blands. Same family. He went to one of these public meetings that the Park Service was having.

MC: Was that David, Coke, that went?

CM: No.

MC: Red?

CM: It was Warren Bland's son that was kind of squirrely.

MC: Well, David and Red.

CM: It might have been Red. Anyway, he went to this meeting there, and it was at Eminence. All the people were there that you could get in the dang courthouse meeting. And finally

old Warren Bland's son got up there, and he listened to all this testimony and stuff, and he said, "I'll tell you what I'm going to do for you sons of bitches. I'm going to form a 'I Hate-chas Club.'" "

(laughter)

CM: And they did! And Shannon County was known as kind of a redneck part of the area, but those people would band together. I don't care if you talked about one of them, you were talking about the whole bunch. And of course Warren Bland had a heck of a nice farm up on Current River. He probably didn't pay very much for it. But that was not the question. It was his.

JM: You know, in life, all of us are the same. We always have to have somebody that we can say something about, that we can look down on. You know, each level of us. Ideologically or psychologically or economically or whatever, there's always a fellow below. Well now, here in Carter County we look down on the folks in Shannon County.
(Laughs)

CM: There was always a little difference up there in Shannon County.

[Mr. McSpadden prepares to depart]

DC: What was Bill Bailey's son-in-law that they gave the ferry to run up there?

CM: Willie Smith. He had the canoe rental; now he's sold it all, I think.

DC: I want to tell him what happened on that deal there.

CM: Well, they were doing him a bad job, and then of course they tried to correct it after he lost his leg in that accident up there.

DC: The man that owned that, wasn't his name Johnson? That owned that ferry and two or three cabins and his house there where he lived?

JM: Right, yes.

DC: Well, when they bought it off of him for a real cheap price, they said, "You can keep that and run the ferry. You can use it and still make a good living out of it." They told him. In that agreement he thought he was going to get to run the ferry and still rent some cabins and make a living out of it.

[tape meter, 200]

About six months after they'd bought him, they moved him out and put Smith in there and let him run it and the cabins and everything else. And the boy, I think he got his leg wrenched off down there at the ferry. But they just lied to him and just took it away from him. They didn't let him run it but for about six or seven months.

[incidental conversation omitted as Mr. McSpadden departs]

WS: All right.

DC: You'd think, just like they were going to make Joel's [house their] headquarters. They didn't get this. Every good house, they bought that. It didn't make any difference what they paid for it. They bought it and put their personnel in it. They bought one cabin way up here above Eminence, "Seldom Seen," is what they called it. Joel and I, we went up there; the [Park] ranger had taken us up there quail hunting.

WS: Is that that great big rock mansion?

JM: No, it's gone.

DC: This was just, oh, about a \$35,000 to \$40,000 house. Fireplace and everything in it, and right on the river. Good access. But it was way back, out of the way. They'd loan it to their friends or let somebody use it.

JM: Yes, they have their personnel. They'll move them into these fine places, if there were any. And of course I don't know the arrangement, but what happens is, the local people become resentful, you see. As I say, I know nothing about what the relationship was as far as financial relationship, what the fellow paid, or whomever. But it just appeared to the local people that this fellow was getting it for free. You know, here he is living and all. In many instances -- and most as a matter of fact -- it's far above the local economic level, in this case. So those things are bad PR. As a matter of fact, I don't know that they really have a PR system or whatever. It appears that they just sort of withdraw, apparently.

My relationship has been very good with them, you understand? As far as my concern, we've had no problem -- *once* we got our business straightened up. And I don't, of course, feel intimidated. But I'm probably one of the few, because there are other folks who don't have the resources, perhaps, to take it on, in other words, if it came to that. They do feel intimidated by it. There's not anything you can do about it, except that perhaps they could have a little better PR.

This fellow Sullivan was a fellow that, apparently, drank a great deal. Art never really had any relationship with the community. It's as though they are set apart when I see them. They seem to be set apart. They withdraw themselves. Maybe that's the

commitment they have given to their superiors: "Don't be a part of the community." But believe me, you're the *biggest* part of the community when you control this much fine land in this particular part of the country. Because there's just no more like it. Yes.

