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2005

Interview with John Hesse

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RCB- This interview with John Hesse, retired assistant Director at Chucalissa Museum, is being conducted on Thursday, November 3, 2005 by Ron Brister at Chucalissa. John, first of all, thank you very much for agreeing to talk to us today.

JH- You're quite welcome.

RCB- You know, David and I are doing a paper on Mr. Nash, and since you are one of the few people around, I think you and I and I don't know who else that remembers him, and you've known him a lot longer than I did, we did want to talk to you about him.

RCB- First of all, when did you meet Mr. Nash?

JH- I met Nash, probably in Anthropology class probably in 1962, when they started the Department of Anthropology, but definitely in the Summer of '63 when I took the field school here at the museum.

RCB- Was he teaching field school.

JH- Uh huh, he taught field school. Jerry Smith was the supervisor at that time.

RCB- What was your first impression of him?

JH- Well, I was an inexperienced person and I was impressed because he was an archaeologist and that was kind of what I thought I wanted I wanted to be. But he kind of convinced me

RCB- What was he like as a teacher for you?

JH- He was a good teacher, I thought. He was a popular instructor with the students. He was easy going and he got you thinking about what he was trying to get you to understand. He got you interested in the subject primarily. He always was very professional and he passed that enthusiasm on to his students, I think. He was a very easy-going person and I never did see him get angry or anything even in the years I worked here.

RCB- I don't think I did either. Isn't that remarkable?

JH- Yeah, yeah it was.

RCB- Did you feel like he was pretty much up on anthropology- had a good background in it?

JH- Yeah, I think he had a pretty good background. He wasn't up to date on it. Archaeology... it was changing some then, in the latter time ... '68 and stuff, beginning to change more.

RCB- Did you think he was pretty conservative?

JH- I think he was pretty... he just didn't know about a lot about that stuff that they were doing at the time, I don't think. But I don't know to be a fact.

RCB- Did he seem interested in it?

JH- Yeah, he was always reading different topics and magazine articles and books on archaeology and the changes. That K. C. Chang thing about Rethinking Archaeology was about it... it just came out. He had everybody reading that trying to understand what was going to happen or what he thought was going to happen, I guess.

RCB- Why did he hire you as assistant director at Chucalissa?

JH- I really don't know that answer. I guess I was in the right place at the time. I had worked out here. I took the field school in '63 and I took classes with him- individual study- and worked in 1964, off and on, so I think I was just one of the persons that was here that was available. He seemed to think I could do the job, I guess.

RCB- Charles McNutt, in an earlier interview said that he remembered that Nash had a very high regard for you in archaeology. So, that's kind of a nice compliment.

JH- It was a nice compliment. He never really expressed that, but he was always pushing me to do things and try to make an archaeologist out of me, I guess.

RCB- This is a little off the subject. When you first started what did you do as assistant director? What were your duties here?

JH- My first thing, I guess, was to supervise. He wanted me to supervise the staff and try to work with them and not really be a "you do it this way or not anything else" but just to tell them what needed to be done and give them directions. Supervise the grounds and maintenance staff... to keep up with them and to do archaeology. He sent me to do stuff. I worked with Dan Printup in the field schools. I was his assistant. Nash, of course, had emphysema and he couldn't really walk very far. I was his legs he always used to say.

RCB- When did you start here?

JH- 1965. February the first, 1965.

RCB- So, how would you characterize him as a boss?

JH- He wasn't really. He was in charge, but he wasn't really the boss, so to speak- that we had to do it his way or not at all. He was very easy going. He would suggest things to do and he would tell me stuff to be done. Go out and make a list of stuff and let me see this list of what you've got and what we need to do in the village area in

terms of maintenance and repairs. And so that's what I did, a lot of things like that. He sent me off to do things. He sent me to an Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities meeting one time early when I first started. I didn't really know doo-doo about that. I really didn't know anything about museum stuff, operations and stuff, but he had me reading stuff. He sent me... I don't know when that was... he said that these guys at Southwestern called out here said they had found the bone of a big animal in the basement of the science building.

