

**Garn Whitlock**  
**Zion National Park Oral History Project**  
**CCC Reunion**  
**September 28, 1989**

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Don Durrett: This is Don Durrett: t: t and I am interviewing Garn Whitlock. The time is fifteen minutes to nine o'clock and it's the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 1989.

Garn why don't we start out and maybe you can tell us where you are from.

Garn Whitlock: I'm from East Carbon in Utah. It's Carbon City, Utah.

Don Durrett: Oh yeah, is that where you are living now?

Garn Whitlock: Yes, I worked in the coal mine for 36 years after World War II. I worked in the coal mines.

Don Durrett: So have you lived there all your life then or?

Garn Whitlock: Well no. When I worked for the CC's I lived in Monroe, Utah.

Don Durrett: In Monroe.

Garn Whitlock: Then I went in the army. Then I come back and worked in the mines for US Steel.

Don Durrett: What inspired you go into the three C's? What was the reason?

Garn Whitlock: Well nobody had any work back in those days, and it was big money. You needed a job and I think it was a dollar a day and board and room. I was working for a dollar a day when I could find work.

Don Durrett: Now that dollar a day, didn't they also send money home to your folks?

Garn Whitlock: Yeah, I got \$8.00 a month and \$22.00 for the home. The folks, it saved their homes and even their farms some of them. They were so glad, that was just a big boost for the family.

Don Durrett: So it was a big benefit for the families as well as to the young men.

Garn Whitlock: More for the families who were all but broke because times were pretty tough.

Don Durrett: Yeah, How old were you when you joined?

Garn Whitlock: I was seventeen.

Durrett: You were seventeen. How did you find out about the three Cs?

Whitlock: Well everybody knew about it and my brother was in it; he was here. He was older than me.

Durrett: He went in before you then?

Whitlock: He went in before me in 1938 and he kind of talked about it so I knew about it.

Durrett: Which year did you?

Whitlock: Nineteen-forty. I went until June 1941, so I was in a year.

Durrett: So you were in a year? Didn't they have six month terms?

Whitlock: Yeah you work for six months and then you have to resign.

Durrett: And you signed up for a second one?

Whitlock: Yeah, I signed up for a second one.

Durrett: Okay, I see. How did you get out here? Did your folks bring you down?

Whitlock: No they took us to the CC camp in Salina and left us there for about a week. Then a CC truck came from here to Salina and got us all and brought us back here.

Durrett: So you didn't know where you would be stationed when you went in the three Cs or did you know where you would be going?

Whitlock: I had a pretty good idea where it would be. Well I knew it would be in Utah. I had a pretty good idea it would be in Zion, I don't really remember that much about it.

Durrett: Then when you got down here I guess there were two camps as I understand it on each side of the river.

Whitlock: The only one I remember is the one on the east side of the river that's got these buildings here. They had one down in Hurricane.

Durrett: Maybe the one on this side of the river has been dismantled already.

Whitlock: It could have because I don't remember seeing anything. They have this building back here.

Durrett: That we're in, yeah.

Whitlock: That we are in but that is about the only building that was here.

Durrett: We are at the Nature Center by the way so that is what we are talking about.

Whitlock: We had a foot bridge that went across the river; we'd walk down to Springdale. There was fruit orchards on the left side of the river all the way down there.

Durrett: All the way to town?

Whitlock: All the way to town. That's where they got the other part of these campgrounds, just down where the fruit orchards were.

Durrett: So you were in the camp on the east side of the river. What did they do to check you in? Did they issue clothing? Did they give you a toothbrush or anything like that?

Whitlock: Well, I don't remember. They issued our clothing, I think they done that in Salina. Then when we came here we had to work and if a pair of shoes would just wear out, we'd just take them up to the PX and show them and they'd issued another.

Durrett: Now was that right in the camp where they had the supplies?

Whitlock: Right in the camp. They had a supply house there too where they had the tools and jack hammers and picks and shovels, anything you would need.

Durrett: And would you just go down and check those tools out?

Whitlock: Well, usually the boss would go down and check out whatever he thought his group would need.

Durrett: Now you say the boss, was he a CCC boy or someone else?

Whitlock: Well we had two lines. They had what we called the "36" line and then the "45." The "45" was the highest you could go. Then they had guys that worked here for the park service. There was a Excell from Springdale.

Durrett: Johnny Excell.

Whitlock: Johnny Excell, yeah. They were hired; the only thing higher than them was the captain.

Durrett: Now about the 45 men?

Whitlock: . . . and the 36?

Durrett: Now did that refer to the amount they were being paid?

Whitlock: That was their rank and their pay. They got \$36.00 a month instead of \$30.00. So the "45" that was like the top dog of the CC camp. He was a "45" and they probably had four or five of them. He seemed to be higher than anyone else.

Durrett: So how did the army personnel fit into this?

Whitlock: The army was the captain and he was in charge of everything. He was, oh I don't remember, maybe a doctor. But he was the doctor there, but the captain was in charge of everything.

Durrett: Do you remember the captain's name?

Whitlock: Oh if I heard it I would but all these guys

Durrett: Oh yeah, we figured you wouldn't that's no problem if you don't remember something. How about doctor Clark? Do you remember his?

Whitlock: Well just Doc Clark

Durrett: Yeah, just Doc Clark. Now did he live right in camp?

Whitlock: Yeah

Durrett: Was he a married man?

Whitlock: He was retired out of the navy as I recall it.

Durrett: So he was older?

Whitlock: An older man, probably sixties, between sixties and seventies. He was way older than anyone in the CC's.

Durrett: I see.

Whitlock: Probably the oldest guy in camp.

Durrett: Now, were there cooks?

Whitlock: We had the cooks. The head cook would get \$45. Then the assistant cook was \$36. Well everybody had to kind of take a turn washing dishes and stuff. Certain days you would have to do KP.

Durrett: Yes, so everybody got involved in that, but now the cooks themselves, were they CCC boys?