[tape meter, 250]

WS: Have you had a most favored and a least favored superintendent through all these years?

JM: I've never met this superintendent. I met Art, probably, once or twice. I want to get along with anybody. I'm not going to have any problems with them. I have no reason to. Socially I don't socialize with them. My relationship is with my friends here at the river like the McSpaddens or whomever. So I really don't have that relationship. It's all been very comfortable. It's been a very comfortable thing.

I resent, deeply, the approach that they took and *did* execute, and carried out, with the help of Judge Harper. The absolute disregard they had for proprietorship; disregard for ownership. I mean, they just came in and said -- and these people, when you say something to a person up here, "Well, you've got to go to Kansas City. I don't care if you go over there. Go to court, you've got to get a lawyer," and all this stuff -- that's just the rankest form of intimidation. These folks don't have the funds. They don't have the experience. They don't have anything. This scares the man. He doesn't know which way to turn. Where's he going to go? What's he going to do? So, "Well, we better just settle it out."

DC: They weren't telling him the truth about where he had to go, anyway, you see.

JM: No, that's right.

DC: They just had to go to Cape Girardeau. And they were telling them all Kansas City, and that's the reason why Judge Meredith held court down here at Van Buren so that they would have to quit telling people that.

WS: Oh, I see.

JM: Oh yes. See, he brought the court right here. He said, "This is the court."

It was tragic. I think that it was an abuse of power at that particular level, and I'm not so sure (chuckles) -- I went to law school. I have a son who went to law school (I know he's not interested in it). But the idea is, some young lawyer could file a suit and ask for an interpretation, and I think that he could ask, and I think he could represent these people -- and say, "We were defrauded by the federal government. And we need to be compensated for a fair and reasonable price for our property." He'd get some attention, in my opinion. "And then I also want to get an interpretation, at the same time, of what *is* the best use of this? What *is* the natural condition here? What should we do?" And have that defined, rather than just say, "Oh, the fishing belongs to the state, and this belongs to us." Van Buren should not have a [two-mile circumference commercial development] limit. You know what I'm talking about? If it's going to be all the way, it's going to be all the way. You don't set things up like that. You know, it's a half-assed deal.

DC: What was it? A mile on each side of the city?

JM: Yes, a mile on each side of the city limits.

DC: You could do anything you wanted to.

JM: You could do anything you want to. But those things are bad. There's no reason why it can't be revisited, in my opinion, and looked at.

[tape meter, 300]

I used to tell my wife, and of course jokingly -- and of course, Dub has lost his precious one, too -- but I'd say, "You know, I don't know how a young man of twenty-one could commit a man of sixty-five." (Laughs) You know. She said, "Well, you did, and that's the end of it." That's the end of the story. But really, these things should be revisited, and in particular a case like this, in my opinion, given the proper hearing.

WS: Given the way things turned out, and talking about Judge Harper and all, it sounds like Judge Meredith may have been one of the best to ever happen--

JM: My God.

DC: Him and Judge Wangelin.

JM: Why hell, if it wasn't for Wangelin and Meredith, well they would have raped the whole country! You go in, "Ah, what the hell. Let's get on with the case here. I'm going to settle fifty of them in a week's time"? You see, this is Harper's attitude. Go down the list. Other people had big complaints, and I think that the federal judgeship should be revisited, too.

DC: Harper scared Nellie so much that the last two or three case we had, he said, "Dub, I'm not going to go and testify and let him abuse me like that."

JM: Right. Absolutely. But anyway, yes. It should be revisited if there's any way possible. As I said, a good, young, strong lawyer could *really* help the situation here.

DC: We were trying one up there at Cape, and I'd been on the witness stand, oh, an hour or more. I was going to have to go back on after dinner. I went around to the restroom and came back, and got me a drink of water of there, and was just kind of walking to get my exercise up. Harper was standing over there leaning back against the wall, his foot up there, smoking a cigar. He said, "Crutcher? Come here a minute." I went over there. He said, "What's the matter? You worried?" I said, "Judge, I'm not worried a damn bit."

JM: Hell no.

DC: I said, "I was here when you went on the bench, I know how you got there, and I'll be here when you leave."

