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 Oral History Project Final Report
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Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument Oral History Project, Phase One Report
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Part I: Report on Project

Victor Yannacone, an acclaimed environmental lawyer, declared the 1969 legal battle for Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument as one of the “finest moments in American legal history.” The Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument Oral History Project has allowed researchers to capture Yannacone’s views on the importance of the fight for the monument and to gather other evidence and interviews that provide critical detail about the history of Florissant. In an effort to further document the history of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument the oral history project accomplished several key tasks, including processing the pre-existing collection, transcribing the interviews that were only available in audio form, providing historical context for the interviews, interviewing new subjects, transcribing these new interviews, and compiling this information into a summary of the collection and the project.

Section I: Project Definition

This project emerged early in 2011 when Rick Wilson, Chief Ranger of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, contacted the Public Lands History Center at Colorado State University. The project guidelines and scope of work in the cooperative agreement arranged through the Rocky Mountain Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit stated that project tasks would include processing the oral histories in the FLFO archives (e.g. identifying the existing transcriptions, digitizing audio cassettes, and transcribing all audible interviews) and adding new interviews as time and budget permitted. Dr. Ruth Alexander, Professor of History, was named the Principal Investigator for the Project. Nichelle Frank, a graduate student in the History Department, was named the Researcher.

Section II: Narrative of Project

A. Secondary Research

The first step in this project required general research of the site's history. Researcher Nichelle Frank was able to obtain a great deal of information through Morgan Library at Colorado State University as well as online through LexisNexis and the FLFO National Park Service website. The secondary research included park histories: Estella Leopold, Herb Meyer, and John Stansfield's manuscript for *Preserved in Time: The Fight to Save Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument*; "The Florissant Affair—An Expose" by James Thompson for Colorado State University Political Science class; and John McChristal's *A History of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument: In Celebration of Preservation*. Secondary research also included monographs on environmental law and the National Park Service: Thomas R. Dunlap's *DDT: Scientists, Citizens, and Public Policy*; John Ise's *Our National Park Policy: A Critical History*; Don Hummel's *Stealing the National Parks: The Destruction of Concessions and Park Access*; Frank Rhodes and Bruce Malamud's *Language of the Earth: A Literary Anthology*; Mark David Spence's *Dispossessing the Wilderness: Indian Removal and the Making of the National Parks*.

Primary research consisted of congressional hearing transcriptions (1967-1969), proposals for the monument (1962), the monument's master plan (1967), various bills introduced in Congress (1964-1969), and correspondence between congressmen and lawyers (1969). Valuable information was also available in the FLFO archives, particularly in the legislative binders. Transcriptions from the hearings would have been helpful, but are not available from the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals (there has never been a court reporter). According to Conni O'Connor, FLFO's museum technician, there are transcriptions available of the Colorado

Springs hearings through the National Archives at the Denver Federal Center in Lakewood, Colorado. Time and budget did not allow the researcher to look into these records. For more information on the sources consulted, please see the bibliography included with this report.

B. Site Visit

The second step of this project involved site visits by Researcher Frank in order to provide visual context for the researcher. The interviews conducted prior to these visits were with area residents who discussed land usage and their experiences working on ranches or at Colorado or Pike Petrified Forests prior to 1969. Other pre-existing interviews were with the first superintendent, Jack Williams, and prominent scientists such as Bettie Willard, a tundra ecologist, and Dr. H.D. MacGinitie, who conducted lengthy paleontological studies in the Florissant Valley during the 1930s.

C. Transcribing Existing Interviews

The third task [or step] of this project included transcribing the pre-existing interviews collected informally and formally at the national monument between 1973 and 2008. This process required digitizing the audiocassettes and transcribing them. Because cassette tape breaks down after about twenty-five years and playback equipment is increasingly scarce, many archives now digitize their collections for long-term preservation and storage and ease of duplication. The expected life span of a CD is ten to twenty years. However, the digital file on the CD can be stored indefinitely on a computer hard drive. For the Florissant project, the Researcher Nichelle Frank contacted a Fort Collins conversion service, Click Media Services, and had the audiocassettes converted to digital MP3 format. An MP3 file runs the risk of

someone deleting it off the hard drive as well as reduced quality over number of transfers between storage units. Storage on a hard drive is not permanent, as most hard drives wear out after several years of daily use. However, archivists can transfer the MP3 file to a new hard drive. The problem here is that with each transfer, the audio quality might decrease.

Nevertheless, as of right now the best practices as noted in Donald A. Ritchie's *Doing Oral History* suggest keeping the original audiocassettes in addition to digital MP3 files. Archivists can burn the MP3s to a CD and the CDs then stored within the oral history collection of the archives. This ensures multiple copies are available, including the original.

Another storage option would be to place the files on multiple servers and use cloud storage services such as Dropbox. In this way, multiple copies would be available in several formats. Moreover, cloud storage stores the file such that researchers could access the file from any computer with Internet access. This option would facilitate both the reliability of storage as well as the ease of research.

The process of transcribing served as a way of processing the existing collection as well as a means of research. The experiences of ranching or farming potatoes in the Florissant Valley or working at the Pike or Colorado Petrified Forests created a flow of events and established the character of Florissant leading up to 1969. Many of these interviews came from the 1970s and 1980s, with a few conducted in 2008. Researcher Frank transcribed most of the pre-existing audio in the FLFO archives, but the interviews of H.D. MacGinitie and several others remain undigitized and untranscribed due to poor audio quality (see list at the end of this report). For example, time and budget did not allow for digitization and/or transcription of the nine audiocassettes that contain the interviews of H.D. MacGinitie. There were pre-existing digital files of these interviews, but they were mostly inaudible. It is possible that whoever transferred

the audio was using inefficient equipment since the quality on the audiocassettes sounded sufficient at the time of this project. Time and budget constraints did not allow for redigitization during this project, but the cassettes are of adequate quality should a future researcher or archivist pursue this process in the future.

D. New Interviews

Once the background research and transcription of old interviews was completed, Researcher Nichelle Frank began to conduct new interviews, eventually adding five interviews to the collection. Research with a focus on the establishment of the monument in 1969 provided the researcher with the information to create a list of possible interview subjects. Dr. Herb Meyer, Conni Jo O'Connor, Rick Wilson, and Nichelle Frank narrowed this list down to a possible nine individuals, with the expectation of actually conducting two or three interviews. The list included Ernie Snare, Toni Clare, Victor Yannacone, Roger Hansen, Tom Lamm, Estella Leopold, Richard "Dick" Lamm, Toby Wells, and Bill Barksdale. Fortunately, time, budget, and subject availability allowed Nichelle Frank to contact and record conversations with five: Victor Yannacone, Toni Clare, Dick Lamm, Tom Lamm, and Estella Leopold.

The first interview was with Victor Yannacone, the prominent environmental lawyer who led the courtroom proceedings to prevent the Park Land Company from beginning development before Congress had time to consider and pass the latest legislation to save the fossil beds. Yannacone's interview provided a good summary of the events of 1969 as the Defenders of Florissant fought to stop the Park Land Company while Senate Bill 912 slowly made its way through Congress.

The next interview Nichelle Frank conducted was with Toni Clare, a long time local resident. She and her husband owned much of the land in the town of Florissant beginning in the 1950s. They helped build businesses and owned many of their own, including the Thunderbird Inn and the fossil quarry on the west side of Teller One, one of the main roads through Florissant. Mrs. Clare remembered working at the quarry and only had vague recollections of the legal battle for the monument. She emphasized that she and her husband were glad to have the monument since it brought in more business.

Following the local perspective of Mrs. Clare, Nichelle Frank conducted interviews with former governor Richard Lamm followed by his brother, Tom Lamm. Both men acted as attorneys for the Defenders of Florissant alongside Victor Yannacone and Roger Hansen. The Lamm brothers noted in their separate interviews that they helped with the case, but credited Yannacone with the most work. In his interview, Governor Lamm focused on the environmental law and private property implications of the case. Tom Lamm provided more insight into the injunctive procedure, recalling when Judge Alfred P. Murrah set aside the appellate papers until Congress had passed S. 912 to establish the fossil beds as a national monument.

