

**Oral History Number: 163-016**

**Interviewee: Walter Reimer**

**Interviewer: Gregg Phifer**

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Gregg Phifer: —Phifer, Florida State University in Tallahassee, doing the interview, and I am talking to—

Walter Reimer: Walter Reimer.

GP: And you're from where?

WR: I'm from Moses Lake, Washington.

GP: West Coast, and I'm the East Coast, from Florida. Florida talking to Washington. About as far apart as we could get, I would imagine. Now we're talking about the CPS [Civilian Public Service] USFS [United States Forest Service] smokejumpers, and since we are CPS, as meaning Civilian Public Service, and will you tell us just a little bit about your own religious background, how you happened to opt for CPS rather than the military in World War II?

WR: Well I'm a Mennonite, the General Conference branch of the Mennonites, which was pretty common for most of the boys to go to the CPS program. I say most, maybe I should not say most. There was a number of them did go to the armed services too from our—.

GP: Is that right? Well, the largest single group in CPS was still Mennonite and, of course, CPS 103, our smokejumper unit, was administered by the Mennonites. Did you have any trouble getting the 4-E classification?

WR: I had no problem at all.

GP: That's common with the historic peace churches. Your draft board in your local community simply said, "Ok."

WR: That's about what it amounted to.

GP: Very good. And where were you assigned first?

WR: Weeping Water, Nebraska.

GP: When?

WR: [long pause]

GP: I remember the year.

WR: I don't remember the year, probably in '42.

GP: '42. Weeping Water, Nebraska. What was the project there?

WR: Soil conservation.

GP: Lot of soil conservation work being done, wasn't there?

WR: Yeah, it was the main project, yeah.

GP: No firefighting there?

WR: No firefighting. However, they did help out in farm work sometimes.

GP: Yes. And where did you learn about the smokejumpers?

WR: Not until I got to Three Rivers, California.

GP: Oh, transferred from there to Weeping Water—

WR: No, I transferred from Weeping Water to Lapine, Oregon—

GP: Lapine, Oregon.

WR: Which was open to MCC [Mennonite Central Committee] for one year.

GP: Yes.

WR: And then the government took the camp over and allowed any contentious objector to transfer out if they wanted

GP: And you transferred out to?

WR: I transferred out to Three Rivers, California.

GP: Now Three Rivers, California, where is that in California?

WR: Sequoia National Park.

GP: Oh yes!

WR: That was our project.

GP: You were across the mountain from me, then, because I was in Coleville, 37. And we walked across into Yosemite from Mammoth Lakes, one of the spike camps, out of 37. And your project there was?

WR: Well it was mainly maintenance of the park. Some of the crews did road maintenance, but I was a fortunate one, I got on a telephone crew. And we roamed all over that park.

GP: You sure did. I was on a telephone crew out of Mammoth Lakes. We strung wire from one ranger station across to another, and that was the main project I had up there at Mammoth Lakes. Did you do any firefighting at Three Rivers?

WR: No I didn't.

GP: When did you apply for the smokejumper unit?

WR: While I was in Three Rivers, I don't remember the dates, but I think there were only two of us from that unit that applied.

GP: Was that for the first year?

WR: That was for the second year.

GP: Second year. '44 rather than '43.

WR: '44, yeah.

GP: Did you know anyone who'd applied earlier for the smokejumper unit in '43?

WR: Yes, I knew Leonhart Bartel; he was from my home community.

GP: I see. Had you had any correspondence or talk with him?

WR: No.

GP: Why did you apply?

WR: Well, I just wanted to do something more exciting, I guess. [laughs] That was probably the biggest part of it.

GP: Stringing telephone line wasn't all that darn exciting. You got tired after a little while. Right? Soil conservation either, for that matter. So you applied for the smokejumpers, with a farm background. Farm background?

WR: Farm background.

GP: Farm background like yours, I imagine the Forest Service is very happy to accept you. Physical condition pretty good, Mennonite background, Mennonite camp. So I'd imagine you got accepted pretty quickly, am I right?

WR: First time.

GP: Smokejumpers, 1944. And you've moved from Three Rivers to Missoula.

WR: To Missoula.

GP: Took the train?

WR: Took the train. Errol Tooley (?) picked me up.

GP: Is that right? Well good for him. And they brought you out to Ninemile.

WR: Ninemile.

GP: Where you did all your training.

WR: That's where I did my training.

GP: Seven training jumps.

