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



**Cherry Payne**  
**July 21, 1978**

Interview conducted by Dorothy B. Huyck  
Transcribed by Rev.com  
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[START OF TAPE SIDE 1]

Dorothy Huyck: The date is July 21st, 1978. I am Dorothy Huyck. I will be interviewing Cherry Payne, spelled P-A-Y-N-E, who is an intake trainee ranger at Grand Teton National Park. Cherry, you seem to be a very good boat navigator.

Cherry Payne: Who's been telling you stories about my tales on the river?

Dorothy Huyck: [inaudible].

Cherry Payne: Oh, that. Oh, the ferry.

Dorothy Huyck: Okay. How many times a day do you take that boat across the river?

Cherry Payne: Well, I only work there one day a week and I guess today I probably went across about 20 times or so. Basically, we just, well, for my own arms and to keep my fatigue level as low as possible, I just wait until we get a group together and then take them across.

Dorothy Huyck: What kind of a ferry is that technically called?

Cherry Payne: Gee, I couldn't tell you. It's just propelled by the river. It's I don't know exactly what the name of it is, but the dynamics of it I guess are quite old. They've been using that kind of ferry for many, many, many years in this country.

Dorothy Huyck: And what is it that you provide by way of power for that ferry?

Cherry Payne: Okay. All I do is well, basically the operation of the ferry is there are two pontoons upon which the superstructure sits, and it's attached to a cable and as you angle the pontoons several degrees upstream, say at about one o'clock, the force of the stream flowing actually hits the pontoon laterally and pushes the things sideways. The only thing I do is just get the pontoon lined up in the proper direction and that takes a little of effort, but once you get the hang of it, it's not particularly difficult.

Dorothy Huyck: I overheard one woman saying, quote, "You mean that itty- bitty girl is going to get us across that river?"

Cherry Payne: Oh, well.

Dorothy Huyck: At the end of the day. Can you tell that you've been working [inaudible 00:02:09]

Cherry Payne: No, no. I'm an active person anyway and I do a lot of kayaking and canoeing and rock climbing and as a result of that, I'm probably in pretty good shape in my upper body. And I like the ferry because that helps. I figure it just helps strengthen everything that I need strengthening in.

- Dorothy Huyck: You have a substantial line of colloquial chatter that [inaudible 00:02:33].
- Cherry Payne: Yeah, it's a lot of fun. This is my first experience doing living history here and I really enjoy it and I enjoy getting into the dialect. I have a degree in English and as a result I really do enjoy that sort of activity. And its fun sometimes people don't know quite how to handle you when you do it in first person. And I always look upon it as a challenge when they say, they'll ask you a question like, "well we got here in a car." And "car, what's that?" You know and carry on. It's a lot of fun and I think most of the people enjoy it too. They can gather a little bit of the flavor of the area.
- Dorothy Huyck: What do you try and bring to people in your dialect and in your interpretation at that particular site? What are you trying to particularly get across to them?
- Cherry Payne: Basically, the life of the pioneer and I am very much concerned with energy conservation personally, in my personal life and also in my professional life. And I find that the pioneers lifestyle here is something that, that those of us in the '70s really should look at because it, it was one of energy conservation and renewable resources and let's not destroy the land. It was, the early pioneer here was here before the real technological revolution that we've gone through in recent years and he or she was an ingenious individual who was able to utilize what was available, destroy it as little as possible and eek out a fairly good living with it.
- Dorothy Huyck: I didn't hear you say anything particularly on a ferry trip, but maybe you get into that when you're done with the transportation exhibit.
- Cherry Payne: Yeah, we talk about it some there and generally on the ferry, it's hard to do that in first person, to say, "well I'm out here and conserving energy," because that's not the way the pioneer thought. And that's also partly why we have the problems we have in this country. The wealth was never ending as far as that individual was concerned. But because of necessity he had to make do with what he had. But when we're on the ferry, I talk about how the river does all the work and I don't.
- Dorothy Huyck: Just for the sake of this tape, why don't you give me one piece of your explanation in the proper dialect.
- Cherry Payne: Oh jeez. It's hard to do it not in character. This here ferry it was built by a fellow by the name of Bill Meaner. Now Bill's in town today and I'm just out here to run it for him. Me and my husband lives over to Mormon row over there. We got a little ranch going and I just come down for the day to help him out a little bit.

