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Interviewer: Bob Beckley  
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Bob Beckley (BB): It's April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004. We're doing an interview for the Smithsonian Folklife festival in 2005. Nan, how about giving us your name, spelling your name for us, and then we'll talk about your Forest Service career.

Nanette Madden (NM): All right. My name is Nanette Madden, and it's spelled N-A-N-E-T-T-E. Last name Madden, M-A-D-D-E-N. Not related to John. If I was, I'd be on the Caribbean.  
[Laughs]

BB: How long have you been with the Forest Service?

NM: I've been with the Forest Service since 1974.

BB: When you came to work for the Forest Service in 1974, what was your job?

NM: Well I actually went in and applied to do re creation because I thought it would be fun talking to campers. And I was instead hired to be on an engine crew. So my first job was on an engine crew on the Lassen National Forest in 1974. And there weren't very many women back then.

BB: What was it like being one of the first female fire fighters for the Forest Service?

NM: Well, I have to tell you Bob, [Laughs] it was interesting to say the least. They weren't ready for women. They didn't have uniforms or any kind clothing that would fit. Of course there was no [nomix?] in those days so you wore [Ben Davis?] pants, a khaki or a blue shirt, and they wanted you to wear boots with [vibram?] soles. So it was pretty difficult for a woman of my size, being only 5'5" and at that much thinner, a hundred and eighteen pounds, going out and finding the stuff, because women just didn't wear it.

BB: How did the rest of the crew treat you?

NM: They weren't overly thrilled, because you know, it was the mystique of men. It was that big, "This is a man's world, and this is man town, and you need to be home, you need to be doing women things." So they weren't overly thrilled. I wasn't treated real well, and I guess they had been told they would have to treat me well, and so what they did was set up obstacles and things hoping that I might quit. Which I didn't. [Laughs]

BB: What kind of obstacles did they set up?

NM: Well, let's see. My first day at work, they made me carry a chain saw. A Nicola 2100 chain saw, three and a half miles, into a unit that we were doing some brush clearing on, and I followed behind the engine carrying this chain saw. And once I got into the unit carrying this big, large chain saw, they informed me that I would not be able to use it because I didn't have chain saw training, but what I could do in effect was go out and with a Pulaski I could chop down these smaller trees. And so they took me out and showed me this particular tree said, this is the tree we want you to start on and cut this tree down, and when you're done move to the next tree. And I'm not sure what the issue was with the tree, but every time I hit it it would bounce back; it kind of leaned a little bit, and it would just bounce back. And I wasn't familiar in those days with those types of tools. So I just kept hitting at it. About three and a half hours later I noticed I was getting blisters on my hands. The day had more or less ended and I still had not gotten all of the tree cut down. However I'd beat it up pretty good. So we called it a day; went back in, and the following day they made me walk back in with the chain saw again. Those types of things continued. They would take my lunch, and they would go out and find a dead chipmunk or an animal or something, and they would take the lunch meat out of my sandwich and put the animal inside the sandwich and then wrap it back up and put it back inside the lunch pail. In those days we had the old metal hard hat, and one of the things was, if you dented your hard hat you had to go see the district ranger. He was very adamant you took good care of your old metal hard hat. So what they did was, they ran over my hard hat with the engine and then told me that if I told the district ranger that they had done it that they would beat me up, and I was to go in and face the music and get a new hard hat, and tell him the truck had just run over it. Which I did. I ended up with blisters at one point so bad on my hand that I would wear my gloves; of course they didn't make stuff to fit you, and the gloves were huge, and that was why I got the blisters, because my hands would fall out of them. So I would just put the gloves on over the blisters and go to work, because there was no way I was going to quit. Another thing that I remember that I think that you'll enjoy was the first fire camp I went to. And with the exception of the camp crew, I was the only woman in a three hundred person fire camp. And because they had to make accommodations for me, what they did was, they shut down the showers. For me. So there's two hundred and ninety-nine men in camp, and me. And they closed the showers off so that I could go and take a shower. And that upset the crew so bad that they stood in a line, the crews that were in camp and not out fighting a fire, they stood in line with their towels and I had to walk between them all the way up to this one shower unit to take a shower, and they flipped towels at me. And that was pretty tough, and I got pretty angry about that and told them, don't do that any more, and the next night when it was time to take a shower I just showed up with the rest of the guys. And they were pretty shocked when I walked into the shower, but I walked in, found a stall, I took a shower, borrowed some shampoo from a guy, told him thank you very much, and left. And they pretty much left me alone after that. [Laughs] And that was kind of the end of that.

