Dan Hall: December 3, 1994. This is Dan Hall. We're here with Dr."Red" Duke. This is the Boone and Crockett oral history project. Dr. Duke, I'd like to begin by asking you when and where were you born?

Dr. James "Red" Duke: I was born in Ennis, Texas on November 16, 1928.

DH: And where did you get your education?

RD: Well, I attended high school at a little town of Hillsborough, Texas. All of this is in north central Texas. I attended Texas A and M, graduating in 1950, after which I had a job opportunity I couldn't resist because I was a tank officer. Everyone who graduated from A and M was a commissioned officer. Career had started, so I got another education, being in the Second Armored Division. When I returned, I attended and graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. I'd always wanted to be in medicine, but I felt this need to go to seminary and I still wanted to go to medical school, so I did and graduated in 1960 from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, did a year of internal medicine at Parkland Hospital, general surgery residency at Parkland Hospital, and then after two years on the faculty at Southwestern, I obtained a National Institute of Health research fellowship and went back to school at Columbia, in New York, basically in engineering and computer science, biochemistry -- did work there for four years, and I guess that's when you'd say my formal education ceased. My real education was continuing and continues to this day.

DH: When did you first become aware of the Boone and Crockett organization?

RD: I cannot give you a date. I have always had an interest in wildlife, in hunting. I hunted as a little bitty boy with my father. I would laughingly say Dad was too cheap to own a bird dog because he had me. He had to feed me and he could get me to retrieve anything, and besides that, I could clean them and pick them, you know, when we got back in, and so I hunted with him all the time, I hunted on my own somewhere -- I just continued to aspire to be out and hunt big game and obviously I knew about it in the Fifties and I don't know how I became aware of it. I'm also something of a historian, not a great one, but always held Roosevelt in highest esteem. I could remember as a child and to this day some of my fondest memories are looking at even the old *Outdoor Life* and feeling
strings, whatever, to those old paintings of the Adirondacks and that associated me with eastern outdoor life, Boy Scout, Eagle Scout, and that stuff, and so I continued to have this kind of "man" view of activity that's living outside and Boone and Crockett emerged as something of a figure, of a symbol, of that. I think my knowledge and awareness of conservation was also slow to develop, but it's never stopped.

That activity really began in about 1972 when I came back from two years in Afghanistan with a group of one of the medical schools. I left Columbia, New York in October of 1970 and came back here to Houston in September of '72.

In that interim I was with this group called the Indiana University Loma Linda University Medical Consortium running a small medical school in Jahlahlabad. I met two men right at the end of that tour who were from the United States. (I was helping the Afghan Tour Agency with their problems of how to treat sickness, how to treat pulmonary edema and I sort of put together a program for them). (They wanted me to at least be sure that the Afghan doctor that I had trained to administer it knew what he was doing.)

They [the two men] asked me to go on this first Marco Polo hunt using these various techniques. These two men were in the early formation of what was to become the Safari Club International, so they got me in touch, or, to say it better, they contacted a man here in town, Dr. Westbrook, who was also active in that and he contacted me and so I began to really get over into more and more conservation-oriented activities, fundraising activities. Being a fundamental, dyed-in-the-wool sheep hunter it's not surprising that I got involved early on with the Foundation of North American Wild Sheep. I was on the Board for eight or nine years and ultimately president.

DH: Who sponsored your membership in the Boone and Crockett?

RD: Tom Moore. It's an interesting story there. Tom Moore was at one time president of ABC and he started the great program called "The American Sportsman" which was my favorite TV program for years.

DH: I know it well.

RD: He was in business with a man named Dr. Robert Fuicz. Dr. Fuicz had gotten involved in television by accident while he was doing research in Boston and he was superb, he did great research, but he had sort of had to get into that [TV] as a way to make some money. He was so good at it and so successful that he just completely focused on television production, and introduced a series called "Lifeline" in which they literally lived with fourteen doctors around the country. In the middle of that production program, somebody suggested they contact me because I had just started the second medical helicopter program in the country. It's still going. It's the biggest one in the country now as far as one single unit.

