

Devere Wood
Zion National Park Oral History
CCC Reunion
September 28, 1989

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July 12, 2011

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Wayne Hinton: It is September 28, 1989, interviewing De Vere Wood in conjunction with the 1989 Fiftieth anniversary of the CCC Reunion in Zion National Park. De Vere, I've got a copy of your registration form, and it says that you worked on the park service warehouse?

Devere Wood: Yes. I didn't work *on* it. I worked *in* it.

Wayne Hinton: You worked *in* it. When did you come to the CCCs?

Devere Wood: Well, I did two times. I came in about the first of May in '36, and then I got out in '37.

Wayne Hinton: You were on for a year then?

Devere Wood: Yes. Then I left. Then I went out a year. Then I came in and was in for two years.

Hinton: So you served about three years, total.

Wood: Yes.

Hinton: How much of it in Zion?

Wood: Well, about ninety-percent of it.

Hinton: So you were assigned here at the Bridge Mountain camp?

Wood: What I did was the first year I came in, I just came to camp, and they went on to Bryce, and I went up to Bryce and worked on trails up there. Then when it got cold weather, I decided I'd like to be a cook, so I became a K.P. pusher as they called it in them days. I was just here to see things were cleaned up. I came back then, I intended doing it all winter, but about the middle of winter, it got snowy, and I mean we had one heck of a snow that year.

Hinton: That was probably pretty unusual for Zion.

Wood: So then they put me out on the road with a shovel to help shovel roads, and they'd get us in a truck and send us up towards . . .

Hinton: Up on the switchbacks?

Wood: Backs and on back up the country. They'd take it as far as they could break trail, and then they'd put us out with a big shovel and move the snow. And that went on until we

finally got it cleaned off. I remember one time, why, we'd been up where the county line is. I don't know where it is. It's back in there.

Hinton: Yes, the Kane county line?

Wood: And right at that point, they'd had a big slide, and we had a Cat "skinner" [driver] and he was up there with a Cat, and we were cleaning with shovels. And he pushed it off in the canyon, a deep canyon, but it was level. So later on, after the drifts melted, a bunch of us was going — this wasn't part of our job -- we were just going on over to Orderville or some place like that.

Hinton: To see the girls?

Wood: To see the girls, and he was talking about snow, and he said, "You know, I was pushing a Cat about here." He was from up north or something, and one of the guys said, "Well, it's just around the bend here." We went around the bend, and he said, "Yeah, there's the sign." He looked over the side, and he said, "You mean I had the Cat out on that country?"

Hinton: (laughs)

Wood: Anyways, that's about all I can say about the first term. At Bryce, I worked on the trail that went down around Rainbow Point at the end of the camp. We built that. There's about four of us decided we'd carry the water in and out if they'd let us come out as we wanted, and so we came out in a hurry.

Most of the things I can tell you about this camp, first time I was in, are little incidents that don't have a darn thing to do with construction or the camp.

Hinton: (laughs) Well, that's all right. We want some of those human interest stories.

Wood: Roselle, who was parks . . . I don't know what you call him—

Hinton: He was project supervisor, or superintendent.

Wood: Anyway. I remember one time we used to play cards up in the foreman's quarters.

Hinton: Uh-huh. CCC boys wouldn't do that.

Wood: Oh, no, but we did.

Hinton: (laughs)

Wood: Anyway, I went up there one night and I'd been doing something wrong, I don't remember now what it was. Anyway, I was confined to camp. We got up there and we talked about it. I knew him pretty well. And so he said, when the next man who came in - I don't know who he was.

Hinton: Kennedy?

Wood: No. This would have been about '38.

Hinton: Oh, okay.

Wood: '37, '38. Anyway, he came in, and he said, "Well, since you've been confined to camp, can I use it?" I said, "Sure." So he said, "Well, come on outside." So I walked outside. He told me, he said, "Why don't you go down and get dressed-up?" He said, "Come back, take my pick-up, and go to town." He said, "I want you to be sure everybody gets home tonight after the dance." and turned around and walked back in. Of course, I got to take his pick-up and go to town. That was a heck of a lot better than if I'd have been going anyway.