JM: (laughs) That's right! And you told the truth!

DC: That's what I told him.

JM: Yes sir. Ah, it was pitiful. But we had a lot of things like that in judges. Their interpretation; well, it was just pitiful. As I say, perhaps a public relations thing could do well for the public, too. But we cannot tolerate this absolute violation of the river. Something is going to have to happen. And I'm the first to give. I'll give my motors to charity, get back on the river in a little old boat and come on down the river with a trolling motor. You know? Before somebody gets hurt. I won't go through that anymore. We won't go up through there on weekends. No. Refuse to do it.

DC: When we were over here one weekend, me and Cokie and [Carl] Jean Ringer and Gordan Hart. He was taking us up the river. We went around a bend, and there were five canoes tied together.

[tape meter, 350]

We didn't have any place to go, but hit a gravel bar. We would have maybe killed one or two if we'd run into them, because we were going twenty-five, thirty miles an hour. And he ran up on that sand bar with that jet motor. It took us about two hours to clean it out. We had to get all the rocks out of it.

JM: The easiest way to avoid any kind of a problem, Will, in life or business or whatever, is to say, "Well, I just don't know what to do. I can't do a thing about it." Well, this is not true. We *can* do something about it. You will have done things about your life. Dub and I both have done things. We've got to have a strong sense of responsibility, and that responsibility changes. It's just not something in stone, you see? It's something that needs to be revisited, and say, "Hey, this thing didn't work. It did not work. We've got to reassess our position here. And let's make it something that's basically what we *said* we were going to do -- that we were going to make this a pristine place, and going to keep it in its natural state." Well, you can't change the course of the river. That they have done. You understand? That's a natural course. There's nothing they can do about that. But the use of the river is something that they can do. And it has to be revisited. It's got to be done, in my opinion. Otherwise, they have violated their trust.

Now these are not the local people [ONSR personnel] here. These fellows here, they're working for a living. I mean, they're doing their thing. You understand? There's nothing personal about this thing. I hope that I haven't at any time said anything that would, at all [be construed as personal].

[end of side 2, tape I; tape meter, 383]

WS: You're talking about the Park Service personnel?

JM: Yes. These boys here have always been very gentlemanly. I've never had anything but just the kindest treatment. I'm not addressing anything as to the department of these people here. Nothing. It's the overall reassessment that has to be done.

DC: One reason I think they change a lot of those [superintendents] -- they'd send one in. He'd make so many people mad that he couldn't do any more. Then they'd send another supervisor in and move him out, and let him try to get a few. They had, what? About three or four different Park Service [superintendents]?

JM: Layer on layer. And of course they have the local boys out here. All the local fellows here have a gun in their car, in their truck. Mack doesn't. Of course, I wouldn't put up with it. Anyway, they can't go into the parks now with those guns. They want to go in to see somebody, they've got to leave their gun at home. It's more and more, everything, "Don't do this." I'm not involved with that, but I hear the echoes from the local fellows. The people are denied the natural, normal use of their surroundings. They resent it.

Otherwise, of course -- my relationship has been A-1 with them. There's no reason I shouldn't have a good relationship with them, and, at any time. I don't do

anything. I don't keep fish; I haven't kept fish in forty years. I don't allow people fishing with me to keep fish. I believe in fishing for fun. That's the state, you understand. Out here they control the water, but they don't control the fish in it. It's sort of silly. "Hey, let's have somebody in charge here." Who's in charge out here?

WS: Now Mr. Campbell that was sitting here, did he have land condemned also?

JM: No, he works for me. He's worked for me for thirty-four years. He takes care of my place here full time. He lives here right on the property. He raised his family here. He was born right down the river about five miles.

WS: When did you build this house?

JM: I built this house in 1963.

WS: Oh, is that right? Just before they signed in the legislation.

JM: Yes. '63. I bought this 250 acres. I've got two miles on the river. It was an old fishing camp. There were some little cabins here. I took them down. I built this unit, and then I modernized all the other cabins. They all have heat and air conditioning and toilets, and such as that. I tried to keep them in their natural state, the way I first saw it. But inside they're very modern.