The final interview Researcher Frank conducted was with Estella Leopold, renowned botanist and conservationist and the daughter of well-known environmentalist, Aldo Leopold. Much of her interview reiterated what she addressed in the book she wrote with Herb Meyer and John Stansfield (which was at press at the time of the interview). She covered the broad events of the fight for Florissant and divulged more specific information about how involvement of local residents, the responsibilities of each of the main players, and the result of their efforts.

E. Transcription Methodology

The transcriptions for this project are word-for-word, literal transcriptions. Most include all sounds in the audio such as all “ums” and “uhs” and even microphone movement. However, the interviews for Estella Leopold, Toni Clare, Richard and Tom Lamm interviews do not contain *all* sounds, because Dr. Meyer expressed concern that the extraneous utterances during the interview are distracting when reading a transcription purely for content. A guide to how and what symbols used in these transcriptions is enclosed. For the actual process of transcribing, Nichelle Frank typed the interviews as heard. Then, she listened to the audio again while reading the transcription and made corrections along the way. A volunteer with the Public Lands History Center, Tessa Moening, who recently completed her B.A. in History at Colorado State University, also helped. She contributed more than twenty hours of time to the project and provided yet another layer of quality control by also listening to the audio while reading my transcriptions and suggesting any changes when she heard the audio differently.

After researching and transcribing for about a month, Nichelle Frank made a visit to the site. The trip served two purposes: to pull more research material from the archives and to get a feel for the area. Site visits provide the best answers to certain types of research questions: What was the surrounding area like? How far away was the Pike Petrified Forest from the Colorado Petrified Forest? What does the land look like within the park boundaries versus just outside it? How big is the town of Florissant? How do visitors experience the park? How far is that drive from Colorado Springs that the senators, the press, and the Defenders made that hot July day in 1969 after a long morning of testimonies? Site visits are invaluable for answering such questions. Site visits also give the interviewer the opportunity to meet the staff, to see the archives, and to directly pull the information he or she needs.

As a result of the research, transcribing, and site visit conducted for this project, Nichelle Frank pieced together a very brief history of the fossil beds:

Section III: Brief History of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

(*names in **bold** are those of individuals for whom interviews/transcriptions are available; an annotated list appears at the end of this report)

Florissant was a recognized site for digging fossils dating back to the nineteenth century works of Dr. A.C. Peale of the Hayden Survey team in 1874. A succession of other scientists from various universities followed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Dr. Harry D. MacGinitie conducted some of the most extensive work in the 1930s. Florissant was also popular with tourists, such as those who traveled on the Midland Excursion Train in the late 1800s and those who came to dig fossils at the Colorado and Pike Petrified Forests.

Three commercial ventures operated in the area before the 1969 legislation established the monument. One was the Colorado Petrified Forest, beginning in 1890 and the other was the Pike Petrified Forest, which began in the 1920s (the museum was built in 1924, but the Henderson couple who operated it started the venture in 1919). The Singer family also operated the “Colorado Petrified Forest Ranch” from the 1920s to 1940s. The former locations of these sites are now located within the monument’s boundaries. At these sites, visitors could take tours of the petrified sequoia stumps and sometimes dig fossils. Interviews of **Dorothy Palmer, Ione Jones, June Kincaid, Toby Wells, Toni Clare, and Vera Sanborn Barnes** provide the most insight into these operations.

During much of the time prior to 1969, locals mainly used the land for cattle grazing and farming (mostly potatoes) peppered with visits from tourists and scientists alike. In their interviews, **Bill Barksdale, Bill Manuel, Bob Maytag, Frank Sanborn, Harold Clare, and**

Nate Snare, discuss some of the land ownership boundaries, ranching practices, other land uses, and how these characteristics changed once the monument arrived. The earliest National Park Service interest came in 1920 when NPS director Stephen Mather wrote to Edward E. Nichols of Manitou Springs that the fossil beds seemed qualified for national monument status, but required examination. The examination occurred in 1932, but resulted in only an adverse report from the examiner, Yellowstone's superintendent, Roger Toll. An assistant wildlife technician, Russell Grater, made a "Preliminary Survey of Colorado Petrified Forest" in May of 1937, but made no recommendations for national monument status. Other scattered sources document support for a national monument from H.E. Rothrock, acting chief naturalist in 1941, and H.D. MacGinitie in 1944. In 1952 the NPS investigated the area, but took no action to put through the necessary legislation to acquire the area. The two in charge of this investigation, Yellowstone superintendent Edmund B. Rogers and Rocky Mountain National Park naturalist, Edwin C. Alberts, recommended against national monument status. Extant documents do not indicate why Rogers and Alberts did not favor recommending national monument status for Florrisant. But in 1959 and into 1961, the NPS conducted further investigations at the behest of geologists, locals, and the Park Service Advisory Board.

Then, during the 1960s, concerned scientists and citizens began to take it upon themselves to bring national attention to the area, hoping they could get the Park Service involved in order to preserve the area. Those involved seem to have been motivated by the growing presence of environmentalists in the state and because word got out and because word got out in 1962 that the NPS was interested in the area and land developers wanted to buy up the surrounding area. The developers believed that a national monument would increase interest in the area and bring in people willing to move into nearby housing. Thus, the developers were not

a threat to national monument status, but they would potentially destroy portions of archeological significance. With the threat of development encroaching on the fossil beds, scientists such as Dr. Estella Leopold and Dr. Beatrice Willard worked as part of the Colorado Mountain Club Conservation Committee to help stop the developers from bulldozing through the fossil beds.

At the same time, several senators introduced legislation in support of the monument. Extant documents are not clear about how the senators discovered the issue of Florissant. Representative J. Edgar Chenoweth introduced a House bill in 1964, but it failed due to inaction. Then Representative Frank Evans introduced a similar bill in 1965 when individuals outside of the environmentalist and scientific groups in Colorado also attempted to fight for preservation of the area. The NPS reevaluated the area in 1966 and published a Master Plan in 1967, which called for including 6,000 acres of the ancient lakebed within monument boundaries, an amount of land that caused dissention amongst congressional representatives. In 1967, Frank Evans pushed through HR 5605, but the bill went through the House only after the representatives slashed the acreage from 6,000 to 1,000 acres and cut funding to one-third of the original amount.

Senators continued to debate the bill, with some supporting monument status only at the reduced size of 1000 acres because the nation was embroiled in a costly war in Vietnam. The bill ultimately died in the Senate. Then in 1968, Senator Gordon Allott visited Florissant. This seems to be the first time that congressmen and scientists worked together and corresponded on the Florissant issue. The congressmen found it important to include the opinions of scientists in order to lend credence to their arguments for the monument. In May 1968, Senator Allott introduced S. 3524. The bill went nowhere. Instead, other issues involving Vietnam crowded the bill out of Congress.

But then in 1969, three congressmen separately introduced three similar bills for Florissant: two in the House (HR 5953 introduced February 4 by Donald G. Brozman and HR 6223 introduced “later in February” by Frank Evans) and one in the Senate (S912 introduced February 4 by Senator Gordon Allott). The Subcommittee on Interior and Insular Affairs set field hearings for May 29.

During all of this, the Defenders of Florissant, a group formed out of the COCC in late May of 1969, worked with lawyers **Victor Yannacone**, Roger Hansen, **Richard “Dick” Lamm** (later governor of Colorado), and **Tom Lamm** to get the legislation through. Those who formed the bulwark of the Defenders of Florissant had contacted Congress prior to this point and Senator Allott had visited Florissant in May 1968. These lawyers along with **Bettie Willard** and **Estella Leopold** rallied scientists and citizens to provide testimonies at the field hearings in May of 1969. In June, there was a slight pause in the proceedings. Then, on June 20, S912 passed the Senate.

On July 9, there was a Denver hearing with Judge G. Hatfield Chilson to determine the necessity of granting a restraining order to stop developers from bulldozing some of the land while the legislation was still up for debate. After Judge Chilson rejected the request, the Defenders of Florissant appealed at the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals and won a restraining order on July 11 that was supposed to last only ten days. A sympathetic judge, Judge Alfred P. Murrah, placed the appellate papers in the lower left hand drawer of his desk and made no decision until receiving a call from Tom Lamm that the bill had passed. At that point, Judge Murrah informed Tom Lamm that they had lost the appeal. The loss of course did not matter since the bill had already passed.