Whitlock: Oh yeah, they were CC's and they were steady.

Durrett: So even your head cook was a CCC.

Whitlock: Yes, Denzil Pollock from Tropic was the head cook.

Durrett: Oh yeah, Denzil Pollock.

Whitlock: He was here a few years ago. That is the only guy I've seen in our region. So he'll probably come.

Durrett: Well I hope so; I've got a bunch of them on the list.

Whitlock: He's coming.

Durrett: I see. So how's the food?

Whitlock: Excellent, very good food.

Durrett: Good food. Well you were working hard,

Whitlock: We were working hard and you know they used to have these big wieners, I mean they had a big barrel of them. They would always have some left over. I'd eat ten of them sometimes.

Durrett: You could have all you wanted.

Whitlock: Yeah, as long as it lasted. It seems like they always had . . .

Durrett: . . . more than enough. How many men were in the camp?

Whitlock: I would say around 200.

Durrett: So they were feeding a lot of guys.

Whitlock: There were three full time guys here that fixed several dinners, just cooked.

Durrett: Did they serve the food or did you go up in line or?

Whitlock: They had, if I remember right, they'd come and set it on the table in big bowls. And then keep these bowls full of potatoes and different things. They'd set them on long tables and they'd keep the bowls full.

Durrett: What were your hours like?

Whitlock: Well, pretty well eight hours a day, but sometimes if something special would come up . . . Now one time there was a big mountain up here just above the tunnel a ways,

sometime in the late evening, a big snow slide come down there and blocked that road clear up. So they got us up there about dark and we took shovels and worked on it all night. There was cars on both sides waiting until we got that shoveled out. I don't know whether, I think they did have a bulldozer or two but they couldn't get them out. We just took shovels.

Durrett: So there were times that you had to work overtime.

Whitlock: Especially for something like that, an emergency or something.

Durrett: So were you paid extra if you did? No just got the same...

Whitlock: Actually not. Same pay.

Durrett: A dollar a day. What projects do you remember working on?

Whitlock: Well the first job I had, there was some guy from Springdale that drove the truck and he worked for the Park Service. And me and another guy we had a wheel barrow and we had this dump truck and we'd go up the roadbed there all the way up to the tunnel every morning early and clean off all the rocks. It seems like there was always rocks that rolled down the road on the side of the road.

Durrett: On the switch backs?

Whitlock: On the switchbacks, yes, and we cleaned that off and then later on we'd started working on the trail, what'd they call it? Timber Mountain or something, except its north of the Great White Throne. There is a trail that goes up to that weeping rock, goes right up around there. But we went down and worked on it.

Durrett: That's the old East Rim Trail. The trail was already there wasn't it? You weren't building a new trail.

Whitlock: Well it was there, but we done a lot of work on it.

Durrett: That's what I mean, you were fixing it up.

Whitlock: We worked a lot on that trail. Then we came down and worked along the river there. Then as it got colder, they started blasting these rocks. We worked all winter up here west of Springdale in that quarry, slabs and rocks to use for the ledges. We had an old international truck. We would call it the Cherry Picker, and it would load them rocks, the rocks were pretty big. You would just drag them up and it would load them on the truck and it would take them up the canyon and put them on these parking areas, I guess is what they would do. I just worked in the quarry.

Durrett: So you didn't get involved in the parking lot.

Whitlock: I didn't get involved in placing.

Durrett: What did you do in the quarry? Where you hammering and chisel?

Whitlock: We had little wedges, hammers and picks and we would pick out a certain size of these rocks and we'd split the big ones into smaller ones and split the smaller ones into certain size rocks and smooth them up with these kind of little axes like, and make them a certain size. Then the truck would come up to get them and take them to wherever he was going to put them.

Durrett: Did this truck have . . . ?

Whitlock: It had just two pipes out of the back with a big cable that hung down and had some kind of a winch. It was an International and it would load them onto the flatbed trucks. If I remembered right, it wasn't even dump trucks. It was just flatbed trucks, and it would go up the canyon and take them off wherever they stuck them.

Durrett: Oh so it had to come back and forth. It had to follow the trucks.

Whitlock: They'd load usually two or three trucks, and then haul them wherever they set them.

And then I went up to Bryce Canyon, and put some on the trails where we cut a lot of timber down.

Durrett: Sitting timber?

Whitlock: Well just timber, it had bugs in it or something.

Durrett: Yeah they wanted to get rid of it. Well I mean did they use it for lumber? Did they take it to a mill?

Whitlock: I don't remember. We'd cut all the limbs off and burn them and I don't remember anybody doing much with what was left. We'd just burn them to get rid of the bugs.

Durrett: Well tell me about the project up here on the switchbacks. It seems to me like, we got some pictures of it out here, it seems like it was kind of a dangerous job wasn't it? You guys scattered all along the hill rolling rocks.

Whitlock: Well see, all we done, us two, we just cleaned the rocks that fell off.

Durrett: Oh so you didn't go up and dig any out. Oh I've seen pictures of them up there digging them out.

Whitlock: There was one big rock that was so dang far up, I remember for about a week we cleaned those ledges. To the side of that great big rock there is a place there of those little rocks. But that only last about a week.

Durrett: Now, working on the trail you'd always use pick and shovel?

Whitlock: Pick and shovel.

Durrett: So, on the switchbacks you used men to load the rocks onto the trucks?

Whitlock: Yeah mostly; some of them too we had a wheel barrow. We'd go dump then into the canyon and clean out the ditches (unintelligible).

Durrett: Now you did all that work on this side, on the west side of the tunnel?

Whitlock: We did work on the other side of the tunnel too. We cleaned the trash up there in those crevices. We liked to be in those crevices; it would be cool there. You know that was July and August when we was working on them. Yeah, it was cool. We loved to come through that tunnel than back on the CC trail, it would be nice and cool going through there.

Durrett: They would just load you in the back of the dump truck, was it or?