- Dorothy Huyck: How did the [inaudible 00:05:27] react to that particular piece of information that you provide? Do they ask you questions as a result of that statement?
- Cherry Payne: Most of them ask me if I'm Mormon. At which point I say "oh, yeah." Yeah, they enjoy it. A lot of them laugh. A lot of people don't really know how to deal with that and they, there's a lot of nervous laughter. But the people really do get into it too and people will ask questions of you as if you were a pioneer. They'll say, "well how do you live in the winter and how do you do this?" And they'll pick it right up.
- Dorothy Huyck: So, you convert them from a certain distance when they first arrive to talking to you as if you were really that person?
- Cherry Payne: Right, right.
- Dorothy Huyck: What kind of questions do you get when they move to that outlook? What do they want to know from you?
- Cherry Payne: What life was like? How long it takes to get to town? What you do for social life? What do you eat? How do you live in the winter? Mostly just, how do you make it?
- Dorothy Huyck: What do you tell them about social life?
- Cherry Payne: Well, I tell them basically that just about everybody gets married when they're about 15 or so, 15 or 16, which is probably [crosstalk 00:06:38].
- Dorothy Huyck: Do you mind telling me that in your dialect, I'd like to hear... I have not heard that. Well, tell me about social life.
- Cherry Payne: Well, we get together every once in a while, and we'll have big parties. Lots of times down in Jackson there'll be a big thing in the springtime, and everybody heads in down there and has a big wing ding. We dance and the locals will put those of us in that lives out here in the back country, they'll give us a place to stay. But most folks they settle down pretty young. The women folk generally get married around 15, 16 rounds about these parts. If you ain't married by then there's something wrong with you.
- Dorothy Huyck: When you're at the transportation exhibition, how do you handle that topic?
- Cherry Payne: Well, generally I talk about how the carriages, if they're properly taken care of, will last for many, many years. And there are different kinds of carriages. And it's real difficult out there because there's signs up saying this carriage was used to take people into Yellowstone National Park in such and such a year. Generally, I deal with that by just ignoring them. I just pretend the signs aren't there, which is hard. It's hard for a lot of

people when I'm standing there talking about a particular carriage. But sometimes it's fun to poke fun about Yellowstone and talk about, oh, what the government folks is doing up there and what's going on up there. Mostly I just play sort of ignorance. I know something's up there but don't really know exactly what's up there. But the transportation sheds, we were talking about energy conservation, that's an excellent place to talk about that because a team of horses would last 12 years or so. Of course, that was renewable. Use the manure to fertilize your lands and that's a real good area to bring that theme out.

Dorothy Huyck: How do you handle then current concerns for energy, which you say that you're particularly interested in yourself and bring this historically accurate [inaudible 00:08:48].

Cherry Payne: Not when I'm doing it in first person. Now, occasionally out there I won't work in first person just because either I'm tired of doing it or something has happened that has prevented me, say visitor will be asking a question. I'll be answering it as myself just happening to be in costume and then a group will come up. It's hard to drop into the first-person role at that point, and then generally, yeah, I just do talk about it. But once again, you have to be real careful in interpretation and dealing with the public because you start sounding like you're preaching at them and people of course, don't like to be preached at. I don't push it as much as I'd like to personally. It's compromise.