Legislation had moved through Congress and an amended form of S912 passed the House on August 4. On August 7, the Senate approved it. Sent to President Nixon, he signed the bill on August 20, instigating the formation of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. **Jack Williams** acted as first superintendent, purchasing land through the National Park Service, selecting buildings for either preservation or demolition, and creating visitor interest by bringing attention to the fossils and petrified wood as well as the cultural significance of the Hornbek Homestead (1878). Adeline Hornbek, a woman who came west on her own and worked the homestead with her children, owned the homestead. **Cora Harker Wilson** vaguely recalled once visiting her grandmother Adeline, but could not supply further information about the matriarch.

The monument has attracted approximately sixty thousand annual visitors in recent years and continues to stimulate the interest of scientists and citizens alike.

Section IV: Phase One Findings and Suggestions for Visitor Interpretation

After researching, transcribing and conducting new interviews, several themes about the fossil beds emerged that would be valuable to convey to visitors. These include changes in the environment (e.g. plants, wildlife), land use, and environmental history. Florissant is an example of how the federal government dealt with acquiring private lands that contained valuable natural resources. It followed the DDT case of 1965, a case in which Victor Yannacone succeeded in getting DDT banned in Suffolk, New York (and later banned across the nation) but preceded other significant cases in environmental law such as those creating The Clean Air Act (1970), The Clean Water Act (1972), and The Pollution Prevention Act (1993). Unmentioned in most histories of environmental law, one could argue that the case of Florissant and its fossil beds greatly influenced later cases in the protection of national natural resources. In fact, as recently

as September 7, 2005, a case fighting to preserve the Flint Hills Tallgrass Prairie referred to the Florissant decision. The court ruled that the Florissant decision did not pertain to the Flint Hills case. Yet it is still noteworthy that lawyers cited Florissant as support in a recent fight for the protection of natural resources. The Florissant case set a precedent in that Congress agreed to pay money for land previously in private hands. They were taking a deliberate role in taking over private property in the name of saving an environmentally and scientifically significant piece of land. Since this case addressed the idea of how the federal government could circumnavigate the rights of private property in the name of saving a scientifically significant piece of property, it was a case that set the standard for future cases involving private property and environmental conservation and law.

In addition to the environmental and legal themes of Florissant, there is an important facet of cultural change. Beginning with the early pioneer days of the area, including the Hornbek story, and leading up to the present time, the area has experienced periods of growth and stagnation. At times a bustling Western town or a popular tourist destination and at other times just another small mountain town to pass through, Florissant currently attracts tourists by the tens of thousands each year—now with the help of the National Park Service. The Florissant Valley represents typical ranching and farming communities—a small town in the midst of open land. A mile south of Florissant, visitors stop to see the monument and go hiking.

No longer the bustling commercial ventures of the 1930s and 1940s, the area surrounding the Big Stump and the Trio still attracts tourists eager to learn and experience the Colorado landscape. It would be valuable for visitors to know the more recent history of the site, including what locals used the land for prior to the creation of the monument and how that affected the landscape and economy of the small town. These ideas demonstrate how the NPS has helped to

shape the land and economy in the Florissant Valley as well as play a role in preserving the lake bed once activists had managed to get legislation passed. Visitors should know that this was not just a simple process of finding a valuable scientific resource, but a fight that attracted the attention of well known scientists and ultimately went to district court. In learning about such changes, visitors could then see how the National Park Service has helped save land and booster the economies in otherwise struggling areas.

Section V: Interviewees—Findings and Suggestions for Phase Two

The individuals from the list that Nichelle Frank did not interview were Ernie Snare, Roger Hansen, Toby Wells, and Bill Barksdale (contact information listed at the end of this section). All would be valuable candidates for phase two of the project. Ernie Snare has been reluctant to agree to an interview in the past, but Dr. Meyer and Michelle Stewart, a good friend of Mr. Snare's, suggested that meeting Mr. Snare in person by going to a weekly potluck at the local Grange Hall might be a good way to gain his compliance. Unfortunately, budget and time did not allow for this effort during phase one. A future attempt would be valuable for this project since Ernie Snare would provide an interview that gives a strongly dissenting view of the monument, a stance not represented in the current collection.

Researcher Frank contacted Roger Hansen, the only lawyer for the Defenders of Florissant not interviewed for a Florissant oral history, but did not conduct an interview. Many of his colleagues in the case (e.g. Tom Lamm, Dick Lamm, Victor Yannacone, Estella Leopold) mentioned him by name in their interviews and several suggested that he should contribute his perspective to the oral history of Florissant. He was significant in the early environmental movement, specifically in Colorado. He organized the Colorado Open Space Coordinating

Council and headed the Defenders. Nichelle Frank set up a phone interview with Hansen, but the call on the day of the interview went unanswered. Two days after leaving a message to reschedule, his wife called Frank to explain that Hansen had just undergone surgery to remove a tumor on his brain. Hansen's wife did not know when or if he would be able to discuss Florissant. If his health improves, an interview with him would be valuable for the collection's representation of environmental perspectives as well as filling out the whole set of interviews with attorneys who worked on the case.

Researcher Frank did not contact Toby Wells or Bill Barksdale at any point. Dr. Meyer noted that Toby Wells would be willing to be interviewed even though Dr. Meyer and Shawn Frizzell interviewed him in 2008 and his interview is in the FLFO archives. Wells might be able to provide additional information about the monument that he did not cover in the first interview, which focused on his experiences as a local resident, a laborer for the Pike Petrified Forest during the 1950s, and an unofficial student of Dr. Paul R. "Prexy" Stewart from Waynesburg College. An unnamed interviewer talked with Bill Barksdale, a local potato farmer, in 1977. Frank transcribed it as well as the poor quality of the audio would allow. His interview adds local insight about land use, community, and environmental changes since he began farming in the 1920s and a future interview could delve deeper into how the Valley has changed as a result of the monument's establishment.

Other individuals who could provide additional viewpoints about the fight for Florissant and the community reaction to the monument include members of the Defenders, bulldozer protestors, and landowners. Some of the bulldozer protestors with Vim Crane Wright were Carolyn Johnson, Mary Burton, and Sally Story and brief interviews with them could reveal their primary motivations. Sally Story was pregnant at the time—an interview could unveil why she

was so passionate about this monument that she would put both her life and her unborn child's life at risk.

Of course, many of the individuals involved in this case are no longer living. Fortunately, Polly Kaufman conducted an interview with Bettie Willard in 1988, well prior to her death in 2003, although the audio is of poor quality. A transcription is available. Vim Crane Wright also passed away in 2003. Although Nichelle Frank interviewed Toni Clare during this phase of the project and gained valuable insight about community concerns, Mrs. Clare's husband, Gene, who is recently deceased, would have been able to provide information on general public opinion. The senators most directly involved in writing and pushing the bill through Congress, including Senator Alan Bible, Senator Frank Evans, and Senator Gordon Allott, are all deceased. If any members of the Singer or Henderson families who remember the petrified forest commercial ventures are still living, perhaps they could add additional perspective on local opinion about the monument.

As with any history, some gaps remain. Currently, the content of the oral history collection covers the chronological history spanning from the early twentieth century (about the 1920s) to 1969. Interviews that address the NPS management period of the site after 1969 are sparse. There is an interview with first superintendent Jack Williams and some of the other interviews with area residents (such as those conducted for this project) include brief references to the monument's effect on the environment, wildlife, land use, and economy of Florissant. To complete the collection, it would be valuable to get greater perspective on the recent history of the national monument since inception in 1969. Possible subjects include former superintendents and staff scientists, local residents (preferably those who have been in the area for a while), and scientists or instructors at schools that commonly make use or have made use of the monument

and research or fossils that have come from the monument. Interviewing superintendents and NPS scientists and rangers would capture details about the administrative history of the site while interviews with university scientists and current residents would be valuable in tracing the success of the monument and how it interacts with the community today. Moreover, the information garnered from post-1969 would reveal important information about the growing pains of a national monument—what the start up of a monument looks like, what changes superintendents have implemented in order to increase visitor traffic, and how it has affected the local population and land use. It would be an important case study for the NPS in general to see how a national monument affects the locality in terms of social, economic, and environmental issues.

