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Ann Marie Tso  
October 03, 1978

Interview conducted by Dorothy B. Huyck  
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ORAL HISTORY

Interview with Ann Marie Tso

Museum Aide

by Dorothy B. Huyck

Hubbell Trading Post

October 3, 1978

PRO-TYPISTS, INC.

PROFESSIONAL TRANSCRIPTION SERVICE

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[START OF TAPE, SIDE 1]

- Dorothy Huyck: —October 3, 1978. I'm Dorothy Huyck, I will be interviewing Ann Marie Tso, spelled T-s-o, who is a museum aide at the Hubbell Trading Post. Can I ask how you first learned about the National Park Service?
- Ann Marie Tso: Well, I was just job-hunting. It was by accident, really. I was looking for a job, and I didn't feel like going and forth to \_\_\_\_\_. That's about the only place they have a lot of job openings, at times. And this lady, she's a social worker, she told me about the job, that there was an opening here. And I had a choice between this job and a secretarial position at the public school, and I took this one.
- Dorothy Huyck: When (inaudible)?
- Ann Marie Tso: That was in '76.
- Dorothy Huyck: So, you've been with the Park Service for about two years.
- Ann Marie Tso: About two years.
- Dorothy Huyck: Were you a museum aide when you first started?
- Ann Marie Tso: No, they hired me on a 30-day – not to exceed 30 days, and just temporary, as a party aide.
- Dorothy Huyck: Was that during a busy season?
- Ann Marie Tso: Yes, it was. It was during an inventory. They hadn't done an inventory in so many years there, and I was hired to do that.
- Dorothy Huyck: What grade were you then?
- Ann Marie Tso: GS-2, I think it was.
- Dorothy Huyck: What were you inventorying?
- Ann Marie Tso: The Hubbell collection and everything in the Hubbell collection.
- Dorothy Huyck: Had they inventoried at some time since the Park Service (inaudible)?
- Ann Marie Tso: Yeah, this was my first effort doing an inventory, but they had an inventory, say, like five years, seven years ago, I believe. I mean, prior to the time I inventoried, there hadn't been an inventory since then, since the Park Service took over, I believe. And then my supervisor, Captain Busch, he had just started, and I guess he wanted to know what all was stored in the collection, because there are some things that are missing. We don't know what happened, or maybe they've been stolen or (inaudible).
- Dorothy Huyck: What kind of things are missing?

- Ann Marie Tso: Well, just little things, like for instance, in the rug room, a lot of that that shelf there, that top shelf, above that bookshelf, they had little tiny baskets or pottery, smaller ones that you can handle and put in your pocket. Those are the kinds of things that were missing.
- Dorothy Huyck: And at the end of 30 days, what happened?
- Ann Marie Tso: I terminated. They didn't have the money available, so I went off for a month. And then they weren't sure if they were going to hire me again, so they – I think they got some money from SPMA.
- Dorothy Huyck: What is SPMA?
- Ann Marie Tso: SPMA, it's Southwestern Parks and Monuments Association. I think they got some donation money from them. And this time it was for 180 days.
- Dorothy Huyck: (Inaudible.)
- Ann Marie Tso: This time I was hired as a clerk typist.
- Dorothy Huyck: No longer in the inventory business.
- Ann Marie Tso: Well, no, I was doing the same thing.
- Dorothy Huyck: Oh, you were?
- Ann Marie Tso: Yeah. I was doing a lot of territorial \_\_\_\_\_, mainly clerical correspondence and the like, filing.
- Dorothy Huyck: And this was also a GS-2?
- Ann Marie Tso: Three, I think it was. I can't remember too well. And not too long ago, I think it was about December – no, about November, maybe, they hired me as a GS-4-1, and that's (inaudible).
- Dorothy Huyck: And what are you doing currently?
- Ann Marie Tso: Well, I do the cataloging of the collection, I do just general preservation work on the frames, like, historic photographs, paintings and the like. We had some shipments that – preservation work that needed to be done on them, paintings we have.
- Dorothy Huyck: Are those the Burbank paintings?
- Ann Marie Tso: Well, some are Burbank, Sharpe. And to get them ready for the shipment, we had to put picture hangers well, not hangers, but metal – I forget the name, anyway, we held them in place just so they wouldn't move around while they're being shipped. Just very minor conservation work on photographs.
- Dorothy Huyck: What do you do with them, with the photographs, to conserve them?