Whitlock: No, usually if we had the dump truck we had a special reason to use it. When we would go up and clean the rocks off we would take the dump truck because we could load a few extra rocks and things and put them. But in 1940 there was a dump truck, we got a new one.

Durrett: Is that right?

Whitlock: We thought that was the nicest thing. Back in the 40's you had to shift them gears; trucks don't do that anymore.

Durrett: Now, the driver of the truck, was that one of your 45 men?

Whitlock: No, that was somebody that was either hired or he worked for the park service. He lived in Springdale.

Durrett: You don't remember his name huh? It was always the same driver was it?

Whitlock: Yeah it was that summer. Well he was kind of in charge of us to. He told us what to do as well. If he figured we needed some place to go, he would say "well let's fix this." Every morning it was the same truck.

Durrett: You can't remember his name?

Whitlock: No, I can't remember it. He lived in Springdale. It remember that Excell.

Durrett: Yeah, course I think he pretty much did the rock.

Whitlock: Yeah he was in charge of the rock. He was quite an expert on the rock. I think he was in a company with rocks. I think they built some of these places along the road for some of them rocks. What makes me think about it is I heard you guys talking about it.

Durrett: The retaining walls.

Whitlock: Some of the retaining walls were a little bit higher

Durrett: How about buildings? Was there any building I mean as far as up in the maintenance yard or any of the buildings that the Cs built, did they do that before you were in?

Whitlock: I think the Park Service pretty well built all these buildings. Some of them could have been us, I don't know.

Durrett: Yeah, they probably had all the buildings done that they were going to do by the time you got here. Now the rock quarry, now they blasted the rock out of that, did they?

Whitlock: They blasted the rock off those ledges up there. They'd shoot and it would roll clear down, it was quite steep off those ledges and they would roll clear down where we could get at them. Some of them were to the edge of that turn or more.

Durrett: Oh I bet.

Whitlock: Then we would start on these little ledges. Crack them open and get them down to a certain size and then make the rocks another size. We usually had them about six feet long. Some of them, too, we would cut sharp. There was a certain size they'd want, and well I guess the ones I think were six feet and they would come out about that size and then we would cut them smaller because the rocks were so big that rolled down the mountain. We'd get them and start cutting them the size they wanted.

Durrett: And you could just roll them on the ground then?

Whitlock: Once it started to roll. If you go to cut that rock six feet you'd maybe put ten wedges in the little holes, you took the hammer and tapped on each wedge two or three times. Start and pretty soon that rock would break at each wedge. And do the same if you want to... and put maybe three wedges across and start tapping on each one. You take the \_\_\_\_\_, it makes little groves and then tap on those wedges. And we had a chipping hammer and would smooth it up and make it look nice.

Durrett: Did one person work? Did you just have one person per rock or did three or four of you work on it at a time?

Whitlock: No sometimes it would be two or three of us would work on the same rock.

Durrett: Who made the decision as to where to cut?

Whitlock: Well they'd tell us pretty well what size they want you know.

Durrett: And did you have tape measures?

Whitlock: Oh yeah.

Durrett: So you would measure out what size they wanted.

Whitlock: What size to make it.

Durrett: Then I suppose all of you got pretty good at it and you knew about what you needed to do.

Whitlock: We worked on it from December to April just about every day. Then we'd go up to Bryce Canyon, you know, when it started warming up.

Durrett: Sure. So what was the month you arrived here?

Whitlock: I arrived here in June of 1940. I left in '41.

Durrett: So you worked June through the winter did you? And then it was fall when you went up to Bryce?

Whitlock: No, it was the spring.

Durrett: Well that's what I mean, the following spring.

Whitlock: Oh the following spring, yeah.

Durrett: Yeah. So you were here June through the winter. Okay.

Whitlock: Then I come back here just about the first of June.

Durrett: And that was in '41 when you were discharged.

Whitlock: Right.

Durrett: Now could you have signed up for more time?

Whitlock: Yeah I could have.

Durrett: You were ready to go do something else.

Whitlock: I was ready to do something else; I was ready to get out. I did get out and went to Nevada and got me a job Then I went and worked about ten hours a day.

Durrett: Yeah, in the mines?

Whitlock: Yeah, well around those mines. I didn't actually work in the mines, but there was just a lot of work, depending on where you wanted to work.

Durrett: Now did you know you were going to get that type of job we you left or where you just tired of the three C's?

Whitlock: No, I was just kind of tired of it. I wanted to get out too and get me a car. They wouldn't let you have a car here although a lot of them did.

Durrett: They did huh? Where did they park them?

Whitlock: They'd park them some place down town. (Unintelligible a few sentences.)

Durrett: What were the rules like? When you come in at night, did you have to stay there or could you walk into town?

Whitlock: You could walk into town and see you could have weekends were you could go home or something. Some of the guys had cars. At that time I could hitchhike home on the road and beat the guys that had the cars. It wasn't like it was today. If you stood outside, anybody that had room for you would give you a ride.

Durrett: Yeah sure. And you weren't afraid that they were all right to pick you up on the road.

Whitlock: Yeah, but there was hardly a car that would pass you up. You'd just stand out here and start hitchhiking.

Durrett: Let me just go over what you day was like. Let's start when you first got up.

Whitlock: Well when we first got up we had to go down to calisthenics. They had a big cement pad.

Durrett: How did they wake you up?

Whitlock: It seems like they had a bugle.

Durrett: They had a bugle.

Whitlock: I know they had captains wake us up.

Durrett: And then calisthenics

Whitlock: And then we would do calisthenics and then we'd go to shower.

Durrett: Where were your calisthenics? Where was that at?

Whitlock: Well I guess it was kind of a tennis court, cement, a big cement block. Boy he'd have us doing all these things you know. It would get cold and of course that was in July and it still got cold. We'd do calisthenics and then we would come and get washed up and go out.

Durrett: When you would come in and get washed up. What was the wash room like?

Whitlock: Well it had a big wash room where you could shower and wash faces and do all the stuff like that. It was nice.