Hinton: Yes.

Wood: But he was a nice guy. Well, I got to know him.

Hinton: Which town? Springdale? Rockville? Hurricane?

Wood: No, Hurricane.

Hinton: Hurricane. Okay.

Wood: (Difficult to make this out above the noise of the wind)

Most of the time, I was working up there in the warehouse, I was working right in the warehouse for the park service. My boss was the head clerk during that time. So I had nothing to do with the Cs other than they came into work.

Hinton: Were you a CCC enrollee?

Wood: Yes.

Hinton: You got paid your \$30 a month?

Wood: Well, the good thing is they gave me \$36.

Hinton: Because you were an assistant leader?

Wood: Yes, because of the kind of job I had.

Hinton: Yes.

Wood: During the summer months, after everybody went up there [Bryce?] that summer, they left us here. There was Gale Wilcox, he was a cook, and I was up there, and there was only two waiting. There was about nine of us. One of the guys watered the trees here in this part right here. And then one guy by the name of Adams, he was up at the naturalists

Hinton: Oh, the visitor's center, when it was up by the bridge

Wood: The visitor's center when it was up there. He worked up there all the time. And then there was one guy by the name of Crawford, picked up trash—

Hinton: J.L.?

Wood: And he picked up trash all over the place. And then they was another guy—I don't remember—but they was all—that's the kind of people that we had was none, and then they was like I say, they was the cook and the K.P. And we was having a lot of fun. We'd do a lot of things that wasn't quite kosher. We made a case of beer—I mean a keg of beer. We knew we couldn't leave it in camp and carry it up the canyon. When we come back, we was having a party, and we'd invite the girls up to dinner. We walks in, but goes down where the commander was, and their wives—their girlfriends, or somebody. Anyway, walked in, and of course, they were just in time for dinner, and we had a pitcher of beer on the table, and everything else. You know. We got a kick out of the commander. He said, "I don't remember a thing on this menu that I had listed for today's dinner."

That's about all I know about. I was here when we used apples to get the deer out in '37.

Hinton: Out of the orchards inside the park?

Wood: Oh right here because it [snow] got so deep, and they got so many deer in here, they hauled them out.

Hinton: The CCCs did that?

Wood: Oh, yes. Under the direction of the park . . .

Hinton: Yes. They'd trap them, load them in trucks, and . . .

Wood: Haul them out.

Hinton: Haul them out.

Wood: And then after that, it got deeper snow, and while it was snowing here, they sent trucks out to the ranches along the strip with feed to keep them. And then they took a Cat, and they put big logs into a sleigh and they sent it out. I knew the guys that was all going out there. This is my wife's idea, not mine.

Hinton: (laughs) That's all right. She had a good idea. That's over the winter of '37 then?

Wood: Yes. That was a hard winter.

Hinton: Yes. That would have been what, January and February probably?

Wood: Probably was because I remember when I came back. I stayed here in camp for Christmas, and then went home for New Years. That's when they had to keep a few people here, you know. And then when I got back, why the "devil" broke loose.

Hinton: Well, that's a little unusual for this country.

Wood: Oh, it was! Oh, it was beautiful though. You could go up the canyon, well, like up where the lodge was. I don't know if the lodge is still there or not.

Hinton: Yes.

Wood: That used to be a beautiful area in there.

Hinton: Still is.

Wood: And you would look out, and oh heavens, you'd count fifty or a hundred deer out on the meadow country, pawing through snow, trying to move. It was still better here than it was up on the high country.

Hinton: Probably was, yes.

Wood: We only had about eight inches. Up there, they had two or three feet.

Hinton: Yes.

Wood: But the other two years that I was here, why, I just came back and more or less worked around here.

Hinton: You said you worked in the warehouse in the shop area. Doing what? Maintaining?

Wood: No, I was the clerk.

Hinton: So you kept the record—the inventory and so forth?

Wood: And received, and at the time, why, we received everything for all the camps. There was Zion, Bryce, Cedar Breaks, Timpanogos Caves, and Lehman's.

Hinton: Yes. Were all administered by Zion, huh?

Wood: All administered by Zion.

Hinton: Yes.