WR: Seven.

GP: Any injuries?

WR: No injuries.

GP: Lucky. Lucky. Well, I guess most of the men went through without injury, but a number did sprain an ankle or anything like that. How about your chutes? You had seven training jumps—did you ever have trouble with the chute in any of those?

WR: Never any problem. I never did jump an eagle though either. I always jumped 30s.

GP: Nor did I. Never jumped an eagle. How about the training program, though? Did you find that very strenuous?

WR: It was, sort of, yes. It was different than what I'd been used to, and there were certain parts that were strenuous to me. For instance, hand over hand rope climbing was difficult.

GP: Oh boy. I watched the man do it on the film, the other night, and I could not get up there myself. I couldn't have then, much less now. How about the tower jump? Did that bother you at all?

WR: Oh, it made my somewhat nervous, yes, but after two or three times I accepted it.

GP: Didn't it shake you up? It did me.

WR: I supposed it...it shook me up somewhat, but.

GP: Now most men I've talked to indicate that the tower gave a heavier shock than the opening of the parachute. Did you find that true?

WR: I would agree with that, yes.

GP: I guess we're well conditioned, then, for the shock of the opening parachute. Do you remember your first jump?

WR: Well, vaguely. There are other jumps that stand out more than that one, so I can remember it, but—

GP: Others among the training jumps?

WR: One of the training jumps, yes.

GP: Which one?

WR: I don't know what number it was, but it had a pretty good opening shock, and hit the ground pretty hard, and I picked up my gear and remember putting it the truck, and that's the last thing I can recall for about 35-40 minutes, I suppose. Because the next thing I recall was riding into camp in the truck. [laughs] And all of a sudden Loren Zimmerman said, "I thought you acted kind of funny." But evidently I functioned and did all the work I was supposed to do.

GP: Sort of mechanically, without really knowing what you were doing.

WR: I suppose, yes.

GP: During one of the training jumps, we were supposed to hang up in a tree. Did you succeed?

WR: I think I did, yes.

GP: And get yourself down with let down procedure?

WR: I got myself down no problem.

GP: Let down procedure?

WR: Yes.

GP: Routine let down procedure. 20 jumps, I hit the ground every time. Did not once used let down procedure.

WR: Well, I had to use it once.

GP: Jumping? The fire jumps?

WR: The fire jumps, yes.

GP: Once in the fire jumps, once in the training jumps. Yes, I was lucky. I remember sweating out that let down procedure. Oh, it was hot. I took a long time doing it—I was not very good at it, I'm afraid. Well, after the training, then, we had seven training jumps, the last one was a little fire camp, wasn't it? You tried to set up a little fire camp up there.

WR: Yes, yes.

GP: After we got that where were you assigned?

WR: I was out in Ninemile.

GP: And working at what? What was your work, what was your project?

WR: We made hay.

GP: [laughs] So did I.

WR: Yeah.

GP: And how many jumps did you have in 1944, fire jumps?

WR: I don't know what my separate year jumps were, I just know my total jumps was 21.

GP: 21! You beat me by one: I had 20 little jumps. I had three jumps that first year. Do you remember your first fire jump?

WR: I don't remember my first fire jump.

GP: Do you remember any of those fire jumps, in the first year? You must have had three or four, perhaps.

WR: I'm sure I did. But they kind of run together. I don't know which year was which year.

GP: You were not on Bell Lake then.

WR: No, I was not.

GP: Big 20-man fire. Neither was I. Twenty-nine men went out in Bell Lake. It was apparently a big campaign fire that first year. Well, let's just think about any of the jumps, then, you don't have to discriminate between the first year and second year. Which stands out in your mind most vividly?

WR: I suppose I have two outstanding jumps, and probably number one is Seven Devils fire.

GP: Oh, Seven Devils. Where is that?

WR: It's in the Idaho side in the Snake River, down between Oregon and Idaho.

GP: Yes.

WR: We were up on the Idaho side, is where the Seven Devils country is. And there was two plane-loads of jumpers jumped.

GP: Tri-motor loads, eight jumpers?

WR: Tri-motor loads. And it was pretty hot fire season at that time, and they were low on equipment. And it was kind of late at night: it was dark, could not judge your distance too well anymore. They jumped the first load, and I was in the second load, and the first plane was down below us, already dumping cargo. Herb Crocker and I were the last ones to go out. Supposed to be three, but they didn't have an emergency chute that was good enough for the third man, so he had to go back to Missoula. My emergency chute was just hung on with one string on one side, and the spotter says, "Hang on to it until your opening shock is over, so it doesn't tear the other side off." So I did that. And no problem.