RCB- Oh, I remember that.

JH- I don't know. It was '66 or 67.

RCB- '67, summer of '67.

JH- He said, "Go over there and find out what's going on". So I get over there and here's a backhoe trench two-foot wide and here's this big bone laying across the bottom of it. And he told me before "I want you to find out which way it's laying so we can excavate it". I looked at this bone and I didn't know diddley about which way it was laying. Fortunately I guess I guessed right. I told him what I found and he took a bunch of students and went over and excavated the mastodon.

RCB- I remember that well.

RCB- What did you like best about him?

JH- He was professional. He always was straight forward and he read a lot of stuff. He got people to thinking. He got me to thinking. He got me to doing stuff. Like after I first came here one of the first things after I'd been here awhile, he says "We're going to build a house, the Penal Farm is going to build a house for L.D. John up here at the Indian camp, then, OK? You're going to be the electrician and plumber."

(I said) "I don't know anything about."

He said, "Go up to Kaplin Hardware Store. They'll tell you everything you need to know." Fortunately I had some friends that were electricians or worked for electricians and they told me some stuff to do and they helped me some. It was kind of stuff like that- "We ought to do this". "OK, well. I don't know how to do that but I'll find out." He was an interesting person.

RCB- Was there anything that you didn't really like about him- that you found annoying?

JH- No, I couldn't remember anything. (hesitates)

RCB- You don't have to. Charles couldn't either.

JH- He was always very nice to me. He never got mad. I never saw him get mad. He would get upset, but he wouldn't let it out, I guess. He was always the kind of person you kind of liked.

RCB- Would you say he was a reserved or outgoing person- how would you describe his personality?

JH- I think he was outgoing, because he knew a lot of people and he had a lot of contacts. He had to have to operate this museum. He had a lot of political know-how, I guess. He didn't have a whole lot of political power, but he knew who to contact to get things done and he'd work around them, sometimes. He was a popular speaker. People would call him and he would go and talk to Rotary Clubs and Civitan. He was always doing something- talking to these people about Chucalissa- trying to drum up their interest and there was a lot of interest in the early days.

RCB- That was the first time I ever met him. It was at a talk he gave at the Pink Palace. I guess I was in Junior High School. I still remember some of the things he said.

JH- He always was a very honest person, I think. He always told his students when we were in the field school, he says "Don't ever lie to people if you don't know the answer what you're doing out there. If you don't know the answer, tell them you don't know, find out. Ask somebody else, cause you can't ever tell who you might be talking to.

Might be James Griffin and you might be telling something that they'll know right away that you are a fake.

RCB- Did he ever talk about his first wife?

JH- You know, I never heard him say anything about his first wife.

RCB- What about his daughter Carole?

JH- His daughter Carole would come to the museum. I remember seeing her several times. She would bring- her kids would come. But, I don't think her husband ever came. I didn't know much about her. She lived in Fraiser and I knew her last name was Perkins. That was about it.

RCB- So you haven't kept up with her?

JH- No, not after he passed away. I really didn't see much of anybody after that.

RCB- Did he talk about his second wife?

JH- Mrs. Nash, Reba Nash, she lived upstairs with him, here. He never did say much about her, I guess. I mean they were pretty quiet when they lived upstairs in the apartment. I never saw her very much. Every once in a while she'd come down. Her health wasn't good either, I don't think.

RCB- Was she on oxygen for while? I don't know.

JH- I don't know. She was a smoker and that was not good for him. But he tolerated it, I guess. I don't know, but it seemed she was always sickly. She'd work in the yard occasionally. I'd see her out there working in her flowers. I spoke to her a lot when he was sick the last days there. She had me try to go up there to shave him when he was in the hospital, but he didn't want me to do that, so I didn't.

RCB- Would you describe her as being a reserved person?

