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Jean T. Anderson
February 24, 1973

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Oral History Interview

With J. T. Anderson

Reel #160

Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

February 24, 1973

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STATE OF TAPE

- Herbert Evison: This is February 24, 1973. I'm Herb Evison and this very sunny afternoon in Tucson, I'm in the living room of the superintendent's home at Saguaro National Monument and with me – boy, is she a gladsome sight – is a very old, wonderful friend of mine whom I first knew as Jean Tillotson and whom I now know as Mrs. Auburn Anderson for quite a number of years.
- Herbert Evison: Jean, I can't forebear getting on the record what a joy it is sitting here to talk with you, look at you. You're still extraordinarily easy on the eye.
- Jean Anderson: Thank you.
- Herbert Evison: What I want very much to do is start this out, I try to do this with everybody, give us sort of a thumbnail sketch. You don't have to give me dates if you don't want your age on here, although sooner or later it will come out. (Laughter.)
- Herbert Evison: But I'll put on the record that Jean was the daughter of Miner R. Tillotson and I call on the transcriber to spell that M-i-n-e-r, whom I first knew in 1928 when he was superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park, and with whom I made a long, exploratory trip in the summer of 1935 around and through the escalante country of Utah. And I want you first, if you will, to give me just a brief sketch of your life. If you're not going to tell when you were born, tell me where you were born, and what your father was doing at the time?
- Jean Anderson: I was born in Redbud, California, and Dad was working for the Forest Service at that time. And then we moved from there down to Berkeley, California and he did some temporary work for the Standard Oil Company. And while we were there my brother was very sick and contacted – had asthma very bad. And Mr. Guy – I can't think of – Oliver Taylor.
- Herbert Evison: Oliver G., I suppose.
- Jean Anderson: That's right. He had written Dad and asked if he knew of somebody who could come to Yosemite and put in a sewer line. And Dad, missing being in the open country, said, "I know a hell of a good one. I'll go myself." So after that, years later, he always said well he had come into the Park Service through a sewer line. (Laughter.)
- Jean Anderson: So from there – I don't remember anything much of life at Yosemite. But it was in Grand Canyon, we moved there when I was, I believe, four, as I remember. (Inaudible.) So I don't remember too much of that until I really started into school.

- Jean Anderson: And Dad was engineer there when we first went there and then he was made superintendent. And the last job he did when he was engineer was building of the Kaibab Trail, which is the trail that goes to the south rim, across ____, up to the north rim. And when they had asked him to become superintendent, well, he really didn't want to be the superintendent at that time. He said he wanted to finish this trail. So he said he would consider, only with the stipulation that he could finish the trail, of which he did. And the chaps that he wore when he went down the trail was made into a guestbook. And the guestbook was friends of Grand Canyon National Park. And it was people – it was not an autograph book, just people that were in our homes as guests. And we had very, very, very famous names. And the pocket of the chaps, made for – in the front of the book.
- Herbert Evison: You started in school at Grand Canyon, didn't you?
- Jean Anderson: That's right. I started there in the first grade, and it was a little two-room log cabin. And now they have a beautiful school and a high school. But that was the beginning of it. And it was just wonderful. There were six children in the first grade and we graduated together, went all through the eight grades. Then I went away to school.
- Herbert Evison: What did you do about high school back in those days?
- Jean Anderson: There wasn't any high school at the Canyon so I had to go away. And I went to Berkeley, California where my Dad's brother lived. And I stayed with them there and went two years. And then came back to Tucson at that time because my brother was at the University. So I went the last two years of high school at Tucson High. And then went on up to the University here and pledged a sorority and lived in the sorority, which was really great because that was a home for me away from home. And yet it was so wonderful to go home in the holiday times.
- Herbert Evison: That was here at the University?
- Jean Anderson: Yeah, in Tucson. And I took sorority sisters home and really just would have a wonderful time. Particularly at Christmas time with the snow. Mother and Dad enjoyed that so much. It was really good.
- Jean Anderson: Back to the school, during – in grammar school I had – we weren't allowed to have dogs or cats. So we had little animals like chipmunks and porcupines, we had a pet porcupine that we would carry around –
- Herbert Evison: Carried him around? In what? Not your arms.
- Jean Anderson: Yes, our arms. You rub them and if you start rubbing from the forehead back very gently, then they just smoothed right out like a little kitten. But the thing is that little porcupine died because it was handled too too much.

But we took the porcupine to the local doctor there and he said, give it some castor oil. And we did and the next morning the porcupine died.

Jean Anderson: But then Dad had gotten some – had brought some deer over from the north rim to the south rim by plane. And there was a little baby fawn which was given to me. And I fed that baby with a little milk bottle and baby cereal. And that fawn followed me around and was around the village area for years.

Herbert Evison: They would never allow that nowadays.

Jean Anderson: No, I guess not. But Dad was so fond of animals, too. And that's why when we did go to – when he was transferred to Richmond, one of the first things he did was buy a dog.

Herbert Evison: I remember that, yes.

Jean Anderson: Very sweet. Big headlines in the paper says, "Man lives 18 years without a dog." So we got a cocker spaniel which really was wonderful. In fact Nujoni (PHONETIC) was the little dog. And Nujoni went with him to Santa Fe when he was transferred there.