Dorothy Huyck: You mentioned the costume. How do you describe that costume? [inaudible 00:09:34]

Cherry Payne: It was, Harpers Ferry made it, and it was, I guess it's just the standard costume that women, or dress that women wore at the turn of the century in this part of the country. And they basically came in one particular size and you didn't see it when I had undone the apron, but it's about twice as wide as I am. Anybody could get into the thing and then it's got an apron to tie around and the string and the bonnet.

Dorothy Huyck: Had Harpers Ferry made that adaptable or did clothing really come in one size?

Cherry Payne: Evidently it basically did come that way. It was just the way it was made.

Dorothy Huyck: Do you also go then leave on [inaudible 00:00:10:14]?

Cherry Payne: No, no I don't. And basically, the whole area out there is due for a restoration and one of the problems with those of us who do living history out there have in that we sort of have to fight our props. They're signs saying this was such and such and instead of the things actually being

there and touchable and usable, they're behind glass cases and so forth, which they wouldn't be in reality.

Dorothy Huyck: Is there a specific timetable for that restoration?

Cherry Payne: Well, evidently, I've heard within the next five years. I guess it gets put on the budget every year and every year it's not considered to be a high priority,

Dorothy Huyck: What other locations have you done living history in the past?

Cherry Payne: That's the only place.

Dorothy Huyck: Oh, I see. What are you learning in other situations?

Cherry Payne: Okay. Well, this summer, as part of my training program, I'm basically working as a seasonal naturalist. I'm doing the same job that the seasonal naturalist does. So, I have two evening campground programs, three hikes that I lead, and I work on the junior ranger program one afternoon a week and then do Meander's ferry. And then what's left, I either do roving interpretive contact or work on the front desk or something like that.

Dorothy Huyck: What are you experiencing with regard to roving interpretive contact?

Cherry Payne: Well, I personally have some funny feelings about that. Basically, what it is going to turnouts and standing in turnouts and making contacts with people there. But I feel funny, ironically, going up to people and saying, "here, let me tell you about the mountains" or "let me tell you about this," because I feel that you can push yourself on people a little bit. So, I don't know, I've got some sort of mixed feelings about that that I'm going to work out. We've got recently some signs that we can put up, saying short naturalist program here in 15 minutes and I think that will alleviate my problems with it. Although I have a nice time at turnouts. I've run into people I know from far away and it's really an interesting place.

Dorothy Huyck: Do you wear a uniform?

Cherry Payne: Um-hm.

Dorothy Huyck: Does that attract people who ask questions?

Cherry Payne: Right. Yeah. Generally, the uniform says to most people, it's okay to go ask this person a question and that's good because the uniform makes a difference.

Dorothy Huyck: What caused your first acquaintance with the national park? How did you first come across the National Park Service?

Cherry Payne: Well, it's sort of a funny story. I graduated from college and went to graduate school in English and spent a year there and was really

discouraged with graduate school and with the job market and just things in general. So, I resigned my assistantship and my best friend at the time was living in Alaska. She was sort of in the same boots I was. She was unemployed. The two of us got together and we just took off across country and followed our noses. We both love to backpack and hike and climb and we just both have this passion for the outdoors. And we were driving along, and we'd been to the Grand Canyon and had sort of a misadventure there and we're really having a nice time. And I turned around to her in the car and I said, "you know, this is really stupid." I should do this and get paid for it. So, from that day on, that was about October of '75 I decided I'm going to be a park ranger and that was it. And from then on out I just looked at the easiest and the most effective way to do that. And at that time the Bicentennial was approaching. So, I decided to go back to Washington D.C. where I had some friends and applied on, let's see, I sent in my application on a Monday and got a phone call on Wednesday, was interviewed on Thursday, and started work the following Monday.

Dorothy Huyck:

Where?

Cherry Payne:

Well, I started working in National Capital Region out of central visitor services and we set up a temporary facility for the Bicentennial called the Bicentennial Information Center, which was a joint project with ARBA and the White House Department of Commerce and the National Park Service.

Dorothy Huyck:

ARBA being the American...