WS: Is this property fairly close to Mr. Anderson's old operation?

JM: This *is* his old business.

WS: Oh, this *is* his old--

JM: You're sitting in it.

WS: I'll be darned. I came across a book from the 1930s where they had stopped by to see Leo Anderson.

JM: Leo Anderson came here in about 1930 with his widowed mother and brother, Paul, and bought this property, and started working. They built a fishing camp. My cabin down here was their home. That's the old well down there, that they pumped their water from. This is the Leo Anderson property. I used to come over and would hunt here with them. I loved to visit with Leo. I didn't hunt. I wanted to visit with Leo. While my friends hunted, we visited. I had no idea of buying the property. He had sold it a couple of times, and the fellows couldn't pay him. So this particular day, this real estate man, Bollinger, from here (who was later killed in an airplane crash), called me and said, "Joel, I want to talk to you about buying the property." I said, "I don't need the property." He said, "Yes, you do. And Leo doesn't want any terms. He wants cash. He's had two deals that didn't work. So you can buy it." And I did, and have been here ever since.

WS: So you were living down at Sikeston?

JM: I live in Sikeston. That's my home, in Sikeston.

WS: I see. So you just come here part of the year now.

JM: Oh yes. I just come over back and forth. I came over last night to be here with you all this morning. I was here last week and went home. I had a party I had to attend Saturday night.

[tape meter, 50]

So then I'll be here until whatever time this week, then go back. I go back and forth.

This is not my home, as such. My home is in Sikeston.

WS: I see. Now, Mr. Anderson was a supporter of the Park Service when they were first proposing the Riverways, I believe. In fact, I think I found his testimony in Congress along with Mr. McSpadden and Mr. McClintock and various of those other people.

JM: I would think so. But he was long gone at that time. See, I bought this in '62 from him. So he had no interest. There was no one working as hard as Coleman McSpadden. I never saw a man get so mad and stay mad. Because they abused his friends. But Coke McSpadden was a big supporter. And likewise, you're looking at another one. I supported it. I was probably (laughs) one of the bigger landowners on the river.

DC: Yes, that was what made so many of them mad.

WS: Was the treatment after?

DC: They'd worked so hard, you know, in telling people it was going to be a good deal. And then they turned around and abused it. It made that look back on Joel and Cokie and these other people that supported it.

WS: Oh, I see. A little while ago we were talking about the government appraisers. I believe it was when I was talking to Judge Steelman over there in Salem -- in the cases he was involved in -- I believe it was him that said some of those U.S. attorneys were not that experienced.

DC: They didn't know that much about it. They just sent them down here because it was such a big deal. But they had a local attorney out of St. Louis that came down with them, a

fellow by the name of Schneider. And finally, it got so bad that Judge Meredith said, “Dub? I’m getting tired of this deal, going through, and them sending attorneys down here to handle these cases that don’t know anything about land or condemnation work.” He said, “You suggest somebody that you know I might get to hire.” I said, “They’ve got a fellow out here, an attorney from the Highway Department that handled a lot of condemnation cases. Call him and see if you can talk to him.” They did, and he went to work for them. But it wasn’t too long before they kind of had him brainwashed just like they did the others.

WS: In that condemnation situation, on either side of the equation, the appraisers and the attorneys have to work pretty closely together, don’t they?

DC: Yes.

WS: It looked like some of these government appraisers and some of these government attorneys didn’t quite know what they were doing. I wonder if they even worked that closely together or if they knew what the other party was doing?

DC: I think the ones that were doing the appraising for the government, they had a limit set for what they could pay for it.

JM: See, that’s the point Dub made at the beginning. Just like the fellow says, “I want you to be the mayor of the town. I want you to be the very *best* mayor this town has ever had, and do everything I tell you.” Dub’s not going to do that.

DC: I’ve got a copy of an appraisal up on the Eleven Point River. Tomorrow I want to take you down there and show you this Pigman Ranch down there, and how they were going

to do him. It came right back. He mentioned five or six appraisals, and each one of them, he said, "Make them come out to \$222 an acre."

JM: You see, you're fortunate that we're still alive, Will. (Laughing) You know what I mean?