Contact Information for Interview Subjects not covered in Phase One:

Ernie Snare

Phone: (719) 748-3268

Roger Hansen

Phone: (303) 699-6362

Email: rogerphansen@comcast.net

Toby Wells

Phone: (719) 510-0350 (cell); (719) 382-5234 (home)

Bill Barksdale

Dr. Meyer did not have this contact information

Section VI: Guidelines for Curating Oral Histories

The existing oral history collection as well as those resources that remain to be added deserve professional storage and preservation. This is an ongoing project that Conni O'Connor, the museum technician at the monument, plans to take care of over the next few years. Oral

history practices in particular call for proper cataloguing and indexing in order to make collections accessible for researchers. The materials (e.g. original audio, digitized audio, and printed transcription) should all be stored in the Florissant archives and/or at a regional NPS repository, but should also be easily accessible. Creating a finding aid for the available oral histories and even a cross-index would be invaluable for researchers. For example, a finding aid that fits within NPS records management and archival standards.

In addition to the transcriptions and the audio materials, photographs of the individual oral history subjects are a helpful addition. It would also be helpful to researchers if the oral history files included a list of where other information about that individual exists within the FLFO archives. Thus, a file in the oral history collection would contain a photograph of the interviewee, the audio of the interview, the transcription, and then a document listing connections to other materials in the archives.

Some connections are:

- Cora Harker Wilson: File A 314 Harker/Hornbek/Stone containing clippings, photographs, and other documents about the family in FLFO archives
- Agnes Singer: File A 166 containing information about the Singer/Coplen/Chapmen families in FLFO archives
- Vera Sanborn Barnes: File A 166 Vera Barnes—Shootin’ Star Ranch (Cusack) in FLFO archives containing information about Vera Sanborn Barnes and visit to Florissant.
- H.D. MacGinitie: File A 206 H.D. MacGinitie Correspondence and Notes in FLFO archives containing letters to and from MacGinitie and some notes regarding the scientific background and value of Florissant.
- In the file for Harold Clare, there should be a note that there is also an oral history of his mother, Toni Clare. As well, there should be a note in Toni Clare’s file that there is an interview of her son, Harold Clare.

- For oral history files on Bettie Willard, Richard Lamm, Tom Lamm, Victor Yannacone, and Estella Leopold, there should be notes that more information about them and the case can be found in the legislative binders, in correspondence files (e.g. A 272 Est. Of FFBNM Correspondence, Dedication; A 424 Correspondence: Apr.-Nov. 1971; etc.), in newspaper clippings (many of which can be found in A423 Florissant Articles 1950-1975), and in each others' interviews. In particular, for Estella Leopold there is an Affidavit draft in the archives.

The public should know about and have access to the fascinating information contained in the interviews and it might be helpful to identify the collection on the NPS's website for Florissant. The NPS could include audio clips or quotations of historically revealing phrases in the site's introductory video, interpretive signage and exhibits, and other interpretive programs. A brochure or interpretive sign could explain and summarize the oral history collection. Through these avenues, the public would be more aware of Florissant's contentious origins as an NPS site, which might in turn generate more interest in the site and its history.

Oral histories and transcripts in digital form are particularly suitable for online exhibits and public access. For example, the Fish and Wildlife Service has posted an online oral history collection in its National Digital Library at <http://digitalmedia.fws.gov/cdm4/results.php?CISOOP1=all&CISOBOX1=NCTC%20Archives/Museum&CISOFIELD1=source&CISOROOT=all> A coalition of cultural heritage institutions in the American West have created "Heritage West," a website with collections that include oral history transcripts or audio. See: http://heritagewest.coalition.org/items/browse?search=oral+history&submit_search=Search

Section VII: Assessing Value of the Project for Florissant, Other federally managed sites, and the Public Lands History Center

Besides playing a role in documenting the history of this specific monument, the oral history collection provides an example of oral history practices for the Public Lands History Center at Colorado State University. As a related project, Nichelle Frank will provide the Center with a short manual on oral history best practices based on her research for Florissant. The following paragraph explains the premises of this manual. As it stands, this project establishes a framework for future oral history projects at NPS sites. Each project will have challenges of its own, and it is hoped that framework developed for this project will be understood to provide both guidance and flexibility for other projects.

The basic recommended framework for an oral history project related to a national park site should have the following components. The first step should be to find out about the park or site. Do the research from a secondary standpoint—look at the NPS website for that particular park, do searches in literature at Morgan Library, and use online resources. For this project, these sources helped establish the background that an interviewer will need for not only asking intelligent questions of interview subjects, but also in piecing together the themes and historical content revealed during the interviews. The terms and structure of this project allowed for a great deal of time to research and find various relevant secondary and primary sources. Becoming thoroughly familiar with the accepted narrative of the site's history before conducting interviews ensures that one can participate in an informed exchange with subjects. When interviewing, it is best to gain some background on the interviewee—their past work, their current occupation, etc.—in order to respond to their personality, their current circumstances, and asking questions pertinent to the information needed for the project. Much of oral history interviewing requires

common sense and courtesy, but a general rule is to simply listen and respond. You'll get the information you need as long as you make the interviewee feel comfortable and you don't press them so much so that you lose their trust. What an interviewee is unwilling to talk about is just as revealing as what they cannot stop talking about.

Similarly, collecting interviews might be a formal process, but the interviews themselves reveal the personalities of individuals involved in historical events in a way that records their inflections and a more spontaneous reflection on past events. Based on oral history best practices, the propositions for the Florissant collection are all simply suggestions and the researcher's experience in working on this project. These interviews bring voice and personality—a bit of social history—to the Florissant site and the monument's staff should share them.

Oral history is important not because it is an accurate record of the past, but because it provides us with one person's account. It presents history on a level that makes something like a national park or monument more accessible for someone with a passing interest. People's memories are precious artifacts of history that cannot be displayed in a box, but which are just as important in contributing to an accurate historical account and need to be just as visible. Though memories are not reliable on their own, they are valuable when used in corroboration with other sources and interviews. They are resources that help people understand the *scientific* significance of the site through people's *stories*. They make visiting the site more personal and engaging for a broad audience. They spark people's interest, teach them about the land they occupy and use, and give them a reason to delve more deeply into various fields of study.

Part II: List of Oral Histories, Briefly Annotated List of Oral Histories, and Detailed Description of Oral Histories

Section I: List of Oral Histories

*Rating is in terms of excellent, very good, good, fair, poor.

<u>Interviewee</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Interviewer</u>	<u>In Person/Phone</u>	<u>Audio Quality</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Rating (pertinence to FLFO history)</u>
Barksdale, Bill	09-20-1977	Unknown	In person	Poor	Land use (1920s-1950s)	Very good
Brown, F. Martin	Unknown	Unknown	n/a (transcript only)	n/a (transcript only)	n/a (unknown/not reviewed)	n/a (not reviewed)
Clare, Harold	Unknown (probably 2008)	Shawn Frizzell	In person	Satisfactory	Growing up in Florissant; some info on monument	very good
Clare, Toni	08-02-2011	Nichelle Frank	In person	Satisfactory	Local history w/ some commentary on monument	good
Collyer, Sharon	Unknown	Unknown	n/a (transcript only)	n/a (transcript only)	n/a (unknown/not reviewed)	n/a (not reviewed)
Harker Wilson, Cora	09-27-????	Unknown	In person	Satisfactory	Hornbek relation; minimal info on monument	poor
Jones, Ione	12-12-1973	Unknown	In person	Satisfactory, but missing and scrambled portions	Local history (lacks flow)	poor
Kincaid, June	Unknown	Shawn Frizzell	In person	Satisfactory	Pike Petrified Forest	good
Lamm, Richard "Dick"	08-04-2011	Nichelle Frank	Phone	Satisfactory	Legislative/legal battle—in context of private property	good
Lamm, Tom	08-08-2011	Nichelle Frank	Phone	Satisfactory	Legislative/legal battle—appellate court	good

					proceedings	
Leopold, Estella	08-10-2011	Nichelle Frank	Phone	Satisfactory	Legislative/legal battle	excellent
Manuel, Bill	Unknown (probably 1980s)	Diana Wiggam	In person	Satisfactory	Land ownership	Very good
Maytag, Bob	04-03-2008	Shawn Frizzell	In person	Satisfactory	Land ownership	Very good
Palmer, Dorothy	07-18-1987	Unknown	In person	Satisfactory	Pike Petrified Forest	good
Sanborn, Frank	Unknown	Shawn Frizzell	In person	Satisfactory	Ranching	good
Sanborn Barnes, Vera	Unknown	Unknown	In person	Satisfactory	Potato farming; Colorado Petrified Forest	fair
Snare, Nate	Unknown	Unknown	In person	Satisfactory	Land ownership; H.D. MacGinitie visits	Good
Stone, Barb	Unknown	Unknown	n/a (transcript only)	n/a (transcript only)	n/a (unknown/not reviewed)	n/a (not reviewed)
Wells, Toby	04-05-2008	Shawn Frizzell and Herb Meyer	In person	Satisfactory	Pike Petrified Forest	Very good
Willard, Bettie	06-28-1988	Polly Kaufman	Phone	Poor	Legislative/legal battle	Very good
Williams, Jack	02-18-2008	Shawn Frizzell	In person	Satisfactory	Early park history—land acquisition, building demolition	good
Yannacone, Victor	07-26-2011	Nichelle Frank	Phone	Satisfactory	Legislative/legal battle—in context of environmental law	excellent

Section II: List of the oral history collection by recording date and with brief annotation. Includes all existing interviews with those not yet transcribed listed at the end.