When I was, oh, I suppose halfway down or a little better, there came the cargo plane dumping cargo. And he flew slightly above me, and I didn't think too much about it. After we got to the ground, Herb Crocker asked me, "Did he fly below you or above you?"

And I said, "He flew above me."

He said, "Well, he flew below me, and we jumped together." And that was also the fire where I hung up in the tree.

I suppose I was 80 feet up off the ground. Because my rope did not touch the ground when I let it out. I managed to get down all right, but the next day, when I was supposed to go after my parachute, we just had these pole spurs, the little short spurs...

GP: It won't work.

WR: And I got up that tree about 60 feet, to the first big limb, and I was supposed to throw my safety rope around that limb. That's when I got to thinking about those short spurs, and I decided to come back down. But Herb Crocker was a brave soul—

GP: And he went up after?

WR: He went after my parachute. And then when we got to walking out, after we had the fire out, it was late at night already. It was still daylight. We had about, I don't know, maybe a mile to go to the trail, which was a pretty steep incline, and one of the fellows didn't make it. He passed out on the way out. So half of us stayed back with him, to let him recuperate, and the other half went on out. I stayed with the half that stayed back. So we walked up all the way in the dark, to the road where they picked up.

GP: Forest Service pickup—

WR: There was a school bus.

GP: School bus, oh my.

WR: That they had rented or hired to pick us up. And they took us into Riggins, Idaho.

GP: And from Riggins, Idaho, did they fly you back, or what did they do?

WR: I don't remember that part.

GP: I remember several times we were brought into Grangeville, then flown back to Missoula from Grangeville. Seemed to be sort of a central location. All right, that was one of your exciting fire jumps you remember. How about the other one?

WR: The other was in Washington, above Lake Chelan. We flew from Missoula, had to land at Winthrop because there was too much smoke in the area. [Waited] for that to clear out. And then we jumped on...I don't remember the name of the fire. It was about 300 acres. It was a re-burn, is what it was. Somebody had been on it and it re-burned again. So we jumped on top of the ridge. And it was steep. Possibly more than 45 degree slope, it was on.

GP: That is steep.

WR: And, of course we were on top of the ridge when I landed, my parachute—we landed so close to the fire line that my parachute draped across the fire line. But there was no danger, it was just a really slow, smoldering fire. We got set up camp, and found out that the fire was rolling down hills. And Jim Jackson was with us. He made a trek all around the fire to find out how serious it was. But then the Holden mine was still operating at that time. They brought in a bunch of miners. And they held the bottom of the fire and we held the top of the fire. They also brought in some jumpers from Cave Junction, Oregon, DC-3 [Douglas DC-3; a type of airplane], on that one. So that was an exciting fire.

GP: Did you watch the jump from DC-3?

WR: We watched them jump. Scattered them all over the place.

GP: Now that DC-3 can't get down the way the Schimewacker (?) could.

WR: No. That was the problem, because they had to fly over the tops of the peaks. And while they were flying over the tops of the peaks, the tri-motor was down at the bottom of the canyon flying back and forth dropping camp for us to go down to eat. But we didn't go down until we went out. It was too far.

GP: That DC-3, they scattered the jumpers pretty badly. Is that what happened?

WR: Well...

GP: From Cave Junction?

WR: More so than we were, but we were all right on the fire, right next to it. They were scattered more than we were.

GP: Tri-motor and Travel Air both had the capacity to put your jumpers pretty much where they wanted to. In a small meadow of any sort, or a small opening.

WR: We had kind of an open ridge we jumped on. There was not much vegetation up there, really. It was the top of the ridge and was turning out to be kind of barren rock already. So we had an easy time at the top of the fire. It was the fellows at the bottom—

GP: And the miners at the bottom, they had the tough fire.

WR: They had the tough part, yeah.

GP: Ah, it's a smokejumper attribute: take the easiest side of the fire, how about that.