JH- Yes. She was a pretty quiet person, at least when I saw her. She would speak to you and say "How are you?" and that was about it.

RCB- So she never came down to help in the museum?

JH- No, not that I ever saw.

RCB- Could you describe Mr. Nash's health for me.

JH- Overall? Well, he had emphysema, I understand from operating a furniture plant in East Tennessee somewhere... Cookeville. He really had a hard time breathing different times. Otherwise, I think he was a pretty healthy person. If he hadn't had emphysema he probably would have been entirely different in terms of doing archaeology- in doing things. In the wintertime it was bad for him.

He'd get colds and stuff- he had to watch it, Pneumonia and stuff. He had it a couple of times before. He was bad sick a couple of times.

RCB- Did he ever discuss his attitude about working for the University of Tennessee, his experiences there?

JH I don't remember him talking about working for UT other than he did talk about working at the Link Farm. People would ... and another one, the Work Farm up in Paris, Tennessee where he did work. He was a pretty effective person and I think he knew Lewis and Kneberg pretty well because there was a lot of correspondence I read from him to them about one thing about Chucalissa or about he had done in the early days. But that was about... I think he was a fairly well recognized archaeology person in the '30s. I went way out West one time with a guy who worked in the field school and we were going to Mesa Verde. He said go see this guy Doug Osborne. He was the field supervisor or director of the project at Mesa Verde. He and I worked together in WPA projects. The guy, he gave us a grand tour and told us that Nash was an excellent person and all that stuff. Which we already knew, some of that. I think he had a good relationship with Lewis and Kneberg.

RCB- Did he ever talk about working for Tennessee State Parks

JH- Yeah, he was not a big fan of the state parks. I think he was pretty knowledgeable about it- the bureaucracy. It wasn't really the best thing. It was one of those things that he had to do it because it

would further the project here at Chucalissa that he was working on. I think that as soon as he could figure out that the university should be the one to run it at that time he started politicking to get that changed over somehow or another.

RCB- So that has his idea?

JH- Yeah, I think so. I think he pushed for the establishment of the Anthropology Department in the early days.

RCB- What did he think of the university?

JH- Well, I think he had, in the early days, I sure he had a good working relationship with them. He thought the university was the best thing to run Chucalissa for sure because it would bring students out here to do projects that I think he had in mind to do. Not just give them a place as a university laboratory situation, an outdoor laboratory. And he thought it would be a great thing. He always talked about that the university and an educational facility like this was one thing that was very unique. That nobody else had this kind of thing and that he wanted it to be developed. Probably more than it got developed.

RCB- Who did he deal with most at the university? Do you know who his boss was?

JH- Probably the Arts and Sciences, the Director of Arts and Sciences. He had to go through the department. We were part of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and whoever was the head person for that was the person he had to deal with first.

RCB- Dr. Newton.

JH- Newton, Charles Newton was the primary person he had to deal with, I think.

RCB- Did they get along pretty well?

JH, Yes, I think so. Newton was a good person. He was a good hard worker for Anthropology in getting started, I think.

RCB- What did Mr. Nash do on an average day?

JH- He was usually here when I got here about 9:00. He was probably in. I think he told me he came down about 7:00 or 8:00 in the morning and he would sit in there and do paperwork. He'd read some of his books and figure out what he was going to do for the day, I think. He'd what paperwork and stuff was required. He taught two days a week. Mostly two days a week. So he had class material to prepare, papers to grade, and stuff like that. He did work at Chucalissa the other days of the week.

RCB- The paperwork would be things like budget, purchasing, and personnel management?

JH- Yeah, he had to manage all that budget stuff. It was pretty well managed through the university budget. They gave us so much money and he had each category and you could only spend that a month unless you could get more money. He didn't do much fundraising or anything.

RCB- I guess he also worked on his archaeological research.

JH- Yeah, he worked on his own research, whatever he was doing. A lot of it had to do with Chucalissa and writing some of the early papers he wrote about it. And he went to SEAC and national archaeology conferences when he could.