- December 12, 1973
 - Ione Jones (Formal oral history interview)
Mrs. Jones owned two tracts of land prior to the monument's inception in 1969. This interview contains audible information about the area, the railroads, etc., but much of the audio is either missing or scrambled. It is valuable for broken information on local history. Audio quality is sufficient; interview conducted in person.
- September 20, 1977
 - Bill Barksdale (informal interview?)
Mr. Barksdale worked the land in the Florissant Valley from the 1920s to the 1950s. His interview is very valuable in terms of knowing how people in the area used the land. The audio quality is sufficient; interview conducted in person.
- July 18, 1987—Dorothy Palmer (Formal oral history interview)
 - Dorothy Palmer was a tour guide for the Henderson (Pike) Petrified Forest during the 1930s while her brothers worked as laborers for the Cusacks. She remembered working as the tour guide and that there used to be a greater number of bobcats and mountain lions when she lived there than at the time of the interview (1987). In person; sufficient quality.
- June 28, 1988—Bettie Willard (Formal oral history interview)
 - Dr. Beatrice Willard was one of the concerned scientists involved in creating the Defenders of Florissant. She helped garner public interest in the case, worked closely with the attorneys and Estella Leopold to provide lasting testimony about the site's significance, and otherwise promoted environmental conservation. Her interview provided an overview of the events of 1969. Poor audio quality; interview conducted by phone.
- February 18, 2008—Jack Williams (Formal oral history interview)
 - Jack Williams was the first superintendent of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. He described what it was like to deal with local residents and Park Service employees and what actions he took to make the site visitor-friendly and informational, including determining which buildings to preserve and which to destroy. The audio is sufficient; recording conducted in person.
- April 3, 2008—Bob Maytag (Formal oral history interview)
 - Bob Maytag was a local landowner prior to the monument. He was more concerned with using the land for grazing, not even knowing the Hornbek house's historical value until after the Park Service developed it. He sold his land to the Park Service in 1970, but maintained use for ten years. The audio is sufficient; interview conducted in person.
- April 5, 2008—Toby Wells (Formal oral history interview)

- Toby Wells was a landowner of land included in the monument boundaries. He is friendly with Park Service staff. He remembered working at the Baker (Pike) Petrified Forest in the 1950s. He was the boy who was the tour guide when Walt Disney visited. The audio is sufficient; interview conducted in person.
- Unknown date—(probably 2008) Harold Clare (Formal oral history interview)
 - Harold Clare is a former inhabitant of the Florissant Valley whose family used to own the Thunderbird Inn in Florissant. He grew up in the area under the auspices of parents who strove to help Florissant thrive. Harold had strong opinions about the ranch lands becoming a monument, but ultimately concluded that the monument was a good thing. The audio is sufficient; interview conducted in person.
- July, 26, 2011—Victor Yannacone (Formal oral history interview)
 - Victor Yannacone was one of the lawyers for the Defenders of Florissant. A young lawyer with a budding law career in New York, Yannacone came out to Colorado to work on the case for Florissant when the Defenders called him. He helped piece the case together and promoted new ways of thinking about national natural resources. His interview is an overview of what happened in 1969 between Congress, the Park Land Company, and the Defenders. The audio is sufficient; conducted over the phone with a line-in adapter.
- August 2, 2011—Toni Clare (Formal oral history interview)
 - Toni Clare was a land and business owner in Florissant with her husband, Gene. They ran a fossil quarry outside of town beginning in the 1950s as well as developing small portions of land for residential use and owning the Thunderbird Inn, a hotel and restaurant. This interview contains four separate recordings in which Mrs. Clare revealed information about what the town was like before and after the monument. The audio quality is sufficient; interview conducted in person—the first and last recordings outside at the quarry, the second recording inside Mrs. Clare’s car, and the third recording inside a garage located along the road leading to the quarry.
- August 4, 2011—Richard “Dick” Lamm (Formal oral history interview)
 - Former Governor Dick Lamm was an attorney for the Defenders of Florissant. He was also a state legislator at the time and thus able to contact congress members more directly. In this interview, he focused on the idea of private property and to what extent the rights of private property extend when a national natural resource is involved. The audio quality is sufficient; interview conducted by phone with an in-line adapter.
- August 8, 2011—Tom Lamm (Formal oral history interview)
 - Tom Lamm was an attorney for the Defenders of Florissant. His main role was to help the other attorneys with developing arguments. He also told a story about Judge Murrah holding off on making a decision on the appellate papers filed by the Defenders of Florissant in late July 1969 (when Congress was still working on

passing the bill to make the fossil beds a national monument). The interview contains a general overview of the Defenders' work in 1969. The audio is sufficient; interview conducted by phone with an in-line adapter.

- August 10, 2011—Estella Leopold (Formal oral history interview)
 - Dr. Estella Leopold was one of the concerned scientists that worked closely with the Defenders of Florissant and the organization's lawyers. She and Dr. Beatrice Willard acted as the main driving force behind the attorneys and provided insight into the scientific significance of the fossil beds. She worked as an employee of the USGS and provided testimony on the area's scientific significance. She wrote a book on the fight for Florissant for publication in 2011 or 2012. This interview contained some overview of 1969 as well as more specific issues of events Dr. Leopold covered in her book. The audio is sufficient; interview conducted by phone with an in-line adapter.
- Unknown date—Nate Snare (Formal oral history interview?)
 - Nate Snare was a landowner in the Florissant Valley. He is Ernie Snare's father and, unlike his son, seemed to come to terms with having the monument in the area. He lived in the area and running cattle or sawmills when Dr. H.D. MacGinitie came to visit. His interview focused on Dr. MacGinitie's work. The audio is muffled and quiet, but adequate at times. Interview conducted in person.
- Unknown date—(Diana Wiggam—so probably 1980s?)—Bill Manuel (Formal oral history interview)
 - Bill Manuel used to work in the Florissant Valley as a young man. He worked mainly in the timber business, resulting in fifty-five years of work in the area and thus contributing to his extensive knowledge of who owned what land in the area, who used it for what, and the types of wildlife in the area. Locals used much of the land for grazing and ranching, but partially for growing seed potatoes and lettuce as well. He was strongly of the opinion that although the Park Service contributed to cleaning up the area, he would like to see more of the land opened up for grazing again. The audio is sufficient; interview conducted in person.
- September 27, ???—Cora Harker Wilson (There is a portion of the recording that is what sounds like a tour being conducted. I did not transcribe this portion). (Formal oral history interview?)
 - Cora Harker Wilson was one of Adeline Hornbek's granddaughters. She lived mostly in Meeker with her father, Frank Harker, and her mother, Maddie Harker. She remembered Adeline as a very large woman with red hair who was born on the Cherokee Nation. She discussed some of her own memories about her cousin, Annie, who lived in the Florissant Valley and married Howard Stone. Long pauses in the conversation break up much of this interview, presumably due to the interviewer and Cora Harker Wilson looking over photographs. These trigger

some fond memories for Mrs. Wilson, but do not offer much further information about Adeline Hornbek. The audio is sufficient; interview conducted in person.