I'm trying to think of some other... Oh, I can remember one time. We had been going to fires, and we had been gone quite a long time. And anyway I had fallen asleep. And one of the guys on the crew took a felt pen when I was asleep, so you can imagine how tired I was, we were in the engine. And I always had to ride in the middle 'cause I was the shortest. Over the hump. That was my job. I had to be the middle person. And we were going down to another fire, and I was sound asleep. I was just exhausted. And what they did was they got one of those indelible ink felt pens. And they painted a handlebar moustache on me, and I did not wake up. I don't know why I did not wake up. And I was on that fire for five days, and people were staring at me and I

couldn't figure out why. And it turned out I had this handlebar moustache. But in those days, you didn't take a shower, you didn't have a sink at a lot of these fires. You just fought fire for four or five days or whatever, and you never looked in a mirror. And so I'd been wearing this handlebar moustache in the chow line as a woman for five days and folks really got a kick out of that. [Laughs] And the last thing that I want to mention that I thought was pretty hysterical was the fire camp that I was at. Also I think there was a couple other women. I never saw them, we were in different areas of the camp, but I did hear about it. They took my red bag, which in those days was an old green bag that you put all your clothes in, They stole it and they took it up to the, I can't remember what it was called in those days, maybe it was the ICP or the command center, or whatever, and anyway they took the bag up there. And in those days they had these great big P.A. systems and they would just make these announcements, kind of like in MASH over the P.A. systems. And I had just come back and we were in the chow line, and the message came out over the P.A. that they had found a fire bag, and would the person who had the purple stripped underwear and the Tampex please report to the communications area to retrieve their fire bag. Of course that could be nobody but me, and there was a lot of cheering and jeering as I had to walk up and get my firebag. So yeah, from when I started up unit now, in terms of sexual harassment, I guess I have some real issues with some of the stuff that goes on today that's deemed sexual harassment, because they have no idea what folks went through in the good old days to break in. There's been some major changes; the Forest Service should be very proud of how far they've come. They've come a really, really long way. How's that, Bob? [Laughs]

BB: Quite impressive. Why'd you stick it out?

NM: Because I'm not a quitter. Because I wanted to show them I could do the job, and all said and done, it was breaking into new territory, and I was doing something that hadn't been done before, and I had something to prove to them as well as to myself. And to be honest with you, I really think if they'd have welcomed me with open arms I may not have lasted as long as I did. But just the fact that they didn't think I could do it, that they didn't want women in those positions, just made me want to do it that much more. And then of course as time went on you get kind of entrenched in it and it becomes part of your life, and so it's more difficult to walk away. It's a lot easier now than it was, but again, I'm a whole lot older.

BB: So it wasn't just doing it for you, but breaking ground for...

NM: Oh very much so. Because you're put in that position where, if I quit, and I walk away, then the whole thing about women is going to come back on me, because that is what these guys are going to feel. Well, that's what all women do. You know, I was representing a whole bunch of women in those days, as were people like [Dianne Schulman?] when she decided she wanted to be a jumper; and women who first came in and started working for the Forest Service in fire. Quitting's the worst thing you can do when you're breaking new ground.

BB: [inaudible remark]

NM: Yeah. Cannot be a quitter. Thank you.

BB: Did you ever get accepted by the crew?

NM: I think the third year that I worked on an engine crew and I worked on the Truckee Ranger District, I was accepted by the crew, and I think a lot of it had to do with the fact that I'd had such a tough time getting to that point that nothing that they did offended me. And I had learned a lot, because I had gone out of my way to learn more and do more than the guys did. And in fighting fire I always made a point to work harder, work as long, and do more, because when you prove yourself as a woman you've got to go an extra step to be equal with the men when you're breaking that new ground. So yeah, I was very well accepted, and I spent three years on that crew and I was actually part of the crew at that time, and every year it got a little bit easier. It became easier to be accepted. And of course they were bringing in more and more women all the time. And I think it was about that time the guys figured, well, they're coming. You might as well just deal with it.

BB: Did these other women look up toward you as an example?