Durrett: Hot water?

Whitlock: Hot water, you bet.

Durrett: Yeah

Whitlock: And when we come in from work we would go shower.

Durrett: Now were the CCC boys assigned to keep the buildings clean. Was that like KP, you took turns?

Whitlock: Well, eventually they had one special guy that pretty well done all the cleaning and stuff. It was kind of his job. Fire up the furnace and make sure the water was hot, all those things. He took care of that.

Durrett: But as far as like sweeping and dusting and that kind of thing?

Whitlock: We had to keep our own place clean and make our own beds. Our captain would come through and boy you better not have a wrinkle on that bed. You were in trouble, he was pretty strict.

Durrett: Yeah, how were the beds? Did they have bunk beds?

Whitlock: No just single beds.

Durrett: Single beds.

Whitlock: About three feet in between us.

Durrett: Did you have a foot locker or something?

Whitlock: Yeah we kept a locker by our bed.

Durrett: Did they assign you that when you came into the three C's or did you have to get your own?

Whitlock: I can't remember if we bought that or if they give it to us. We must have bought it because I took it home with me when I left. I think they sold them at PX. I'm sure they must have sold them. Everybody took them home with them with all their stuff in them. You'd keep your personal stuff in that foot locker, like your toothbrush and shaving cream, cameras.

Durrett: Any personal thing that you had.

Whitlock: Any personal thing.

Durrett: What and then you kept it locked did you?

Whitlock: Yeah

Durrett: Yeah you had a lock on it.

Whitlock: Usually it wasn't bad, but there were one or two sticky fingers that would look through your trash. Excuse my language.

Durrett: So you'd get up and go do calisthenics, went back to wash up, and then you would eat breakfast. What time of day are we talking about?

Whitlock: Six o'clock in the morning.

Durrett: You got up at six o'clock? Or you ate breakfast at six?

Whitlock: Well we got up at six and then calisthenics and so probably eat breakfast at 6:30. We were ready to go to work for the day until about four in the afternoon. Then we could shower and whatever. We'd have supper probably around six. Then you could go to town or pretty well do anything you wanted.

Durrett: You had free time then. How about your lunch? Did they provide you with a shack lunch or did you walk down the trail?

Whitlock: A lot of times if we were, most time they'd bring us right into lunch in the camp.

Durrett: Yeah

Whitlock: And took us back. Like up at the Great White Throne, we'd all just get in the truck and come back for lunch and then go back up.

Durrett: So it was a hot lunch then was it?

Whitlock: Yeah it was.

Durrett: No sandwiches, nothing.

Whitlock: No, a good meal.

Durrett: And then you come home at four you say.

Whitlock: Well probably around four. A lot of times five even because I think we were supposed to work eight hours. And I don't know but I think to come down and turn around would take about an hour.

Durrett: Sure you would come down and eat.

Whitlock: Come down and eat and go back to work.

Durrett: And when you came in you must have had little time to get cleaned up before supper? Is that the way?

Whitlock: Yeah

Durrett: So you would shower or whatever you wanted to do.

Whitlock: Yeah you'd take a shower.

Durrett: Now did they have enough shower stalls so that everybody could shower and wash? Or did you have to wait in line?

Whitlock: Well they probably couldn't shower all at once, but they had eight or nine showers. And you wouldn't have to stay in there that long because somebody was waiting.

Durrett: And you would go eat supper. Now, was supper more of a main meal or did they just feed you the same?

Whitlock: All of them were good meals. For breakfast we had potatoes, and scrambled eggs, and hot cakes sometimes, and hot biscuits. Supper was probably the biggest meal we ate.

Durrett: So you could eat as much as you want.

Whitlock: Those were big weenies we used to have.

Durrett: So did you wrap bread around them, or did you just eat them?

Whitlock: No, we just put them on a plate and ate them.

Durrett: So there were no limitations at all, you could take whatever you could get on your plate.

Whitlock: Take whatever you could get until you run out.

Durrett: Then you would go back.

Whitlock: They never seemed to run out. I remember you could always pretty well have more than you could hold.

Durrett: They must have had a big warehouse just for the food then.

Whitlock: Well they had a big truck, no they had a big truck that would come from Cedar everyday with food. They would order certain things for certain days. Oh they did have big fridges and that you know, but those big trucks would come and deliver this food just about every day.

Durrett: On the food, do you remember like Thanksgiving or Christmas. Were those a little bit special?

Whitlock: I don't remember that really being special because they always had good food as far as I was concerned. I didn't eat like that at home. When we were kids about all we had was bread and milk for supper. We were tight, boy, and a lot of people didn't even have that.

Durrett: Yeah it seems like that would make you want to stay.

Whitlock: Yeah, well I really enjoyed it while I was in here. Lots of guys I met here, a lot of those I guys I associate with today.

Durrett: What about the men in the camp? Did you know anybody when you got here?

Whitlock: No, I didn't know a soul.

Durrett: Didn't know anybody.

Whitlock: Oh well I knew some of the guys that came with me.

Durrett: Had you got acquainted with them up there or?

Whitlock: Well I knew them. We joined the CCC's with four or five other.

Durrett: You knew each other. Did they sign you a bunk when you got here or did you take one?

Whitlock: They assigned us a bunk.

Durrett: You had to stay right there.

Whitlock: That was your bunk.

Durrett: In the evenings now after you got back and you had eaten supper you could do whatever you want. If you went to town what was there to do in Springdale?

Whitlock: Chase women, but there were so many CC guys you about had to go to St. George.

Durrett: Yeah.

Whitlock: But they had a recreation room too in the CC camp where you could play cards or something, and each one of these barracks had two big pot belly stoves. When it got colder we would have a fire pretty well all night. They had plenty of coal. They had it south of the campground and a big truck that would bring coal to keep the fires going.

Durrett: So all of you would sit around the stove in the winter and play cards?

Whitlock: Yeah, there were lots of recreational cards or we'd listen to the radio a lot.