Wood: And I am world's worst speller.

Hinton: (Chuckles)

Wood: And I spelled it as it sounds. I remember Mr. Foley say, "You know," he says, "took me two-months before I could learn how to read" you know, my letters and things. He said, "And I finally have found out." He said, "All I've got to do is just read it as it sounds, and I don't have to worry about spelling."

Hinton: (laughs)

Wood: But I worked there for two years, almost, about a year and a half, and then they brought in a regular National Parks employee. I applied for the job, but I wasn't qualified. I always get a kick out of it.

Hinton: You'd done it for two years, and then you weren't qualified to do it.

Wood: Not only that, but I had to learn him how to do it.

Hinton: Teach him how. Well, maybe he could spell.

Wood: He could, that's what he had over me.

Hinton: Well, it does make a difference.

Wood: It does. It makes a lot of difference. I have no kick coming. I learned a lot here, and I—

Hinton: You learned some things that you were able to apply in your vocation?

Wood: Yes.

Hinton: What did you make a living at when you left here?

Wood: Well, I became a carpenter.

Hinton: Yes.

Wood: And from that, I went to superintendent. I say a carpenter, but the last job I did, I had a 165 pipe fitters, and 11 carpenters on the job.

Hinton: Yes.

Wood: So I went from— I've been retired for about fifteen years.

Hinton: Where was your home when you came into the CCs?

Wood: Parowan, Utah.

Hinton: Parowan? You were enrolled at Parowan and were sent right here to Zion?

Wood: Yes.

Hinton: Right out of high school?

Wood: Well, I had to get permission from—

Hinton: From your parents?

Wood: No, from the high school.

Hinton: You left school early?

Wood: Yes. About three weeks. I still hold it against old—what's his name? Whitney, I think that's his name. He wouldn't let me go home for graduation.

Hinton: Wouldn't let you leave the camp and go to Parowan?

Wood: My graduation. I still hold that against him.

Hinton: (laughs)

Wood: He's a good guy, and I like everything else, but that was kind of disappointing.

Hinton: Yes.

Wood: But that's about all I can tell you unless you've got some questions.

Hinton: Did you work on any of the construction projects? Do any carpentry when you were here?

Wood: No. I never done any carpentry at all. I went to school.

Hinton: What did you study?

Wood: We studied Steel Square, and I was trying to think of the guy's name that taught it, a foreman.

Hinton: Yes.

Wood: It was kind of funny. After I got out, I went and tried for a job down in Las Vegas and the union at that time they took you in an examination. Well, they could have asked me a million questions, and I wouldn't have known it, but they chose to ask me how to read the steel square. I knew it better than they did.

Hinton: (laughs) So you passed?

Wood: I passed—oh, yes.

Hinton: Well, what is a steel square?

Wood: A steel square is a square that has twenty-four inches on one side and sixteen inches on the other side, and it's a right triangle.

Hinton: The same old square that we are all familiar with.

Wood: Yes, and you can do everything including Calculus on it.

That's about all I can say, unless you have some questions.

Hinton: They taught you that then in the class.

Wood: Yes.

Hinton: Did you take any other classes here?

Wood: Oh, yes. I took a lot of them, but I never finished them. The best class I had was girls.

Hinton: That seems to be almost universal for this camp.

Wood: Yes.

Hinton: Were there enough girls in this vicinity?

Wood: Well, I'll tell you what. I thought there was until I went in the service. I was over in the Philippines and got run into a guy from St. George. Got talking to and we got comparing notes, and both of us was going with one girl from Hurricane at the same time.

Hinton: (laughs) Probably disappointed both of you then.

Wood: Gosh, she married some guy from Hatch.

Hinton: (laughs)

Wood: Now, I don't know. We had a lot of good times here. I was here in the summer when they made movies, a couple of movies in here.

Hinton: Do you remember what they were?

Wood: One of them was "Twenty-Thousand Men a Year."

Hinton: Yes. That was a military war story?

Wood: Yes.

Hinton: They did some stunt flying and out here.

Wood: They also did some up the camp.

Hinton: Did they let you guys watch the filming and so forth?

Wood: I made fifty dollars.

Hinton: How was that?