RCB- Did he have any hobbies -reading, music, golf, anything like that?

JH- If he had a hobby, I didn't know anything about it. I think archaeology was his interest.

RCB- Charles said work was his hobby.

JH- Yeah. I know he didn't play golf. Now, he may have done something else. He and Mrs. Nash, they didn't take very many vacations, but he'd be gone a week or so. They'd go see her family or

something. I think he didn't do much else except read and do archaeology. That was his interest, I think.

RCB- Did Mr. Nash ever discuss his days at Beloit or as a grad student the University of Chicago?

JH- Not much. He would talk about that expedition they had that went to Algeria some and he showed us some pictures he had, but not a whole lot. He talked about graduate school... going to school at Beloit and then graduate school at the University of Chicago until 1933 when he had to stop and find real work, I guess. He had a lot of interesting things, he'd done a lot of things but he never did say much about some of them. It wasn't until later on that we found out – when a student did some work on that Beloit expedition- that we found out a whole lot of stuff about him them. Sol Tax was in that bunch that went over there. I think he corresponded with Sol Tax to some extent after that time, but not a whole lot.

RCB- Do you know what ever happened to Mr. Nash's correspondence, his files.

JH- It was all here when I left. Maybe it's still here, I don't know.

RCB- Maybe we can find it. I know they moved some stuff upstairs.

JH- A lot of it was bundled up and and packaged up in file folders and moved upstairs, some of the early correspondence. I don't know

what's happened to it. It was in those plastic tubs over there at one time. I don't know what's happened to it since ten years ago.

RCB- Did he ever discuss his parents, brother, or sister?

JH- Yeah, his mother was still alive and she lived in a hotel. I think it was in Chicago, but it might have been New York. I don't remember for sure. She would come once in a while. He'd see her. He had a brother and he came. I think his name was John Nash. He was a doctor. I don't know if he was a PhD or an MD. I think I had seen his card somewhere. I think he was a PhD somewhere, but I don't know what he did. He never said much about his father that I ever heard, but I knew he did correspond with his mother quite a bit.

RCB- Did he ever indicate that his family was wealthy, normal, or poor?

JH- No, but I always assumed that they were kind of well to do because Beloit was a private school and he went to graduate school, which was not something that a lot of people did. When he told me that his mother lived in a hotel I thought, well they must be pretty well off because it was in a big city, like I said, Chicago or New York. I don't remember which one now.

RCB- You had commented that Mr. Nash would go visit Mrs. Nash's relatives in Cookeville. Was there anything else he did on vacation that he talked about?

JH- No, not a whole lot. He didn't go very many places I don't think that I remembered.

RCB- Do you think it was his health?

JH- Yeah. I know that one time he and Dan Printup, I think, went to the American Archaeological Society meeting somewhere, I think it was in St. Louis. He went to Cahokia and he climbed the big mound. But, I don't know how he did it. It took him a while. But I remember Dan Printup telling me that he did get to the top of it. He said it took him a while. He was proud of that. He'd seen pictures of it and seeing the actual site. I remember that part of it.

RCB- Who were his friends?

JH- You know, I don't know that he had a whole lot of friends other than people at campus, maybe. They might go out it seemed like. Most of his friends, I think, were faculty and staff at the university. I don't really know that much about it. He was pretty much stay at home, I think.

RCB- What was he most proud of?

JH- I think he was proud of him being able to go back to school. He went to Ole Miss to finish his degree. I think that's something. He worked hard to get back to that stage, to finish up his Masters. I think

Chucalissa was another thing... the development of Chucalissa was another thing he was proud of.

RCB- I was always so impressed by Mr. Nash's library. What were your impressions of it.

JH- Yeah, he had a good one. He had four or five hundred books that were down here in his office. He had a lot of fancy books, impressive books, at that time.

RCB- Yeah, he talked about not being able to finish school because he ran out of money. I thought, boy, that was a nice library. Obviously he'd made quite an investment in building that library.