WR: And then on our way out, we were above Lake Chelan. We walked, oh, I suppose 10, 15 miles to the boat launch. We got on the boat, went down to 25 Mile ranger station, or whatever it is. There they picked us up and brought us into Chelan, fed us a big dinner, steak dinner, went to bed. Got up in the morning, got right back up into the plane and flew right back up into the same country for another fire. Only this was on the other side, it was near Surprise Lake. And by the time we got that one out, there was a few snowflakes coming, on our way out. Those were the high points of my—

GP: My last jump, we didn't have any snowflakes, but we had a lot of rain. In fact the rain put out the fire. That was nice. You really didn't have to do much except sit around and be sure it didn't go anywhere, and the rain was little by little putting the fire out for you. Well those were the two most exciting of your jumps, but you had quite a few you must have had, oh 10 or 11 fire jumps along the way.

WR: Yes.

GP: Now most of those, I suppose, were the typical smokejumper fire, where you had a snag, or one tree struck by lightning, and the fire got established in the duff below it perhaps, and just a little section there—somebody detected the smoke and sent out the smokejumpers. Is that what your experience was?

WR: I was on one two-man fire.

GP: Only one?

WR: Only on one two-man fire.

GP: Oh my. I had two or three, several of those.

WR: The rest of them were all, I suppose, six, eight-man fire. Which indicate that they were a little more than just a snag.

GP: Sure. Yeah, well, several of mine were that two-man variety. I remember jumping once in Indian Territory, where two of us were out patrolling. You ever go out patrolling?

WR: No.

GP: We did once. I did just once. They took us all over the places. Dropped in at Grangeville and we had lunch there, then took off again and scouted around, trying to find some smoke nobody'd reported. We saw quite a few smokes. Fires around the territory. But they were already covered. Finally detected one up in the Indian country, and...I don't think the Indian people were very happy about our jumping in. As I understand it, the Indian Service had to pay the Forest Service for our services. And they didn't like that at all. But we put out the fire for them, at least.

WR: Well wasn't that the same case if you jumped on Potlatch?

GP: I think you're right. That's private country, isn't it? Why your smokejumper experience was very successful, then, really. You had no injuries?

WR: No injuries.

GP: Hung up twice, once during training, once during the fire season.

WR: Yes. I may have had a snag when I came to the ground in the Salmon River country.

GP: Well if you hit a snag—

WR: It broke off—

GP: And came to the ground. It broke off?

WR: Yes.

GP: I don't think I'd like that.

WR: I didn't like it, but it didn't bother. I was close enough to the ground that—

GP: It didn't injure you.

WR: It didn't injure me.

GP: Oh, you're lucky. Of course, that snag could have fallen right down smack on your head. But it didn't.

WR: Could have, but it didn't.

GP: Well that was good. Did you ever get involved in any rescue expedition for any of the jumpers that were hurt, or anyone else?

WR: I was in one rescue jump, and if I recall right it was Ed Kirk. We carried him out.

GP: How far?

WR: Oh, I don't remember the distance, but I remember the last part of it was wading through the river about knee deep, carrying him.

GP: Oh really?

WR: Yes.

GP: In a stretcher.

WR: In a stretcher. Basket stretcher.

GP: Forest Service had dropped the stretcher to you.

WR: They had, and a doctor was with us.

GP: Oh really?

WR: Yes, an army doctor dropped with us.

GP: With you, then. Your group. The army doctor dropped with you.

WR: Yeah.

GP: And was able to attend him, and you all walked out together.

WR: He attended him and walked out together. And at the other side of the river, there was a rig to pick him up and take him to the hospital. I was hoping he would be here, but—

GP: Didn't make it. That's too bad. How badly injured was he?

WR: I think he had a back injury of some kind. How serious it was, which—

GP: That was an earlier jump; he jumped ahead of you?

WR: It was a separate. We were not in that. They just called us in special to carry him out.

GP: Oh, I see.

WR: And the fire that he jumped on, we were not connected with that. We just were crew that jumped in to carry him out.

GP: Just exactly the reverse from me. I was sent in with a rescue crew to take care of one man that broke off a snag high in the tree, and the snag and fell, either back was broken or very badly battered. Anywhere, we were jumped in as a rescue crew, but the original crew had already carried him out and were on the trail...out to the trail and were working the trail to take him out to where they could pick up by Forest Service pickup, so we stayed and fought the fire. [laughs]

WR: That must have been Archie Keith.

GP: I expect it was.

WR: Yeah.

GP: Did you have any other experiences as a jumper that you recall particularly, that you would like to say a word about?

WR: Well, I remember the fire that we were on on the Salmon River country.

GP: Now that's a River of No Return, isn't it?

WR: Right.

