



# Smithsonian Institution Archives

## Conservation and Research Center History Interview, 2000

by Smithsonian Institution Archives

Smithsonian Institution Archives  
Washington, D.C.  
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<http://siarchives.si.edu>

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## Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., <i>osiaref@si.edu</i>
Title:	Conservation and Research Center History Interview
Dates:	2000
Quantity:	1 audiotape (reference copy).

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## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 9605, Conservation and Research Center History Interview

### Access Restriction

The recordings of the interview of Cameron and North is open for research use, however, the transcript has not been deeded to the Archives. Researchers may submit a written request to the interviewees, heirs or assigns, for written permission to use the transcript.

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## Historical Note

The Conservation and Research Center (CRC) of the National Zoological Park, now known as the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, located in Front Royal, Virginia, was established in 1975 to encourage development of all aspects of animal sciences. It trains wildlife biologists from developing countries, and breeds, houses, and conducts research on a range of endangered species. Prior to being transferred to the Smithsonian, the property served as a United States Army Cavalry Remount Station, a facility for prisoners of war during World War II, a guard dog training site, and a United States Department of Agriculture cattle station. In May of 2000, as part of the 25th anniversary of the Conservation and Research Center, two long-time staff members, Maxon Cameron and George "Junior" North, were interviewed about the history of the CRC. Both interviewees, who served on the facilities staff, provided historical background on the CRC property before it was transferred to the Smithsonian and in the years since.

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## Introduction

The Oral History Program is part of the Smithsonian Institution Archives. The purpose of the program is to conduct interviews with current and retired members of the Smithsonian staff who have made significant contributions, administrative and scholarly, to the Institution. The project's goal is to supplement the published record and manuscript collections in the Archives, focusing on the history of the Institution and contributions to the increase and diffusion of knowledge made by its scholars.

The Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI), National Zoological Park, Interview was conducted as part of the Smithsonian Institution Archives Oral History Program to document the history of the SCBI site prior to being transferred to the Smithsonian and changes since then.

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## Descriptive Entry

The Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, National Zoological Park, Interview was conducted in 2000 by Smithsonian Archives Historian Pamela M. Henson. This collection consists of one interview session, totaling approximately 1 hour of recordings. There are two generations of tape for each session: original tapes and reference tapes. In total, this collection is comprised of 2 original 7 reel-to-reel audiotapes and 1 reference copy audiotape cassette, and 60 pages of transcript, and occupies 0.5 cubic feet of shelf space. There are two generations of recordings for the interview: original audiotapes and a reference audiotape cassette. The original tapes are reserved in preservation storage. Box 1 contains a transcript of the interview and a cassette copy of the original recording.

Additional documentation pertaining to the SCBI can be found in the Theodore H. Reed Interviews (RU 9568) and the History of CRC Interviews (RU 9596) in Smithsonian Institution Archives.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

- Biological stations
- Biology -- Fieldwork
- Employees
- Endangered species
- Facility management
- World War, 1939-1945
- Zoos

### Types of Materials:

- Audiotapes
- Interviews
- Oral history

### Names:

- Cameron, Maxie L.
- Cameron, Maxie L. interviewee.
- Conservation and Research Center (National Zoological Park)
- Henson, Pamela M. interviewer.
- National Zoological Park (U.S.).
- North, George W., Jr.
- North, George W., Jr. interviewee.
- United States. Army
- United States. Dept. of Agriculture

Wemmer, Christen M.

## Container Listing

Box 1

Transcript of Interview

Interview 1: 4 May 2000

Audio Recordings of Interview

Interview 1: 4 May 2000