Durrett: You said some of them had guitars, did they, and harmonicas?

Whitlock: There was always somebody that had just about anything.

Durrett: So was that something that was done quite a bit, would you sit around the fire and sing a little?

Whitlock: Different guys would do different things. Mostly though we would go up to the recreation room and they had a kind of candy place that you could buy candy bars out of there with your script book.

Durrett: Now you would buy that with your dollar a day, would you?

Whitlock: No, that was check, you would go and sign up for a script book, I think it was like a dollar a piece, and that was taken out of your eight dollars.

Durrett: So what did the book cost a dollar?

Whitlock: As I remember it, they were about a dollar a piece.

Durrett: What could you get with that?

Whitlock: Well, some of them were for five cents and some of them were worth like a penny. You could buy show tickets for less, and they were already marked up as they were.

Durrett: Well you could get a candy bar for a nickel. What else did they have that you could buy?

Whitlock: Well they had soap and stuff and toothpaste and different things like that.

Durrett: So you had to buy all that, it wasn't provided?

Whitlock: You had to buy it.

Durrett: Well this was just a regular PX was it?

Whitlock: It was a PX. It was in the north end of the recreation room. There was a guy that run it, can't even remember his name now. But he opened that up usually about six. If you had the money you could buy it or with the book.

Durrett: Oh you could buy it with money or the book.

Whitlock: Yeah, you could buy it either way.

Durrett: Well was the script good for anything else or just strictly in the PX.

Whitlock: Just strictly in the PX. You couldn't take it down to Springdale and buy anything with it.

Durrett: Let's see if you can help me visualize how the camps sat. Now we talked about these different buildings. Let's start with your bunk houses. How were they set?

Whitlock: They were set on the east side towards these ledges here. The kitchen and the bath house was down towards the creek.

Durrett: I've seen pictures of long buildings running north and south, was that your bunk houses?

Whitlock: Yeah

Durrett: Okay and the kitchen was down to the south.

Whitlock: No, it was to the west.

Durrett: Oh it was on the other side, on the outer courtyard out in the middle?

Whitlock: Yeah it was bigger in the middle and the kitchen was over by the creek. There was about two rows of buildings on the east side and then there was a place in between and then there was the kitchen and the shower or the bath house and that was towards the creek.

Durrett: Okay, so they kind of faced each other the bunk houses.

Whitlock: Now not everything ran north and south.

Durrett: I see, there was nothing on the ends?

Whitlock: Well yeah we had a warehouse on the north end, and I think we did have one building on the south end but there was a big space in between so they could put the flag up.

Durrett: And did they do that first thing in the morning when everybody got up. I've seen pictures of them putting the flag up.

Whitlock: By golly, it seems like they did. I know they done it in the evening before supper. Everybody had to get up there and learn that stuff.

Durrett: A salutation did you?

Whitlock: They would pull it up and play taps or something.

Durrett: Raise and lower the flag I guess, raise it in the morning and the evening. Did you salute the flag or anything like that?

Whitlock: Gosh, I just don't remember. I know we had to stand attention. But it don't seem like we did. We had to stand attention.

Durrett: How about a wash room for your clothes? You had to wash your clothing.

Whitlock: They sent the clothing out. We had bags, each guy. They sent them out somewhere, to Cedar City or somewhere.

Durrett: Oh, so you didn't have to do your own wash. Now what did the clothes have your name in it?

Whitlock: Yeah we had them marked and we had our bag marked. They threw them all back in the same bag.

Durrett: So you actually didn't have a washer, then as far as the bedding and clothing and all that.

Whitlock: No, that was taken care of.

Durrett: Did you ship it off once a week or something?

Whitlock: Yeah, about that.

Durrett: Bedding too? You would throw it in the bag.

Whitlock: Yeah. They pretty well took care of that. As I remember the bedding if you want clean sheets you would just go over and check out some new ones at the big supply room.

Durrett: Where was it located?

Whitlock: It was on the east side by the \_\_\_\_\_ is exactly where it was.

Durrett: In line with the bunk houses then.

Whitlock: Yeah, it was on the line of the buildings with the bunk house. It was next to the recreation, on the north side of the recreation.

Durrett: Okay so the recreation room was over on the bunk house side.

Whitlock: Yeah.

Durrett: Was anything on the west then? Was the kitchen?

Whitlock: The bath house and the kitchen.

Durrett: Now did that run the length of the other building? Was it that big of a complex?

Whitlock: It seems like it wasn't quite as long as the other buildings. Course the others was about three different buildings just stretched out there.

Durrett: Aligned north and south? Did you say they were three deep?

Whitlock: Well three of them in a row.

Durrett: Oh three in a row. Was there any depth? Were there any barracks behind or was it just one?

Whitlock: Yeah there was like two rows on that side.

Durrett: Two rows on the east side.

Whitlock: East side and then about three in each row, and then there was one on the south side going east and west.

Durrett: That was the bunk house was it?

Whitlock: Yeah it was the bunk house, and then the kitchen.

Durrett: And then your warehouse was up here on the north.

Whitlock: The warehouse was exactly where we came in up here. It was set out a ways from the rest of the buildings.

Durrett: And that had all the picks and shovels that you needed.

Whitlock: Jackhammers and whatever you might need.

Durrett: Uh-huh. Did you ever run a jackhammer or were you just strictly . . . ?

Whitlock: No, mostly I broke the rocks. They had some guys who did have them and they would run those big \_\_\_\_\_ up there.

Durrett: Now did they get paid to do extra? Was that paid labor?

Whitlock: I don't think so.

Durrett: Just the same old.

Whitlock: Anybody that got extra pay was some kind of a boss. You know, he was in charge of somebody.

Durrett: How did they decide? Or was it just random? Okay you get that . . .

Whitlock: No, they would pick someone who they thought about was a good leader. And he would get paid an extra six dollars a month. Somebody they thought was a little better, he'd be in charge of more guys and they would give him twenty five. There probably wasn't more than four or five captains.

