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Dorothy Huyck's National Park Service Oral History Project, 1942-1987



Nancy Ward
July 24, 1978

Interview conducted by Dorothy B. Huyck
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[START TAPE]

Dorothy Hyuck: 00:03 The day is July 24th, 1978. I'm Dorothy Hyuck. I will be interviewing Nancy Ward, who is a civil engineer currently stationed at Lake Yellowstone in Yellowstone National Park. Do you always look for manhole covers?

Nancy Ward: 00:22 No.

Dorothy Hyuck: 00:23 Just today?

Nancy Ward: 00:24 No. I've been doing that. Well, you need to do that in a lot of cases because, well, we were mainly looking for them because they're fixing to build a water line through the area, and we don't want to put the water line on top of sewer line for obvious reasons. So, we need to know what's out there and where it is.

Dorothy Hyuck: 00:43 What part of the park have you been looking for manholes in?

Nancy Ward: 00:46 This was over at Old Faithful.

Dorothy Hyuck: 00:48 Oh really? And when will the waterline actually be put in?

Nancy Ward: 00:55 I think it's a year and a half from now. Maybe it's two. I don't know. Right now, they're in the design process of it. So, they're talking about locations and profiles and things like that they need to pin down.

Dorothy Hyuck: 01:10 Let me ask you when you first became acquainted with the National Park Service?

Nancy Ward: 01:17 In this type of position?

Dorothy Hyuck: 01:18 No, Park Service in any sense of the word. Maybe you went to a national park as a youngster, did you?

Nancy Ward: 01:24 Yeah, I really can't say when specifically, I become acquainted because I think I've always been acquainted with national parks.

Dorothy Hyuck: 01:31 Did you travel to parks when you were growing up?

Nancy Ward: 01:35 We went on a summer vacation when I was about in fifth grade to several of them. But, well, when I was living in Mississippi, we were real close to the Natchez Trace Parkway and all my parent's relatives live in Tennessee. So, the easiest way to get from Mississippi to Tennessee was to drive on that. So, I been familiar with that aspect for a long time.

Dorothy Hyuck: 01:59 Were you born in Mississippi?

Nancy Ward: 02:00 No, I was born in Tennessee.

Dorothy Hyuck: 02:01 In Tennessee. Where and when?

Nancy Ward: 02:04 I was born in Athens, Tennessee in 1953.

Dorothy Hyuck: 02:09 Did you grow up there?

Nancy Ward: 02:10 No.

Dorothy Hyuck: 02:12 Where did you grow up?

Nancy Ward: 02:13 Well, primarily, I lived eight years in Mississippi and the rest in Tennessee, mainly in Nashville.

Dorothy Hyuck: 02:23 Where in Mississippi?

Nancy Ward: 02:24 Jackson.

Dorothy Hyuck: 02:27 Are you by chance an only child?

Nancy Ward: 02:29 No. I'm number two out of four.

Dorothy Hyuck: 02:33 Two of four. How old is the older brother or sister?

Nancy Ward: 02:38 She's a year older than I am.

Dorothy Hyuck: 02:41 And then what about the younger two?

Nancy Ward: 02:44 My younger sister is two years younger. My brother's six years younger.

Dorothy Hyuck: 02:52 You went to high school—

Nancy Ward: 02:53 in Nashville?

Dorothy Hyuck: 02:54 In Nashville. And what about college?

Nancy Ward: 02:58 The University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Dorothy Hyuck: 03:02 What'd you major in there?

Nancy Ward: 03:04 For my bachelor's it was civil engineering.

Dorothy Hyuck: 03:08 And you did graduate work in?

Nancy Ward: 03:10 Yeah, I got a Master's in environmental engineering.

Dorothy Hyuck: 03:13 Also from UT?

Nancy Ward: 03:14 Mm-hmm.

Dorothy Hyuck: 03:19 When you were in the middle of the educational process, say in high school and college, were there particular people who were encouraging such as your family or teachers or church or community leaders? Who, if anybody encouraged the educational process?

Nancy Ward: 03:36 Well, my father's a college professor, so there wasn't any doubt I was going to college. So, it was just one school after the next. So, I wouldn't say I was encouraged or discouraged. That's just the way it was.

Dorothy Hyuck: 03:51 Was your mother also a college graduate?

Nancy Ward: 03:53 Yes.