Cherry Payne:

American Revolution Bicentennial Administration.

Dorothy Huyck:

And how long did you stay at this?

Cherry Payne:

Well, let's see. I started in February—

Dorothy Huyck:

Of '76?

Cherry Payne:

Of '76. We set that up, it opened in March and that operation ran through Labor Day that following September. And I had a year's appointment because I was appointed under the special Bicentennial funds. I didn't have just the standard 180-day appointment. And I went over to the National Mall from there and worked at the monuments and memorials. And then that December the mall was having a real problem because most of their staff was all seasonals and there was just an incredible turnover. So, they had gotten permission from Civil Service to get 20 career-conditional park technician positions. And I got hired on that in January of '77.

- Dorothy Huyck: You started initially in February of '76 in what grade?
- Cherry Payne: Four
- Dorothy Huyck: And then you went into this new category?
- Cherry Payne: Well, okay, I started out as a four and then that summer, after 90 days I, they got me a five. And so, then I went to the Mall and this particular position that I got a permanent slot in was a four, so I'd go back to it to a GS-4 for the permanent status. I would have gone to the GS minus three for the permanent status at that point.
- Dorothy Huyck: And then what?
- Cherry Payne: Well, okay. If you've ever worked on the Mall or talk to anyone who worked on the Mall, it's basically, probably one of the least challenging places you can work in terms of excitement and stimulation. So, I had been taking a lot of courses in park management, and was working on an EM, on emergency medical technician status. I was doing a lot of things like that and applying for jobs everywhere. And actually, that was almost a full-time job in itself. It just so happened that in June of '77 I got a job offer, which I accepted, at the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal at Great Falls, Maryland. And I went there. In the meantime, the ranger intake announcements had come out. So, like everyone else in the world, I said, well I may as well take a shot at this. And so, I applied for that, and the following August was interviewed and then was called in October and told I gotten the position.
- Dorothy Huyck: Yeah. What were you doing at [inaudible 00:17:12]?
- Cherry Payne: Well, it was basically an interpretive technician. I ran the interpretive program for our area, for Great Falls, coordinated that. Did a lot of administrative kinds of things as well, timecards, monthly reports and so forth, and also served as a backup member on the river rescue team.
- Dorothy Huyck: Did you actually participate in some rescues?
- Cherry Payne: A couple. Nothing real exciting.
- Dorothy Huyck: And once you left Great Falls and were into the ranger intake program, did you go to Albright?
- Cherry Payne: I came here, was here about three weeks, and was immediately shipped off to Albright for two months and returned from that last March.
- Dorothy Huyck: So, you've been here since March? Since you've been related to the Park Service in these several different areas, have you found that your supervisors or persons were encouraging or discouraging or possibly some of both?

- Cherry Payne: I've had some of both. But I think the reason I've been as fortunate as I have been is that I've had supervisors or supervisors of my supervisors who have been willing to help me out. A lot of good people, Doug Lindsey, who is chief central visitor services in Washington, was real helpful and gave me a lot of good suggestions. And his wife Sheila helped as well. She is a personnel officer there. And Irv Tubbs and a lot of people like that were just really important.
- Dorothy Huyck: Since you've been out of Washington, have you found other supervisors in encouraging?
- Cherry Payne: Oh yeah. Here, people here are just first-class in that respect and particularly Chuck McCurty, the chief naturalist, is always looking around for things. We've had several talks as to whether or not I really want to be in interpretation.
- Dorothy Huyck: Do you really want to be in interpretation?
- Cherry Payne: I think so. I think so. At this point. Although I'd like to, I'd like to try my hand in visitor protection just to know what it is.
- Dorothy Huyck: Is that a possibility here?
- Cherry Payne: Well, right now it's being kicked about. I don't know how it's going to come out, but they're talking about having me do something this winter in that capacity.
- Dorothy Huyck: Let me go back and ask where and when you were born.
- Cherry Payne: In Bethesda, Maryland in 1952.
- Dorothy Huyck: Are you an only child?
- Cherry Payne: No, I'm the middle.
- Dorothy Huyck: Middle child of how many children?
- Cherry Payne: Three. I have an older sister and a younger brother.
- Dorothy Huyck: How much older is your sister?
- Cherry Payne: She is six years older than I am. And my brother is, let's see, eight years younger, seven years younger, seven, I think.
- Dorothy Huyck: Two sides definitely were an only child for a while.
- Cherry Payne: Well, sort of. Yeah. I always had my brother around to compete with at one point or another.
- Dorothy Huyck: Where did you grow up?