Herbert Evison: I saw Nujoni there, in Santa Fe.

Jean Anderson: But it was a wonderful thing growing up at the Canyon because it was safe. It was safe for the children. We didn't play around the rim of the Canyon too much because we really weren't that interested in it. We were interested in our few playmates. There really weren't too many children at that time. And played back up in the forest.

Jean Anderson: And then when Dad was made superintendent, he had an Indian maid called Hospah (PHONETIC). And Hospah lived with us and married one of the Indian chiefs at the Hopi House, Porter, ___ Porter, and they had three children, Denospa (PHONETIC) and Gwen Hospah and Kojanhaha (PHONETIC). And Denospah – these are all Navajo Indian names. But the little boy is half Navajo and half Hopi, she married a Hopi. But anyhow, these children were in our home and raised in our home up until the time that we left for Richmond. And they've all done well with their lives. And it was a very – it was very interesting when we had them in the home because Mother and Dad would entertain Congressmen and ambassadors and ministers from (inaudible) and the Washington Office. And they'd bring the little children, always dressed in costume. So it made quite a hit with them. But they're grown and Denospah now, whose English name is Laverne; and she's a nurse now at Windlebrock (PHONETIC).

Herbert Evison: On the Reservation?

- Jean Anderson: On the Reservation. In fact, when my mother died here in Tucson, Denospah nursed her at the time, we brought her back. And it was so great for Mother to have Denospah with us.
- Jean Anderson: So I don't know, what else do you want?
- Herbert Evison: I'm so glad you remembered about them. I remember hearing of the Indian maid who had worked for you.
- Jean Anderson: Yeah, Hospah spoke very good English and was quite well educated, except still had the sound of the Indian characteristics, such as – particularly, one day she asked if I would drive her out to the Indian Reservation. And she put a sack of flour and sugar and coffee in the trunk of the car and we went out. And she said "Stop." And it was just no-man's land, there was nothing around. So we got out and walked about a quarter of a mile over the desert and there was a hovel there. And she said – she went up there – some Navajos and some sheep, and she traded the coffee and bought the sheep. And right in front of my eyes, killed that sheep with her – by slitting her throat. And then she gave a piece of it, which is the heart, to the Navajos that lived there because that's a delicacy for them. And then the rest of it – oh, she gave them the wool, she sheared the wool right there. And then the rest of it she brought back.
- Jean Anderson: And she invited me for dinner that night and she took the intestines – the blood out of the intestines and mixed the blood with cornmeal and stuffed it back and baked it. Well, I wasn't about to eat that. But she fixed me some lamb chops. But that was a wonderful delicacy for them, they just thought that was great. And to us, as a maid, of course she didn't cook like that. She made wonderful breads and wonderful cakes, and it was just really a good experience to be with her.
- Jean Anderson: Some of my best friends that I played with, their fathers would come in and work for Dad. And they worked on the roads. And they were just my close friends.
- Herbert Evison: Weren't some of the Indians who worked there from over at Hoveson (PHONETIC)?
- Jean Anderson: Yeah. They had Navajo and Hopi and the Havasupai Indians. And the Havasupai are the only Indian that have their reservation down in the Canyon. And then the Hopis and the Navajos came in from out in the Indian Reservation.
- Jean Anderson: But they worked – mainly the Hopi boys came in and worked in the Hopi House. And worked very hard in the hotels. But the Havasupai Indians worked on the roads, mainly. And their – you went down to their Reservation at Hilltop. In fact, Mother went down and Dad went down

there and Mother's horse slipped and she broke her foot on the trail. And Dad was building the Park Service Office and overseeing it and had – was lying the plans out and he had – a rock fell from above and broke his finger. And my brother, playing ball, broke his leg, fell through our attic when he went after the ball and broke his leg. And I was playing in the house and slipped and fell and broke my leg. And then we got a letter from my Dad's father, my grandfather, saying, well, how can you – I don't see how you've done as well as you have done with all those rocks, it's a wonder you haven't broken all your bones with rocks around the Canyon. But anyhow, it was just something that happened in –

Herbert Evison: You were kind of an accident prone family, huh?

Jean Anderson: Yeah.

Herbert Evison: Well, I love the stuff that you've been dredging up from your memory, Jean, and particularly the story of the sheep. It shows something of what a person out in a park like Grand Canyon could encounter in those days, certainly. But I doubt if anything like that would happen today.

Jean Anderson: No.

Herbert Evison: I doubt if, with all the problems and a much larger park organization – at least it would be very unlikely that any such Indian relationship would grow up.

Jean Anderson: That's true. And the Indians are out – now they're really having quite a hard time with them because with there being more and more educated – and it's nothing like it was in those days at all, with them. When we left, when Dad was transferred to Richmond, they came in from out on the Reservation and they – usually people think about Indians being so brave and solemn. And all the Indians were running behind our car crying, because we were leaving. Of course, they called Dad "Natahni." And we always called him Natahni, too. The Navajos gave him – it's a Navajo name and they gave him that name, which means "The Boss", which was the superintendent of the Canyon.