Wood: Well, they want somebody to jump out over the canyon.

Hinton: Yes.

Wood: And I wouldn't jump, so they turned the plane upside down, and they forgot to tell me to put my safety belt on.

Hinton: You fell out?

Wood: I fell out.

Hinton: I'm sure you had a parachute.

Wood: They told me I was to open the parachute.

Hinton: Was it worth it?

Wood: Well, it was. When I got back, they took me down to St. George, and we had one hell of a party.

Hinton: Was this one of the old biplanes?

Wood: Yes. And then they had one in here with _____ and I don't know the name of it. They done a little work right over in there.

Hinton: What kind of movie was it? Western?

Wood: Western.

Hinton: Yes. They filmed several movies in here over the years.

Wood: That was the only two I knew.

Hinton: Did you get to work in that second one?

Wood: I wouldn't dare. I wouldn't dare trust them.

Hinton: Well did they ask for volunteers?

Wood: No, they just wanted somebody. They offered fifty dollars. Come to find out, the stunt men had turned down five-hundred.

Hinton: Yes. Was the pilot Paul Nance?

Wood: I don't know.

Hinton: He was the famous stunt pilot for the movies.

Wood: Well, there was thirty.

Hinton: And he was involved in the making of that movie.

Wood: But I remember that son of a _____. Hell, they landed right out here.

Hinton: Well, that's right. They landed out here in the flat area.

Wood: Yes. That's where we took off.

Hinton: Just beyond the camp, beyond where your camp was, right?

Wood: Yes.

Hinton: They didn't stay in the camp, did they?

Wood: No. They had access to the new toilets in the foreman's quarters. I don't know why. Well, they didn't have these chemical toilets like they've got today. But it was fun.

And then the Army came in here one time, I remember—National Guard—and stayed over there.

Hinton: On maneuvers?

Wood: Yes.

Hinton: I don't suppose they'd let them do that today.

Wood: No way!

Hinton: (laughs) Wouldn't let them film the movie either.

Wood: No. No, if they was going to film a movie today, they'd maybe let them fly down the canyon. That was dangerous! They used to be a cable across up there.

Hinton: Yes, on Cable Mountain?

Wood: Yes.

Hinton: I don't suppose they had a red ball or anything to—?

Wood: Not a thing on it. And that son-of-a-gun dived under it.

Hinton: In the airplane?

Wood: Yes.

Hinton: You weren't with him, were you?

Wood: No. I was down in the canyon. .

Hinton: Yes. Well, that was probably a pretty interesting diversion though for the CCC boys.

Wood: Yes; there weren't many of us though. It was summer.

Hinton: Most of them were out on summer camps at Bryce and . . .

Wood: See, the whole camp went to go to Bryce, and then they'd separate from there.

Hinton: So in the summertime, there were just eight or nine of you here at Zion. This is mostly a winter camp then that lent guys out.

Wood: That's the way it was when I was here.

Hinton: Do you remember some of the projects the other guys were working on while you were here?

Wood: Oh yes. They done a big water tank up in the canyon.

Hinton: That was quite a project. Did you ever go up while they were working on it?

Wood: Oh yes. I was up all around it. I had to count all the cement that came in and all the cement that went out.

Hinton: Part of your clerical job then.

Wood: And, oh criminy. We sent to Capitol Reef and got the railroad track. No, it wasn't neither, it was It was from Colorado, got the railroad track they used to run up and down the hill. See they mixed all the cement and everything.

Hinton: Mixed it down at the bottom, and then they'd pull it up there. What did they pull it with, up these tracks?

Wood: Just a, what do they call them? A winch?

Hinton: So they had a winch at the top, and they'd hook that onto the car?

Wood: No, it's at the bottom, and pulled it up and let it down. -----

Hinton: Slide it up and down the tracks, huh, using a cable for power?

Wood: Yes. And then I was trying to think who run that son-of-a-gun. I don't remember.

Hinton: Owen Johnson, wasn't it?

Wood: It could have been.

Hinton: I think that's what—

Wood: Some of these other guys more than likely knew more about that than I did.

Hinton: Willard Pectol worked on that, and he was an assistant leader, and I think he told me Owen Johnson was in charge of that.