Cherry Payne: Well, I've grown up in a variety of places, mostly Washington DC and that area. But I'm a Navy brat, so we lived up and down the East coast. Went to college in Louisiana, which is where my parents are from.

Dorothy Huyck: Where?

Cherry Payne: Well, I went to college at Centenary College in Shreveport, which is a very small liberal arts school.

Dorothy Huyck: Where did you go to high school?

Cherry Payne: Well, I went to Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, Maryland. And then graduated from Ashley Hall, which is a girl's school in Charleston, South Carolina.

Dorothy Huyck: Had your mother gone there?

Cherry Payne: No.

Dorothy Huyck: Your father is a college graduate?

Cherry Payne: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Dorothy Huyck: And your mother?

Cherry Payne: Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: Has your mother a professional interest of some sort?

Cherry Payne: No.

Dorothy Huyck: Being a wife I guess if very sufficient.

Cherry Payne: She taught at one point; I think right after they were married. It was during the war, but other than that she's been a housewife.

Dorothy Huyck: Where did you go to graduate school?

Cherry Payne: Kansas State.

Dorothy Huyck: And when?

Cherry Payne: That was 1974, '75.

Dorothy Huyck: So, you did not complete a degree, no? What were you majoring in at K-State?

Cherry Payne: English, English literature, 19th century poetry.

Dorothy Huyck: Do you consider going back at any stage, as far as completing graduate school?

- Cherry Payne: Not very seriously. I've often thought it would be nice just to have it, but then it really professionally, with what I'm doing now, it wouldn't help me. So, if I were to go back to graduate school it probably would be an interpretation or some fields that I could relate to my work now. I found I really enjoy the academic world, but I found it not to be something I want to do for the rest of my life.
- Dorothy Huyck: While you were in high school and college who was it that was encouraging in the educational process, might it have been one or both of your parents or teachers or community or church leaders? Who encouraged during the educational growth? Maybe no one.
- Cherry Payne: Well, when I was in high school, I wasn't a real good student. I wasn't a poor student, C plus, B minus kind of student. And I think a lot of it was because of lack of challenge.
- Dorothy Huyck: In both the schools you attended?
- Cherry Payne: Not so much in Whitman, but in the other school. And I shouldn't undersell that school because it really is academically a very good school, but I personally was going through a lot of things. That was in the late '60s and I was very much concerned with what was going on in the world around me and didn't care about debutante parties and the other things that that particular school seemed to find important and it was characterized by a lot of rebellion. I think at that time probably my parents were very, very supportive of me. I know they were very worried about what I was doing and what was going on. Coming from a Navy family you would expect a lot of real knockdown drag out fights, particularly at that time about Vietnam and so forth and we didn't have them. We had intense discussions and I guess it's one thing that I will always, always cherish my father for because I would have these ideas and he would say, "Why do you think that?" Or "Why do you believe that?" I think his philosophy was to challenge me and he didn't particularly care what I thought as long as I knew why I thought it. And I think that period created quite a bit of intellectual growth even though it wasn't in the academic world per se. And then in college, well the school I went to was very small and I am still very, very close to some of the professors I had there and friends.
- Dorothy Huyck: So, they were persons who were encouraging?
- Cherry Payne: Oh yeah, definitely.
- Dorothy Huyck: As you were growing up, did you play with boys?
- Cherry Payne: Oh yeah. I was just a classic tomboy.