Dorothy Hyuck: 03:55 And did she have a profession of some sort?

Nancy Ward: 03:57 Well, she taught music, piano lessons to kids in the neighborhood. But other than that, no. That was what her degree was in was music.

Dorothy Hyuck: 04:07 What's your father's field in?

Nancy Ward: 04:09 Biology

Dorothy Hyuck: 04:10 Also at UT?

Nancy Ward: 04:13 He teaches at UT Nashville. What I was doing in Mississippi was he was teaching down there. And then one year in Mississippi we spent in Starkville. He was finishing

up his PhD at Mississippi State. So that's why I ended up different places was wherever he was teaching.

- Dorothy Hyuck: 04:36 I'm curious. We find it – Well, let me ask a question a little differently. Were you considered a tomboy as you were growing up?
- Nancy Ward: 04:43 Yeah, I'd say so. But then I'd say my sisters and I did a lot of things tomboyish. And that wasn't anything unusual.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 04:56 Did you play with boys as a child?
- Nancy Ward: 04:57 Yeah.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 04:59 And your sisters did too I presume?
- Nancy Ward: 05:03 Mm-hmm.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 05:03 You take math and science beginning in high school in terms of courses that would lead into engineering in college?
- Nancy Ward: 05:10 That was sort of, well, I was sort – I was interested in the stuff and there were good courses, good teachers. So, it was sort of like going to college. It was understood I was going to take the stuff. It was it wasn't discouraging to take those courses.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 05:26 But did you actually take them at the high school stage?
- Nancy Ward: 05:28 Yes.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 05:28 Okay. And I presume you must have gotten good grades?
- Nancy Ward: 05:32 I don't know about that.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 05:33 Were these courses that were normally assigned more to boys?
- Nancy Ward: 05:38 Well, my chemistry class had 10 people in it and 2 of them were girls and my physics class had, I'd say more than 20 people in it, and 2 of them were girls. So, but my math classes were pretty much like a regular class.

Dorothy Hyuck: 05:56 Did you know when you went to college at you would take engineering or is that something you decided on in the process?

Nancy Ward: 06:02 No. I started out with civil engineering and stayed there

Dorothy Hyuck: 06:05 Was that considered a proper thing for a young lady to do?

Nancy Ward: 06:08 My parents didn't care.

Dorothy Hyuck: 06:10 Delightful. They didn't expect you to be a lady.

Nancy Ward: 06:14 No. They gave up a long time ago.

Dorothy Hyuck: 06:20 What drew your attention to the National Park Service as far as a job is concerned?

Nancy Ward: 06:25 A friend of mine worked out here one summer and one of the professors at school had also worked out here one summer.

Dorothy Hyuck: 06:32 Did you start as a seasonal?

Nancy Ward: 06:34 Yeah, I was temporary last summer. Well, I had two temporary appointments. See, I didn't become permanent until March 12th. And so, I had two temporary appointments from April of a year ago and it was April to August and then another one through November to whenever they changed me over to permanent.

Dorothy Hyuck: 06:57 Which was the spring. What are you involved in primarily in addition to manhole covers? What are your responsibilities mainly?

Nancy Ward: 07:07 It all comes back to the design of the water systems here. They're redoing most of the water systems. And so, I've been doing some testing on the water, see what kind of chemicals composition they are and what kind of treatment's going to work and stuff like that. And then working on things like future layouts for the plants and for the tank sites and the lines and things like that. I've been helping the – There's a contractor who's designing all this stuff, but we have to show them around and show them what we know and what the Park Service wants to do and things like that.

- Dorothy Hyuck: 07:48 Are these water systems that were put in long ago?
- Nancy Ward: 07:52 Some of them are. They're all just basically inadequate. They're either undersized now or they don't meet standards in terms of treatment and things like that because of course standards have changed in the years.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 08:06 What level of – Well, do you get into sewage treatment too?
- Nancy Ward: 08:13 Well, this office did build most of the sewage plants in the park. So, they do deal somewhat with them, but most of that building's over with. So now we're working on the water system. So, I can't say I don't have anything to do with that, but mostly just the water.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 08:30 So you're replacing and upgrading, is that correct?
- Nancy Ward: 08:33 Right. The water system.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 08:35 In the Old Faithful area or more extensively?
- Nancy Ward: 08:38 All the park.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 08:39 All of the park?
- Nancy Ward: 08:39 Mm-hmm.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 08:41 Then this is going to cover some period of time, is it not?
- Nancy Ward: 08:45 Probably the Mammoth – Well, part of the Mammoth system will start construction this fall. This the first one to go then I don't know if Old Faithful and Canyon go at the same time. They're real close to each other and they follow Mammoth. Those are the three major systems. And then there are just several minor ones and several medium ones. They're really redoing most of the water systems in the park.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 09:11 Once you start laying pipe and so forth, if you start in the fall, you must have to really work fast before the winter sets in, don't you?
- Nancy Ward: 09:17 Well, Mammoth's not quite as bad as down here. You don't get as much snow up there, so they'll probably work into