They came down and spent three weeks with me and I was one of the fourteen doctors that they had on "Lifeline." It was an hour-long program on NBC, Monday night at the movies! [Chuckles]
That December, Mr. Moore took Dr. Fiucz to the Annual Dinner of the Boone and Crockett Club in New York at the American Museum of Natural History. Dr. Fiucz said, "You ought to meet Red because he's the kind of guy who would be interested." I was already involved in a lot of this stuff, a lot of wildlife conservation stuff.

So he [Moore] sponsored my membership. I guess it was the following year because in December of '80 that I became a member and in February of '81 I started a thing that was really funny, it's called the Texas Bighorn Society. Almost all of the desert bighorn sheep in West Texas had died out, not because of any hunting but because it was against the law. There had been a law against it all of this century but they die out because the disease is carried by domestic sheep. Just like the native American Indian [who] suffered a lot more from the diseases Europeans brought -- smallpox, measles, all those things -- than they did any other thing. This is true of the sheep, particularly the desert bighorns. because that's where more domestic grazing went on. And the Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist kept telling me, "Red, if you guys, (meaning the hunter-conservationists) don't do something, we'll never have sheep in Texas," because they were cutting the budget out at the legislative level. So I just at the next board meeting of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, I got ten or twelve guys together and formed this thing and we got a charter drawn up and made a 501C3 organization. It took us over a year to figure out what we wanted to do. Finally, we did what our sheep biologist, Jack Kilpatrick, wanted to do and that is to build some brood pastures. Now this desire to build brood pastures was not a new idea because in 1954 the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Boone And Crockett had built an enclosure down at the Black Gap area, which is immediately north of Big Bend Park, captured some sheep (I think they captured 16, if I'm accurate and I can get you a film on it) but they captured them. I think 10 of them died but the other six went ahead and multiplied to about 90-some-odd. This was a 430-acre enclosure and they found that that was great except it was not lion-proof. It was too big to keep up with them. The lions killed 20-some-odd of them. So they gave up on that and moved them to another ranch about halfway -- it's called the Chillicote -- and it's a long -- (out in West Texas everything's a long way away) but it's probably 100 miles from where that was. Kept them in a better enclosure there, and then up at Van Horne, which is on I-10, 100 miles east of El Paso, we have the Sierra Diablo Management Area, which was Texas Parks and Wildlife and, I guess, it's the Federal Fish and Wildlife -- I don't know, the federal agency. They bought 7,000 acres comprised of kind of a patchwork of sections, some together, some not, along on the east side of the Sierra Diablo mountains as a sheep habitat thing. And the sheep there unfortunately died out. So we went to Sierra Diablo and built four ten-acre brood pastures. I begged, borrowed and stole pipe and money. A guy named Bill Leech agreed to subcontract it. [There were] just a handful of us doing it. I don't know how much money I got. While I was flying with Southwest Airlines I got $15,000 from three contributions. One of them was from Joe Jemail [?], a trial attorney here.

Anyway, we built these crazy pens, got some sheep from Texas and then we built a lead foot fence around all of that with a hot wire on top, and got sheep from the lot in Arizona. Using the knowledge that they had obtained down in the original Black Gap area, started breeding sheep. By then we were getting more and more members from Boone and Crockett in Texas, one of whom was Gib Lewis, who is here at this meeting. He was Speaker of the House of Representatives. We got the law changed so that if and when there was ever a large sheep available, an old ram, form where there are

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plenty of sheep and it's not going to hurt the population, we could have a permit.