GP: I remember that my last jump was in that territory.

WR: And when I went out, Mr. Carter says, "For God's sake, don't go down the river." It was a long way back up. So I was fortunate in hitting the right spot. Another fire I remember, and I think we were put on a different—and it was in Idaho something, I don't remember the place. There were three fires on this ridge, and one was a raging fire, and there was two smaller fires. And I think they dumped us on the wrong fire. I think they were supposed to dump us on this raging fire, and they dumped us on one of the smaller fires that we could control very easily, and while we were working on this, a bunch of firefighters came walking up past us, wondering what we were doing there.

GP: They were on the big fire.

WR: They were going for the big fire. But it turned out fine.

GP: The foreman probably said to himself, "Look here, that ranging fire, us few smokejumpers couldn't make that much difference on one of those big fire. But this fire here is about smokejumper size!" You could control that one.

WR: We controlled that one.

GP: Did you have any fire blow up in your face?

WR: Not really. We had one that we worked on, I think it was in Idaho someplace. We had to work through the night to keep it under control, because it would spark over the line.

GP: Yes, that's common.

WR: It never did blow up on us though.

GP: The time to get it under control is before the burning season at 10 o'clock the next day.

WR: Yes.

GP: So you work all night and get—

WR: We worked 18 hours straight without stopping before we had it under control. Without stopping and eating or anything, we just did straight through.

GP: Well, that's not uncommon experience, I guess. I've done it more than once. So you, looking back now, it begins to dim, 40 years later, but some of those experiences are still somewhat vivid in your mind, of a particular fire, and the rescue trip you had. During the off season...Now, you were here in '44 and '45?

WR: Yes.

GP: Okay, during the season between '44 and '45, what did you do?

WR: One winter I went to Coeur d'Alene, Kingston Ranger Station, and we did some boundary line blazing and timber cruising. It was our main project.

GP: Now explain the timber cruising to me. I never did that.

WR: Now that's a procedure that the Forest Service uses if they want to make a timber sale. They go in and take, oh, we took 5 percent, I guess it was, cruise. You go in through the area you want to sell and set up plots and measure the trees in a given plot: the height and the diameter and how much metric feet of the lumber is in that particular plot. And then you go

through the whole section that you want to sell, and according to that is what they can charge them, a percent of cruise, to figure out how much timber is in it.

GP: I see. So you did some of the timber cruising there, during that winter.

WR: That winter, yes.

GP: That was your principle project during the winter of '44.

WR: [pauses] '44—

GP: After the first jumping season.

WR: After the first jumping season, yes. But then I was in another project...that was in Anaconda though, and I can't quite put that together, because after '45 we transferred out.

GP: All right. Let's go to '45. Where you finished the fire season, ended some time in September, I suppose. Did you have any compensatory time earned on the fires, I suppose?

WR: I had almost a month.

GP: And what did you do with it?

WR: I went home, and when I came back camp had moved.

GP: Yes, that's right. Was it at Savanac [in the Lolo National Forest] by that time?

WR: It was at Savanac by that time, so I had to figure out my way to get to Savanac. I had no problem getting there.

GP: Yes, I know I was assigned to Savanac, for that...before the '45 jumping season. We did a lot of tree planting out there. I very seldom got back after the fire season started, because you know that was around and around, that second year. All right, you went back to Savanac. How long did you spend there at Savanac?

WR: Evidently I wasn't there too long, because I don't remember too much about it. But I remember being there after the season. It was damp weather, and I really don't remember too much of what it did.

GP: Well there isn't much of Haugan. I remember one general store, and of course the nursery, and that's it.

WR: Yes.

GP: About all there was. I suppose the man in charge of the nursery had a house there, so that may have been there, but not much else. Then were you discharged from Savanac?

WR: No, I went back to base camp—

GP: Which one?

WR: Dennison, Iowa.

GP: Dennison, Iowa. Now you had not been there before.

WR: No.

GP: What was the project at Dennison?

WR: It was also soil conservation.

GP: And you spent a little time there before discharge.

WR: Spent about three or four months 'til I got my discharge.

GP: Ok. After discharge, where'd you go?

WR: I went back home to Kansas. My home was no longer there.

GP: Oh, no. What happened?

WR: It had been sold; my brother was living in it. So I stayed with him a few days, and I had planned to go to western Kansas and work in the harvest. In the meantime I found out there was a job in Washington State, working the wheat harvest. So that's where I went, and I stayed there. From 1946 to this day, I've been in Washington.