- Ann Marie Tso: Well, right now, I haven't had any training as to really – I learned the basics to do preservation work (inaudible). They'd send a little bag, and we'd just sprinkle it on the pictures and use a really del cate brush to remove some of the grime and stuff off the paintings. And putting them in acid-free folders and cataloging them, and I worked on an index for them. We file them as to their location or the subject. And that way, it's a lot easier to find what you're looking for when maybe a researcher comes in looking for a photograph or just doing some research.
- Dorothy Huyck: (Inaudible.)
- Ann Marie Tso: Yes, we do. When they bring ones here, they worked them into different subjects. And I counted to, like, 1,700, close to 1800, photographs that have been worked into the – our HTP file, we call it. HTP stands for Hubbell Trading Post. And then they are worked into subject, again, broken down. And then there's a whole lot, maybe close to 2,000 more photographs that are still uncataloged. And they're not worked into the files yet, and I've been doing some of that.
- Dorothy Huyck: Do these photographs come (inaudible) geographical area, or are they primarily the \_\_\_\_\_ region?
- Ann Marie Tso: Well, a lot of it is the \_\_\_\_\_ region and then some (inaudible), and some we couldn't identify where they are.
- Dorothy Huyck: And are there pictures of persons?
- Ann Marie Tso: Oh, yes.
- Dorothy Huyck: Like who?
- Ann Marie Tso: Oh, the Hubbell family and – or Navaho friends or Anglo friends. We wouldn't even know who. It's really hard to identify who's who on a certain photograph. And maybe they were, like, friends of the two Hubbell fathers that went to school in Prescott. And just a lot of family friends.
- Dorothy Huyck: And there are 1800 that you already have filed, is that correct?
- Ann Marie Tso: About that many. And I've worked – oh, maybe like 500 more. And they still need to be (inaudible). Needs to be worked (inaudible).
- Dorothy Huyck: (Inaudible) photographs. Have you also done some preservation work with pictures?
- Ann Marie Tso: No, not with paintings. I don't have the training to do that yet. But I hope to get some training soon.
- Dorothy Huyck: Are there other kinds of preservation work that you've been involved in already?

- Ann Marie Tso: Well, just mainly photographs. And pottery.
- Dorothy Huyck: What are you doing with pottery?
- Ann Marie Tso: With the potteries, well, a couple of archeologists came out and they dug up a pot (inaudible). And he brought in a pot that was all – had fallen apart. \_\_\_\_\_ and I cleaned it off and put it back together with glue. It's not really glue, it's kind of – we call it PVA. It's a long name. The only way I remember it is PVA, and then some solution, where – I glued them back together, and put the whole bowl back together. And that's the only one I've done to the pottery.
- Dorothy Huyck: You were saying you were hoping to get some training with regard to handling the paintings.
- Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh.
- Dorothy Huyck: Whereabouts would you be given that training? Here?
- Ann Marie Tso: No, it would probably be at Harper's Ferry in West Virginia.
- Dorothy Huyck: Have you been to Harper's Ferry previously?
- Ann Marie Tso: Yes, I have. I went back there a couple of weeks ago for a territorial conference.
- Dorothy Huyck: And you would hope to get this further training.
- Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh, it's territorial methods, phase one.
- Dorothy Huyck: Can I go back and ask when you were born?
- Ann Marie Tso: Yeah, on January 5, '49. Here in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Dorothy Huyck: And how many brothers and sisters have you?
- Ann Marie Tso: I had two brothers. I have one brother living now, one is deceased.
- Dorothy Huyck: And sisters?
- Ann Marie Tso: And I have four sisters.
- Dorothy Huyck: And which child among these are you? Are you the oldest, middle?
- Ann Marie Tso: The last second.
- Dorothy Huyck: And you've grown up here.
- Ann Marie Tso: Well, here and there. When I was about three months old, I guess, my grandmother from my Dad's side raised me from that point on, and I've been here and there since they – they were deceased.
- Dorothy Huyck: You're parents are not living?

Ann Marie Tso: My mother is living.

Dorothy Huyck: Oh, she is. Is she in this area?

Ann Marie Tso: Yes, she is.

Dorothy Huyck: And your father –

Ann Marie Tso: He's deceased.

Dorothy Huyck: He's deceased. Did he have some particular occupational interest before his death?

Ann Marie Tso: Just a laborer, that I know.