WS: Oh, I realize that. I appreciate the information.

JM: You've got real, live people here.

DC: I'll let you read this [the appraisal report] tonight, and then tomorrow we'll go down there and I'll show you. This fellow here, McReynolds, that did a lot of this other [appraisal for the Riverways] up here -- he mentions this \$222 an acre up here in this appraisal that tried to be developed. It never did amount to anything. He based his land values in on that. He used two big ranches, one in Oklahoma and one in Colorado. He had them \$222 an acre. You can read that tonight and look through it.

[tape meter, 100]

But anyway, I went down there and appraised it for them. McReynolds there, he had appraised the whole thing. He was taking around 1,400 acres or something for a scenic easement. He states that that scenic easement at the river wasn't worth anything. Just the riverbank was worth so much, but the easement wasn't worth anything. It didn't reduce the value of the land any. They'd taken two or three cabins down there off of that farm. McReynolds appraisal work was for \$130,000. They were taking 133 acres of land, fee title. The rivers, he didn't even consider that. He just adjusted it down to

around -- well, what they actually paid for it, I figured out. It just figured out to \$90-some an acre.

JM: See, they were taking title to some of it. An easement and a title were the two different things.

DC: Part of the easement they were taking was about a hundred-acre Indian mound down there. It was really a dandy. I'd have given anything to dug into it.

Anyway, their attorney got McReynolds' appraisal. He [the landowner's attorney] called me in about three months. He said, "They've offered me \$250,000, and I think I'll settle with them." He was basing it on their appraisal. He had mine too. I had mine at \$1,400,000. He said, "What do you think?" I said, "Well, if you're going to give something away, I'll give you \$500,000 for your lawsuit, and you just get out of the way and I'll hire an attorney and take it over." He said, "I'll call you back in a little bit and let you know." It went on about three months, and he called me. He said, "I settled it with them for \$990,000."

A widow woman and a twenty-four year old son, at that time, owned the property. They lived in Fort Worth, Texas. It's a beautiful place. I need to show it to you; it and Greer's Spring over there. You can see what his appraisal amounted to, after you look at the property.

WS: Do you think the landowners or the parties involved understood this concept of scenic easement back then?

DC: This young boy, he was just relying on his attorney to represent him. That attorney, he just figured, "Well, if I get \$250,000 and they only offered \$130,000 -- if I get half of that amount what's over with, I've made a good fee and haven't done anything." I'd done all the work, and then he was going to give it away.

WS: One thing I came across in looking through the legal records -- now of course, with something like the Current River, the government would argue against a so-called project-generated increase in value.

DC: Yes.

WS: You remember that. But some of the cases, I guess the argument was, for the landowners -- and a successful argument -- was that the recreational value was already there and had nothing to do with the Park Service coming in.

DC: That's right.

WS: And that was one way you all were able to get some higher prices, I think.

[tape meter, 150]

DC: Yes. Just like on this appraisal here [for the Pigman Ranch], they had ten and a half miles of river frontage; six on one side (I think) and five and a half, maybe, or five-something on the east side of the river. They could have sold any of the river frontage there for recreation sites. He [McReynolds] claimed there would be no market for it right now. But you wouldn't have had a bit of trouble selling off. They could sell [part of] it off each year to keep from paying so much income tax on it. It was just a brilliant, desirable place. They had their own airstrip on it, and a blacktop road around practically

three sides of it; Highway 160 and Highway U and N (I believe). Anyway, it went all the way around it. They'd upgrade it so much, but then he'd say, "It needs to be reduce in value by 22%," or 25%, or something; whatever it was. But he'd always just reduce it enough so it would come out to around a \$200 [per acre] figure. When you read it, you can see. You just don't have that many comparables that he's used, that would come out with a \$222 figure. I mean, anyone could look at it and see that he was just appraising it for about what they told him.

I think down there they raised it up, maybe, on the Eleven Point River, because it was two or three years later. I think he had part of it -- maybe a whole thing -- at \$180 an acre. He brought it down on some that had river frontage, the best river land, and the frontage was worth just \$275 an acre. Shoot, he could have sold any of that riverfront for three times that much.