Wood: First time I'd ever been around concrete, and I was interested in it because they used copper to keep where the splices were in the concrete, you know, for expansion and contraction. Well, I knew quite a few jobs they done because . . .

Hinton: Because you were clerk.

Wood: Yes, because I was handling the materials, handling the material end of it.

Hinton: Right.

Wood: Like they put some pipeline going up the spring. I don't know where the heck that canyon that is, right across from the—right where the horses used to be, had horse corrals up the canyon. I don't know where that's at. It's almost up to the lodge.

Hinton: Wow. Where they have the horses now is right across from the lodge.

Wood: Well, and it's up that canyon right. They went back there to a spring someplace. I went out and looked at it, and decided I didn't want anything to do with it because they was hand-carrying them pipe up there—big cast-iron pipe. I think it was six-inch.

Hinton: Pretty steep trail, and what a couple miles?

Wood: Yes. They put about six men on it.

Hinton: They'd come in hungry at night, wouldn't they?

Wood: I'd imagine so.

Hinton: Hungry and ready to go to bed.

Wood: There was that, and then let me see, they was always working on switchbacks.

Hinton: Rolling rocks and . . .

Wood: Well, they sloped all those places. I tried being a jackhammer man, and I couldn't cut it. The jack was always sticking.

Hinton: You ought to be glad that you couldn't. I run a jackhammer one summer. That's hard work.

Wood: But I stuck one. It's still there, unless they moved it in the last ten years or twenty years. Just as you go around the bridge by those. I left one there about twenty feet long, fifteen to twenty feet long. I don't remember how long it is. It's still there. They set off the blast. When they got through, they went just right around it. Well, in three years, I got to know this country pretty well.

Hinton: Did you hike a lot of this country?

Wood: Yes. I've been here. I've been to the bridge [Bridge Mountain Bridge].

Hinton: Have you? You didn't go out on it did you?

Wood: No.

Hinton: Somebody said they had a picture of a guy out on top of that. I don't think I'd want to be on that.

Wood: I didn't want to go on it. We went up this way, clear around the mountain and then come back on the other side.

Hinton: Have you been up on top of Watchman?

Wood: No. I never have. We'd go up here, up the canyon, and then there was a rope. It was tied off up there. We'd always go up over it, and then you'd drop back over on the other side. Used to be a lot of wild game up there, you'd find up on top.

Hinton: Yes. Goats? Mountain goats?

Wood: Yes. But then we'd go on around, clear back in. I don't know. That's been too many years ago.

Hinton: Some of those are pretty strenuous hikes.

Wood: We'd leave early in the morning, get back late at night.

Hinton: And when you went on the bridge, did you go around?

Wood: Around the back, and come in. Never did try to go across the bridge.

Hinton: Well, I imagine that'd be quite a trick.

Wood: Yes. You can go around the back. You can get lost too. You get back in there and it's quite an area.

Hinton: It kind of flattens out, and then way back?

Wood: Yes. Well, let's say it's flat compared to the rest of the country.

Hinton: Yes.

Wood: You know, there's different degrees, like you can walk across that mountain, you know.

Hinton: That's right.

Wood: But you sure wouldn't call it flat.

Hinton: No.

Wood: But there was about five of us. We used to climb that thing.

And then we had a basketball team here one year, in conjunction with the Mormon Church, in their M-Men basketball.

Hinton: Yes. You had a chaplain here.

Wood: But anyway, a bunch of us guys decided to play basketball. So we went to Springdale, and to play, you had to go to church so often to play. Well, we got down there, and of course, the guys that were from here, we had them from all over, you know. Some of them were good. I wasn't that good. I just ran around with that bunch, but they were real good.

Hinton: Well, you're pretty tall.

Wood: I know, but I never was good.

Hinton: Yes.

Wood: I was a pretty good guard, but not much of a shooter. (Laughs)

Hinton: Got to get out into that sunshine.

Wood: Anyway, we had quite a deal there. So they finally made us at Bridge Mountain camp one of the teams that was in the league. We took second in the district down here [So. Utah]. In St. George, I think they were nine teams or something like that. We went down there for three days.