The year that I became president of Boone and Crockett (I actually became president in December of ’85) it was the end of my tenure of being president of the Foundation. I was after a wild sheep, I had a permit, we auctioned off $61,000 and the old man that bought it never went hunting so that was pre 61 [?] so we traded more antelope in Nevada and got more sheep. This has gone on with all kinds of crazy trading and stuff. In one of the fundraising things, now, I got hung, kind of a mock hanging (almost did the real thing) and raised $22,000 out of that hanging to pay for the sheep fence. But anyway, now we've got over 400 sheep in eight free-ranging areas.

Ed Cox, another member, was chairman of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, and he was very instrumental in pulling all this stuff up.

DH: Why did you become president of Boone and Crockett?

RD: Well, that's a funny story. I was getting ready to leave -- I don't think I had missed a meeting from the time I became a member in 1980 till long after I was retired as president, I don't think I ever missed a meeting, no matter where I was. We were under the vision of Bill Spencer and Jack Parker and Johnny Hanes and some of the other older members I can remember. They thought that the centennial would be a good way to try to rekindle the fires of conservation leadership that we had had at one time. I was all excited about that and doing whatever I could to participate and throwing in my two cents here and there. The idea of the ranch had come up. We were actually seeking to buy it. We had already bought the ranch. By the time I became president we had paid for it. I'm almost sure we had.

No. We had a loan, that's what it was. I had made a real effort to expound a kind of philosophy. I don't know what influence I had on this, I really don't. I don't take credit for it except in being on the board of the Foundation of North American Wild Sheep all those years, and I'm something of a researcher. I'm an academic surgeon, professor of surgery. I knew that we were throwing away a lot of money. We raised a lot of money. I was on the Board that was giving all this money away, as were other organizations, but no one was qualified to recognize what was meaningful research or management activity. It was just random -- this one person at a time. I had come up with the idea, and sold the Board of the Foundation on the idea, that we ought to develop a center for sheep studies at some western university and use that university and the offices thereof as an agency by which we would bring together the best minds in any area, be it eye disease in sheep, or the economics or whatever; it would make no difference. Whatever the issue was that you wanted to look at, get the best minds together and determine what are the real questions, because if you don't ask the right question on the research, you're going to get nothing. And you're going to spend a bunch of money. I, being a fundamental tightwad, I was trying to get the most for our money.

I became president simply because I had not only sold them on the idea, I had gone through the process of submitting a request for proposals to twenty-three universities. With outside perusal from three experts who knew nothing about my organization, I had gotten it narrowed down to three universities that I thought in the year of being president-elect and president, I could finish it up.
DH: Did you ask for this position or did they come and get you and say, "Red, do you want -- ?"

RD: I either had to run and stay on the Board another X number of years or I thought I could finish the thing in two years and get off. When I became president-elect, I inherited the Budget and Audit Committee and I found that that was in a shambles, so I spent the next two years with Pat Latham, who I sponsored for membership in this club, getting them back on track, and now it's physically sound. But I didn't get any of that done while I was talking about this same concept to the Boone and Crockett people.

Here's what I say. I don't claim to be the one that created the professorship. But I am a strong supporter of this philosophy of having a university affiliation and using the university and all that it brings to the table to address the big issues. Roosevelt and those men had to deal with the great land mass that was being decimated and run over, cut up, the wildlife was being wasted.

That's all under control but we've got other problems now. What are they? And why don't we use these offices to define the questions, and, as Hal was saying at lunch, get the other folks to do our work, and we don't even have to fund all of them. I think that when we've done enough of this kind of work, come up with enough of these issues, we can get other organizations like the Elk Foundation, the Foundation of North American Wild Sheep, Safari Club, shop these things and let them see if they want to take them on. But at least we'll get the work done, define the question, and build a mosaic of meaningful information.

How did I become president? I was getting ready to go to the annual meeting which in those days was held on Wednesday and Thursday in New York. On Monday, Bill Spencer called me and said he wanted me to be president of Boone and Crockett and I said, "That's a real honor, Bill. But I'm getting ready to be president of the Foundation of North American Wild Sheep." His comment was, "I know it." Period. [Laughter] He didn't comment on it, he just [said] "I know it."

