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Interview with Ray Scott Regarding CCC (FA 81)

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TRANSCRIPT

RECORDING NO.: Tape 19

INTERVIEWER: Kelly Lally

INTERVIEWEE: Ray Scott

DATE OF INTERVIEW: 7/16/1987

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: Frankfurt, KY

OTHER PEOPLE PRESENT:

EQUIPMENT USED:

AMOUNT OF RECORDING (TAPE/MINIDISK) USED: 10:29

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS:

TRANSCRIBED BY: Christie Burns **DATE:** July, 2007

Transcribed with the support of a Transcription Grant from the Oral History Commission of the Kentucky Historical Society.

KEY: K=Kelly Lally
R=Ray Scott

Italics= emphasis

// = overlapping or interrupted speech

[] [not part of recording]

Lapsed time represented in left column by minutes and seconds (i.e. 5:50)

? or * = transcript needs to be checked

0:00 K: This is the second tape of my interview with Mr. Ray Scott, and you were telling me a little bit about your experience as a photographer in the Navy.

R: Well in, on my assignment to the Naval Air Station at Norfolk, Virginia, to the photographic department, I was initially assigned as a cameraman, and this was in a crew of about five people. And we were using 35 millimeter Mitchells, predominantly, which were operated by forty-pound dry cell, or wet cell battery. And the equipment to set up one of these cameras required—there was so much, and so heavy that it required two men. Even the tripod weighed about forty pounds. And anyway, this particular type of camera was also equipped for high speed, and it could handle a top speed of 128 frames a second, which means that twelve feet of 35 millimeter film would be going through the shutter every second. And ‘course this would result in ultra-slow motion. But anyway, I learned this operation relatively quickly, and in a matter of about three months, I became in charge of the camera crew. And our activities were very very varied. All the way from photographing launchings and commissionings of aircraft carriers through flying subpatrol once a week. Each one of our camera crew members were assigned to this subpatrol squadron as the photographer once a week. And of course it’d alternate. Everybody served their term on the squadron during the week. And later on, as time went on, we, I’d eventually advanced to chief photographer, and the leading chief who was in charge of the entire division was discharged because of an eye problem, and I wound up as being the leading chief in the entire division, which included all the processing, printing, and other activities of the motion

picture section. And we had a total of about thirty personnel including some twelve or fourteen waves.

2:55 R: But on, following the end of the war and my discharge in February of 1946, I returned to Mammoth Cave to work as a photographer, and eventually as public relations director with National Park Concessions, Incorporated, which had expanded from the operations at Mammoth Cave during the four to five year period to five different national parks. They had, at that particular time, operations in Olympic National Park, Washington, Big Bend National Park, Texas, Isle Royale National Park, Michigan, and the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia and Carolina, in addition to Mammoth Cave. So the president of the company at that time, H.S. Sanburn had—We had discussed employment possibilities, so they had decided at their board of directors that they would be glad to have me come back at a certain salary and work as a publicity photographer, say initially doing photography and later moving into the publicity area and public relations area as I gained materials to use on the various parks. But in the meantime, before I left the Navy, I had two other employment opportunities. One was my civil service job, of which I had a permanent appointment back in Mobile, and another one was with the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. Only the aeronautical position had no budget. So at the last minute, why, I decided that I'd go ahead and take the job with National Park Concessions.

5:10 R: And so I came back and started to work there in March of 1986 [does he mean 1946?]. And in that position as photographer and later as director of public relations, I was with the company a total of twenty-one years, leaving in March of 1967 to go with the state of Kentucky in their travel division.

K: And then you worked at that job until when?

R: Well I started out with the state as assistant to the director. And I was in that job, oh, about a year, and then I was moved up to assistant director, a position that I was in until 1978, at which time I was appointed director. And I held this position until—let me think a moment—until 19—in July 1979, at which time a department of tourism was organized, and I was—At that time I was promoted to executive assistant to the commissioner. And I held that position until I retired in, at the end of April in 1981, at which time I started my own business in travel photography and public relations, tourism, marketing, working with a number of clients in that area on up until the present time. However, I am now spending the most of my activities in travel photography, working with some six travel magazines and at least two book publishers at this time.

7:38 K: Would you say that your experience with the CCC greatly affected your life then?

R: Well I would say without a doubt that my years in the three-CC pointed my entire professional and business life in the direction in which I have gone. Because it gave me the background to move into photography and public relations, tourism, marketing, and all the related activities that go with it. And I would say without that particular experience and background, I may very well have gone in a different direction. And I am eternally grateful for that experience and what it has done for me as far as my professional life is concerned, because it has been a very exciting and fruitful experience through the years. Very satisfying with the things that I have been able to accomplish, and I can related back to those years in the three-C camps as the beginning and the motivation for this career that I've had for some forty-six or – seven years.

K: Well I don't have any more questions. Do you have anything else about the CCC you'd like to tell me?

R: Well, the only thing that I would like to add as far as my three-C experience is concerned is I had mentioned earlier that I think it's one of the greatest activities ever initiated by our federal government, and somewhere down the line, I would certainly like to see this type of activity reenacted or reestablished. Because if it was, say, only for a one-year period, I think that it could probably do more for young men during that period than any other thing that they could be involved in. And certainly, if they go into the military, it gives them a background and experience that they can draw on for any area of the military that they might ever become affiliated with.

K: Well thank you very much Mr. Scott.

R: Well it's been a pleasure, and I know that you find the work that you're doing to be extremely interesting.

K: Oh I know, very much.

[CONCLUSION OF INTERVIEW]