December. Then probably start up again in March, I imagine.

- Dorothy Hyuck: 09:31 And will you be working along with them in some way once they're actually laying pipe?
- Nancy Ward: 09:36 Probably. There are a lot of people in this office. So, say that one person's going to be doing this all the time it's kind of changes from day to day. But yeah, I can see being out there showing people where things go and things like that, checking things.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 09:53 Between that time and now when you're looking for manhole covers, what else will you be involved in that interim period between the manhole cover and the actual laying of pipes?
- Nancy Ward: 10:03 Well, at Canyon, they're putting a temporary plant right now. And just as soon as that thing gets built, I'll probably be involved in doing some of the testing to determine the amount of chemicals to add to the water and things like that. So, I'll probably be helping run that plant. And earlier this spring, they have another filter up there that we had to fix. Nobody seen it works in since sometime in the '60s. I think it'd been put in '58 and we finally got the thing working this spring. So, you can do a lot of things around here. On all the sites that we're going to be doing construction, we have to get archeological clearance. So, I've been going around with the archeologist, showing him, "Yes, this is where we'll put the tank site," and he gets to look for the arrowheads and all that stuff. So, I do a little bit of everything around here.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 11:00 Where does water coming into the park originate?
- Nancy Ward: 11:05 You mean for the water system? Well, all over the place. Some of it's just up in the mountains. Well, the source for Canyon is the Yellowstone River. Source for Grant is the lake. It just varies a lot.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 11:23 What I'm really wondering is what's the original quality of the water? Does that vary also?
- Nancy Ward: 11:29 Mostly the water in the park's fairly good except during snowmelt periods. And that's when you get a lot of runoff

and the water does tend to get dirty. And that's when we're really concerned about treatment.

- Dorothy Hyuck: 11:41 What does it pick up during the run-off period?
- Nancy Ward: 11:47 A lot of color results from going through the vegetation and things like that. And you get a lot of just turbidity and particles and things like that in water. But in terms of bad chemicals or anything like that, it's really not bad. The only high element we seem to have is fluoride in this park. And that don't have anything to do with the runoff. It has to do with the rock that the water goes through. But that doesn't affect people just passing through. It would affect somebody staying here a long time so it's really not a problem either. So, the water really isn't that bad. It just gets dirty when the snow melts.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 12:30 Even for people who are long-term residents here, the fluoride content is not questionable?
- Nancy Ward: 12:36 Usually, it only affects the kids in the stage where they're developing their teeth.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 12:45 That's what I'm wondering about.
- Nancy Ward: 12:45 I think it can affect you in the long run at higher concentrations, but I don't think we're in that type of a range.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 12:50 So if your water is basically a decent quality, do you have extensive treatment to do?
- Nancy Ward: 12:55 Well, certain water sources, I guess by law or criteria, whatever you want to call it, or you take it from a surface water I think you're at least required to filter it, whether anything's wrong with it or not. And that partly has to do with your disinfection and things like that. Well, when we get into the runoff, if you're trying to remove most of the color, you usually have to tie up the water in coagulation and flocculation treatment. So, I wouldn't say we've got any really large-scale plants, but we are having to do some treatment on the surface water.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 13:34 When you entered the Park Service, what grade did you major at?

Nancy Ward: 13:39 The temporary appointments? Well, my first one was at five. My second one was at seven. I'm at seven right now.

Dorothy Hyuck: 13:48 Did you take any of the training courses, such as the Albright Training Center, being a civil engineer? Did you have taken any of those kinds of things?

Nancy Ward: 13:57 No. I don't even know what you're talking about.

Dorothy Hyuck: 13:59 You haven't had any entrance courses such as rangers take at Albright?