I said, "Well, I need to have a visit with you. Can I have dinner with you tomorrow night?" And he said, "No, I'll see you Wednesday morning at the New York Athletic Club." He couldn't see me on Tuesday night because he was going to receive a gold medal, I think, at the National Football Hall of Fame dinner. I don't know what it was about. Anyway, I met him and I spent the day thinking about it and I thought, "This is such an honor. Nobody loves it more than I do. I'll try."

Now, at that point I thought I had one year to get ready for the Centennial and all. I'd been involved in all these meetings and we had talked about rifles, commemorative rifles, and how that was done and we didn't have any plans for where we were going to do it, what we were going to do, and I thought, "Oh, man!" I was also President-elect of that crazy Foundation of North American Wild Sheep, or was going to become President in February of '86, and there wasn't much to do with the Texas Bighorn Society but I was still president of that. We had already gotten all that started and got it running on its own.

And so I, with great trepidation and a deep sense of honor, accepted that job [president of Boone and
Crockett] and I asked for a meeting of anybody who would meet with me as soon as possible. We met at Johnny Hanes' house on January 18. A lot of significant things happened that day. Number one, I learned a whole lot about what I was into. Several people came. Lowell Baier walked in about halfway through and told us the Challenger had just blown up. That was the day that happened. And I also was pushing to find out what were the actual dates of the first meeting. And I found out in that meeting after pushing Harold Levitt [?] pretty hard that the first meeting about Boone and Crockett occurred in December of 1887 in Roosevelt's home. The first meeting of the Boone and Crockett club that was formed was February 29, 1888, so I just chose I had two years to get ready [for the Centennial].

It was hard to get things going. There just weren't that many people in Boone and Crockett that had been near as active as I had been with some of my compatriots whom I have sponsored here in the Foundation, in the Texas Bighorn and all that about raising money and putting on shows and doing that. And F.R. Daily, who's a great member, didn't even qualify to be a member because he hadn't killed three species, but was real interested, man, he got in the harness, and he really pulled a load! One thing he did is he got done what had to be done to develop the logo for the Centennial. The official logo for the Centennial was JR's work. One thing that I got to working on and I had heard Talley and Parker talk about commemorative guns and I got to looking around. I couldn't find anything. I kept visiting with Bill Woodward, bless his soul, I do love him. He decided that he would do that, and so he redesigned the Model 77[?], for a major magnum rifle, and agreed to make some commemorative guns for Boone and Crockett, which they got done. Got the logo on it, and they're in two big calibers, .375 and .416 [inaudible]. And only Boone and Crockett members could buy them.

DH: And it was a fundraiser for the Boone and Crockett?

RD: That was a fundraiser for the Boone and Crockett. Lowell Baier, who loves bronze. We just sat around and we had all these crazy meetings all that time and we'd meet all over everywhere, you know. And there's the funniest side to one of them, I can tell you, where we did get a lot of work done. A lot of these dreamed ideas came up. Lowell knows a lot about bronze and he knows a lot about Roosevelt, and there has never been a bronze done of Roosevelt as an outdoorsman, and he said, "I'll do it."

So he went to work, finally identified this artist and we got the bronze program started. That was a fundraiser. We decided we'd needed Dallas [Dallas Safari Club]. They had a lot of film on that; I guess you've seen some of it.

DH: Is that the bronze of Roosevelt that's out at the ranch now?

RD: That's a big one. There's a smaller version of it and we've made, I think there's a possible 250 and by the way, on February 29, 1988, we went to the White House and were received by President Reagan. There are pictures of that in the book. But we didn't have the bronze ready. We gave him various memorabilia and so forth, but then when President Bush became president, then he, too, was a fan of Roosevelt, so we gave him Number 100 of the bronze, with the agreement it would be in his
library. It's my understanding it's in his home right now in Houston and it's going to be in the library at A and M when they finish it. But you have to watch that, apparently, when you give something to a president, that it doesn't end up in the warehouse or the archives of the White House. Somebody was smart enough to know that, and we took that into consideration.

