

ORAL HISTORY
2000-95-19

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Tape/Transcript Key Word Index

Tape Number: 1 **Date of Interview:** Nov. 10, 1999
Narrator(s): Richard "Dick" J. Hensel
Interviewer: Christine L. Stephensen
Others Present: Debbie Corbett
Location of Interview: USFWS Bldg. 1011 E. Tudor Rd. Anchorage, AK 99503
Indexed by: Christine L. Stephensen **Date:** December 27, 2002
Index prepared from: Tape

Comments

Personal Names mentioned:

Zane Grey; Dr. John Buckley; Dr. Robert Scott; Dr. Robert Weeden; Mary Ann Hensel; Will Troyer; Vernon Burns; Robert Jones

Places mentioned:

Weatherly, Pennsylvania; Germany; USU; UAF; Susitna River; Devil Canyon; Woody Island; Kodiak Island; Point Barrow; Cold Bay; New York; Wisconsin; Yellowstone; Kenai Wildlife Refuge

What Projects were discussed?

- *Smoke Jumper-USFS (2 years, during college)
- *Salmon Migration-Devil Canyon-Biological Aide thru Office of River Basins Studies-Susitna River
- *(Dec. 1957)-Population Studies of Snowshoe Hares-Woody Island, Kodiak Island-Graduate Student through Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit-UAF
- *Brown Bear Tagging Program-Kodiak, Island-Assistant Refuge Manager & Refuge Manager for USFWS

What issues and/or events were brought up?

- *March 24, 1964 Alaska Earthquake
- *ARMY-in Germany (3 years after WWII, during Cold War)

Richard "Dick" J. Hensel-Interview #1 (1 tape)

An interview with Mr. Richard "Dick" J. Hensel, (for the Oral History Project of the US Fish and Wildlife Service), was conducted by Christine L. Stephensen on November 10, 1999.

The topics discussed were, (1) Mr. Hensel's early years in Weatherly, Pennsylvania, including his birth, family members, parents' background, and outdoor activities; (2) people and periodicals that influenced him; (3) his military experience after high school; (4) using the GI Bill to attend Utah State University in Wildlife Management and Fisheries Management; (5) his summers working as a Biological Aide studying salmon migration for the Office of River Basin Studies, Susitna River, Devil Canyon; (6) attending the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, as a graduate student (through the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit); (7) his graduate work in population studies of snowshoe hares on Woody Island, Kodiak; (8) becoming the Assistant Refuge Manager to Will Troyer (Manager) on Kodiak Island for the brown bear tagging program; (9) his wife and children; (10) becoming the Refuge Manager on Kodiak Island after Troyer's transfer to the Kenai Wildlife Refuge; and (11) the March 24, 1964 Alaska Earthquake and the problems and changes it brought about.

This first session with Mr. Hensel lasted approximately 1½ hours. Prior to the interview, he had been given a copy of the "general interview questions", which he used as a guide and outline.

The interview was briefly interrupted by Debbie Corbett, at which point the recorder was turned off.

I felt the interview went very well. Mr. Hensel has a dry sense of humor, and made the interview interesting and informative. He is personable, and I felt comfortable during the interview.

A follow-up interview was scheduled, but due to health problems during my pregnancy, I could not continue subsequent sessions. Attempts at later interviews were stalled by problems with scheduling. Therefore, more sessions with Mr. Hensel need to be completed. However, due to my circumstances, another interviewer will have to continue this work with Mr. Hensel.