- Unknown date—Frank Sanborn (Formal oral history interview)
 - Frank Sanborn worked on the Shooting Star Ranch in the Florissant Valley prior to the establishment of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. In this interview, Mr. Sanborn discussed his family’s work experience on the ranch under the ownership of the Cusack family. He also discussed the particulars of potato farming and some of the boundaries of the ranch in contrast to other landowners in the area such as the Snares, the Barksdales, and the Wells. Mr. Sanborn was a racecar driver and mechanic along with his twin brother, Nick. He shared a number of photographs with the interviewer and mostly provided quaint stories about his family and life on the ranch. The audio is sufficient although quiet (should be audible at highest volume settings); interview conducted in person.
- Unknown date—June Kincaid (Formal oral history interview)
 - June Kincaid was a tour guide at the Henderson family’s Pike Petrified Forest in the summers of 1935 and 1937. She lived in Colorado Springs during the school year, but lived with the Hendersons in the summers and worked as a tour guide for their petrified forest attraction. Besides being a tourist attraction, Mrs. Kincaid noted that the place functioned as a cattle ranch. This interview is broken into three parts, none of which identified where the interview took place. However, from context, it seemed that the second recording came from a walk to the Big Stump and the trio of stumps and that the final recording came from inside the old visitor center building. The first recording likely took place at the current visitor center or somewhere on the site of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. The audio is sufficient; interview conducted in person.
- Unknown date—Vera Sanborn Barnes (Formal oral history interview)
 - Vera Sanborn Barnes used to live in the Florissant Valley and her father owned a potato farm. She remembered Agnes Singer and the Singer (Colorado) Petrified Forest. She mostly focused on her father’s work as a potato farmer. The audio is sufficient though the volume shifts when they are in the potato cellar; interview conducted in person.
- Unknown date—Walt and Bill Harker Historic Interview (This recording has what sounds like two different events on it. During the first part of the recording, it sounds like someone interviewing two men about the history of the old building that used to house the museum for one of the petrified forests. No one identifies themselves or why they were making the recording. It is only about 7 minutes long. The second file listed under the same label of “Walt and Bill Harker Historic Interview” recording sounds similar; no one is identified and the recording is only just over 2 minutes long.)
- Unknown date—Sharon Collyer (transcript only)

- Unknown date—Barb Stone (transcript only)
- Unknown date—F. Martin Brown (transcript only)

Untranscribed:

- 1979—HD MacGinitie (unknown)
Not transcribed—audio of digital is inaudible, but audio of cassette sounds salvageable for reconversion to digital
 All of the interviews for HD MacGinitie exist on audiocassette and in digital form. However, the digital files were poor quality. When listening to the tapes, Nichelle Frank determined that someone could reprocess and digitize them with better audio quality. Frank did not digitize them due to budget constraints of the project through the Public Lands History Center. Frank believed they contained field interviews with Dr. MacGinitie, who conducted a number of fossil studies, mostly during the 1930s.
 - Discussion of Introduction to HD MacGinitie 9 22 79
 - HD MacGinitie and H. Tanski 9 21 1979 7of9 num5
 - California Site Side A HD MacGinitie
 - California Site Side B HD MacGinitie
 - HD MacGinitie and Kittleman Interview 9 21 1979 #4
 - H.D. MacGinitie and Kittleman Interview 9 21 1979 #3
 - H.D. MacGinitie and Kittleman Interview 9 21 1979 #4
 - H.D. MacGinitie and Kittleman Interview 9 21 1979 #4a
 - H.D. MacGinitie and Kittleman Interview 9 21 1979 #5 (last)
 - H.D. MacGinitie Florissant Geology Side A
 - H.D. MacGinitie Florissant Geology Side B
 - H.D. MacGinitie Princeton Site at Florissant (part 2) #1
 - H.D. MacGinitie Princeton Site at Florissant (part 2) #2
- July 24, 1999—Hornbek Interviews (recorded conversation)
Not transcribed
- 1999? Romaine Stoll and Sister (Lula Stoll Jeffries) (unknown)
Not transcribed
- Unknown date—Agnes Singer (unknown)—**Not transcribed**
- Unknown date —Bud Welch (unknown) —**Not transcribed**
- Unknown date—Dick Presser (unknown) —**Not transcribed**
- Unknown date—Hornbek Homestead I (recorded tour) —**Not transcribed**
- Unknown date—Trudy Kline (unknown) —**Not transcribed**
- Unknown date—Frank Carpenter (unknown) —**Not transcribed**
- Unknown date—Edwin Trueblood (unknown) —**Not transcribed**

List of received but not transcribed (These are of very poor audio quality and I'm uncertain if they are possible to transcribe. These might just have to be labeled as "inaudible" in the collection):

- Agnes Singer
- Bud Welch
- Dick Presser
- Discussion of Introduction to HD MacGinitie 9 22 79
- HD MacGinitie and H. Tanski 9 21 1979 7of9 num5
- California Site Side A HD MacGinitie
- California Site Side B HD MacGinitie
- HD MacGinitie and Kittleman Interview 9 21 1979 #4
- H.D. MacGinitie and Kittleman Interview 9 21 1979 #3
- H.D. MacGinitie and Kittleman Interview 9 21 1979 #4
- H.D. MacGinitie and Kittleman Interview 9 21 1979 #4a
- H.D. MacGinitie and Kittleman Interview 9 21 1979 #5 (last)
- H.D. MacGinitie Florissant Geology Side A
- H.D. MacGinitie Florissant Geology Side B
- H.D. MacGinitie Princeton Site at Florissant (part 2) #1
- H.D. MacGinitie Princeton Site at Florissant (part 2) #2
- Trudy Kline
- Cora Harker Wilson (After the interview with Cora Harker Wilson, there is a recording of what sounds like a fossil beds tour. That portion remains untranscribed.)
- Hornbek Homestead I
- Hornbek Interviews 7241999
- Romaine Stoll and Sister
- Walt and Bill Harker Historic Interview (This recording has what sounds like two different events on it. During the first part of the recording, it sounds like someone interviewing two men about the history of the old building that used to house the museum for one of the petrified forests. No one identifies themselves or why they were making the recording. It is only about 7 minutes long. The second file listed under the same label of "Walt and Bill Harker Historic Interview" recording sounds similar; no one is identified and the recording is only just over 2 minutes long.)

Section III: Detailed Summaries of Interviews Completed and/or Transcribed in 2011
(Summaries also included within each individual transcription)

- Barksdale, Bill
 - Birth date: June 1905?
 - Current Status: retired rancher?
 - Interview date: 09-20-1977

This is an interview of Bill Barksdale about his use of the land in the Florissant Valley spanning from about the 1920s to the 1950s. The interviewer never identifies himself or the date and there seems to be a third man sitting in on the conversation who is also unidentified (but perhaps named Walt?).

Bill's memories focus on the use of his own land, the buildings he built, and the process of growing potatoes. He remembers things such as men moving the old train depot, the careful attention that Chapman (no first name given) gave to his horses, the dams that some of the locals built, Singer (no first name given) wanting to make a lake, the deer that inhabited the area, and the cabin, barn, and cellar that he (Bill Barksdale) built. The interview can be somewhat confusing at times due to inarticulate phrases and confusing members of the interview as well as the poor quality of the audio.

- Clare, Harold
 - Birth date: 1940s-1960s
 - Current Status: construction business owner
 - Interview date: Unknown (probably 2008)

This interview is with Harold Clare, a former inhabitant of the Florissant Valley whose family used to own the Thunderbird in Florissant. He discussed growing up on the land and the competition between the Clare and Singer families' different petrified forests. He had strong opinions about the ranch lands becoming a monument, but ultimately concluded that the monument was a good thing. He tells stories about an Indian burial ground, a big stump that remains underneath present day Teller 1 road, the Big Stump and the World's Fair, and Waynesburg College in Pennsylvania and its geological program that sent students to Florissant with Paul R. Stewart. He also mentioned his own childhood, growing up near the Hornbek house and using it for shooting games as well as his own fossil collecting and running the Clare Quarry. He believed that someone needed to build a new, large museum in order to house the collection from Waynesburg that he heard was for sale.

- Clare, Toni
 - Birth date: 1920s-1930s
 - Current Status: fossil quarry owner (semi-retired)
 - Interview date: 08-02-2011
 - Note: Mrs. Clare did not consult any notes during the interview, but is a very active woman despite being in her eighties. She still visits the quarry on most days of the week. During the interview, her speech was clear and her wit was sharp.