DH: You found it difficult to raise funds on behalf of Boone and Crockett?

RD: Well, during the time I was president, of course the major fundraisers, the ones that got the big corporate gifts, were people like mainly folks like Bill Spencer and Jack Parker because of their tremendous connections. We raise a lot of money through different programs and all kinds of activities that we knew how to do because of our experience with other organizations. The bronze program, the rifle program, all kinds of stuff, the big centennial convention that we had in conjunction with Dallas Safari Club in Dallas. I really can't answer your question from the point of view of how much difficulty it has been because in the part that I played, it was just work. I had been active in producing these television videos because I do a lot of medical television, and so I've been active in doing that thing. But to help the fundraising effort and we're getting ready to do another one but when you're trying to start with a new idea, it's hard to get the funds, the seed money, to get it going. Now we're moving. We've got positive programs going and with our new video; I think it will be easier to raise funds than it has been because you've got something you can show that's meaningful.

DH: 1989, Chicago, raising money for the National Collection of Heads and Horns. Can you tell me about that name?

RD: [Chuckle] Larry Reems, at that time, (end of Side One) was the development director of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, and he kept telling me that he wanted us, the Boone and Crockett club, to donate $250,000 to the Buffalo Bill Historical Center to create an area in which to house the National Collection of Heads and Horns. I presume you talked to Lowell Baier, have you not? About how he identified the National Collection and finally got them out of the American Museum of Natural History and then they were for awhile the National Rifle Club Museum [?] and we moved them out to Cody and they've been there for several years. It seemed like a good idea but I kept telling Means, I said, "Listen, we've got at least three million dollars we have to raise and pay for with this ranch and this professorship, this chair, and we don't need to be doing anything else." Well, Larry's a good development guy. He just went around behind my back and got -- I thought three -- (Towney told me maybe it was three when he came to the meeting) $25,000 contributions or commitments and somewhere during the day I may have gotten a fourth one. I don't remember. I'm not sure about that.

But anyway, I never will forget. We were sitting up in that board room that afternoon and that's one of those deals, you know, when you realize you may as well go ahead and join them because you sure can't beat them. [Chuckles] There's another way to express that. Just kind of grin and enjoy it. And so Tiny and I were sitting there and I know he said something about, "Red, have you ever been to a National Jewish Appeal?" And I said, "No, but I've been to a lot of Baptist revivals. And I don't think they're that much different." And I'm sure they're a little more sophisticated, but I understood what he was talking about and so we concocted all kinds of crazy schemes about "matching" and...
doing this and "plants," you know, and fortunately there's a lot of liquor on the table at an annual meeting of Boone and Crockett, and I knew at the time that was going to work in our favor. Steve Mealey gave a great address that night. I don't know how many people understood it, because I was probably the only sober one there but I had to be; that's my last shot at being president. It was, "we might as well hit 'em good," you know.

We got up and started talking about this and we had little deals, little signals (taps table twice) I'd hit my ring on the podium like that and that means some "plant" had to kick some more in, you know, and I said "Gentlemen, the doors are locked. The police are at the door, and we aren't going anywhere till we raise this money." And we had at it. I cannot remember exactly (I wish I'd thought about this) and I was into the matching thing, you know. I was doing something and we had other people doing all kinds of things. Once it gets on a roll, it goes pretty good! And we, in not too long, raised that money. And, believe it or not, we got nearly all of it, about 99% of it. That's the most expensive Adirondack cabin you've ever seen, I can tell you that. [Chuckling]

We had a lot of fun. You know, one of the great things about being a part of this group -- I love these men -- and the few women we've got. Now, that's something I've been tickled to death -- that's something I wanted to do while I was president. We didn't get it done. There wasn't any reason, there was just too damned much to do. In fact, had I been president one more year, we'd have done it that year. That was on my agenda to try to get women into the organization. And there was no more resistance to that than exhaling.