Dorothy Huyck: And your mother?

Ann Marie Tso: She was a rug weaver.

Dorothy Huyck: I'm sorry, she's –?

Ann Marie Tso: A rug weaver.

Dorothy Huyck: Oh, a rug weaver.

Ann Marie Tso: She weaves rugs, uh-huh.

Dorothy Huyck: Did you graduate from high school?

Ann Marie Tso: No.

Dorothy Huyck: Did you attend high school?

Ann Marie Tso: Yes, I did.

Dorothy Huyck: How many years?

Ann Marie Tso: Two years.

Dorothy Huyck: Was that here?

Ann Marie Tso: No, this was in Utah. Brigham City.

Dorothy Huyck: How did you happen to attend high school in Brigham City?

Ann Marie Tso: I was placed in a boarding – there was a boarding school. I was placed in that school by my mother.

Dorothy Huyck: At an early age?

Ann Marie Tso: Well, oh, gosh, I left school – I used to go the local public school. And this was in 1960. I was in the seventh – no, wait, yeah, I left fifth grade when I was at the public school, and started sixth grade in Brigham City, till my freshman or sophomore year.

Dorothy Huyck: Was this in one school?

Ann Marie Tso: No, it isn't, it's a boarding school.

Dorothy Huyck: It's a BIA –

Ann Marie Tso: It's a BIA school.

Dorothy Huyck: And at the end of your sophomore – you completed your sophomore year, and you returned after that.

Ann Marie Tso: Yeah, I was here at home when I got married.

Dorothy Huyck: And when were you married?

Ann Marie Tso: In 1967. Or, '66, excuse me.

Dorothy Huyck: And are you currently married?

Ann Marie Tso: Yes, I am.

Dorothy Huyck: To the same gentleman?

Ann Marie Tso: No.

Dorothy Huyck: You've been divorced once.

Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh.

Dorothy Huyck: And when were you remarried?

Ann Marie Tso: (Inaudible) in '76.

Dorothy Huyck: In '76. Do you have any children?

Ann Marie Tso: Yes, I have three daughters.

Dorothy Huyck: How old are they?

Ann Marie Tso: Ten, nine and eight.

Dorothy Huyck: Ten, nine and eight.

Ann Marie Tso: They'll be there for a while.

Dorothy Huyck: Well, that accounts for some of your \_\_\_\_\_ between your sophomore year in high school –

Ann Marie Tso: Yeah.

Dorothy Huyck: Ani had you had other employment before you came to this position on the Park Service?

Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh, several places.

Dorothy Huyck: And where was your first work?

Ann Marie Tso: My first work – after I got married, we move to Idaho Falls, in Idaho. And I worked as a nurse's aide at this convalescent home up there, the Good Samaritan.

Dorothy Huyck: May I ask what took you to Idaho Falls?

Ann Marie Tso: Well, my husband, I guess before he met me he was living up there in Idaho. And he took us back up there and that's how we moved up there. And the second? I worked for Aerojet Nuclear. Actually, it was for Atomic Energy Commission, but they had a contract with Aerojet. And I worked there as a clerk typist. I got my training there as a clerk typist.

Dorothy Huyck: Also in Idaho Falls?

Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh.

Dorothy Huyck: And after that?

Ann Marie Tso: After that, I worked in downtown Idaho, Eastern Idaho Special Services, they called it. That was the name of it.

Dorothy Huyck: What does that refer to?

Ann Marie Tso: Well, they had – they took care of senior citizens.

Dorothy Huyck: And where you worked parttime –

Ann Marie Tso: I was a clerk typist there. When I first worked for Aerojet, I started out as a clerk typist, and then they changed my title to – slightly, by junior steno.

Dorothy Huyck: All right.

Ann Marie Tso: Then from there, that was my last – I moved back down to the reservation, and here I worked for the Tribal Census Office, Vital Statistics Office.

Dorothy Huyck: (Inaudible.)

Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh. I moved back on a Sunday, and I got a job the following Monday. I was particularly lucky.

Dorothy Huyck: Were you a clerk typist there?

Ann Marie Tso: Census clerk.

Dorothy Huyck: What year as that?

Ann Marie Tso: In '74. Then later I went for the tribe again, tribal purchasing office, purchasing department. Worked there as a receptionist. Then I worked for the Public Health Service in Fort Defiance as a clerk typist, but I did more than just clerical work.