NM: You know, I don't really know if they did or not. We were all pretty much in the same boat. We made it a point, initially, we didn't hang out with one another. You didn't do that. You hung out with your crew. And they'd separate you; there'd be a woman on an engine here and a woman on an engine here. I did hear at one point of an all-woman engine crew, and I did drive all the way up to Redding because I heard this all-woman engine crew was going to be in Redding at a local bar this one Friday night, so I drove all the way up there to meet them. But they had a great captain, and he in turn was proving as point with women, and he had quite the crew there. We spent time but not a lot of time together, and I couldn't tell you whether they looked up to me or not.

BB: So how many years did you spend in fire?

NM: I'm still in fire. I did leave fire for a short period of time when my son was born, and then I went to work in timber for a period of time. Because I had a young son, and it's real difficult when you're a mom, and you're meals on wheels, to take off and go two weeks on a fire. So I had to kind of get out of fire for a while. And I went into timber, and now I'm back in fire. I did a stint, during this period, in law enforcement, because I was in fire prevention, and fire prevention and law enforcement were kind of synonymous. What had happened was I kept getting myself in predicaments, well, what folks thought were predicaments, out in the woods in fire prevention, and I was always running into things that needed law enforcement. So they decided that I needed some law enforcement training. So they sent me to FLOTSC and then thereafter convinced me it would be in my best interests to over into law enforcement full time. So I did law enforcement for nine years.

BB: Law enforcement sounds like another one of those areas that isn't accepting of women, the way fire was. Is that true?

NM: Yes. Yeah. However I will say it wasn't as bad as it was when I first started in fire. Most of the folks that I worked with were very agreeable, very nice, worked with me. I was very comfortable hanging out with them. I would say the biggest issue that I had was when it came to the real tense or ore dangerous assignments, I never got called. And a lot of that was because,

well that's a woman, who would you rather have backing you in some of these more heavy duty assignments. I think that was the only issue that I had. They were a lot nicer to be around. Generally all over had been very well-trained by the Forest Service by the time I got into law enforcement. We worked really well together. And they were a great group of folks. With the exception of course, there's always the few.

BB: Can you give us a law enforcement story?

NM: Well, yes I can. I can give you a great law enforcement story. I was asked to participate in an arson investigation, and I was told I was going to be lucky enough to go up onto the Shasta-Trinity National Forest and dress up like a tree and sit in the bushes. Which I did. And what was real interesting about it was the particular area that I was in where these fires were occurring, there were turnouts. And people would pull into these turnouts because there were no rest rooms in the area, if you know what I'm saying. And so there were a number of occasions while I was sitting in the bush dressed as a tree, that men would pull up. And of course they'd just pull off the road, jump out of the car, run over to the bush, and just as the zipper would start to go down I'd have to say something because I was right in the line of fire. And I would say something like, excuse me, and let me tell you, those were some great faces. I wish I'd have had a camera. And they would just look at you, and go get back into their car and drive away. Those were some memorable moments. I actually met and got to shake hands with President Bush. I was on the detail down when he was dedicating the giant redwood, and I got to shake his hand. And had my picture taken with him. That was a memorable moment. And then my other memorable moment was being dropped off on a surveillance and spending a week in the woods, by myself, surveilling a particular area; to get all my food, all my water, and just checked in at night and just lived in the woods. The funny thing being, just prior to going in we had a briefing and we were told, there are bear in the area, so keep your food up. Well, we worked a night shift. And so you would sit out there in the bushes at night and of course you would be eating, because you've got to stay awake all night, at dusk and late in the evening, and so all the time you'd be thinking: that sound behind me. Is that a bear? Or is that a deer? So that was a pretty memorable occasion and I've learned that I'm still afraid of the dark. [Laughs]

BB: What other kinds of assignments do law enforcement persons get to expect?

NM: Do a lot of marijuana. They go in and surveil where marijuana grows. I've done lots of arson investigations. They'll do anything, any kind of natural resource occurrence that happens on federal lands they're responsible for. So if someone is murdered on federal land, they'll be involved in that investigation, along with the sheriff's department and whomever. OHB type things; Rainbow Family gatherings, they go down and do the law enforcement end of it for that. As a matter of fact we're getting to the point now I feel that we're getting pretty intermingled with state and local. In the days that I was in law enforcement I was also a reserve deputy because the county up there had no women. And I was the only woman in the law enforcement in our province. Once again, the only woman. And they needed women to help with the sheriff's department to search the females and to go along on ride-alongs and what not when they had warrants out for females, so that I was lucky enough... They made me a reserve so that I could go search these folks. [Laughs] Great fun.

BB: So do you miss law enforcement?