DH: So that went really well?

RD: Just like pouring paint down a rat hole. I was at the meeting. I don't recall any issue at all. Now, that's my perception.

DH: I haven't heard anyone say anything one way or the other.

RD: It was an issue I really wanted to get across. This is not a prejudiced gender-oriented outfit. I'm sad that we've not found more women who are real interested in conservation activities because another thing that Townie and a handful of us really wanted to emphasize through this whole thing was how important it was to get involved and either put up or shut up. This is not a trophy to hang on your wall. This is a commitment to conservation, to the well-being of what we inherited and that we leave it better. And it takes some imagination and most of all some leadership and enthusiasm. And commitment! It takes money and time. I think that ought to be a requirement for membership.

It is just amazing! I'm so delighted at the turn of events, the enthusiasm, the organization, the structure that we now have. I felt like I was trying to start a fire in a swamp when I became president of that thing. Man, we got a prairie fire in a high wind now. That booger has taken off.

DH: I want to go back and ask you about the setting up of the chair at the University of Montana. I'd like to know who the players were who were involved in that and how the decision was made to reach the University of Montana and how to select . . .
RD: I didn't have anything to do with [that]. I would imagine (and this is just by my memory) that [because] Phil Wright is a major figure in this organization, [and] he's a professor emeritus there, [and] because our ranch was in Montana, it kind of made sense that we go there. That agreement was worked out that we would establish a chair and I'm sure that didn't make them [U of M] mad at all. We began to court one another, you know, and didn't have any trouble at all getting married -- to my knowledge, anyway. We got the ranch paid for and then got to working on this chair. We finally got around to the point where we had enough money and there were some very compatible arrangements made, the details of which I've forgotten, with the University to kind of speed things up so we could get on and get after the business. We went through the search, as you would expect, and they narrowed it down to three people, Bill Spencer (I don't recall the other member, but there was another member) and I were both active on that selection process.

We went out there and we interviewed these people, you know. They were all fine people, and one was a superb pure researcher, a fine researcher, and one was a consummate people person that could just interact with anybody, and then there's Hal, who seemed to have all these wonderful qualities, as well as being in the Forest Service, which we consider our offspring. We've made an arrangement with the Forest Service for a leave of absence and support, and we worked it through. Hal [Salwasser] became the professor.

All those guys were wonderful. The only difference is that the man from Wyoming (I can't remember any of their names) but he had such a research focus that we didn't feel like he could carry out that broad scheme of looking at the big picture, the economic, the political issues, to get out there and sell these ideas and, you know, be involved in all of the politics -- and I don't mean that in a negative way but the interaction of people. The other man didn't seem to have the academic focus. He would be great at selling stuff, [chuckle] you know. So Hal was a great compromise, not a compromise by being less but he brought all these qualities with him.

DH: Did you have a general approval of the executive directors to go out and make your selection?

RD: No, that was our recommendation and it was voted upon.

DH: Can you recall any programs the Conservation Committee has undertaken since you've been associated with the Boone and Crockett that really stand out in your mind as something that Boone and Crockett stands for? Any memorable conservation programs, wildlife research?

RD: I've never been on the Conservation Committee. I was real interested in it but, you know, of course the [inaudible] thing is the most unusual thing because it's been carried on for such an extended period of time. I had some interest in some of the stuff that was done here in Texas related to the ocelot but as far as any specific "gee whiz" program I can't recall one. I've heard about all of them, but I've not read many of the reports, the published papers and that sort of thing.