Hinton: Playing? Did they let you have time off here then?

Wood: Yes. Oh criminy. If we had won down there, I think they would have. . . .

Hinton: Would have gone to Provo or Salt Lake?

Wood: Went to Salt Lake. They'd already promised us if we win down there new uniforms and everything.

Hinton: You should have won!

Wood: Well. You know, somebody's got to lose.

Hinton: Yes, that's right. That's for sure.

Wood: Anyway, we done that. And then we used to have Bert Davenport [who] used to box and Short Judd, and I run around with them, and there was a couple of others. When they'd go into training, why, we'd go into training, get up in the morning and make our road work so far, and everything else. We went to Hurricane and Escalante one time, and they came out with sixteen-ounce gloves, and that's all the gloves they had.

Hinton: Those guys had been training with twelve-ounce gloves?

Wood: Eight.

Hinton: Eight. They thought they were using pillows then.

Wood: Criminy.

Hinton: (laughs)

Wood: We wouldn't fight 'em. I was supposed to be manager, and I'm trying to think of the other guy. There was four of us. They wouldn't fight with us. So they finally said, "Well, we don't have any other gloves." Well we had our gloves along. We just as well not have a fight. Well, Bert took them like they was not even there. And then we came up to Cedar one time, and we were going to do the same thing. Bert was supposed to fight the mainline. That's all we was supposed to fight. Every one of us fought that night. Nobody else showed up. They didn't even have it.

Hinton: You didn't have to fight each other did you?

Wood: No.

Hinton: Just the Cedar guys.

Wood: Cedar camp guys around Cedar. I didn't do so good, but some of the others beat. I think out of the four of us, I think there was three of us won.

Hinton: Yes. So you had good times.

Wood: Had darn good times.

Hinton: And did some worthwhile things?

Wood: Well, that was after work.

Hinton: Yes. During the work hours, you did some worthwhile things.

Wood: This is what has bothered me. You know, we have CCs now.

Hinton: Yes. It's not exactly the same.

Wood: They make one mistake. I think they should have had the army still take care of camp and discipline, you know.

Hinton: Yes. Their discipline was pretty effective then?

Wood: It was effective. What they did is they learned us respect for the flag, and how to fold the flag.

Hinton: Had a morning flag service?

Wood: Morning and evening.

Hinton: Yes.

Wood: To me, that was effective for young people.

Hinton: Yes. Why did you leave the CCCs?

Wood: Well . . .

Hinton: Found something else?

Wood: No, not necessarily, but at that time, there was only two years [allowed]

Hinton: So you'd served your term.

Wood: I served three, but actually two was all you was supposed to do, but you could be out a year or six months, and then come back in. So I went to Vegas and found work down there.

Hinton: Things were getting better as far as employment opportunities.

Wood: I became a deputy sheriff down there.

Hinton: Yes. You think things you learned here helped you there?

Wood: I hope; yes.

Hinton: You learned a little about human nature being around 200 guys.

Wood: Yes. I tell you what helped me was when I went in the service because then you knew how to deal with people.

Hinton: Yes.

Wood: Now, I wasn't very active, but I was always smack in the middle of about half of it.

Hinton: (laughs)

Wood: And that's the way it should be.

Hinton: Yes. I guess so. Well, I appreciate your spending the afternoon with me and talking about your experiences.

Wood: Well, I hope I said something that will do you some good.

Hinton: Well, you did, a lot of interesting things about human interest kinds of things.

[Recording skips a few times, so this doesn't make sense]

Wood: No, I didn't.

Hinton: I hadn't heard about.

Wood: Down there, I kept telling the girls, "I'm doing good." It was Leap Year you know. Nobody's asked. This one girl asked me. She's about—oh, this high.

Hinton: You're about 6'3" or 6'4"?

Wood: So we started looking for a preacher, you know, or somebody to marry us. Of course, hell, we never did, and then finally found out—and knowing her, it turned out to be I was awful lucky.

Hinton: (laughs)

Wood: I knew of her for quite a while after that. I just talked to another guy in there who's her cousin, and he said, "You are awful lucky."