Nancy Ward: 14:04 No.

Dorothy Hyuck: 14:05 You simply came on duty and started to work?

Nancy Ward: 14:07 Yeah.

Dorothy Hyuck: 14:09 Has the park service provided any kind of training courses since you've been on duty?

Nancy Ward: 14:12 I don't think I've been here long enough to – You see things coming through the office and through the mail by this training course and that training course, but nothing that really interests me so.

Dorothy Hyuck: 14:26 Are you really assigned to the Denver Service Center?

Nancy Ward: 14:28 Yeah, I work for the Denver Service Center.

Dorothy Hyuck: 14:31 Does this mean you're subject to being moved to other parts too, but this is the only place—

Nancy Ward: 14:34 This is where I'm stationed, but yeah, they can move me anywhere they want to.

Dorothy Hyuck: 14:40 —So far, this is it?

Nancy Ward: 14:41 Mm-hmm.

Dorothy Hyuck: 14:45 I'm curious. There are some people who think that the park service is a rather male-oriented organization. Is that your observation?

Nancy Ward: 14:56 I'm not sure that you can say it's male-oriented or what. I mean, it's not obviously overly male. I mean most

organizations are. I mean, when I went to school, how many women engineers were in my class? It's not very many, so I really don't notice much of that stuff. It seems normal, I guess.

- Dorothy Hyuck: 15:26 Have you found supervisors encouraging or discouraging or some of both?
- Nancy Ward: 15:33 In terms of what?
- Dorothy Hyuck: 15:34 In terms of your work and your potential possibilities?
- Nancy Ward: 15:39 I can't say I've had any problems with them.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 15:41 Well, have they been helpful?
- Nancy Ward: 15:42 Yeah. It's still a matter of proving you can do the job and that doesn't have anything to do with who you are or where he came from.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 15:55 True. Do you attend professional meetings of civil engineers at all?
- Nancy Ward: 16:01 Not around here.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 16:02 No. I mean, at whatever location they're being held.
- Nancy Ward: 16:06 No, I don't know of any around here, so I probably wouldn't attend them anyway.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 16:12 Would it be correct to say the Park Service is using your training and your talents well?
- Nancy Ward: 16:18 I don't know about that.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 16:20 Maybe that's not correct?
- Nancy Ward: 16:24 I don't know. I guess so.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 16:28 Have you found any aspects of the time you've been here particularly satisfying or particularly frustrating?
- Nancy Ward: 16:37 I like variety in the work, and you get to meet a lot of people in the park and most of those people seem to be very helpful with us. I've heard stories that they're not that helpful, but we don't seem to have any problems with them.

Dorothy Hyuck: 16:54 You mean the public or Park Service?

Nancy Ward: 16:55 No. Park Service people, maintenance people, and well, rangers too. We're doing things. We usually affect a lot of people. So, you deal a lot with other people. That's kind of nice.

Dorothy Hyuck: 17:10 I've talked to some women who felt a certain sense of isolation within the park. Have you experienced that at all?

Nancy Ward: 17:18 Isolation from what?

Dorothy Hyuck: 17:20 Social life primarily.

Nancy Ward: 17:22 No, I sort of like it out here.

Dorothy Hyuck: 17:26 Okay. You don't have a sense of any isolation?

Nancy Ward: 17:32 Not really. I mean about the only thing I could say I might miss is watching a baseball game or two on television, but since you can't get TV out here, that's too bad. But there are other things to do, and I do that so.

Dorothy Hyuck: 17:50 For example?

Nancy Ward: 17:51 Well, we got a softball game tonight, and they show movies. You can go fishing anytime you want to, go play cards with a bunch of people. I mean, you can always find something to do.

Dorothy Hyuck: 18:06 I wonder do you find that being a female in any way affects your working relationships?

Nancy Ward: 18:16 To a certain—

Dorothy Hyuck: 18:17 On the job?

Nancy Ward: 18:20 —to a certain degree. I mean, this world ain't going to change overnight. So, there's still people who wonder who the hell you are. So, I can't say that I've never felt that I've gotten passed over because I was a woman. Yeah, there are times when yeah, I think that's possible.

Dorothy Hyuck: 18:38 It's possible. Has it actually happened?