JH- Yeah, he had a nice library and I'm sure it was.

RCB- The thing I liked about it was it reflected the different facets of him. He had other things in it.

JH- Yeah. He had other different books and it wasn't all just archaeology. That was a part of it. He had a lot of different subjects that he did know about.

RCB- What was his inspiration for the village reconstruction at Chucalissa? Did he ever mention Moundville or anything like that?

JH- Yeah, he did talk about Moundville once in a while. I think his main thing was there was nothing else like that had been done. His main aim was to educate the public about how people lived in prehistoric times. A full sized reconstruction was the way to do it, he thought. He worked hard at trying to keep it as authentic as possible although there was a lot of things that were changed.

RCB- Did he have any pets?

JH- Not that I know of.

RCB- Describe his garden, Mr. Nash's garden.

JH- They just had flowers up there. Around the circle, up there around the house where they lived upstairs. They just had flowers around there. I think they were mostly Mrs. Nash's doing. I don't think he had much to do with it. He had Indian gardens planted up in the village area. There were some early pictures of a garden up in that area where they planted corn and beans and squash, I guess. I don't know that he had a garden, a vegetable garden or anything, just a flower garden as well as I remember.

RCB- Where did he get his ideas for the museum exhibits here at Chucalissa?

JH- Yeah, I think they all came from the American Museum of Natural History. When he went through something up there one time, he talked about the black painted hallway and the exhibit cases. I think

that's where a lot of the idea about the way the museum used to look with the black hallway. I think that's where he got a lot of his ideas.

RCB- What were Mr. Nash's strong points?

JH- Well, I think his attitude was a good point. He was always, like we talked about that earlier, was easy going. He was a good politician. He knew how to work people, to get important people in the county, as we were in the county, the museum was in the county at that time. He knew a lot of people... Rudolph Jones. He could call those people and talk to them when he needed something done and they could usually get... over a period of time, he would get it done.

RCB- What were his weaknesses?

JH- I think his weakness was his health situation. His emphysema was really... it kept him from doing a lot of things. He might have been more active. But he was pretty active even with that. When we had field school he'd always go out there every day and see what was going on even if he had to drive and I had to open the gate for him to get through there. He would get out there. He never would walk out there and it wasn't that far. It was just too much of an effort for him. I think if he hadn't had that situation, he would have been a lot more active.

RCB- Describe his relationship with the Penal Farm crews and supervisors.

JH- Well, (laughs) I don't know. He interacted with them pretty well, but I don't know that they really cared for him a whole lot. At least Captain Sharon who was here most the time while I was here. I don't know about the previous guards and the crews that were here. He was impressed with some of them. He always used to talk about Driver, the prisoner that was here and did some early archaeology. And they were... he talked about them. He said they were not the best people but they were what we had and that's what we had to use. We taught them what they needed to know. The rest of them, I don't know. I think Captain Sharon, while he may not have cared for him that much, I think he had respect for him...(undistinguishable)

RCB- How did he get along with his Choctaw staff and how did they feel about him?

JH- I think he got pretty well along with them. He hired those people up here and taught the people at Philadelphia, Mississippi. Phillip Martin, I think, had the idea to have Indians on the staff to kind of encourage them to go beyond living down there and being in poverty, in a bad... not necessarily a bad situation. His idea was to bring them up here to do craft work and to educate people about Native Americans, although it didn't always work out that way. He gave them responsibilities when they were here. L. D. John was the business manager. He managed the craftwork and the gift shop. So, I think he worked pretty well with them. He was the boss and I guess they did what he wanted them to do.

RCB- How did they feel about them? Did you get any feedback from the Indians?

JH- No, not much. He was the head man and they knew he was in charge and we never had any trouble with them.

RCB- Let's go back to the field schools. How did he select his field supervisors?