- Dorothy Huyck: What else were you involved in?
- Ann Marie Tso: Oh, refilling of medication and stuff. And my last job with the tribe was as a secretary for tribal office of social services.
- Dorothy Huyck: (Inaudible.)
- Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh. That was the last job I had before I came out here.
- Dorothy Huyck: Did you move to \_\_\_\_\_ and then to find a job here, rather than commute to \_\_\_\_\_?
- Ann Marie Tso: Yeah. I didn't have a permanent home of my own down here. I've always been away since I got married, and that's hard for me to be commuting back and forth. And I had a brother that lived just a little ways up, and he told us we could stay there for awhile. Find a job here until we found a place of our own. We have our own place now.
- Dorothy Huyck: How do you find working for the National Park Service?
- Ann Marie Tso: Interesting. Like I said, when my mother, she used to live right across the wash, over on the other hill from here, not more than a mile. And I knew there was a store here, but I never knew that the Park Service had taken over or anything. And one day I came down here, and there was all these Park Service personnel. And I didn't know what was going on. I didn't question it, either. I was just visiting. And then, till I got the job here, then I realized that the Park Service had taken over. Ever since then, I've really gotten interested in it. You know, I was just job hunting. I never had any training pertaining to the work I'm doing right now, any training or that sort of thing.
- Dorothy Huyck: So, you're being given some on the job sort of training.
- Ann Marie Tso: Yes, I am. Kent is really good. He's really helped me a lot. But he's just – and sometimes I feel I'm not motivated enough to be asking questions like I should. And –
- Dorothy Huyck: Does he encourage you to ask questions?
- Ann Marie Tso: He does.
- Dorothy Huyck: And he's helpful when he answers them.
- Ann Marie Tso: Oh, yeah, very.
- Dorothy Huyck: Does this make it any easier to ask questions?
- Ann Marie Tso: What do you mean?
- Dorothy Huyck: Is he helpful, is it easier for you to put a question to him?

- Ann Marie Tso: Oh, yeah, uh-huh. I find that, any time I ask him a question, even if it's just a simple one, he'll just go into a broad view when he answers me.
- Dorothy Huyck: Is he your supervisor?
- Ann Marie Tso: Yes, he is.
- Dorothy Huyck: So, it's an opportunity to learn quite a bit from him.
- Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh. But I like – a lot of times he's busy with what he's doing, and especially now, in a fiscal year and everything. What I'm lacking is, – well, there's certain solutions you need to make something and stuff like this, when you do preservation work and stuff. And why you're doing it. And why you use a certain solution, and why not this and why not the other one. Things like that, which I'd like to learn. I'd like to actually work with my hands.
- Dorothy Huyck: Is he beginning to teach you which solutions?
- Ann Marie Tso: He has, some. But he doesn't always have the time. But I guess when I do ask him a question, he'll just drop what's he's doing and then he'll just come and help me. But there are times when I get myself busy, like, with this cataloging right now. And I've been just putting it off, to ask him again. He's really knowledgeable about these things, but I – times when I'm busy myself, doing my own cataloging and stuff.
- Dorothy Huyck: You're hoping to take further training courses at Harper's Ferry. Is that one of a series of courses?
- Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh. There's a par two to it. And the first are just basics.
- Dorothy Huyck: (Inaudible.)
- Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh. It's mainly territorial conference where – like I said, I just happened to stumble on the job and I wasn't really sure, at first, whether this was the career I wanted. Then just gradually, I became more involved, and I like it. I'd like to pursue it more, although there are times when I can't always say – or I can't do it verbally, what I'm thinking, what I meant to say. I can't always phrase it right, or something. It's just that – I just need more schooling, I guess.
- Dorothy Huyck: Well, of course, English is not your first language.
- Ann Marie Tso: No, that's what I – yeah, that's my second. And it's hard because I didn't learn it until I was about ten years old.
- Dorothy Huyck: Do your sisters and brothers speak English?
- Ann Marie Tso: Yes. Well, three of my sisters went to school, but didn't finish school, either. And one brother. But they don't always speak the language all the

time. But when I was living in Idaho, that's all I spoke, for eight years. And there was nobody to speak Navaho with, or – and my kids right now are thoroughly handicapped when it comes to speaking Navaho.

Dorothy Huyck: Is your husband Navaho?

Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh, he's full-blooded. And I just feel sorry for him, they can't speak Navaho. And I'm just the opposite.

Dorothy Huyck: What is your husband's occupation?

Ann Marie Tso: He's a heavy equipment operator.

Dorothy Huyck: And how does he feel about your job at the Park Service?

Ann Marie Tso: I – unless I tell him how I feel about it, he's all with me. It's up to me, he leaves a lot of it up to me. But sometimes – well, now and then he'll say he'd like to see me home and be with our girls. Because – well, he's about 19 years my senior. And he's got three daughters that are still in school.

Dorothy Huyck: He (inaudible).

Ann Marie Tso: Yeah.

Dorothy Huyck: So, in fact, you have six daughters.

Ann Marie Tso: Six daughters.

Dorothy Huyck: And how old are his three daughters?

Ann Marie Tso: They're teen years. One's graduating this year. She'll be 18, she'll be 18 next month. 17, 15, and 14.

Dorothy Huyck: How do you find combining six daughters and a husband and your job at the Park Service?

Ann Marie Tso: Well, we've got two of them to work as a VIP this year. And they've been very helpful, and they've been brought up pretty good. They're well behaved, and they also have the handicap that my little girls do, they don't speak very good Navaho. And they're very understanding. But when it comes to stepsisters, that's another story. They get into squabbles now and then, but that's about the size of it. It's nothing serious. Basically, they get along really good. And it doesn't interfere with my job.

Dorothy Huyck: If one of your daughters or stepdaughters were to consider working for the Park Service, would you encourage her?

Ann Marie Tso: Yeah, yeah, I do. That's the main reason why I got them to work as a VIP. I told them they're not that far away from graduating, and it would be really good experience because not all office works are the same, not

every place operates the same way, so it's very – they can get some knowledge, get some background in clerical work, even if it's just filing or just very minor work. But they – two of them, they help me with painting conservation. And they've been very helpful. Yes, I would encourage them, and I do.

Dorothy Huyck: Do you plan to stay with the Park Service over a period of time?

Ann Marie Tso: Yes, I do, because this is my hometown, and I probably won't move anywhere else again. Because we've got our trailer and it's sitting in the town permanent, and we've got \_\_\_\_\_ payment. That's our permanent home. So, I don't plan to move anywhere else.

Dorothy Huyck: Do you see that there are opportunities to work with things and to grow in your job situation as you work?

Ann Marie Tso: Yes, I do. Just lately, I haven't been just haven't had my act together. It's nobody to blame but myself. Maybe blaming anybody – there are times when my mind starts wandering, and this is just gradually – I need time to learn all the MPS functions, and that's one of my main handicaps.

Dorothy Huyck: Is it also one of your main goals, one of the things you really want to achieve?

Ann Marie Tso: Yes, it is. I want to learn more and more how to go about things. I'm not that well informed. And that's mostly it's mostly on my part, the reasons why I'm not. And I should be reading more, be asking questions like I should be. And my main goal is to work for the Park Service as a Park tech. Curator is way too high for me, because of my educational background. Of course, having been to that conference, I realize that the curators that all got together are very professional people, and I could never – well, I personally feel that I couldn't accomplish it, maybe because I didn't finish high school.

Dorothy Huyck: Did you find that attending that conference was encouraging or discouraging?

Ann Marie Tso: It is encouraging.

Dorothy Huyck: It is?

Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh.

Dorothy Huyck: What about that conference did you find encouraging?

Ann Marie Tso: Well, in the evenings, we had committees that we went to. We chose our own topic, and I chose training, and I found –

[END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1]

[START OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2]

Dorothy Huyck: Do you find that there are possibilities for further training in the territorial field?

Ann Marie Tso: Yeah.

Dorothy Huyck: And do you think you'll be offered an opportunity to take advantage of those?

Ann Marie Tso: Yes, I can. In fact, he's encouraging me to take these training – and he has more – well, he thinks I can do it, and I don't have that much – how do you say – I'm trying to say—

Dorothy Huyck: That you have more confidence?

Ann Marie Tso: Confidence in me than I do myself.

Dorothy Huyck: Is that something that you see growing in yourself?

Ann Marie Tso: Yes, I do, but there are times when I feel it's not easy. That's – how do you feel about it?

Dorothy Huyck: Well, I would hope that with that kind of assistance and encouragement, you would find more self-confidence.

Ann Marie Tso: Yeah.