GP: Well now, maybe Kansas was a little too flat for you. Maybe not quite as exciting as the Pacific Northwest. Do you feel that maybe your location was influenced by the fact of having been here and jumped in Lake Chelan and other places?

WR: I'm sure it was. I have no doubt about it.

GP: You liked the western country.

WR: And also I found my wife there.

GP: Well, that's a fair combination of things.

WR: A good reason for staying.

GP: That is a very good reason. Couldn't think of much better. Well, you've come to how many of these reunions?

WR: I've been to every one.

GP: Is that right?

WR: This is the fourth one.

GP: My, congratulations. This is my first. And you found the experience of reunions, apparently, a very interesting one. Renewing acquaintances with people you worked with and jumped with during those '43, '44, and '45 years.

WR: We have an advantage because it takes us a little over half a day to drive from where we live, so no problem with that.

GP: Takes me a little over half a day to fly from Atlanta to Missoula. Your memories of the smokejumper project, then, are generally pretty pleasant, is that right?

WR: I wouldn't trade them for anything.

GP: Is that right?

WR: Yes.

GP: Quite a different experience from the farm and Kansas, and also from Washington.

WR: Oh, very much. It was an education for me, really. I guess I should say I was probably fortunate to get in, because they wanted persons with a high school diploma, when I first applied, or equivalent thereof. And I didn't go to high school. See, my father died when I was, oh, 11, 12 years old, and us kids run the farm, you know. And they never even took a test for me. I just sailed right in. So I had no problem with that.

GP: I'm not quite sure what good a high school diploma would have done you on those fires.

WR: I don't know either. Fill out the reports.

GP: Ah, maybe so. Okay. Well, is there anything we have not talked about that you would like to recall, from your experiences in CPS or in the smokejumper unit in particular?

WR: Oh, I don't know. Some of those things are pretty general, happened to everybody that was in there.

GP: For instance?

WR: The firefighting, and training, and a number of things.

GP: Did you have any walking fires from the smokejumper unit?

WR: We went on one from Ninemile. We drove out in the truck, and it was a railroad fire. Not too many miles from Ninemile. We were on it for only part of the day before we got it out. But that's the only walking fire I had.

GP: I had a lot more walking fires in North Carolina and California. I think only one or two out of the smokejumper unit. Maybe only one out of the smokejumper unit. Because that wasn't a very efficient use of our services, I'm sure, but if you didn't have anything else to do, and lots of jumpers around, I suppose you could use them on fires like the one you described.

WR: You asked me before whether I'd fought fire in any other camp. Well, I guess I did in La Pine, Oregon. That was building a dam. And we cleared trees, just cut them down and burned them. And one night, had a lightning storm and it was in kind of the hot part of the season, so it lit some of the slash, and we had to go put it out. But there was no problem with that. They had tractors and dozers and just corralled it right away.

GP: Yeah. That'd be handy to have a few tractors and dozers out in the back country, wouldn't it?

WR: And it was level 9 too, wasn't—

GP: Like ours?

WR: Hills and rocks and so. No problem with that one.

GP: Well, I think we've done most of what we're supposed to do. Is there anything else you think of that you would like to say?

WR: Well, I can say that we were accepted very well in the Missoula area. Never had any problems. Public relations problems.

GP: For instance, now what would be the symbol of the acceptance in the Missoula community?

WR: I can't really put my hand on it, you know.

GP: Go to church?

WR: I did go to church a few times, but never had really too much connections while I was in the Missoula area.

GP: Play any sports?

WR: Oh, lots of volleyball.

GP: With ourselves. With anybody else besides us?

WR: No, no one else, no.

GP: No basketball with other people?

WR: No basketball.

GP: I gather that in 1943, at least, they had a basketball team that played against some community teams. Smokejumper unit versus somebody else.

WR: And maybe the western culture had something to do with it too, because generally it seems to me that western people are more friendly than they are when you go to the eastern part of the country.

GP: Oh, I don't know. Florida thinks it's pretty agreeable.

WR: I've never been to Florida, so I can't speak for Florida.

GP: Come on down. Everybody winds up in Florida. Although, from Washington, you are a long, long way away from Florida. Well is there anything else you've left out?

WR: Well, I can't think of anything, but I'll probably think of it when we get half a block down here.

GP: All right. Well fine, thanks for—

[End of Interview]