JH- I think it was somebody who happened to be there and had the experience to do the job. Usually they had been out here for some time and had some experience, were going to graduate school or had gone to graduate school, to be someone to be a little bit higher up than the staff. He picked Jerry Smith to do it because he was the one available. He wasn't the best person, he always said that, but he was somebody that was here. Hard to get people. He picked Dan Printup, who was an elderly fellow, a photographer, who was an amateur, an excellent amateur archaeologist, but he really had no degree in it. I don't even think he had a degree. But he was going back to school. He picked people who could do it, had a personable attitude, for the most part. He directed them, but he still left them some leeway to do some things that he wanted to think of, that needed to be done. He was still in charge, in the field schools, anyway.

RCB- What was his attitude toward his field school students? Did he look at them as just a labor force?

JH- No, I don't think so. There were, to some extent a labor force doing projects that he wanted to do to find out about parts of the site. But I think they were also a needed tie with the university and he had to provide educational opportunities for the people, to drum up... I think he was trying to build a crew of people that he could count on to be able do various and sundry projects later on. He just didn't get that far with it.

RCB- Did it differ from his attitude toward his campus classroom students?

JH- No, I don't think so. I think he was always well liked among the students. Of course there weren't but a couple of instructors in those days, and that was it. But he was well liked by the students. I thought in the classes I had with him he was always very professional and very informative and tried to interact with students in a positive manner.

RCB- Where was his office on campus when you first came to work here?

JH- They were in the geography, well, what was the geography building, Johnson Hall. That's where all the classes were at first when I first started taking classes up there. He had an office up there. He wasn't there a whole lot, just two days a week. When he didn't have to be there he was out here.

RCB- I remember when I took a course from him, I guess in the spring of 1966, we were in that old brick education building just across from the Field House.

JH- Yes, the old Campus School.

RCB- Yeah, Campus School.

JH- They moved over there after they left Johnson Hall. They had much bigger space over there. I think they were the only ones... I think, they may have had to share it with somebody else, but I don't remember. It might have been the military. Then he moved to Clement Hall, I think, after that.

RCB- His office was downstairs.

JH- Anthropology was all in the basement.

RCB- Was he next door to McNutt?

JH- Yeah, I think so.

RCB- What were Mr. Nash's intellectual interests besides archaeology and anthropology?

JH- I never heard him say much about that part of it. I'm sure he had some other interests. He was interested in... he had a lot of

information on medical stuff because that was related to his emphysema problems. He was interested that, in physical anthropology because it is related to what we were doing. I don't know if he had any other... well, in his library he had a lot of different books. I don't remember all of them now, but he had stuff on Egypt and he had stuff on other parts of the world.

RCB- How was he regarded by fellow archaeologists?

JH- I think he had a pretty good reputation with the other people, especially the people that were of his era. DeJarnett, David DeJarnett, and some other people in the Southeast that knew his reputation from WPA days. Maybe some of them were WPA archaeologists, I don't know. But I think he had pretty good relationships with these people.

RCB- Did he have any visitors, visiting archaeologists who came by? Did Griffin ever come by?

JH- I remember coming in one day. There was a brown Jeep out in the front there, an old brown Jeep. Nash was out there talking to somebody. I went on in. (laughs) It was James Ford and I didn't know it. I had no idea who any of these people were.

RCB- You didn't get to meet him. (laughs)

JH- No, he was here doing something. He was trying to get rid of the Jeep. They had just gotten through with some project, down at Helena, I think. I didn't even get a chance to meet him.

RCB- Do you remember Ford's sherd machine that used to be here?

JH- Yep, yeah, yeah.

RCB- That was hysterical. What ever happened to that?

JH- We eventually disassembled it and built a trailer out of part of it. The rest of it just got junked. It was in pretty bad shape.

RCB- It was pretty funny. I don't know if it ever worked.

JH- I don't think it worked that well. They say it did work. They'd drag it through the field and scoop up stuff and spin out the dirt and sherds would spit out the out the back end according to what Nash said one time.