Dorothy Huyck: Since there are (inaudible).

Ann Marie Tso: Yeah, well, that's why I'm really looking forward to this phase one – territorial phase one in December.

Dorothy Huyck: You'll be going to Harper's Ferry in December?

Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh, back over there again, and – oh, sure, it'll be very helpful.

Dorothy Huyck: Does being away from home as Harper's Ferry bring up any problems?

Ann Marie Tso: No, it doesn't, no.

Dorothy Huyck: Have you been able to put into use anything you learned in the last session?

Ann Marie Tso: That's what I realized that I wasn't – well, before I knew I was getting into this profession, although it wasn't my goal before I entered the Park Service. But after attending this session, I realized it's what I wanted.

Dorothy Huyck: So at least, going to that session helped you focus on what you wanted.

Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh.

Dorothy Huyck: So that's an accomplishment.

- Ann Marie Tso: Oh, yeah. I guess you would say that. So, I look forward to it very much. And there's usually a part two to it, but that's been cancelled, so I wouldn't worry about yet until probably next year. And there's also some training courses on that Mather's – not Mather's, Albright in Grand Canyon that is available.
- Dorothy Huyck: Also, with regard to curatorial work?
- Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh.
- Dorothy Huyck: And you would hope you could go to those? Ken and I went through a training list that they have available, and we just picked out a few that we though would be helpful to me. So, I do hope I get to go.
- Dorothy Huyck: Are there any other Navaho women in the Park Service who are into jobs comparable to yours?
- Ann Marie Tso: There's – they have seasonal that come and go, but I never really got to know them. Just occasionally a conversation here and there.
- Dorothy Huyck: So, you're someone rather special.
- Ann Marie Tso: Yes. I think I'm the only one that's working with the collection, having to actually handle the objects and do some conservation work on them, and the like.
- Dorothy Huyck: Do the Navaho traditions regarding family life fit into your doing this kind of work for the Park Service nicely?
- Ann Marie Tso: There's a very minor conflict. Not – I wouldn't say conflict, but they don't like the idea of working with the \_\_\_\_\_. But Ken and I worked it out so that it's mainly the bowls. So, we worked it out so I don't handle those.
- Dorothy Huyck: Does he take care of it?
- Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh. It's not my field, anyway.
- Dorothy Huyck: It would not bother you.
- Ann Marie Tso: No.
- Dorothy Huyck: But it might bother some members of your family?
- Ann Marie Tso: Well, the member of my family, they're not really into the Navaho tradition. Except my husband. But he says that it's all right. He thinks it's all right. But there are, like, medicine men, older members of Navaho – older members, they don't like the idea.

Dorothy Huyck: And they're aware of the fact that you could be doing this. Or might be, if you had not worked it out with him.

Ann Marie Tso: I did mention that I was handling the bowls I think they were worried about because they've heard that there's been bowls dug up, \_\_\_\_\_ bowls. I did mention that I don't handle those and that we didn't have any in our collection.

Dorothy Huyck: You don't have any (inaudible) in the collection?

Ann Marie Tso: Well, they dug up some before, but they've been sent off to Tucson.

Dorothy Huyck: So, what kinds of bones are in the collection?

Ann Marie Tso: Well, there's some bones but they're only animal bones.

Dorothy Huyck: Do you feel comfortable handling them?

Ann Marie Tso: I haven't handled them. I've seen them, but I haven't actually handled them. I wouldn't feel any way, because I've been asked many times, how could you stand working in that Hubbell? How could you stand all those – collection, handling all the – it doesn't do anything to me. I mean, I don't feel any way about it. I usually tell them that. And those that usually say that are the ones that are quite superstitious, I guess you could say. And they would feel uncomfortable. And I don't feel that way.

Dorothy Huyck: They would want you to maybe (inaudible)?

Ann Marie Tso: Yeah.

Dorothy Huyck: Have you ever held a \_\_\_\_\_ because you worked here?

Ann Marie Tso: No.

Dorothy Huyck: You really don't feel uncomfortable.

Ann Marie Tso: I don't. And it's nothing to me if I have to go out to the house alone. But I see some come through they feel uncomfortable going through there alone. It doesn't bother me.

Dorothy Huyck: Why would they feel uncomfortable going alone?

Ann Marie Tso: They just say the place is scary and spooky, or something like that.

Dorothy Huyck: But you do not find it scary or spooky.