This interview is of Toni Clare, a landowner in the Florissant Valley. She and her husband, Gene moved to the area in the 1950s and owned much of the land in the small

town of Florissant. They owned the Thunderbird Inn for many years as well as various other small businesses in the town, including a fossil quarry on the west side of Teller One. She remembers students and professors such as Professor Paul R. “Prexy” Stewart visiting from Waynesburg College in the summer to dig up fossils. She revealed that she and her husband made an effort to build up the businesses of the town. In regard to the fossil bed monument, she remembered people being happy to have the monument since they believed it would bring in business, which she says it has. Over the years, she has noticed that the wildlife has increased in the area. She says today you can see bears and mountain lions in the area, which they never used to have. Her main memories of living in the area center around her work at the Thunderbird, the quarry, and working with Professor Stewart of Waynesburg College.

- Harker Wilson, Cora (**There is a portion of the recording that is what sounds like a tour being conducted. I did not transcribe this portion**).

- Birth date: 11-06-1898
- Current Status: deceased?
- Interview date: 9-27-???? (1970s-2000?)

This is an interview of Cora Harker Wilson, one of Adeline Hornbek’s granddaughters. She lived mostly in Meeker with her father, Frank Harker, and her mother, Maddie Harker. She remembered Adeline as a very large woman with red hair who was born on the Cherokee Nation. She doesn’t know much else about Adeline beyond a single memory of seeing the strong woman as a very young child and did not have much information from her father (Adeline’s son). She discussed some of her own memories about her cousin, Annie, who lived in the Florissant Valley and married Howard Stone. Long pauses in the conversation break up much of this interview, presumably due to the interviewer and Cora Harker Wilson spending time looking over photographs. These trigger some fond memories for Mrs. Wilson, but don’t offer much further information about Adeline Hornbek.

- Jones, Ione
 - Birth date: 1894
 - Current Status: deceased?
 - Interview date: 12-12-1973

The following transcribed interview is of Ione Jones, who lived in the Florissant area since 1951. Much of the tape is missing or scrambled and as such, the flow of information is unclear. Some of the more solid information includes knowledge of the area’s past that seems gathered from other sources (e.g. historical monographs, local folk lore, etc.). Her father worked for D&RG Railroad, cutting timber for use as railroad ties. She described how one railway went up into Cripple Creek while another went down into Colorado Springs. Her father also acted as city treasurer (for Florissant? Divide? Colorado Springs?) She noted something about an Indian labyrinth in the valley.

- Kincaid, June
 - Birth date: 1910s-1920s?
 - Current Status: unknown
 - Interview date: Unknown

This is an interview of June Kincaid, who was a tour guide at the Henderson Petrified Forest in the summers of 1935 and 1937. She lived in Colorado Springs, but came to work and live with Dave Henderson and his wife in order to work on their land. Besides being a tourist attraction, Mrs. Kincaid noted that the place also functioned as a cattle ranch. She described the Big Stump and the trio of stumps and how laborers dug up them up with spade and shovel, not knowing if dynamite was involved. She also did not remember the petrified forest owned by the Singers. The interview is in three parts, with no clearly identified location for any of them. However, from context, it seems that the second recording came from a walk to the Big Stump and the trio of stumps and that the final recording came from inside the old visitor center building. The first recording likely came from the current visitor center or somewhere on the site of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.

- Lamm, Richard “Dick”
 - Birth date: 11-12-1935
 - Current Status: Co-Director of the Institute for Public Policy Studies at the University of Denver
 - Interview date: 08-04-2011
 - Note: Former governor Lamm did not consult notes during the interview, although he did have access to the questions prior to the interview. He was quick to recall most information and he is still active in teaching.

This interview is with Richard “Dick” Lamm, who was one of the lawyers working on the case to save Florissant Fossil Beds in 1969. He helped with the injunctive procedure that prevented developers from bulldozing the land before Congress passed a bill to make the area a national monument. Mr. Lamm tends to see this case in terms of private property and how far the rights of private property extend when there is a national natural resource at stake. He first heard about Florissant when Estella Leopold called him and his brother, Tom, to be attorneys, though he had previously been involved in other environmental related organizations such as the Colorado Mountain Club and acting as president for the First National Conference on Population and the Environment. He described his main role in the case as stemming from his ability as a state legislator to get in contact with congress people.

- Lamm, Tom
 - Birth date: 1936-1940s?
 - Current Status: retired
 - Interview date: 08-08-2011
 - Note: Mr. Lamm had access to the interview questions prior to the phone conversation and perhaps consulted notes. He was foggy on some memories, but could recall certain key events in detail.

This is an interview of Tom Lamm, one of the attorneys involved in the case for Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. He and his brother, Dick Lamm, helped the other lawyers, Victor Yannacone and Roger Hansen, delay the Park Land Company from beginning development on the land while a bill to make the land into a national monument was still working its way through Congress. Mr. Lamm remembered that they were not optimistic about the case, but had a great supporting team to fight the harsh

lawyers working for the developers. He recalled that there was some small amount of contention between a very small number of area residents and the national monument, but nothing hostile. In the battle itself, Mr. Lamm noted Victor Yannacone and Judge Murrah as the unsung heroes of the case. He pointed out that Yannacone was a genius lawyer and that Judge Murrah was a gracious judge who withheld his decision on the appellate papers until Congress had passed the bill to make the fossil beds a national monument.

- Leopold, Estella

- Birth date: 1927
- Current Status: Professor emeritus, Biology Department, University of Washington
- Interview date: 08-10-2011
- Note: Dr. Leopold had access to the interview questions prior to the phone conversation and seemed to consult some of her notes, though in general she seemed to recall the information from memory. She recently wrote a book on the fight for Florissant and thus she knew the story from her own research.

This is an interview with Dr. Estella Leopold, one of the scientists influential in organizing support for legal action in the fight for Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. She and Bettie Willard worked closely with Victor Yannacone, Roger Hansen, Richard “Dick” Lamm, and Tom Lamm to prevent bulldozers from developing the privately owned portion of land that a bill in Congress was working to establish as a national monument. In this interview, Dr. Leopold recounts the basic story of how the legal battle unfolded and information pertaining to her role in organizing the Defenders of Florissant, raising funds to pay for the lawyers’ expenses, testifying in court, and many other activities to quickly stop the Park Land Company from developing their land. They did so in order to give Congress time to act on a bill that would establish the land as a national monument. Dr. Leopold has a book at press that she wrote with John Stansfield and Dr. Herb Meyer and which tells the story in more detail.

- Manuel, Bill

- Birth date: 01-13-1913
- Current Status: unknown
- Interview date: Unknown (probably 1980s)

This is an interview of Bill Manuel and Vera Sanborn. The interviewer first talks with Mr. Manuel about his experiences working in the Florissant Valley as a young man. He worked mainly in the timber business, resulting in fifty-five years of work in the area and thus contributing to his extensive knowledge of who owned what land in the area, who used it for what, and the types of wildlife in the area. He described the rodeo that used to happen in town during the years before the monument (probably the 1950s) and the drought of the 1930s. Locals used much of the land for grazing and ranching, but partially for growing seed potatoes and lettuce as well. Some of the names he mentioned included the Snares, Hendersons, Singers, Stones, and Harkers. He didn’t seem to have much knowledge of the actual establishment of the monument, especially in regard to key people like Estella Leopold and Richard Lamm. Even so, he is strongly of the opinion that although the Park Service has contributed to cleaning up the area, he would like to see more of the land opened up for grazing again.

In the second recording of this interview, the interviewer focuses on talking with Vera Sanborn (although there is still some input from Mr. Manuel). Mrs. Sanborn describes her experiences in the valley as a young woman during the summers and weekends of the 1930s and later. Her father worked on a ranch growing seed potatoes to send down to growers in the San Luis Valley. Vera spent most of her weekends and summers on the ranch with her father, but lived during the school year in Cascade with her mother, the town's postmaster. She explained that it was too difficult for her mother to live at the ranch due to having to haul water and use an unreliable light plant (for electricity). Vera described the Cusack's Shooting Star Ranch in some detail, pointing out that the Cusacks mainly used it as a kind of vacation place for wealthy members of the family from Chicago and Texas. Vera's other memories center on the workings of the ranch such as some of the equipment used, the hired help (e.g. boys from the Agee family), German prisoners of war, and sorting potatoes in the wintertime. After the area shifted into subdivisions and Park Service land, Vera believes that the area lost its value as a functioning ranch land. She also felt that the Park Service has missed documenting the time when the area was a functioning ranch land since the monument focuses on the ancient history of the fossils and the homesteader history of the Hornbek site.