DH: The move to Montana with the ranch, the professorship and the increase of western members, is the Boone and Crockett losing its ties to New York and its Roosevelt origins?
RD: Well, I don't think so. No, I think this is a national effort and there are probably less individuals per capita in the east who have an interest in this activity than there are in the west, but there's something of a population shift as well. People in the west and southwest and some of the south actually that's a pretty complex question because of so many demographic issues and economic issues that could influence how these people would bubble up to the top and identify themselves as being interested in conservation and that type of thing. I don't think you could get the Roosevelt origins out of this thing. In the first place, it wouldn't be considered. It's held in such high esteem. The only reason we don't go to New York for meetings is because it's such a hassle, so expensive, [and] it becomes increasingly more difficult to have our dinners at the Museum of Natural History. I love to go there. I love New York! I lived there four years, you know. I'm one of those rubes who can honestly say I love that city, and I can't tell you why but I like to be there. I love being in the east and I really do believe if anybody can identify anyone in the east that's interested. (I know a couple we're proposing right now that are from the east.) We'd welcome them. We don't care where they're from. I don't. I don't think anybody else does.

DH: [Do you] want to talk for a minute about some of the past presidents of the organization that you've known, and what you think were some of the accomplishments they made while they were presidents of the organization? Is that something you might want to spend some time on?

RD: When I became a member Jack Parker was president and he is such a strong leader and a focused man and he has my absolute respect and then I was in awe of where we were and what was occurring. In those days, in my early embryo phase as a member, all those things that I told you earlier about my childhood visions of Roosevelt and the Adirondacks and North American big game were all coming in -- they were solidifying there before my eyes, you know, in this wonderful group of people. Like in that Hall of North American Mammals, I mean, it's almost, to me, an otherworldly experience, you know. I was very swept and hushed by that. And then [William] Spencer was the next one. And he too is this incredible visionary and a strong leader during those times. I don't know when the actual conversations began about the Centennial. It seems like I've heard about it a long time.

I didn't get to spend much time with Judge. He was president for one year, Judge Anderson. Then I inherited the thing. Of course, Wes Dixon was president, twice, I think. He has been a great sparkplug, leader, visionary. I may be wrong, but I think he's the one, if I recall correctly, he's one of the guys anyway who came up with the idea of an associates program long after he was president. But he has been a very active leader through the whole activity. I consider myself a very fortunate man to have had what I consider more than the average number of great mentors in my life and I look at Spencer and Parker and those kinds of men. I don't know what they look at me as, but that's the way I look at them. And I do adore them. They're pretty crusty, but I know it. But I like that. At least you know where you stand.

DH: One last question. How would you like your family to recall your association with Boone and Crockett?

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RD: Just the way whatever I was. I mean, I am what I am and I don't want to be anything other than what I am, and I'm trying to be the best man I can, the best member I can and with whatever talents I have, make the best contributions I can. You know, it wouldn't be just family. I'm just the same [with] anybody else. I don't lead a very fancy life. I'm just an old blood and guts surgeon and teacher, believer in conservation, and try to live what I believe.

DH: Well, that exhausts the list of questions that I had to ask you. Is there anything I've forgotten or anything that I've overlooked that you'd like to add at this point in time?

RD: Well, not really. I hope I live a long time to see what happens to all these initiatives that we've gotten started. Being a surgeon (general surgeon, trauma surgeon), I have learned to live with tough problems, bad situations. So you develop a pretty healthy balance of being a little skeptical, not cynical but skeptical, [as opposed] to being a real full-blown, blatant optimist. So I think at times to be both. Although I have real concern about how we as a people in this great nation will manage our habitat and therefore our wildlife, and the privilege of hunting, and game management by hunting. But I also think that there's no question there is a very positive effort to try to achieve the most reasonable and meaningful lives-use practices that we can. A lot of people don't agree with that apparently, but that's where the debate will occur and with focused leadership I think we can help those who disagree to see the wisdom in doing some of these things that were conceived to an extent by Pinchot and the other men that were involved. I don't wish to recreate what they did, I think we need to take what they did and deal with the problems today.

DH: That's true. Thank you for your time.

End of Tape