Ann Marie Tso: I don't, because I've been there many times and I've spent time along there many times. So, it doesn't bother me. And just like my husband says, it's all in your head. So, he's not as traditional as some. Like, my mom and dad would be. And I guess, not being around most of – the very

superstitious people were my great grandmothers. I think that has something to do with it.

Dorothy Huyck: What about your grandmother who raised you? Is she a superstitious person?

Ann Marie Tso: She was. I remember very vaguely because she was quite sick and quite old when I was small. I can just vaguely remember her. And then when she died, one of my grandfathers took me in again. And then that's where my mother came in, when I became of age, and sent me off the school.

Dorothy Huyck: That was your mother's decision.

Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh.

Dorothy Huyck: Your mother was not quite as traditional as your grandmother.

Ann Marie Tso: I don't really know much about my mother's side of the family. And – well, I'll tell you, I'm the only one out of my mother's family that has gone as far in school, although I didn't graduate. But I've been pretty lucky so far to have a job that I've held, and the rest of them are – they're either not working, or they're doing jobs like dishwashing or labor work. My mother and I just don't see eye to eye, and she's very – I think she's very jealous, because we just live a little ways from each other, but they never tell us anything that's going on over there or ask us for help or anything. So, I just quit trying to get close to her and I just cut off every communication I had with her.

Dorothy Huyck: You expect that maybe she's a little bit jealous of what you've been able to do.

Ann Marie Tso: Yeah, because we got into it really big several times. And the last time I told her, she didn't raise me, you gave me up a long time ago and this sort of thing. And I know she is, because how she feels about me, she actually shows it. And I just heard it, I don't know whether it's true or not, but she wished my little sister was in my position that I'm in right now. And I think that kind of encourages me –

Dorothy Huyck: Does it?

Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh.

Dorothy Huyck: It encourages you to do what?

Ann Marie Tso: To go up, climb the ladder.

Dorothy Huyck: To learn new things.

Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh. I want to be knowledgeable, but there are times when I slip.

- Dorothy Huyck: And you do see opportunities for that kind of knowledge?
- Ann Marie Tso: I do. There are times when I don't take it. And I don't mix my personal problems or anything with my job. It seems I get her and if I'm faced with a problem, I don't bring it inside the door.
- Dorothy Huyck: So, you seem to be finding the Park Service a real opportunity.
- Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh, I do. And there's a lot of arti- facts in there that, like, part of medicine bundles and the rugs. I'd like to see it preserved. And my grandmother used to weave a lot, and so my mother – they sold rugs back in Hubbell's days. And, I don't know, maybe among them would be one of my mother's or grandmother's rugs. But even then, I don't care whose rug it is. I just see all those Indian artifacts preserved. And to learn more about it so that I can help preserve them.
- Dorothy Huyck: In fact, the (inaudible) sold right now.
- Ann Marie Tso: Yeah.
- Dorothy Huyck: The ones that are being preserved. So, it's a form of preservation process on a living, alive sort of situation.
- Ann Marie Tso: Yeah, those – the ones that you bring in now doesn't come into the Hubbell collection, though, or just the very old ones.
- Dorothy Huyck: It must be satisfying to see some of those old Navaho works of art being kept, properly kept.
- Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh. And I understand before that, – I don't know, maybe before Kent came along, there was a lot of stuff that was just piled here and there, piled up here and there. And when he came along, he really fixed up the place and made sure that they would be preserved. That's what I like to see. Although we have a storage problem, and there's a lot of baskets, and they're just piled on top of the other and I understand that's an incorrect way of storing them.
- Dorothy Huyck: So, one of the satisfactions of your particular job must be a whole lot to do with the need to preserve something that's Navaho.
- Ann Marie Tso: Uh-huh.
- Dorothy Huyck: I've been asking you a whole lot of questions. Is there something about your job that you'd like to comment about, or about the Park Service that I may not have asked you about?
- Ann Marie Tso: Can't think – I'm not used to having myself r corded so it's kind of distracting. I think it depends on who comes in, like, as a curator to preserve all those artifacts in the collection. They have a curator here

before and there's a lot of things that have been – that weren't kept up like they are now. And I think Kent has really done a good job in preserving most of the artifacts. I hope it will always continue. I mean, I hope the next curator that comes in feels the same way he does.

Dorothy Huyck: Thank you.

[END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2]

[END OF INTERVIEW]