Durrett: But, how about your jackhammer runners.

Whitlock: Well they just got picked.

Durrett: But what I mean is how did they determine or how did you switch off. How did they determine who would run a jackhammer and who would run a regular hammer and chisel?

Whitlock: I think they tried to pick somebody who knew something about it you know. They had probably done it some. And if they couldn't find anybody they would say well it looks like he could learn to do that and put him on it.

Durrett: Just kind of watch the boys and see what they could do.

Whitlock: See if they could handle it. Yeah it was interesting.

Durrett: So where would your day start after you ate breakfast. Would you all go up in a truck?

Whitlock: We had to get ready to go to work. We would go put on our work clothes.

Durrett: Oh, you didn't have your clothes? You changed clothes then?

Whitlock: Yeah we would change clothes then come and leave.

Durrett: What were you dressed in, in the morning when you got up? Were you in uniforms?

Whitlock: Well they had khaki pants, they were tan. They were what we wore to go to town. They were our best clothes. And then we had the green ones, we'd wear them kicking around camp. And we had the hats.

Durrett: Did you just have one hat? Like when you went to town did you have to dress up?

Whitlock: We wore hats. When we went to town we wore khaki hats and they were like the army only long.

Durrett: But you were always were wearing kind of a CCC uniform when you went to town or whatever.

Whitlock: Yeah, when we went to town we always dressed up in the khaki.

Durrett: But it was still kind of a CCC uniform. Did you have a patch on your arm or anything like that identified you as being a CCC worker?

Whitlock: Gosh it does seem like we had a CCC emblem on. I'm sure we did on the hat and on the sleeve of the shirt too.

Durrett: Then did they issue to you oh like mittens and things for the winter, and coats I suppose, you must have had a good rain coat.

Whitlock: Yeah good rain coats. Good coats.

Durrett: Underwear, was the provided? Like long underwear in the winter?

Whitlock: Yeah they pretty well took care of things for us.

Durrett: Everything was issued to you then?

Whitlock: Yeah, everything. Shoes..

Durrett: You didn't bring anything from home. Did you leave you civilian clothes at home?

Whitlock: Well it does seem like some of the guys did sneak some in.

Durrett: So when you went to town

Whitlock: So when we went to town they could sneak them into town.

Durrett: Now was there any kind of curfew? Did you have to be in at a certain time of night?

Whitlock: Gee it seems like that was usually about ten o'clock. I know you had to have the lights out at a certain time. You weren't supposed to turn the lights on after that time or you'd have to slip in with flash lights you know? And get to bed at that time.

Durrett: Now if you were caught breaking any of these rules what did they do? What kind of discipline was there? Or was there?

Whitlock: Yeah they did have some discipline, but probably just extra work. I never did suspend any of the rules I always just went along. Some of them did have a few problems not doing what they were told. Some of them even got kicked out.

Durrett: I was going to say if they did something against the rules, did they send them home?

Whitlock: Send them home with a dishonorable discharge. If it got too bad, drinking or wrecking company property and stuff like that.

Durrett: What about drinking? Was that strictly off limits?

Whitlock: No I think if you behave yourself, I don't think they would let you down one right in camp, but in town or something. They just said, "Okay boys, we don't want any in the barracks."

Durrett: Well let's see, prohibition was over by then; you were over age by then?

Whitlock: Yeah

Durrett: So what about if you were 17 or 18 years old and they were still under the legal age?

Whitlock: No, but that captain didn't worry too much about that, but if he frowned on the drinking in camp. He wouldn't allow it.

Durrett: In camp. What you did in town, he . . .

Whitlock: We'd come from town drunk; I never did drink much myself. (Unintelligible) One guy thought he was going to die. He got in the kitchen and drank the vanilla and some kind of lemon extract and boy they just about lost him. He got took too much of it, but they couldn't really tell.

Durrett: Well now what about going to town? Did you do that very much?

Whitlock: We used to walk down to Springdale quite a lot and a lot of times they would take the company truck and take us to St. George.

Durrett: And what would you do when they took you to St. George? Did they have anything lined up for you or?

Whitlock: No, they would just turn you loose and they had a certain time you would have to come back. If you wasn't there, you stayed there. They told you when they was going to come back. We would just go around and talk to the girls more or less. Oh walk around town, nothing too exciting.

Durrett: Well I've heard a lot of different places where they had dances. Did they have dances every week?

Whitlock: I don't remember ever having any although if you went to St. George there was probably a dance.

Durrett: Just one thought. You don't remember any organized where they brought girls in and took you specifically to a dance?

Whitlock: I don't remember.

Durrett: What would they do, just take you down to St. George, dump you off, and say be back here at a certain time?

Whitlock: Yeah, it seems like they had a driver. If you had bucks with you, you could go to the show. Eleven o'clock at night we would go home or whatever the time was. The guys always headed back to the truck about that time and get back.

Durrett: Was there ever problems with someone getting way late and not getting back?

Whitlock: Oh yeah, I think the biggest problem would be they'd get drunk and we would have to drive them up to the truck.

Durrett: You never had to go find them though huh?

Whitlock: Well, you'd usually seem them up town and know, so you would try to get them back to the truck. They would get a little too much and go wild.

Durrett: How often would this take place? Would they take you into town once a week, or once a month?

Whitlock: Probably once a week, probably on a Saturday night but I remember they used to take us around to ball games. Once, probably on Saturday, we got a truck and a whole bunch of us went to Short Creek, Arizona. They had another camp there from back east and they had a big ball game. They took us all there pretty well, but we came back the same day.

Durrett: So they had a ball game of the three Cs playing each other?

Whitlock: Yeah, some of our guys was playing them.

Durrett: So did you have a ball team then or did just anybody who wanted to play?

Whitlock: I don't remember playing too much there but I think they did have ball games. I never did fit in with the ball team much. I just remember that time we went to Sharp Creek there wasn't twenty houses there then. Now it is a big city. It was just rural houses until you get to the wash about ten miles out, the CCC Camp. They were from back east, easterners.