RCB- (laughs) I'd loved to have seen it operate.

RCB- Did he enjoy writing or was it hard for him?

JH- I think he enjoyed writing. He just didn't get an opportunity to do a whole lot of it. He liked to do it. He would write stuff... I'd see him him

working on stuff all the time. He did publish some things but not a whole lot I don't think.

RCB- I think one image of Mr. Nash that's in my mind is sitting there in the lab in there at his drawing table. He spent a lot of time working on maps and forms and things. He seemed to enjoy cartography and detail work. Did you think he was a detail person?

JH- Yeah, I think he was. I think he did a lot of detail work but you had to watch him to see that he was doing it. It wasn't always an obvious thing.

RCB- I remember that he would check the field notes every day and would write comments in them.

JH- Yeah, he would always. When we had students he was always reading the field notes. We had to leave field notes so he could read them and he would make comments on stuff that went on. "Why didn't you say something about this, we know it was out there."

RCB- We talked a little bit about changes in archaeology during his later years- the "new archaeology"... let's see, and his teaching style. Did he ever mention any favorite books he had- anything that inspired him particularly?

JH- No, not really. He had us reading that Rethinking Archaeology when it first came out. I think he was impressed by that. He was always reading a lot of different books, particularly the archaeology of the Southeast that I always saw. He was trying to keep up to date on it. When you're working one place it's kind of hard to do.

RCB- Whom did he respect most as an archaeologist?

JH- I guess Griffin or Ford, I suppose. I never heard him say much about it.

RCB- What about Osborne? You had mentioned Doug Osborne.

JH- Yeah, he and Nash worked together. I think Nash was the supervisor and he was the assistant.

RCB- Yeah, Osborne worked at Eva, too.

JH- Yeah, he had some experience at a lot of places. He mentioned him when we said we were going West. He said be sure to see him. I guess he knew where he was.

RCB- Did Jesse Jennings or any of the other folks come through here that you remember?

JH- Not that I ever knew.

RCB- What about Jimmy Griffin?

JH- Yeah, I think Griffin had come through once or twice before when he was in this area.

RCB- Did Lewis and Kneberg ever come down?

JH- No, I never saw them.

RCB- Of course, they may have been retired by the time you came to work. I'm trying to think.

JH- Yeah, they probably were. I don't know when they... they may have been dead by the time he died. I don't know.

RCB- Anything else you want to say about Mr. Nash?

JH- No. He was a good person.

RCB- You know, McNutt said something that I though summed him up so well. He said he loved life. He enjoyed doing what he did and he loved it. He was very content before he died. I thought that was great.

JH- I think so. That's something I'd probably not thought about but that is true. He wasn't interested in doing a lot of different projects

around West Tennessee I guess. He was interested in Chucalissa and getting the project here.

RCB- He did work with State Parks on Pinson. I do remember that.

JH- Yeah, he did. He was a consultant to the people that were doing the master plan, or he did the master plan, parts of it.

RCB- I don't know if you remember this, but he bought a little walking cane and it had a seat that would unfold so he could sit on it.

JH- Yeah. So that he could out and get around. Yeah. He used to have to go to Pinson a couple of times a week. There was always correspondence going on when he was working on that project. He probably would have done a lot more of that except he didn't want to be tied up doing that kind of stuff.

RCB- Yeah. Like you say, with his university obligations of teaching and managing this place and everything else he did...

JH- I remember when he said, well, I'm going to go back to school. He was talking to me, he says, "Do you think you can handle it two days a week?" Like he had questions whether I could do the job or not. "Yeah, I don't think I'll have a problem. I know how to do stuff."

RCB- I appreciate your comments on Mr. Nash. I'd love to do some more interviews about your experience here. I think it would be a lot

of fun. Talking about all the folks- Owen Sutton- who used to work here. (laughs)) Oh, Lord, some of them we probably won't discuss too much.

JH- (laughs)That is true.

RCB- Well, thanks again.

JH- All right, Ron.