

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1288

Accession Date: 1979.12.00	T# 1370, 1371, C#	P	D	CD
Collection MF 025/ MF	1372, 1389,	M	A	#
Number: 182/ MF 181	1390, 1411,	#	T	
	P	S	V	D mfc_na1288_t1370_01,
Collection “An Honest	#	#	#	A mfc_na1288_t1370_02,
Name: Woodsman” /			#	# mfc_na1288_t1371_01,
William Warner/				mfc_na1288_t1371_02
Interviewer William Warner			Narrator: David Priest	
/Depositor:				

Description: 1288 David Priest, interviewed by William Warner, September 26, 1979 – March 9, 1980, Winn, Maine. Priest, a retired game warden, talks about his life and work in the Maine woods; his interest in hunting, trapping, and fishing as a child; trapping as more profitable than service as a game warden, which led him to abandon his first stint as a game warden; the seasonal cycle of trapping and working as a fishing guide; application process to become a game warden; responsibilities of a game warden in the late 1940s and early 1950s; the methods of gangs whose business was selling poached deer to hunters; changes over time in how confiscated illegal game and road kill was distributed; anecdotes from his years as a game warden; skinning animals and preparing the pelts; techniques of deer poachers; hunting bobcats with dogs; emotional connection and respect for the animals he hunted and trapped; bears terrorizing lumber crews; guns and which guns he used for specific purposes; his childhood in the 1920s and entering the workforce during the early 1930s; using skunk scent in traps; various traps for bear and beaver; legal manner of trapping, his dislike of Maine game laws, particularly those which allow Native Americans exemptions; combat in Italy during WWII; a poem about game wardens written by a fellow warden; changes in trappers' attitudes and methods over time; definition of “woods queer” and an example of such a man; multiple cases of searching for people lost in the woods; hunting porcupines; apprehending poachers; discussion of photographs; release of caribou onto Mt. Katahdin; tragedies on Mt. Katahdin; use of his woodsman and hunting skills in the Army; poisoning foxes; odd jobs that made him money during his childhood; traditional medicine used by his grandmother; canoe designs and which ones are most useful for which tasks; cookouts as an outdoor guide; cases where the legal system did not serve justice, particularly as regards to unjust and biased judges; night hunting and apprehending poachers; pine martins and ways to trap them; responsibilities of an outdoor guide; varieties of snowshoes and materials used to make them; a notable poacher who used a plane to spot beaver; his respect for poachers and lack of personal animosity; use of salt pork to heal infection; anecdotes about encounters with wildlife; interview with Lillian Priest about life as David Priest's wife,

Related Collections NA 1364
& Accessions
Restrictions

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1364

Accession Date: 1980.06.00 **T#** 1483

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Collection "An Honest

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Name: Woodsman" /

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William Warner/

Interviewer William Warner

Narrator: Donald Clendenning, Eddie Lambert

/Depositor:

Description: 1364 Donald Clendenning and Eddie Lambert, interviewed by William Warner, July 28 -29, 1980, Orrington and Greenville, Maine. Clendenning discusses David Priest and their friendship (Priest was interviewed extensively by Warner, see NA 1288); experiences hunting, fishing, and trapping with Priest; Priest's commitment to his job as a game warden; his approach to apprehending suspects; and Priest's personal characteristics and skills. Lambert discusses his relationship with Priest, one of a poacher and a game warden who were cousins; poaching being overlooked by game wardens during the Great Depression; working as a wilderness guide; conniving to get money for guide shirts from customers; playing jokes on out-of-state visitors and city people; various exploits, both his alone and those Priest was involved in; and lack of commitment among game wardens by 1980.

Text: 45 pp. catalog

Recording: mfc_na1364_t1483_01, mfc_na1364_t1483_02 102 minutes

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