- Dorothy Huyck: And as you ended the teenage years were you expected to become something more of lady?
- Cherry Payne: Yeah, I went through the whole bit wearing makeup and you know, all of that junk, but I hated it.
- Dorothy Huyck: So, you did to some extent rebel?
- Cherry Payne: Yeah, I mean I still, it was really funny when I was about 14 I put on all this makeup and go to school and be all decked out and I'd come home and go climb a tree. And I still climb trees.
- Dorothy Huyck: You mentioned your interest in backpacking and hiking and climbing. As a family did your parents travel to national park areas at all?
- Cherry Payne: No.
- Dorothy Huyck: Where did you get into backpacking and the climbing and so on?
- Cherry Payne: In college.
- Dorothy Huyck: In college. Were there any experiences that you had as a family or the schooling context that proved helpful with your employment by the Park Service?
- Cherry Payne: Oh yeah. I think that generally all through my childhood, well I remember my mother used to say to me all the time, "you can do anything you want to do." And I think it was, she of course at that time there wasn't a lot of militant feminism going on, but I think she encouraged me in doing what I wanted to do. And never did they try to tell me not to climb trees or not to play baseball or anything like that. You know, it was always, if you want to do that, that's fine, within reason of course. But there was also a real goal orientation kind of thing, you know, complete this, complete that. In fact that was something that we, my father and I, as a matter of fact, had a little disagreement about when I resigned from graduate school because the feeling was where you started at, you out to finish it. And I felt that way too. And it was something that I really had to wrestle with for quite a while. But there were always opportunities for me. I guess the Protestant work ethic was very prevalent. You know, I could always earn money if I worked around the house or whatever.
- Dorothy Huyck: Have you been married?
- Cherry Payne: Mm-hmm (affirmative)
- Dorothy Huyck: May I ask when?
- Cherry Payne: I got married the summer of '75 and it was a very brief and disastrous marriage.

Dorothy Huyck: And you were divorced—

Cherry Payne: January '76 it was finalized.

Dorothy Huyck: Was this during the period you were in graduate school?

Cherry Payne: It was right after.

Dorothy Huyck: What did you ever go to K-State by the way, for English Lit?

Cherry Payne: Money. They offered me money. I taught.

Dorothy Huyck: Oh, were you a teaching assistant?

Cherry Payne: I taught three sections a week there.

Dorothy Huyck: Speaking of teaching, have you had an opportunity to take various training courses since the intake ranger training course or before that when you were working in Washington?

Cherry Payne: Well Washington I had a course in manual communications for the deaf, most of which unfortunately I've forgotten now, but that was really exciting.

Dorothy Huyck: And did use what you learned?

Cherry Payne: Somewhat. Yeah. When I worked in on the Mall at the Washington Monument, just the sheer numbers of people come there it's inevitable, you're going to run into someone who was deaf. And we also had about three or four deaf interpreters hired there and those people were great because they were very patient with those of us who were in the class learning this. They would help us out and I'd love to become proficient in that because it's a really, it's a new and neat way to communicate with people. It's really exciting. Other than that, I've had a supervision and group performance, the standard defensive driving, the stuff they sent everybody to.

Dorothy Huyck: Do you think the Park Service is using well, your specific talents and background?

Cherry Payne: I think so. I think so. At this point, I have a lot of growing to do in terms of the organization and developing talents and interests, but I think so. I think they're not using a lot of people to their benefit, particularly those people who are either seasonals or in a technician series. Because most of those people are overly qualified and there's a lot, they can do with them.

Dorothy Huyck: There are some people who think that the Park Service is a male-oriented organization.

Cherry Payne: Oh, it is.