Herbert Evison: What's the spelling, Jean? I don't know.

Jean Anderson: N-a-t-a-h-n-i. Natahni.

Herbert Evison: Yes, I remember that name from Richmond too. So you were transferred to Richmond along with him?

Jean Anderson: Yes, but I wasn't going. Mother and I had gone to a bridge party and we came home and Dad was sitting in the chair and Mother said, (inaudible) Dad said, "Did you have a good time?" We said, yes, we had a good time, we didn't have very good luck. And Dad said, "Well, I didn't have a good

time and I didn't have good luck." He said, "We're being transferred." So mother said, "Where?" And Dad said, "Just guess." And she said, "Santa Fe?" No. "Surely not Washington, D. C." He said, "No. " And she said, "Well, I don't know where else it could be." And he said, "Richmond, Virginia." And I said, "Well, I'm not going." I said, "I've never been further East than Chicago and that's east to me."

Jean Anderson: So then Dad said, "Well, we'd better have a drink." And he said, "You know, we'd better start looking at the good side of it." He said, "One thing, we could stop drinking scotch and drink bourbon. And another thing, we can have a dog."

Jean Anderson: So we started trying to think of the advantages and experiences. And the most wonderful thing about that move was that we made wonderful friends all over, going back in Virginia and in Washington. And I don't think we ever – I know we never regretted that. But yet, when the time came to be transferred back to Santa Fe, it was a really wonderful thing for him to be back in the Southwest.

Herbert Evison: Do you happen to remember that party that was thrown as a farewell to Russell and as a welcome to you folks?

Jean Anderson: Was that the John Marshall Hotel?

Herbert Evison: That's right.

Jean Anderson: Yes, I remember that. I felt so stupid there because everybody looked at me and – I felt like they were, very, very friendly, a very, very lovely party.

Herbert Evison: One thing I remember about that was your father's speech. Do you remember? Telling about getting this – his chagrin at the prospects of being transferred to Richmond. He said he went out on the rim of the Canyon and looked up at the sky and said, "Goodby, God, I'm going to Virginia." And at the time of the banquet I guess he'd been there three or four weeks, not very much more. And he said, "I say the same thing now, "Good, by God, I'm going to Virginia."

Jean Anderson: I don't remember that, I do remember him saying something about he didn't feel like he was Northern, he felt like he was a Southerner, because of Arizona coming into the Union under the Confederate flag.

Herbert Evison: How about your own time there? You were in Richmond only about a year and a half, as I remember, weren't you?

Jean Anderson: Well, I was still –

Herbert Evison: I mean your family. Your father and mother.

- Jean Anderson: Yeah, mother – of course, Dad traveled a lot and we didn't really see too much of him. He was going from Maine to Florida and it was a wonderful thing for me because really, I had been away from my parents since high school days, so really I got closer with Mother in that year, about a year and a half. But no, he wasn't there too long. And then I stayed on, because we were married. And then he went back to Santa Fe.
- Herbert Evison: Yes, I think we should make some mention. The gentleman you married and when that took place.
- Jean Anderson: We were married in 1940 and he was going to medical school in Richmond and graduated there the next year, in pharmacy. But while he was in school I got a job, first with the State Department and then – who was the Regional Director? Tom Allen.
- Herbert Evison: Tom Allen, yes.
- Jean Anderson: Yes. Called me one day and asked me if I'd be interested in working for the Engineering Department of the Park Service. But I didn't really want to do that until I spoke with Dad so I called him long distance in Santa Fe. And he said, well, you're not a Tillotson any more, and that's entirely up to you. So I took Civil Service and got – went in and worked for the Engineering Department, with Major Gray, who was then the head of the – I think, that Department.
- Jean Anderson: And June my husband finished school and then I left Park Service and we moved to Petersburg where he was a pharmacist there. And while we were in Petersburg we had the two children, Kathy and Mary Lou. And then we moved out of – we moved to Tucson when they were about four, I guess, or five.
- Herbert Evison: And you've never regretted coming back here?
- Jean Anderson: Oh, no, I didn't. But what really brought us back to Tucson was my brother was here and he kept after us to come out. And my husband, really liked the West, very, very much. And we've never regretted it, although we've really enjoyed going back three or four times to visit friends and relatives of his.
- Herbert Evison: He had never been West until you moved out here?
- Jean Anderson: No, he had come out. The reason he knew about it is when Dad was in Santa Fe I went home to visit and he came out and met me. And then came down to Tucson and really liked it very much.
- Herbert Evison: Well, I judge that he has prospered.

Jean Anderson: Very well. He is now manager of one of the Red Coat stores here in town, the large one out on the _____. And he's still doing his pharmacy work along with it. But we've been very, very happy. We really love Arizona.

Herbert Evison: It shows, too.

Jean Anderson: I've enjoyed every minute of it, being here. But I still think it's the highlight in our lives to see you, Herb Evison. We're so grateful.

Herbert Evison: Thank you for those kind words. Maybe it's a good time to call it a day on this side.

Jean Anderson: Okay, (inaudible) I can't think that I've said anything very good.

END OF TAPE