Durrett: So you just went there and played ball?

Whitlock: Just played ball and went down for the day.

Durrett: Ate over there then huh?

Whitlock: Yeah, they was always good like that. If some stranger would come in or even the guys that used to bring the food, they would feed them in the kitchen.

Durrett: Sure

Whitlock: They were real good about that. Kids would come up even sometimes.

Durrett: Well they didn't have anything at home.

Whitlock: Yeah, they were really good about that. They had a little something.

Durrett: How did you go down to Short Creek?

Whitlock: We rode down through Hurricane.

Durrett: Oh you'd go down through Hurricane and come out.

Whitlock: There was a big \_\_\_\_\_ there and you know I don't remember ever passing a car. The whole time we had that old truck.

Durrett: But back then it was all dirt roads.

Whitlock: Oh yes, yeah.

Durrett: How many could they fit in the truck?

Whitlock: Oh easy thirty.

Durrett: So did they take the whole camp, all they men? Take them down in truckloads?

Whitlock: Well they would just say who wants to go to Short Creek? (Unintelligible) We had some good times in the CCCs.

Durrett: Yeah well how about in camp? Did you ever did play ball in camp?

Whitlock: No I don't ever remember playing it in camp.

Durrett: How about boxing? I've seen a lot of pictures. Was there any boxing?

Whitlock: They didn't seem to do too much of that either. Everybody would try it.

Durrett: Did you have a boxing ring where you all go together?

Whitlock: I don't remember, although we did have a few fights.

Durrett: Those weren't scheduled though huh?

Whitlock: They weren't scheduled, some of the guys, mostly when they got to drinking.

Durrett: Was there any kind of discipline for that? If you got in a fight with each other?

Whitlock: Well if the captain caught them there would be, but they kind of keep them out behind the buildings in a corner or something where he didn't find out about it. Oh Scipio, he was a great, big old I guess he was Swedish. He was six feet something and he had feet that big. He'd stir them up in a hurry. He was just more or less let them know who was boss. He was a good old guy, but he was the boss.

Durrett: And he was a captain?

Whitlock: No he was the head. He pretty well stayed in camp and he was in charge of the cooks and everybody.

Durrett: He was in the army then wasn't he?

Whitlock: No.

Durrett: No he wasn't, but he was a CC guy?

Whitlock: He was there for seven or eight years.

Durrett: Yeah other people have talked about Scipio.

Whitlock: He died a few years back.

Durrett: Where was he from?

Whitlock: Well they called him Scipio, so I assume he was from Scipio. But I think, you know the little town of Scipio? That's probably where he was from.

Durrett: Probably.

Whitlock: Now, he was married. He had three or four kids. His wife lived in Springdale, but he stayed up here. Yeah he was in charge of everything.

Durrett: Well, what did Springdale have? When you would go down to Springdale, would you walk back and forth through town?

Whitlock: Yes, more or less just something to do, you know? They didn't really have anything much. They had a couple of plays there, but we wasn't much on going to the play.

Durrett: But they had what you needed.

Whitlock: Yeah we'd walk down there and talk to the girls or something.

Durrett: There wasn't enough girls in town to go around was there?

Whitlock: No, that was the thing. There was some pretty girls. Well this guys wife in the company, she was my wife's sister. They worked at this cafeteria, I think, they served here.

Durrett: That was here at the Zion Inn, that you're talking about.

Whitlock: Yes that was it.

Durrett: It was right here across the river from you.

Whitlock: Yea, it was just across the river.

Durrett: So did you ever come over here?

Whitlock: Yeah, we'd go mess around, but we wouldn't do much because of the tourists, just more or less watch the girls.

Durrett: Well seeing the tourists it was worth it then to come watch the girls.

Whitlock: Yeah, if you had a car though, anywhere you went it was just like, oh you have a car and the girls would jump in.

Durrett: Well now you said something like guys had cars hidden in town, but where would they go? Would they have time in the evening?

Whitlock: Well that's why they had them cars see, they didn't want to be seen too much. They'd go home on the weekends; pick their cars up and go home.

Durrett: Well now were you off on Saturday and Sunday?

Whitlock: Yeah

Durrett: Oh so you had those days off.

Whitlock: Yeah, and you could arrange to have maybe an extra day or two to go home. They would give you kind of a pass.

Durrett: Well now where you were as far away from home as you were, what would you do on the weekends?

Whitlock: I would usually go hiking. Up behind this CC camp there was a trail that goes up these ledges and there is a big rope that hung down up there. We'd climb up that ledge.

Durrett: Up the trail up here, yeah.

Whitlock: We'd climb up that rope and go around and see what was up there. And they used to take us some times and take us up the canyons, and hike up to that Narrows up through there, a lot of walking. . . . It was nothing just walking to the east boulders. Well it's three times the hike to go over here and up to this arch over here.

Durrett: The arch on Bridge Mountain.

Whitlock: Three times the hike it was to East Mountain.

Durrett: So you go on the trail as far as it would go and then climb on up and go around.

Whitlock: We'd go behind the camp here and up through those ledges, clear back through those hills and up.

Durrett: So you've been up to that arch there several times.

Whitlock: Yeah

Durrett: Now did you come clear behind the mountain?

Whitlock: Yeah we come clear around behind.

Durrett: That used up some of your time. What about Sundays? What did most of the guys do? Did you go to church or do anything like that on Sundays?

Whitlock: It doesn't seem like they did. They just more or less stayed around.

Durrett: Did they have a chaplain or anything like that, that did church services or anything?

Whitlock: No.

Durrett: So you just pretty much just did whatever you wanted.

Whitlock: Yeah you could do whatever you wanted.

Durrett: As far as you could walk that is, I guess.

Whitlock: Well they were pretty good. If somebody had something they would let them take the truck or take them to St. George or something.

Durrett: Into town yeah.

Whitlock: If they had a guy who was qualified to drive the truck.