- Nancy Ward: 18:41 Yeah. But it's mainly, I wouldn't say it was out of the ordinary or quite offensive. I wouldn't say that. It was pretty much expected. Not that I liked it, but—
- Dorothy Hyuck: 18:57 Was that in terms of people you were working with or in terms of supervisors?
- Nancy Ward: 19:01 People I was working with. They'd ask you a question, you'd give them an answer and they'd turn around and ask somebody else.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 19:09 Coming from you it didn't have a proper authority?
- Nancy Ward: 19:12 You can take it any way you like. You don't know. You don't know why they did it or whatever. You get this feeling you know why, but you don't know.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 19:22 Does that shift, does that change over a period of time?
- Nancy Ward: 19:25 It has been known to yes. Oh, usually. In one particular person I know it had because now the person, he'll ask me something, I'll give him the answer, and he accepts that answer. So, I don't know if it was just in case, he didn't know who I was or what. I cannot pin down the reason I sometimes get ignored. Not that I blame him sometimes.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 19:48 If a freshly minted college graduate in engineering came to ask your opinion about the future in the Park Service and future opportunities and that person happened to be a woman, would you encourage her to join the Park Service?
- Nancy Ward: 20:02 Depends on the person. I mean, there are a lot of people I wouldn't, but that doesn't have necessarily anything to do with the fact that they were women. They just probably wouldn't like it. They probably want a desk job, and I don't like desk jobs. So, it just depends on the person.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 20:28 How do you see the future opportunities in the Park Service for somebody who likes a field kind of job such as you have?
- Nancy Ward: 20:35 Oh, I think there's possibilities. I think there's plenty of work. So, there should be plenty of jobs. And I gather, if you don't screw up the then you have a chance to go somewhere. So that sounds normal.

Dorothy Hyuck: 20:51 Are you looking toward a career with the Park Service yourself?

Nancy Ward: 20:56 I haven't looked that far ahead. I'm looking at this job right now as it is, and I'm not looking for another job. That's for sure but I can't say I'd stay here forever. I don't know.

Dorothy Hyuck: 21:14 Are there any jobs within the Park Service that you think a woman really should not tackle?

Nancy Ward: 21:19 No. Just depends on the person.

Dorothy Hyuck: 21:26 Have you been married?

Nancy Ward: 21:27 No.

Dorothy Hyuck: 21:29 If you were to marry, would you see that fitting together possibly with working for the Park Service?

Nancy Ward: 21:35 I don't know. Depends on the person.

Dorothy Hyuck: 21:42 I've been asking you quite a collection of questions. Is there something about your experience as a professional working for the park service that maybe we haven't touched on that we should comment about?

Nancy Ward: 21:58 I don't know. Sometimes I wonder what other women think about the EEO program.

Dorothy Hyuck: 22:09 As to its effectiveness?

Nancy Ward: 22:11 To a certain degree.

Dorothy Hyuck: 22:12 I've heard all kinds of comments.

Nancy Ward: 22:14 It's a nice outlet for complaints, but I think it causes as much trouble as it to get you out of. Because when you get hired a lot of times people, I've heard this from friends of mine and things like that, "Oh, you got hired because you're a woman." It's not, "You got hired because you're an engineer." It's "You got hired because you're a woman."

Dorothy Hyuck: 22:33 Do you think that's the case with your own hiring?

Nancy Ward: 22:36 No, I don't think so. If it is, it's not obvious. And I really haven't heard anybody say that.

Dorothy Hyuck: 22:44 Nobody's applied that to you in particular then?

Nancy Ward: 22:47 Not that I've heard.

Dorothy Hyuck: 22:51 But people may be thinking that?

Nancy Ward: 22:53 You never know. No, I've heard it a lot from the guys I went to school with. They always felt that the women were getting more opportunities than they were. And so that's when you do go into a situation like that, you're already starting off on a bad foot with a lot of people. So, in a way, I think the EEO program just screwed you over instead of helping you.

Dorothy Hyuck: 23:18 You're speaking of the EEO program in general?

Nancy Ward: 23:21 Yes.

Dorothy Hyuck: 23:21 Rather than the specific program within the National Park Service?

Nancy Ward: 23:24 That's right. I haven't had any dealings with anybody specific.

Dorothy Hyuck: 23:33 Anything else we should think about?

Nancy Ward: 23:35 I don't know.

Dorothy Hyuck: 23:38 Well, out of your experience thus far with the National Park Service, is there some other comment that comes to your mind as a female employee?