- Dorothy Huyck: Is it?
- Cherry Payne: Oh yeah.
- Dorothy Huyck: How do you observe that at times? How is that brought to your attention?
- Cherry Payne: Well, I look around this building and the majority of people who work here are men. I was quite frankly really shocked when Helen Dion says that she and I were the only two professional women in this whole park. I was really amazed. And that right there is another indication. When I was at Albright, I think they were only, there were seven or eight women in the class out of a class of 40. It's very much male, very much white, white collar, not white collar, white Caucasian people here. Few blacks, few minorities. And that seems to be prevalent throughout the park system. I guess the only exceptions that I've ever really seen that too are on urban areas such as Washington but even there they're basically white male.
- Dorothy Huyck: Therefore, as you're project ahead, how do you see your own opportunities?
- Cherry Payne: Well, I've got some funny ideas. I don't feel that my sex is going to inhibit me, nor do I want it.
- [END OF SIDE 1]
- [START OF SIDE 2]
- Dorothy Huyck: And you do, therefore, expect to be provided with those opportunities?
- Cherry Payne: Right. And I think I will be. Maybe I'm overly optimistic, I don't know.
- Dorothy Huyck: Are you in any kind of program that sets out a schedule for your growth and progression within the Park Services? Would you tell me about that?
- Cherry Payne: Well, I have what's called an individual development plan, which I guess everyone has and essentially in this training program, ultimately, what I will be doing is be working as a district naturalist, running a naturalist program specifically up in the north district of this park. And as a result of that, I have to take certain training courses, I think managerial grid, interpretive techniques, management of interpretation or something like that. And I have to do a variety of tasks here.
- Cherry Payne: Now, this summer I really requested, and Chuck seemed to think it was a good idea and he encouraged me to work simply as a seasonal naturalist. I say simply, it was not simply, but to work in that capacity because I really had not had that opportunity before. I'm not sure what's going to be happening this winter, but right now the tentative plan is that next summer I will go north to Coulter Bay and run the naturalist program up there. And in the meantime, I am expected to write an interpretive prospectus for an

area that we're developing. Oh, I have to write a paper on energy conservation or ways of interpreting energy in the parks. In this park, specifically. I've got some reading that I do. Let's see, what else do I have to do? I haven't looked at that in a long time, but I'm taking a course now. A correspondence course with the University of Washington on, well, it's called Interpreting the Environment and it deals with all aspects of interpretive management and interpretation itself.

Dorothy Huyck: Is that Grant Sharp's course?

Cherry Payne: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Right.

Dorothy Huyck: If you proceed along these lines, will you also be raised in grade?

Cherry Payne: Right. The position is a five, seven, nine position and unless I mess up somewhere along the line, I do it for the seven in November and then the nine the following November and at that point, my training period will be up. When I reach the nine level, I'm not a trainee and then I don't know what happens after that.

Dorothy Huyck: Do you think there are any jobs within the Park Service that a woman really should not tackle?

Cherry Payne: No. The only thing that would hold a woman back in that respect, is physical abilities and if you're talking about mountain rescue, something like that. It just happens that men, generally speaking, are stronger than most women and have much more physical strength, but there are women who are doing that and they're doing a fine job. I couldn't do it. Maybe if I went out and lifted weights for three years, I could. But I certainly couldn't do it now.

Dorothy Huyck: You're being a part of a river rescue team didn't require the same degree of physical—

Cherry Payne: It did. We all had to pass a physical exam, but my problem and the thing that really makes me question my abilities is simply upper body strength. I can run and do those kinds of things, but I think concessions are made in that area and where I was, it was just a matter of people. We need people, so.

Dorothy Huyck: What do you anticipate the people joining, women joining the Park Service for the next several years, say the next five years, as far as opportunities are concerned?