Durrett: As long as it was in range. If there was a bunch of you that wanted to do it did you go talk to somebody?

Whitlock: They had a certain guy who had to drive it.

Durrett: But, I mean let's say if you got the idea you wanted to go to St. George on a Saturday, could you go see an advisor, Scipio or somebody, and say can we do this?

Whitlock: No we'd have to go see Marion Ross or one of those guys; they were more or less in charge of that stuff.

Durrett: But you actually could do that? A group of you could go see him and say can we take the truck today and go to St. George?

Whitlock: Yeah to St. George or something and can we use the truck and usually they would say yes.

Durrett: You say you'd have to have someone drive, and then oh ten or twelve guys or so?

Whitlock: Yeah we would have to have a guy to drive.

Durrett: How about Cedar City? Did you ever go to Cedar City?

Whitlock: No.

Durrett: No, just St. George huh?

Whitlock: The first year we went to Colorado City or Short Creek, but that was about the first year.

Durrett: Yeah and that sounds like something that they did higher ups had arranged. Now was it all dirt roads between here and St. George in those years too?

Whitlock: No it was paved.

Durrett: Paved from here all the way?

Whitlock: Yeah, see this is all paved up the canyon here too and it heads all the way to Richfield. They were all paved roads, just the back roads.

Durrett: It didn't take long to get to St. George then did it?

Whitlock: Oh no. Actually if we were going to St. George, we could hitchhike because if you wanted to hitch hike all you had to do is. We used to go to Cedar City and hitchhike down there and if you knew somebody, I had a friend that lived in a town north of Cedar City. We'd hitchhike around his place and hitchhike back the next day. All you had to do was just step out on the road, anybody would come by.

Durrett: All the tourists. How about the winter time though, it was probably a little slower hitchhiking?

Whitlock: It was a little slower, but there really wasn't that much difference because anybody that went by and had room would give you a ride. Nobody was the least bit scared of picking anybody up, especially probably if it was a CC boy, you know, if they had their uniforms on. Even the tourists, they'd drop you off and be in some fancy cars and I would think oh really can I top that? You know. They'd be going clear on through.

Durrett: Yeah, you bet.

Whitlock: In the wintertime, it didn't make a difference. Then I could hitchhike back on Sunday and probably get a ride.

Durrett: And there was probably no real curfew so if you didn't get back it didn't matter.

Whitlock: Yeah you could come in later, but you had to have the lights off by ten o'clock. It may have been a little earlier. See ten o'clock wouldn't be bad in the summer.

Durrett: How about reading? Would you read in the evenings?

Whitlock: We played cards and stuff like that mostly.

Durrett: Just played cards. There was money involved in it I suppose?

Whitlock: Yeah I think we did a little bit. I never was much of a gambler, but some of them did do it.

Durrett: Make a few dollars.

Whitlock: They used to sit at their foot lockers and you could get one on each side and pull up a chair and it would be kind of like a table and we could play cards.

Durrett: Any other recreation that you can think of that you did?

Whitlock: No

Durrett: Just pretty much playing cards huh? Listen to the radio.

Whitlock: Yeah and listen to the radio. We worked pretty hard you know, so we would go to bed and get up early.

Durrett: For sure. Oh, you mentioned you were ready to get out when you left. Were you disgruntled with the three C's or just wanted something new?

Whitlock: No, not really. See I was a real good worker and I worked up to Bryce Canyon and we put in a sewer line that the CCC guys were working on where they had the cafeteria and that. And there were some guys there that were private contractors and a couple of them came up to me and said "Boy we would like to have you go with us to the Grand Canyon." And I said "I can't I'm with the CCCs" and they said "We need a good worker like you; we'll take you, lodge you, and give you a job" working on some projects they had on the Grand Canyon. But I said I'm in the CCC's now and I couldn't go and they finally left and I don't know really why I didn't go with them. I know I would have to get out of the CCCs; I couldn't just get up and leave.

Durrett: Now you were signed up for six months, but if you wanted to get out early could you?

Whitlock: Some of the guys took off, but they gave them a dishonorable discharge you know.

Durrett: What kind of effect does a dishonorable discharge make? Nothing huh?

Whitlock: No. At that time they told you, you could never get in the army, you could never get a government job of any kind.

Durrett: But then the war started and you all got in the army whether you wanted to or not.

Whitlock: Yeah, I spent three years hunting those Japanese all across the Pacific.

Durrett: You got hit in the leg didn't you?

Whitlock: Yeah, shattered my leg. I was in the hospital for eight months, but I fought them Japs all the way across the Pacific.

Durrett: In the infantry were you?

Whitlock: Yeah. Then I turned around and they took my job, after 36 years at it, the Japanese influence, and a good job too, good money. I had to go two years before getting my social security mining coal. Six days a week we would work. It was a good company to work for.

Durrett: You actually worked down in the mine did you?

Whitlock: Oh yeah one of those miners who stayed. I could get good money. Those big miners could kick out ten ton a minute. .

Durrett: Wow.

Whitlock: They cut fifteen feet wide and it would just eat that coal.

Durrett: A little different than in the CCC days then huh?

Whitlock: Yes, you bet.

Durrett: You didn't have too much equipment in the three Cs in general?

Whitlock: No, we did have a motor for something, but I don't remember ever using it.

Durrett: What is something that you remember special about the three C's? I mean just any incident that you can, that comes to mind that you always thought about?

Whitlock: Well I told you about that time that we had that slide up here.

Durrett: Was that just a one time occurrence I guess? You worked most the night up there did you?

Whitlock: Yeah

Durrett: Just shoveling snow huh?

Whitlock: Yup it come down pretty good, just slow and steady, probably 25 feet deep.

Durrett: Was the whole camp up there with you?

Whitlock: Well there was a bunch, two or three truckloads, one on both sides.

Durrett: So you had it cleared off by morning then?

Whitlock: Oh yeah we had it before the morning so cars could get through.

[Ends abruptly. End of Interview]