WS: Would it be accurate to say that at some point Judge Meredith pretty much took your word as sort of almost like a counsel?

DC: He did.

WS: I would guess so, because the government appraisals just didn't sound very realistic.

DC: Him and Wangelin and Regan all, I mean . . .

WS: They trusted you.

DC: Yes.

WS: Well you were old friends with Judge Meredith, weren't you?

DC: Yes, before he was ever appointed judge. He lived at Portageville. He was active in the Young Democrats clubs. D.W. Gilmore, who went to Kansas City from Scott County -- we elected him as president of the national Young Democrats club in 1949. We had the convention at Chattanooga. Joel was down there with us. He and I had the same room. Meredith got the job as the superintendent of the insurance department up there, I believe. And then, Symington got him appointed as federal judge.

JM: We were all just poor boys trying to get to make a living, until we got old Symington elected as senator. And everybody (chuckles) from that little group got in pretty good shape. (Laughs) It helped us a little bit, didn't it Dub?

[tape meter, 200]

DC: Yes.

JM: That's what it is in life. That's the way it goes, you know. Symington took care of his friends.

DC: Yes, he called me there one time. We had that goose place up at Commerce. He said, "Dub, I want you to do something for me." I said, "Well, how?" Hugh May was secretary of the Air Force. He said, "I want you to take him goose hunting." I said, "Well, I don't know how good it'll be, but we kill a few up there all the time." He said, "Well, it all depends on you taking him." They sent a van down there before they were supposed to get there. They had a big Air Force station wagon and all that crap. I rented Miss Olson's house there,* and let them stay there in it while we were hunting up there.

* Mrs. Olson was owner of 2,700 acres on part of Big Island.

He came and brought two or three of his men with him. They were supposed to have been there, oh, about nine or ten o'clock that morning. I waited around there until two, and the geese were getting ready to fly. I said, "I'm going goose hunting. I'm not going to sit here and wait until they get here. They can either come down there and look for me or wait here until I get back." I went on down there goose hunting, and then came back and took them the next day.

JM: My oldest boy never had been goose hunting. So I saw Dub one day. I said, "Dub, are you killing any geese?" "Yes." "Well, Richard never has killed a goose." He said, "Let's go." So we get in the next morning, or whatever morning it was, and got over on Marshall Bar, wasn't it?

DC: Yes.

JM: The limit was two geese a day. We let Richard kill five geese that day, and I guess Dub killed the other one. And you know, he's never been back since. He loved it. But he's more into fishing and hunting game -- like here. He loves it here, Richard does.

DC: He just quit duck hunting.

JM: Yes. But he got to kill five geese that day. But see, we can sit here and reminisce all these things, Will, with you. But Dub Crutcher knows more about those things that are significant from your point of view than any living man, here today. As I say, my experience is that one here, and my relationship always has been very pleasant. But I will not back down. I feel very firmly about what I said about revisiting the thing as something that should be done. We need to relook the issues here, because it has not

worked like it should. And I'm sure most anything wouldn't be perfect, you understand. But it's too imbalanced.

DC: And they spent a lot of money taking care of their own personnel that was higher up than what they were. Up here at Round Spring they built four cabins down there, and they joined them and put an enclosed garage on each one of them, so you know who's going to use them.

[tape meter, 250]

It's not going to be somebody renting them. They don't care whether you've got a garage or not when they're renting a cabin.

JM: And \$75,000 outhouses. That *really* did irk some people, too; spend all that money. And, of course, they're constantly doing something on the river to change it. Basically it never really works. They spend all the money for riprapping, or this or that. But nature is hard to control, particularly when they get these tremendous rises [in river level]. These boys in Washington can't guess that either. But, when it fails, that's subject to a lot of local criticism. You know what I mean. They're looking for failure. People look for failure, Will, in life. Always remember that. They don't look for the long, strong side of Will. They're looking for his weak side. I'm giving you a lot of philosophy here. I've got you beaten by forty years. You're thirty-eight, and I'm seventy-eight. (Laughs) You bet.

WS: I'm impressed to learn of you all knowing Senator Symington so well because when I read about him helping to sponsor this legislation -- he had a pretty direct connection right to the area.