NM: you know, in some cases I do. In some cases I don't. Fire prevention's always been my true love, so it's kind of fun to be back doing fire prevention. I'm very right-brained. I think really creatively, and in fire prevention you have the opportunity to think way outside the box, and provided you've got the money and you can get the okay from folks to do it, there's a lot of stuff you can do. So I'm pretty hooked on fire prevention.

BB: So what in fire prevention are your duties?

NM: Right now I'm in charge of the prevention and protection program for the forest that I work on. We have stovepipe, so what we have now is all of us in fire work for the forest FMO. So underneath that we have three assistant FMOs. One for operations, one for fuels, and one for prevention and protection. And so on the protection and prevention division I'm in charge of dispatch, and four prevention personnel, and five lookouts. But when at all possible, I delegate. So I'm in charge of a big, large thing, but I'm very adamant that I want my folks to run their programs. Personally what I'm doing, I'm involved in national fire prevention teams. Up until this year I hadn't missed a year teaching at the National Fire Academy in Sacramento. I'd been teaching there since '91. Decided to give it up and let somebody younger do it. I still go out on fire investigations. And of course I'm a local fire investigator on the district, and then just attempt to keep things running smooth and programs going, back on my district.

BB: You used the term "stovepipe". Can you explain it?

NM: Stovepipe is where you no longer work on a district for a district ranger and then the district ranger reports to the supervisor's office. What they've done is they've just gathered those folks together, all of fire, and fire directly reports straight up the line to the forest fire management officer in the S.O. so we no longer report through district rangers and that chain of command. It's very straight line reporting system that we're using. And not all folks are using it. Not all areas are using it.

BB: And I understand law enforcement is also stove-piping?

NM: yes, they are.

BB: Is that the same procedure?

NM: Exactly. Exactly the same procedure. Same reporting procedure, only their reporting procedure goes through their chain of command, their stovepipe chain of command, directly to the regional office, and then straight to the Washington office from there.

BB: Okay. You mentioned the fire academy. What's the fire academy?

NM: It's the Firefighter Apprenticeship Academy. National Firefighter Apprenticeship Academy that folks come down to and get all of the training that they might possibly need, and I think it's like over a month program, and they go twice. They go to a basic academy, or six-week program,

basic academy, and then advanced academy. And when they come out they have all the training to move into the Forest Service at the GS 4 or 5 level. So they're getting all of that training out of the way at once. So they're getting some prescribed fire, they're getting basic 32, they're getting a lot of the first aid, first responder courses. They get fire prevention there, which is the module that I instruct. They're getting fire leadership skills now. They're going out and cutting line. All of the things that in the old days, when I first started, it might take you three or four years to get. Business management, introduction to fire behavior. So they're getting it all at once. Which is kind of a cool thing.

BB: Good. So what does a fire prevention person do?

NM: A fire prevention person does everything. Absolutely everything. You can do something from a school program; you can do a community program; you can do fairs, parades, events. You may end up on a fire going door to door giving people information. You might end up being a public affairs officer. You might end up out in the woods stopping a train because there's been a fire, and you've got to get the train stopped so it can be investigated. You inspect equipment, industrial equipment, out in the woods. You issue campfire permits. And you are overall, in my mind, you are overall the representative of the Forest Service to the public. You are the person that the public sees. So when the public comes into the forest, as a fire prevention person you should be out in the field, and I still strongly believe in the old one on one concept, talking to these people, because you're the best way to represent the Forest Service to the public. So we do everything. We have to know a lot about everything. Or at least a little about everything. Biology, fuels, range. Because those are the questions the public asks.

BB: So it's really an education program.

NM: It's a big time education program. It's heading more that way. In the old days when I was initially in it, it was mostly drive out, you'll go out and patrol around, make sure folks have their campfires, have the clearance around their campfires. You'll have the home inspections, because he had a lot of those in those days. And teach people how to get the defensible space around their homes. But it was a lot more fire prevention oriented. School programs, that sort of thing. Now A lot of it is leading more into public education, because there's not a whole lot of us out in the field anymore. So we're kind of doing a little bit of everything. And as you know, fire affects everything. Fire affects resources, the soils; fire affects plants; fire affects range; fire affects every function within inside the Forest Service. And who better to go out and give that message to the public than fire prevention. But it also leads to an educational kind of system as well.

BB: So it sounds like, as the fire prevention system program is growing, Smokey bear is no longer just for kids.