Hinton: Were you kind of boozed up when you were—

Wood: Yes. Oh, yes.

We had spinal meningitis or whatever they call it scare here one time, and the whole camp was in it.

Hinton: Did they quarantine the camp?

Wood: Quarantined the whole camp for I don't remember how many—one week, two weeks or whatever it was.

Hinton: It turned out to be a scare though; there wasn't anybody that had it.

Wood: Yes, and when they turned up loose, oh, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, lifted the quarantine and give everybody there that wanted to go to town, to go to town. They were six of us, and two of us was supposed to go down and get motels in Hurricane. We all had to hitchhike; none of us had any transportation. The rest of us were supposed to go down, and the first one there was supposed to get a gallon of wine, and we ended up with three gallons of wine and our motel room.

Hinton: You didn't know who was first there then?

Wood: No. We each got different rides. See the liquor store closed, so we had to get it as quick as we got there. It was kind of funny, I mean. After all that time of being in camp and end up with three gallons of wine for six of us. Of course, there's a lot more came in . . .

Hinton: They helped you then.

Wood: They helped us. We didn't drink it all.

Hinton: Where do you live now?

Wood: I live in Eureka, California.

Hinton: You're retired?

Wood: Yes, I've been retired—oh, let's see—fourteen years.

Hinton: Do you ever come back and visit then once in a while?

Wood: I haven't been back here since about seven or eight years ago.

Hinton: Yes.

Wood: I brought my granddaughters.

Hinton: Did you tell them about your experiences?

Wood: Most of them, I don't. I wouldn't want them to know about them. (Laughing)

Hinton: Some of them you don't care if they don't know, huh?

Wood: Well anyway, I brought them back here. As long as I was here, I never seen the Temple of Sinawava. Is that the one where they have the overhang that leaks all the time?

Hinton: No, that's Weeping Rock.

Wood: Weeping Rock, and we pulled in there to the lot with the motor home and we were just getting ready to get out, and it started to rain, and it rained like a son-of-a-gun. And before we got out, there was a waterfall coming off that side of that mountain there, and as many years as I've been here, I had never seen the waterfall.

Hinton: You haven't been here in a big rainstorm then.

Wood: I've seen icicles that was on the thing that must have weighed tons.

Hinton: Yes.

Wood: I've seen waterfalls other places, but I'd never seen one there. I just happened to be not there . . .

Hinton: Not in the right place at the right time.

Wood: Yes. I never come down the Narrows.

Hinton: Well, I have, and it's quite an experience.

Wood: I've always wanted to, but I never, never got down. Now, I don't want to.

Hinton: Well, this would be a great year. The water's low.

Wood: Yes.

Hinton: Did some of the CCC boys come through the Narrows?

Wood: Oh, yes.

Hinton: They did most of the hikes I'd imagine.

Wood: I think. I think someplace, I think most of them. Some of them been on top of there.

Hinton: Yes.

Wood: I've been almost. And, oh, I've been on every one of the trails over a period of years. You know, when we were up at [Bryce] that year—that summer—when we came out and come down here, it was just like we had more breathe than we knew what to do with because we'd been running at 10-thousand, 9-10-thousand feet and dropped down here to about 4500.

Hinton: I think it says 4400 over on the corner of the nature center.

Wood: I just figured it was about 4500.

Hinton: Yes.

Wood: You know what I mean. You've got more oxygen down here than you know what to do with.

Hinton: Sure. Yes, sure.

Wood: We'd take up these trails.

Hinton: You were all young and healthy.

Wood: And take them on a dog-trot, and the one to Angel's Landing, we used to see how fast we could make it from the bottom to the top on that son-of-a-gun.

Hinton: Well, I've hiked that and I don't try to see how fast I can make it!

Wood: Well, you had more sense than (we did).

Hinton: Well, I don't have the wind and the energy you guys had.

Wood: I guess that's about it. I don't know of anything else you'd want.

Hinton: We got in everything your wife wanted to remind you about then?

Wood: Oh, she's the one that volunteered me.

Hinton: Well, good for her. I'm glad she did. Thanks. Appreciate it. It's been good talking to you.

Wood: Same here.

[End of Interview]