JM: Stuart Symington didn't know anything about it. The boy that did it was Dick Ichord.

WS: That was something else I was going to ask you. I found in the old newspapers, when Mr. Ichord ran for Congress the first time, against Congressman Carnahan, he ran against the Park Service.

JM: Absolutely. That's exactly right.

WS: What in the world made him change his mind? Because he did a hundred and eighty on that.

JM: You know, once you get in, then you take I'm sure quite a different position. I was never in politics, so I don't know what you would feel and so forth. I'm going to say it wasn't a bad situation, but it was not indifferent. He had a lot of friends who would like to have done it; thought it was a good idea. But once he got into it, like Coke here, and saw the abuses of the thing, he was very much upset. And I talked to him many times. As I said, two weeks out of every year he spent here with me. He said, "Joel, it's just incredible what happens. We do something." As a matter of fact, I shall never forget. He had his feet cocked up on his desk there in Washington. We were sitting, visiting on different things. He said, "You know, they don't need me up here. They don't need me. They don't need representatives up here. The bureaucrats have got control of this country. The only thing we do is just sort of go along with what the bureaucrats want, look good,

and try to carry out the [program]. But they do not need Dick Ichord here in Washington.” I said, “It’s unbelievable for you to say that.” He said, “I’m telling you.” Dick Ichord was an intelligent fellow. He was a cut above the average boy that runs for Congress. He did follow the bill. But abuses, abuses were just rampant.

And now, the little innocuous things they do today; just like, “You can’t get your gun in here,” “Don’t do this,” “Don’t do that,” here’s a sign, “Don’t do this.” That just takes more and more of the liberties away.

[tape meter, 300]

And you’re dealing with a people here that don’t cotton to that too well. Because there aren’t many of them. They’re vocal, at least on the street.

My big complaint is the fact that we will tolerate horses all over the Jacks Fork River; the crap, the urine, and everything that flows into that river -- and tolerate that, letting it go into public lands, having their trails on public land. It’s absolutely the worst. I’m a Democrat. We had a race this time. Jo Ann Emerson was at my home Saturday night. She knows I’m opposing her. My kids are for her. I think I’m going to get the candidate, Tony Heckemeyer, to fight like the dickens to get that thing kicked out. She’s got big support up there. Big support. This Jim Smith really puts on the ball for her; does everything for her. We’ve *got* to stop it. And some other abuses that are in absolute, one hundred and eighty percent conflict with what the rules were, go on every day. There will be sometimes as high as 3,000 horses in Jacks Fork creek in a day’s time.

DC: I think two of his rides a year averages 4,000.

JM: Yes. It's unreal.

DC: They come from Illinois, Kentucky.

JM: They come from everywhere.

DC: Indiana, Ohio.

JM: Flies all over the place. You can float down that river and smell that thing, plus the flies. Of course, it brings in money to the community. But that's not what this thing was for.

DC: The Jacks Fork, when you get way up there, where Joel's talking about fishing, they cross there with those horses. There may be a thousand horses go across that thing and maybe go up the river a hundred yards.

JM: Cross it several times on any given trip.

DC: And it's all over the roads. I got caught up there one time following along behind them. I like to never got around them. They'd messed all over that road.

JM: The very thing this was designed for, it's in direct conflict with it. Period. But you've got to take a higher road. You can't do it at this level. You know what I mean? Just complain and bitch. It's got to be carried to a higher road. And then, of course, it has to be carried *beyond*. See, this is where you're not going to get Danny [Staples] to say anything.

[tape meter, 350]

And Danny is as fine a boy -- hell, I like old Danny. He and I have been friends for years. But he has to deal with the folks. And up there, he's got a race to run, see? This time. And he doesn't need to be making statements, because they'll pick up on it. But I

don't think he has any serious opposition. But he doesn't need to be making statements. And Dub and I haven't said a thing that we wouldn't -- wake us up at midnight or four o'clock in the morning -- and say. And we haven't been offensive to any individual. But the general idea, at the higher level, is where they have to attack the thing. But these things that he's telling you about were some things that were terrible.

[end of interview; tape meter, 365]