Cherry Payne: Oh, I think probably this is the best time for a woman to get in. I think Park Service in some respects, bending over backwards to get women and minorities in as are many government agencies. It's going to be interesting to see what happens with that as a result of the Bakke decision. Of course,

that really didn't decide anything because the court sort of copped out on the real question, I guess. But I think that one thing that really makes me angry and I see some women doing it, not many, but it happens, is that women seem to feel that "I'm a woman. I haven't had these opportunities therefore the Service should treat me specially." And unfortunately, what happens to that is that the people, the men, or whomever, who seem to feel that women shouldn't be here, and I think there are people like that, but that's okay, I think that they are only encouraging or fostering that kind of attitude by saying, "I'm a woman, treat me special." And if the women aren't willing to compete and do their own thing, then, do the thing with the men, then they're going to be in trouble. I make it a real point to run, to stay in shape, to be physically active and I don't want to be one of the guys, but I certainly don't want them to think that I don't have the abilities they have either.

Dorothy Huyck: Let me ask, if you were to consider marrying again, do you think you would stay in the Park Service or would that be an occasion for resigning?

Cherry Payne: That's a real difficult question and it's something that really bothers me and I think it bothers a lot of people because particularly when you live in a place like this, where the social opportunities are pretty much in house, you tend to start dating and going out with other Park Service people and it creates a real problem if you do decide to marry because whose career do you pursue? I happen to be dating a fellow here right now and we have put a limit on the extent of our involvement because of that, because he's got a career going, I've got a career going. And right now, my feeling is, is that I can live without a man, but I can't live without a career, but in 10 years, I don't know if that's the way I'll feel. So, it's a real problem and I hope the Park Service will address that problem and address it seriously. When I was at Albright, Ira Hutchinson came and we asked him about that and his statement was, "Well, I didn't realize that was a problem," but I think he just didn't know what to say to tell you the truth. I think he was just being political, but I don't know what's going to happen with that. It may come to the point of a suit when a married couple wants to move. I know several women who've already resigned because of their husband's being transferred and I think it's to the detriment of the Service.

Dorothy Huyck: If you were to encounter, say on one of your interpretive walks, any young woman who is in college and contemplating a Parks Service career, would you encourage her to think of the Park Service as a career possibility?

Cherry Payne: Mm-hmm (affirmative). I encourage anyone I meet to think of it. Of course, a lot of people say, "Oh, it must be so neat to be a park ranger" and indeed it seems like a real romantic profession, in a lot of respects it is, but this is just like any other job too. You have good days and bad days, but I

certainly would if a woman thought that that's what she wanted, if she were committed to the Park Service idea, to the idea of conservation, fine. We need more people we need good people and I think that a woman would enjoy it. I certainly enjoyed my two years in the Service. I've had a great time.

Dorothy Huyck: I've asked you quite a collection of questions by now. Is there something that we should have talked about or that you would particularly like to comment on that we haven't covered?

Cherry Payne: Well, I think that people in the Park Service, if that's the point of this is to talk about people in Park Service, really need to be committed to the Park Service idea. I think a lot of reasons that perhaps the Park Service, now maybe this is simply rationalization on my part, but the Park Service has had a particularly difficult time getting women and minorities into the Service. And I think part of it's because it's not the best paying organization in the federal government and probably any day now if I wanted to, I could walk out and get a much better paying job with another outfit, but I don't want to be with another outfit. And I think that you really have to believe in what you're doing, particularly to live in the kinds of places you live. Grand Teton's a great place to live, but when it's 30 below out and the wind's blowing you wonder, why am I here? And you can't get television or anything else. And I don't know, I feel that basically my job is my hobby, they're the same thing and sometimes it's unhealthy. I feel like I have to just get away. Get away from the Park Service, get away from the park, get to a city, do anything just to get away, but I think it's a characteristic of the people and the Service that they're really devoted to it and I happen to like that.

Dorothy Huyck: Okay, good. Thank you, very much.

Cherry Payne: Well, thank you.

[END OF SIDE 2]

[END OF INTERVIEW]