Nancy Ward: 23:50 Not really.

Dorothy Hyuck: 23:51 Back to manholes.

Nancy Ward: 23:56 Yeah. All right.

Dorothy Hyuck: 23:58 Thank you, Nancy.

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Dorothy Hyuck: 23:58 You had a summer job with the Corps of Engineers, which summer was that?

- Nancy Ward: 24:02 Let's see. It was the summer before my senior year in college and I worked for them again after my senior year in college. And when I had a quarter of graduate school, it was the summer. It was just a summer job.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 24:16 And what were you doing for the Corps of Engineers?
- Nancy Ward: 24:18 First summer I was working, well both summers I was surveying buildings for fallout shelters.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 24:23 Existing buildings that could be converted to fallout shelters?
- Nancy Ward: 24:26 No buildings qualify for fallout shelters based on their construction. And so you'd go in a building, see if there was basement and see what kind of walls and roof and floors and everything else it had. And they had forms and everything else to determine if it qualified. And if it did, you'd draw up a floor plan and stuff like that. And the first summer we were based in Omaha, and we spent four weeks in Lincoln, Nebraska, and four weeks in Fargo, North Dakota, and two weeks in Denver. And then the second summer I was based out of Thomasville, Georgia. And we spent perhaps six weeks in Orlando, Florida, and about six weeks in Clearwater, Florida. And that job was okay, wouldn't want to do it forever. But you were pretty much left on your own there in terms of they assigned you a certain portion of the city and said, "Go do it." They didn't have somebody looking over your shoulder every second. So, it was kind of fun.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 25:33 What fraction of Denver could you cover in two weeks?
- Nancy Ward: 25:35 Nothing. Not much of anything. Well, right after that summer they reorganized that whole department of people. So probably what we did got lost in the files anyway, but—
- Dorothy Hyuck: 25:48 Well, what fraction of Orlando could you cover in that?
- Nancy Ward: 25:51 We pretty much got Orlando knocked out and we had to write up a form on every commercial building in the area. So, there were a fair amount of people working in it. I got to do the downtown area, got sick of doing the churches. Did the churches all one day. Seen one, you've seen them all. But no, it was really a lot of fun like up in North Dakota, up in Fargo, got to do a lot of the outer portion of

the county and the little rural towns. And usually, they don't only have schools, and stores, and small buildings like that you'd have to, or grain elevators. Got to see a lot of buildings I've never seen. I learned a lot.

- Dorothy Hyuck: 26:38 Is grain elevator or a potential fallout shelter?
- Nancy Ward: 26:40 Sure. They got tunnels underneath them made of concrete. Yeah. They're not bad.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 26:47 What about schools?
- Nancy Ward: 26:49 Mainly we had to do schools. They're also looking for natural disasters like tornadoes and floods and stuff like that. And so, they figure well a school is always public access and stuff like that. So, whether it qualified for a fallout server or not, we still had to survey the building and show what was made out of just for people's records. So, I did a lot of those too.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 27:14 Does any of this background fit your current effort?
- Nancy Ward: 27:17 To a certain degree. I mean, in that job you had to do – Well, to determine what a building was made out of you either had to go looking through the building that was already built and covered up. I mean, some places you really got to look for building materials and reading of plans and any kind of construction job you'll do from here to eternity. If you looked at plans before that helps. If you know anything about construction materials, that helps too. It's just being aware of terms I think but that was a nice summer job I worked at.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 27:54 These two summer jobs then were your experience prior to coming on board with Park Service?
- Nancy Ward: 28:02 Yeah. And like when I was working on my master's degree, I was a graduate research assistant. So, I was being funded under a grant from ERDA and we were working on studying the effects of strip mining on water quality and quantity.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 28:20 Where was that?
- Nancy Ward: 28:21 That was in Eastman, Tennessee around Knoxville.

Dorothy Hyuck: 28:26 And that affects your current situation in terms of what you're doing for the Park Service?

Nancy Ward: 28:32 To a certain degree, I'd say. I don't know how much. It doesn't have anything to do with construction or anything like that, but it is experience and it does have to do with water quality. And I am dealing with the water quality right now in the water system. So, I don't know how much that entered into them hiring me. I don't really know, but—

Dorothy Hyuck: 28:53 Well, thank you for filling in that detail.

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[END OF INTERVIEW]