NM: Well you know, Smokey Bear is for everyone. Adults love Smokey Bear. We still always go into the schools and use the bear. That's standard. You continue to do that. We use Smokey in a lot of our parades and those types of events. But no, he's a very big part of what we're doing. It's just that we're branching out a little bit more. And you know, times change. Smokey will always be there, but now it's time to change with the times.

BB: Can you give us a little history of the fire prevention program? How it started?

NM: Sure. Well, in, I think it was 1988 I was requested for an intermediate fire prevention course that I was going to attend. And I was asked if I could please do a quick write-up on what I could find, to present at this course on the history of fire prevention. And I thought, well that will be easy. Sure. I'll do it. Well it wasn't as easy as I thought. First of all, I didn't have any contacts, and I had no connections to get a lot of information. So I ended up doing a lot of research, but in those days of course, the internet wasn't really big, so it was a lot of phone calls and asking people and talking to people and getting people to send me information. So what I ended up doing was, I started this project, and it was a very short and sweet presentation for that particular course that I did, but I was so fascinated by the history, and there was really nothing out there that encapsulated everything that we'd been doing; I kept doing it. And it took about four years for me to put this program together. And what happened was, as I was gathering information and I was getting photographs, I was finding that most of the history from the ground level, the stuff we wanted to know about what happened on the ground, wasn't in books. It was a little here and a little there, and so what I eventually did, and the thing I really like about this program is, it encompasses from the very beginning, from the early 1800s, people's attitudes about fire prevention, and it goes right up until the wildfires of the 2000 fire season. A lot of it is history that I've gotten out of books that I've researched, and I've made phone calls and I've gathered photographs from all over the United States, but a lot of it is recollections and memories from people who worked in the fire service during those years, of what they remember and what they felt was important. So I've got a little bit of both in there. I've got the facts that you gather out of the historical archives and those types of things, but I also have a lot of history in there that are people's memories. And I think I interviewed two hundred and some odd people, and most of them have passed away, because this was done in 1988 and they were old then, and so a lot of them have passed away. So every ten years I've been updating it since the first time I did it; and I updated it in 2000 to include the fires in Montana and Idaho. Which is very interesting because, you know, the Big Burn is when we decided we would suppress all fires in 1910, which was in my history of fire prevention, and then you turn around and you get to show them in 2000 it happened again. A very, very interesting comparison. And I have yet to put in the big fires in Southern California that occurred this last year will be added into that.

BB: So how do you have this all documented? How is this...?

NM: It's all documented. Believe it or not, it's all in a slide, click, click, click, presentation, with my notes. [Laughs] My notes that I've kept over the years, and I just kind of add to them as I go, drop some information off, because it's gotten fairly long now, and you really need to keep these presentations fairly short. So I keep it at about forty-five minutes, that's a lot of slides to look at, a hundred and thirty-nine of them. And then I have the little script that goes with them. You should see it; it's a mess. I just kind of chicken scratch on the top what we're dropping and what we're adding as I go through it.

BB: If the Smithsonian wanted to take a look at that, or add it to their archives, would that be at all possible to have a copy made of that for them?



NM: Oh, you betcha. I have the slides now, I have put them on a CD. The slides that I have are available on a CD. The script I would probably need to re-type [Laughs] and get that. But oh, I would be happy to do that for you.

BB: It sounds like you have a one-of-a-kind presentation.

NM: Yes, I do. And as a matter of fact, I won a Silver Smokey because of that presentation, this last year, and some other things that I've been doing in fire prevention. That was a big honor.

BB: What's a Silver Smokey?

NM: A Silver Smokey is a very prestigious award that is given out by the advertising council, the International Association of Foresters, the Forest Service. And a whole bunch of folks get together and you're nominated. And there's a very minute number of these that they give out a year, and I got one. It's a national award. And if you'd like, I'll bring it in and show it to you, Bob. [Laughs]

BB: Well, you're also on a national fire prevention team.

NM: Yes.

BB: What's that?