Both recordings end abruptly, suggesting that the interviews continued, but the recordings do not contain those conversations.

- Maytag, Bob

- Birth date: 1931
- Current Status: unknown
- Interview date: 04-03-2008

This interview includes information about the Maytag family and land. It covers how Bob Maytag acquired the land and how he later sold it to the government to include as part of the monument. He refers some to the Colorado Petrified Forest and the Pikes Petrified Forest as well as the Maytag barn that stands on the land today. He noted that he didn't know about the Hornbek homestead and that he bought the land for grazing purposes. He discounts the story told by an old ranch hand in which the ranch hand decided to blow up one of the petrified stumps with dynamite. Tells about rumors of gold on the land and how he never found any. After selling his land in 1970, he still maintained use of the land for ten years through a permit. Mentions (but provides no detail on) the Snare and Claire families. Related some experience in politics.

- Palmer, Dorothy

- Birth date: 1912
- Current Status: deceased?
- Interview date: 07-18-1987

This interview tells the story of Dorothy Agee Palmer. She grew up in Florissant, but spent time going to school in Virginia. After high school, she acted as a guide for Pike Petrified Forest with the Henderson family. The attraction got many out of state visitors, but wouldn't allow fossil digging on site. The admissions cost fifty to seventy five cents with two or three guides working and living at the site. Her brothers, Charlie and Roy, worked for the Cusacks. She noted that Charlie used to be a solicitor for the petrified forest as well (the Pike Petrified Forest?). Mrs. Palmer also mentioned that there

used to be bootlegging in Florissant during the late twenties and early thirties. She recalled skating parties, programs at the school, but no rodeos or circuses. She pointed out that there seemed to be a great number of mountain lions and bobcats when she lived in the area, but no eagles.

- Sanborn, Frank

- Birth date: 05-17-1935
- Current Status: retired?
- Interview date: Unknown

This interview includes information regarding the life of Frank Sanborn working on the Shooting Star Ranch in the Florissant Valley prior to the establishment of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. In this interview, Mr. Sanborn discusses his family's work experience on the ranch under the ownership of the Cusack family. He also refers to potato farming in particular and some of the boundaries of the ranch in contrast to the other landowners in the area such as the Snares, the Barksdales, and the Wells. Mr. Sanborn was a racecar driver and mechanic along with his twin brother, Nick. He shares a number of photographs with the interviewer and mostly provides quaint stories about his family and life on the ranch.

- Sanborn Barnes, Vera

- Birth date: unknown (probably 1930s-1940s)
- Current Status: unknown
- Interview date: Unknown

This sounds like the end of the interview labeled, "Bill Manuel." It still includes Mr. Manuel's voice and within the first few minutes, the interview comes to a close. During this time, Mr. Manuel and Vera Sanborn Barnes reveal that they knew Agnes Singer used to run the petrified forest (Colorado Petrified Forest) and the hotel. Mr. Manuel and Mrs. Barnes suggest that the interviewer also speak with Mrs. Mindy Barksdale.

The interview reopens. This sounds as though the interviewer and narrators have gone to the potato cellar. Mrs. Barnes explains the workings of potato growing. People at Colorado State University designed and built the cellar, which Mrs. Barnes explained worked well for keeping the potatoes from freezing in the winter. She couldn't recall if her father extended electricity into the cellar. She noted that her family used the farm for grain or potatoes. She described some of the area, what it was used for, where they had a bog like area, etc.

- Snare, Nate

- Birth date: 1900s-1910s
- Current Status: deceased?
- Interview date: Unknown

Though this interview is difficult to interpret, some of the general topics include how his family came to live in Florissant, where his land was, his schooling, the kinds of operations he ran on the land (e.g. homesteading, running cattle, poisoning prairie dogs, sawmill, etc.), where Dr. MacGinitie spent most of his time when he visited, what kinds

of fossils came to light and which areas, and how he sold 490 acres to the government to become part of the monument. Much of his life focused on running cattle and the sawmill on his land in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. He was married twice (the first wife with the maiden name of Jackson). He had two children with his first wife and acquired four more when he remarried. He greatly admired Dr. MacGinitie's work, especially the professor's dedication to correctly identifying fossils.

- Wells, Toby

- Birth date: 06-30-1940
- Current Status: landowner
- Interview date: 04-05-2008

This is an interview with landowner Toby Wells who grew up in the Florissant Valley during the nineteen fifties and sixties. He was away at college during much of the events leading up to and surrounding the establishment of the site as a national monument, but offered valuable memories about working as a child tour guide at the Bakers' "Pike Petrified Forest." He was the boy who was working when Walt Disney came and in this interview, he recounted what it was like to meet Disney. He and Ervin Stohl also helped dig with Dr. Stewart from Waynesburg College. He also described the Ute Indian use of the land as well as the various types of minerals found around the valley. He remembered his mother making food for laborers and he also recounted stories of Nate Snare finding a mammoth tooth and a mammoth tusk on his land.

- Willard, Bettie

- Birth date: 01-25-1920
- Death date: 10-18-2007
- Interview date: 06-28-1988

This is an interview of Beatrice "Bettie" Willard, a scientist involved in getting a federal case for the establishment of Florissant Fossil Beds as a national monument. Working in close conjunction with renowned paleobotanist Estella Leopold and lawyer Roger Hansen, the group got the case into the Senate on behalf of the Colorado Open Space Council. They employed Victor Yannacone, a lawyer who had recently helped win a landmark case against the use of DDT on crops. Most of the action occurred in the summer of 1969, with a major hearing May 29 and another in early August. This ends the first recording.

The second recording continues the story of the fight to get legislation passed to make the fossil beds a national monument. Willard moves through some of the main highlights of the legislation making its way through court, including its move just prior to July 4 to get a hearing, Hansen contacting Supreme Court Justice Whizzer White, Vim Crane Wright and other women proposing to lie down in front of the bulldozers, and the bill for Florissant in the appellate court in August. Other information includes that Estella Leopold helped determine the monument's boundaries, that the landowners received fair market value prices for their land, and that there had at one point been a bill that called for fewer acreage for the monument. The portion of the interview that follows the main part about Florissant includes information regarding the photography of Willard's father, how women and men handle court issues differently, the Mills women, and Willard's

own experiences working on projects such as visitor-caused erosion in areas like Trail Ridge and what it was like being a woman in the National Park Service.

The recording ends abruptly in the middle of Willard's explanation about being the Yosemite Field School of Natural History.

- Williams, Jack
 - Birth date: 1924
 - Current Status: retired, living in Florissant?
 - Interview date: 02-18-2008

Interview with former superintendent of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, Jack Williams. In the interview, he discussed what it was like to help create the park and to ensure that Park Service employees got along with neighbors and former inhabitants of the land. He described the appraisers from the Army Corps of Engineers and how some landowners such as Bob Singer contested the prices. He talked about building Teller One Road, tearing down the old lodge, and building the Hornbek complex (by adding buildings to the one already existing on the site). Of note, he discussed his own interest in human history, including the story of Adaline Hornbek, in addition to the story of Ute tribes that inhabited the area long before white settlers. Names mentioned include Nate Snare, Bud Welch, Bob Singer, Howard Stone, Toby Wells, Bill Manuel, the Sanborns, and the Nelsons.

- Yannacone, Victor
 - Birth date: 1930s?
 - Current Status: retired, living in Patchogue, New York
 - Interview date: 07-26-2011
 - Note: Mr. Yannacone was very quick-witted and sharp during the phone interview. He had the interview questions prior to the conversation, but did not seem to be consulting notes.

This is an interview with Victor Yannacone, Jr., one of the lawyers in the case to establish Florissant Fossil Beds as a national monument in 1969. He worked closely with members of the Defenders of Florissant as well as Tom and Dick Lamm, Roger Hansen, Estella Leopold, and Bettie Willard. In this interview, he talks about the legislative battle, mostly focusing on what he recalled from the efforts of the Defenders to get a restraining order against the Park Land Company while legislation slowly worked its way through Congress. He praises what the park has managed to accomplish and hopes that the story of how it came to be will become more apparent to future visitors.