NM: National Fire Prevention teams, I don't know if you know the history of them, but in the Southwest in the '90s they were having these incredible fires, and what they needed to do was, they needed to bring in some prevention people to help them. So they got a group of people together and said, you've got to go to the Southwest, they need people out in the field working on these fire issues. And I didn't get to go because at that time I was in law enforcement and my supervisor wouldn't let me. But a number of folks that I knew and that I had worked with years earlier went. And in essence what they were given was a vehicle, they were given some materials and they were given an area, and they were told, go out and meet the key players, go forth and do good. And it was pretty challenging. But that's one thing I can say about the Forest Service. Give them something to do and they'll give you two hundred percent. So these folks went out and did that, and they actually made this huge difference and they realized, we've got a really good thing going here. So they developed these courses, and these fire prevention teams. And my first experience with a fire prevention team was going out to Sturgis. You know about Sturgis? The big Harley Davidson motorcycle rally. Draws a half a million motorcycles and probably that many people, in a town, when the motorcycles aren't there is probably a town of about eight hundred. It's the most incredible thing you've ever seen, how they pull this off. Just amazing. So I was asked to go as part of a prevention team, and the reason I got to go on that is that I went as the law enforcement liaison to the prevention team. So the prevention teams are set up with a team leader. They've got technical specialists, a public affairs person. And they go in and they attempt to work with the communities and do what they can to help to mitigate their fire problem. The greatest thing going. I firmly believe in them. And also the most fun of any job ever, because every one you go to is different. It's always different, it is never the same thing, and you've got to really think out of the box, you've got to be quick on your feet. The person to

really talk to about that is Jeanette Hartog. All of us call her now the Mother of Fire Prevention. She's taken fire prevention and taken it way up to the next level, and without her I think most of these programs would never have continued. Big promoter of fire prevention. Best thing that ever happened to us.

BB: So what does a fire prevention team do today? On an assignment?

N M: Do on an assignment? Well, I'll give you a little rundown of what I did when we went to Sturgis. We showed up, they were having a problem with abandoned campfires. There were fire restrictions: no fires. And so what would happen was they didn't have enough people to go out and patrol. So these folks who were camped would go out in these areas, and they would light campfires and it was dry. And it was dry. And if we got an ignition we were going to be in terrible shape. So what we did was, part of the team went out and we put signs in all the dispersed camping areas in the fire rings, telling them it's against the law, you can't have a fire. It worked very well. We set up, and we made brochures, and they were passed out in restaurants, at car rental places, any place the public might go, these were handed out that said, extreme fire danger. Don't ruin the Sturgis Rally. We went and in person to all the bikers, we handed out scarves, Smokey Bear headbands 'cause they all loved to wear headbands because there's no helmet law. But with that, when you went to talk to these groups you gave them a fire prevention message. And a lot of them were really not aware of the issues of taking their bikes off the roadway and their exhaust systems could start fires. And so when it was all said and done we had newspaper articles, radio announcements, we passed out brochures, we interviewed the public. The team this last year did a deal with Harley Davidson for their hundredth anniversary, and did a poster with Smokey Bear and the Harley Davidson motorcycle on it. A one in a lifetime deal. We went up and down the streets of Sturgis and just literally spoke with folks, just talked to them. When you wear a fire prevention shirt and the logo people are curious and they'll ask you. Key community leaders, met with them. Met with the mayor. City councilmen. Whatever you can do to help that community mitigate their fire problem, that's what we're there for. And there is no such thing as, what does a fire prevention team do, because every assignment is completely different. You should come out sometime. Or talk to Mister Punkey, who I believe has this on film, what fire prevention teams do. That would be worth seeing.

BB: So it sounds like you, at Sturgis, educated what some folks would perceive as a very uncooperative or unruly crowd.

NM: That is true. But you know, it's all in how you establish rapport with people. It's all in how you approach them, it's all in how you deal with them. If you treat everyone the way you would want to be treated—Nan's Number One Law; learned that one in law enforcement—nine times out of ten they will listen and they will respect what you have to say. Didn't have much of a problem at all. And you know, it's really funny, you find out when it's all said and done that half those guys that are at Sturgis are really doctors and lawyers hiding out. [Laughs]

BB: We have a little less than two minutes left on the tape. The Smithsonian in 2005 is going to have a Folklife Festival featuring the Forest Service. Do you think there's a place for a national fire prevention team to participate in whatever message they want to portray on the Mall in Washington in 2005?

NM: Most definitely I think it is imperative that we do something like that, because you're talking about the federal lands that are out there in the entire United States, and those are the public lands, and we work for the public, and we need to represent them.

BB: Good. A minute left. Any final thoughts?

NM: Sure. I'd love to go and help. Don't hesitate to call me, and if my grandkids ever see this, Hello. It's Grandma. [Laughs] That's it. Thank you.

BB: Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW