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



Joy Twitchell Horton  
October 20, 1978

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

Dorothy Huyck: 00:00 Today is October 20, 1978. I'm Dorothy Huyck. I will be interviewing Joy T. Horton, who is budget and finance assistant at Big Bend National Park.

Dorothy Huyck: 00:14 Joy, can I ask you first how you first became acquainted with the National Park Service?

Joy T. Horton: 00:20 I started my federal career with the Farmers Home Administration in Vernal, Utah in about 1956. And in that same building, the National Park Service Dinosaur National Monument had their offices, their administrative offices, and I became acquainted with the personnel working there.

Joy T. Horton: 00:43 And so after working about three years with the Farmers Home Administration, they moved their offices from Vernal, and I went down the hall to talk to these people because I was already acquainted with them and that's when I started working for the Park Service.

Dorothy Huyck: 01:01 In what year did you actually start?

Joy T. Horton: 01:03 1960.

Dorothy Huyck: 01:04 And in what position?

Joy T. Horton: 01:07 Well, at first it was just a clerk-typist, I think. Well, I shouldn't say "just a clerk-typist," it was clerk-typist. And then in 19—

Dorothy Huyck: 01:15 What grade was that?

Joy T. Horton: 01:16 GS-4. A year later, the first superintendent I worked for was the illustrious, I'll say illustrious, Earl M. Semingson, that's Tiny, who started the E&AA, Employees and Alumni Association. He was one of the instigators of that. And he was my first superintendent, and I went in as his secretary then a year later, as a GS-5.

Dorothy Huyck: 01:45 That was in '61?

Joy T. Horton: 01:49 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Dorothy Huyck: 01:50 And how long did you remain in that position?

Joy T. Horton: 01:53 Well, seven years, I believe. Seven years. And then I remarried and moved to Wisconsin with my husband. That was '67, yes. And then came back in 1969 and resumed my job there at Dinosaur again. So, I had a break.

Dorothy Huyck: 02:22 And in what position did you return?

Joy T. Horton: 02:23 The superintendent's secretary again.

Dorothy Huyck: 02:25 And how long were you there?

Joy T. Horton: 02:28 Then, I continued on until 1975, when I moved down to Big Bend National Park. And I came to Big Bend as superintendent's secretary also. The budget and finance assistant has just been made available to me in the last three months. Three months ago, I changed over, and I really welcome the opportunity to be able to do something different and I'm enjoying it.

Dorothy Huyck: 02:56 What is your current grade?

Joy T. Horton: 02:59 GS-6.

Dorothy Huyck: 03:01 Is this, be chance, an upward mobility position?

Joy T. Horton: 03:04 Yup. It'll be a 7 soon as I can work full performance in it. And by that, being trained to the point where I can go ahead and work at full performance.

Dorothy Huyck: 03:18 And does it have any potential, grade-wise, beyond a seven?

Joy T. Horton: 03:23 Well, probably not here at Big Bend, but it makes me available so I can – That's the reason I changed over. I guess that you can call me a slow starter, mainly because I really enjoyed being the superintendent's secretary and I still would, except it was this kind of a dead-end affair and in order to get more grade, I could see all the others that I'd been working around me all in the higher grades now and it seemed like I'd like to meet that challenge and go ahead too.

Dorothy Huyck: 04:01 A number of people who are in secretarial positions find that they are dead-ends, and they would like very much to be able to make this move into a different classification and then learn and grow in a new area.

- Joy T. Horton: 04:13 Yes, uh-huh (affirmative).
- Dorothy Huyck: 04:14 But sometimes that doesn't seem to be readily possible.
- Joy T. Horton: 04:18 Well, it took me 20 years. And partly—
- Dorothy Huyck: 04:23 Would you have attempted to move out into another series even 20 years ago?
- Joy T. Horton: 04:28 No, I don't believe so, because at that time, I didn't feel, shall I say, big enough to do that because of what you were always taught. This women employment advancement has just come to me in the last, oh, several years rather than – At first, I thought I just hit the zizz wheel as far as being superintendent secretary and actually, in feeling that way, I probably stymied my own self too.
- Dorothy Huyck: 05:05 You deferred to what you were taught as a woman?
- Joy T. Horton: 05:08 Yeah. This was our level of work at that time. Advancements and things just weren't there for women like they are now.
- Dorothy Huyck: 05:20 What's changed in the meanwhile?
- Joy T. Horton: 05:24 Well, I think there's an attitude change in both men and women. Even at home, my husband is very supportive in my gaining more knowledge and gaining promotion whereas, even when I started to work, I didn't have that feeling, I didn't have that supportive feeling. Well, the support of the extra money, the extra income coming in was nice, and it gave us extra things at that time, but to have him feel enthusiastically about my advancement, I don't have that feeling like I do now. So, the attitude is changing both at home and I believe in work too.
- Dorothy Huyck: 06:26 And you think this change has come about in the last several years?
- Joy T. Horton: 06:28 Well, for me, yes. Especially in the last several years, since the last three or four for me, more or less.
- Dorothy Huyck: 06:36 And since this attitude change has developed, is it that that gave you the idea of moving out of the secretarial grades and into a budget and finance category, or did someone propose that you might consider moving from the

superintendent's secretary? Was it your idea or someone else's idea?

- Joy T. Horton: 06:55 I think probably it's a combination of both, both in recognizing that, from my supervisors, that I was able to do bigger and better things, if you'd call it that. And my own self, seeing others around me, both male and female, advancing. I felt like, "Oh, if they can do it, heck, I can do it." You know? Just as easy. Not that I felt any smarter or whatever way you want to say it, but I thought, "Well, if given the opportunity, I could do just that well or better."
- Dorothy Huyck: 07:35 And was it up to the superintendent to find a slot that you could move over into? How did that come about?
- Joy T. Horton: 07:43 Well, my first—
- Dorothy Huyck: 07:43 The upward mobility thing, how did that come about?
- Joy T. Horton: 07:44 The upward mobility? First of all, you have to make your wants known. I pursued that for several years and found that being in the slot that I was, it was hard for me to get into another area. The first one was at Dinosaur. He said, "Well, you're going to have to move. You just can't sit here in this one park and expect to advance if you don't move." So that's when I took the leap, more or less, and moved to Big Bend National Park. Then after I got into the bigger park down here, the superintendent allowed me to do different little jobs in the administrative division that kind of helped me learn slowly what all the technique was all about in there, and then when it come up vacant, why then, I was able to slip into the slot.
- Dorothy Huyck: 08:54 When you came here, had you made it known that you would be interested in moving on from the secretary grades and into a different series?
- Joy T. Horton: 09:03 I did make it known where I came from, but when I came here, why, of course it was a promotion at the time, and as I got used to it here, yes, I also did that.
- Dorothy Huyck: 09:17 You said that you had to make your wants known.
- Joy T. Horton: 09:19 Yes.
- Dorothy Huyck: 09:20 That too, must be a change.

- Joy T. Horton: 09:22 Yes. First of all, you have to decide for yourself that that's what you want to do. For many years, I was really, not necessarily completely happy, but very satisfied with the job that I had and so then the first person I had to convince was me. Well, I can do this, I can do more. I can do this other type work. And after I convinced myself, why then, it was kind of long and slow it seemed like, but it was there. With some perseverance and hard work, it was there to be available to you.
- Dorothy Huyck: 09:58 So in the last three months, you've been off on a whole new tangent?
- Joy T. Horton: 10:02 Oh, yes. And really, I am enjoying it.
- Dorothy Huyck: 10:06 Great. You're being trained on the job?
- Joy T. Horton: 10:10 Yes, that and, well, next week, I get to go back to Harpers Ferry Center, which is a whole new experience for me.
- Dorothy Huyck: 10:18 What will you be taking at Harpers Ferry?
- Joy T. Horton: 10:20 Advanced fiscal training. And this is the first opportunity that I've had to do anything like this, so I'm really excited.
- Dorothy Huyck: 10:29 Have you taken any other courses, Park Service courses?
- Joy T. Horton: 10:34 Yes, I've taken – Not on budget and finance because I'm just getting into it now. I will as I can, but during over the years I've taken whatever trainings that were made available to me.
- Dorothy Huyck: 10:52 For instance?
- Joy T. Horton: 10:53 Well, I took a course in executive secretary a year ago, maybe it's a couple of years now. They made defensive driving available, and I've taken correspondence courses in personnel.
- Dorothy Huyck: 11:15 Through the Park Service?
- Joy T. Horton: 11:16 Yes. And just whatever's been available. This rapid reading course has been made available and I've taken that. What's been available, I've been willing to pursue and take.

- Dorothy Huyck: 11:35 Have there been courses that you have attempted to take that were not made available to you?
- Joy T. Horton: 11:42 Well, there was courses that maybe I felt that I would have liked to have taken, but when you're in a secretarial clerk position, why, it really doesn't enhance that position so they – Unless you're in an upward mobility slot, why, they really can't invest that much. And so now that I'm in a position where it will enhance the job, it's there. It's available.
- Dorothy Huyck: 12:19 Let me go back in history for a minute and ask where and when you were born?
- Joy T. Horton: 12:24 Okay, I was born in 1932 at Vernal, Utah. I was a real farm girl. I was raised on a farm. We had horses and cows and the little independent type farming that you don't see too much of nowadays. It's all big business with lots of tractors and things, but we had the one family-type farm of – Well, we had the horses for plowing and that type of thing and we had five or six cows, a dozen or so chickens, and several pigs. It was a real, old-fashioned type farm. That was the type of background that I was raised in.
- Dorothy Huyck: 13:13 And you were one of how many children?
- Joy T. Horton: 13:17 I just had one sister.
- Dorothy Huyck: 13:19 Were you the oldest?
- Joy T. Horton: 13:20 No, she was 11 years older than I am and we were born on the same birthday. Same date. Not same birthday, but same date. May the 7th.
- Dorothy Huyck: 13:36 Your father then pursued the farm.
- Joy T. Horton: 13:36 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Dorothy Huyck: 13:39 Had either of your parents attended college?
- Joy T. Horton: 13:40 No. Eighth grade was the highest level of their education. My dad, he could always look at a haystack and tell you within a few pounds how many tons of hay was in it. I always marveled at that because I would have had to go out and measure it and then taking me about a half a day to calculate how much it would be. Or he could look at a herd

of sheep and say, "Well, there's 1,000 head there or 500 head," whatever it is, and come close when they were counted out. He would be within two or three of that amount. He really had a knack for things like that and training horses and things.

- Dorothy Huyck: 14:28 And your mother?
- Joy T. Horton: 14:30 She was a homemaker. She raised a beautiful garden and she sewed for us kids and was a very typical farmer's wife person.
- Dorothy Huyck: 14:51 Did you graduate from high school in Vernal?
- Joy T. Horton: 14:53 Yes, in Vernal, Utah. Graduated from high school.
- Dorothy Huyck: 14:55 And after high school, did you have any other training? College or business school?
- Joy T. Horton: 15:01 Well, in high school, we had very active commercial classes and so during my last two years I concentrated fully upon that. I always felt that I probably had the equivalent of a junior college in commercial subjects because of the enthusiasm of the teacher to get students to participate in this type thing and ready them for the world.
- Dorothy Huyck: 15:35 Was it assumed in the commercial classes that most women would go into secretarial positions?
- Joy T. Horton: 15:39 Yes, uh-huh (affirmative). Very definitely.
- Dorothy Huyck: 15:44 Or was it assumed that they would marry rather than a career?
- Joy T. Horton: 15:46 Well, either both. One of the other both. If you were career, then you were secretarial type job, or you would become a homemaker at that time.
- Dorothy Huyck: 15:58 So those were the options.
- Joy T. Horton: 15:58 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Dorothy Huyck: 16:01 Were there other possibilities?
- Joy T. Horton: 16:04 I guess everyone probably had their own dream and that, but that would be what was available to you. You could say

I would like to be – Well, I always thought I'd like to be a doctor or something like that, when you're growing up. But when it come down to the realistic thing, I never felt like the doors were really open to that type thing at that time. Now I don't feel like that.

- Dorothy Huyck: 16:33      Becoming a doctor would have necessitated going to college and then medical school.
- Joy T. Horton: 16:36      Oh, yes.
- Dorothy Huyck: 16:37      Were the doors closed because you were a woman or was this also a financial problem?
- Joy T. Horton: 16:41      Both.
- Dorothy Huyck: 16:42      It's a long expensive process.]
- Joy T. Horton: 16:45      Yes. Definitely financial, but then, I don't know, maybe if I'd have been a boy, they'd been more enthusiastic about financing it too.
- Dorothy Huyck: 17:00      Did anybody encourage your thinking of being a doctor?
- Joy T. Horton: 17:05      No, no. I don't think so. They just thought that was a nice dream.
- Dorothy Huyck: 17:10      Did anybody talk to you about going to college?
- Joy T. Horton: 17:11      Oh, yes. But it was like a decision of my own if I would like to, then would like to see me – I got a scholarship. I graduated as the valedictorian of our class, and that was about 112 in there. And I got a scholarship to go to the University of Utah. At that time, I think three months' tuition was \$100. And that's what I had. I did attend for a while, but in the meantime, I got married and started a family.
- Dorothy Huyck: 17:47      Now, you did go to the University of Utah for a while?
- Joy T. Horton: 17:49      Yes.
- Dorothy Huyck: 17:49      For about how long?
- Joy T. Horton: 17:50      Oh, a couple of months. I didn't even finish my quarter, but I did do that.

- Dorothy Huyck: 18:00 We'll come back to the marriage in just a minute, but I would like to ask about going back to high school or even including those couple of months at university. Was there someone who encouraged you during the education process, maybe someone in your family or a teacher, who was enthusiastic or helpful or encouraging about the educational process? Maybe no one.
- Joy T. Horton: 18:22 Well, I had a teacher that, like I say, she was very enthusiastic about commercial subjects, and she could get her students interested in that. She really pressed it and really encouraged that. And I feel that she was really helpful to me. Like I say, I feel that I got really a lot more out of the high school commercial courses than probably ordinary high school because the last two years, I had most of my basics in and I took like four hours a day on commercial subjects and then finished up with the other two that I needed, the other two basics. But I took shorthand and bookkeeping and typing and second year shorthand all at the same time, so it was really an intensive study, the last two. And yes, definitely, it was the ladies that, like I say, that the ones that were responsive to her. She really was encouraging and helpful.
- Dorothy Huyck: 19:33 With regard to the scholarship you got to the University of Utah, was there anyone in the family or your teachers or anyone in the church or community leaders who encouraged you in that direction?
- Joy T. Horton: 19:47 Well, kind of on a general basis. All were very proud, of course, that I could accomplish what I did, but it seemed like – To me, it was more of an end than the beginning. Now I look back, it should've been just the beginning. It seemed like—
- Dorothy Huyck: 20:06 Were you encouraged to see it as the end? Was there anybody who encouraged you to see it as the beginning?
- Joy T. Horton: 20:11 Well, in the little community where we lived, I think at that time it just wasn't expected that ladies to do this. I had the feeling. Maybe I looked at it from a different point of view, but--
- Dorothy Huyck: 20:31 And what year was it that you graduated?
- Joy T. Horton: 20:34 1950.

Dorothy Huyck: 20:34 As you were growing up, as a youngster, did you play with boys?

Joy T. Horton: 20:43 Yes. Our closest neighbor was about half a mile away and we had a neighbor boy that – We both had horses and it was a challenge type thing, which horse could run the fastest and this type thing. But that’s about my only association.

Dorothy Huyck: 21:07 Were you, by any chance, considered a tomboy?

Joy T. Horton: 21:12 Oh, yes. Oh, definitely. Absolutely.

Dorothy Huyck: 21:16 As you became a teenager, were you expected to become something more of a lady?

Joy T. Horton: 21:23 I guess my dad, he wanted a boy. I think he always seemed very happy with me to do the things that he did and that was on the farm and do the work with the horses and things like this and haul hay. And he was always very happy to have me with him and do this type of thing. I didn’t miss my training as a homemaker or anything like that, I got that too, but I was called on more to do the work with my father.

Dorothy Huyck: 22:09 Since you were taking a commercial course in high school, I presume you did not have three or four years of math and science, but maybe I’m wrong about that.

Joy T. Horton: 22:17 No, I didn’t mean to say that I didn’t get all of my basics in that in ninth and tenth.

Dorothy Huyck: 22:28 What math did you take?

Joy T. Horton: 22:30 We took algebra.

Dorothy Huyck: 22:31 And geometry?

Joy T. Horton: 22:33 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Dorothy Huyck: 22:34 Any other advanced classes?

Joy T. Horton: 22:36 No. What I did—

Dorothy Huyck: 22:39 Trigonometry?

Joy T. Horton: 22:39 No, I didn't get any of the advanced past geometry and algebra, those two.

Dorothy Huyck: 22:44 What about science? Biology?

Joy T. Horton: 22:46 Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: 22:47 Chemistry?

Joy T. Horton: 22:49 I didn't have to take chemistry and for some reason, I didn't. But I did go into biology and anthropology.

Dorothy Huyck: 22:58 You took anthropology?

Joy T. Horton: 22:59 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Dorothy Huyck: 23:02 Were the advanced science and math courses something that were more frequently taken by boys?

Joy T. Horton: 23:08 It was a required. They were just required subjects and you just took them because of that, mainly.

Dorothy Huyck: 23:13 The subjects you took were required?

Joy T. Horton: 23:15 Yes. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Dorothy Huyck: 23:16 But if you had taken advanced algebra or some chemistry, physics, were those courses available and taken more frequently by boys?

Joy T. Horton: 23:24 Oh, yes, definitely at that time. Yeah.

Dorothy Huyck: 23:28 Were there extracurricular activities you were involved in in high school that have been helpful in your Park Service career?

Joy T. Horton: 23:36 Oh, yes. We had thespians club and we learned to convey our thoughts and speak. I think that one has been really helpful. Mainly that one, I think. Throughout your life, it helps to be a little more outgoing and not so shy. I first started out being real shy. You'd never convince my husband of that now, but—

Dorothy Huyck: 24:14 You referred to having been married not long out of high school. Was that 1950 or '51?

Joy T. Horton: 24:18 Yes, 1950. I was married. And then my husband passed away of a heart attack in 1961.

Dorothy Huyck: 24:27 And you remarried?

Joy T. Horton: 24:29 And then I remarried in 1965. '64, excuse me.

Dorothy Huyck: 24:35 1964?

Joy T. Horton: 24:40 Uh-huh. Kept working, and then in '67, my husband had the opportunity to become the director of the museum back at Racine, Wisconsin and so I quit at that time and went back with him. Then in 1969, my mother became gravely ill, and so we moved back to care for her and my father, back to Vernal and then that's when I resumed my job with respect to the Park Service.

Dorothy Huyck: 25:15 Is your husband employed by the Park Service?

Joy T. Horton: 25:18 Yes, he is, right now.

Dorothy Huyck: 25:19 And in what capacity?

Joy T. Horton: 25:21 He's the trails maintenance man.

Dorothy Huyck: 25:23 Here at Big Bend?

Joy T. Horton: 25:24 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Dorothy Huyck: 25:27 Was he previously employed by the Park Service?

Joy T. Horton: 25:30 That's how I met him, was on a seasonal – he came in as a seasonal ranger at Dinosaur. And that's how I met him and since then he's been director of the museum and then when we came back, he went into law enforcement. He didn't work for the Park Service. But when you come down to Big Bend, that's about the only other alternative you have.

Dorothy Huyck: 25:53 I'd like to come back to that later on.

Joy T. Horton: 25:58 Okay.

Dorothy Huyck: 25:58 Let me ask you about your own experience with the Park Service in terms of your own employment with the Park Service. Without naming names, because we'd really rather not have names on tape, have you had supervisors who

were encouraging or discouraging, or have you met some of both?

- Joy T. Horton: 26:22 Definitely both.
- Dorothy Huyck: 26:23 Of those who were encouraging, how did they show their encouragement? How did you experience that encouragement?
- Joy T. Horton: 26:33 Well, they always came out – Like the first one, Mr. Semingson, when he traveled back to Washington or Omaha, he would say, “Some of those ladies back there are GS-9s doing just what you’re doing here, so let’s get you going!” This type of thing. Very definitely.
- Dorothy Huyck: 26:57 Did he? Get you going?
- Joy T. Horton: 27:00 Well, he tried as far as Dinosaur was concerned. I can see his hands were tied to some degree because the opportunity just wasn’t there. I did have to move to get going. And this is where I feel I did meet the challenge of moving from one part to another to get the varied experience. I might not have been able to see that at the time, but I can see it now. Maybe I’ve grown that much.
- Dorothy Huyck: 27:30 Were there other forms of encouragement that you experienced?
- Joy T. Horton: 27:41 Until I come to Big Bend. Here at Big Bend, definitely the encouragement was [inaudible 00:27:47], definitely came in there. They had asked me, “What would you like to do? What field would you like to get into? We’d like to help you advance.” And of course, by now, I would tell them. Maybe quicker. I would have been a little more hesitant to say, but now I feel like I can say and receive the benefits.
- Dorothy Huyck: 28:22 And have there been supervisors who have been discouraging--and again, I’m not concerned with names – in what you’ve experienced?
- Joy T. Horton: 28:34 Yes, I can say.
- Dorothy Huyck: 28:35 How was that shown?

- Joy T. Horton: 28:37 Oh, by total – Just ignoring ya. Anything that you wanted to do or say, it seemed like it just seemed insignificant at the time.
- Dorothy Huyck: 28:48 That you were insignificant and what you had to say was insignificant?
- Joy T. Horton: 28:53 Mm-hmm (affirmative). That’s very rare though, especially within the Park Service. I only found one that I felt that way with.
- Dorothy Huyck: 29:02 There are some people who think the Park Service is a very male-oriented organization. Do you?
- Joy T. Horton: 29:09 No, not really. I haven’t thought of it that way. I always looked at it, especially now, I always feel like it’s kind of up to the individual. My boss is a female and very active and very – In the higher grades. Right from my own association right now, I’m very much involved with the women part of it. I have another coworker in here, the personnel assistant, is a lady, so [inaudible 00:29:55].
- Dorothy Huyck: 29:58 [Inaudible] your specific talents and training while working for the Park Service?
- Joy T. Horton: 30:04 Yes. I really do. What I was trained for originally, I’ve been able to use over and over and over again and now that I’m receiving new training and meeting new challenges now, of course I’m using that too to the fullest right now.
- Dorothy Huyck: 30:24 Has anyone acted as a mentor for you during your Park Service career? Someone who has taken particular interest in you and suggesting ways to grow and letting you know of opportunities, being supportive?
- Joy T. Horton: 30:43 Oh, I think they probably all have. Kind of like a big brother type thing, or some big sisters. All of my bosses have. The superintendents, each one, in the Park Service I felt that more than any other agency that I’ve worked with.
- Dorothy Huyck: 31:14 You had worked previously for the Farmers Home Administration?
- Joy T. Horton: 31:19 Yes, Farmers Home Administration and then when we were back in Wisconsin, I worked for HEW [Health, Education and Welfare], the social security administration

part of it. And with both the other agencies, I felt the Park Service took more active interest in seeing their employees advance and personal-wise, they tried to make a happier climate for you.

- Dorothy Huyck: 31:51 Do you think that being a woman has affected your opportunities for and responsibility in advancement?
- Joy T. Horton: 32:10 I'm not sure now. At this level, where I'm at now, I think that whether you're a woman or whether you're – the request for advancement, make it known that you want to be advanced and then work hard to try and get it. I think that it would come to either way. At first, when I first started, it's just kind of hard to say because I didn't think in terms of myself as doing this type of thing. I just thought that I would be secretary and a good one and that was the, like I say, that was the end result instead of just the beginning. Your thinking changes over the years and your viewpoint and also with the background that you have, it changes.
- Dorothy Huyck: 33:16 May I ask if you grew up in an LDS home?
- Joy T. Horton: 33:17 Yes. Not an LDS home, but an LDS climate.
- Dorothy Huyck: 33:23 All right. LDS climate. Your parents were not Mormons?
- Joy T. Horton: 33:24 No.
- Dorothy Huyck: 33:26 Did the general culture affect what you just said?
- Joy T. Horton: 33:30 It could, yes. Very definitely. To grow up and be a good homemaker was, of course, the LDS church viewpoint. And I'm not sure, I've been kind of away from it, but I'm not sure if they still believe that or not or if they're changing their viewpoint.
- Dorothy Huyck: 33:56 I just wondered if that culture kind of rubbed off when you were in school and as to what your goals would be early in your career?
- Joy T. Horton: 34:07 No, I don't – Coming from a little community like that, like we talked about before, that was the two alternatives you had. Young marriages. That was the thing to do. In fact, when you get to be 20, you're an old maid if you're not

married and things like that. But I don't believe that people feel that way now anymore.

- Dorothy Huyck: 34:39 You think it's changing?
- Joy T. Horton: 34:40 Yes, uh-huh (affirmative). I do. I really do.
- Dorothy Huyck: 34:43 I was just thinking of its influence at the time. Your own attitudes have changed I gather.
- Joy T. Horton: 34:50 Yes.
- Dorothy Huyck: 34:50 [inaudible 00:34:50] yourself.
- Joy T. Horton: 34:53 Yeah. Really.
- Dorothy Huyck: 34:55 Are there any jobs in the National Park Service that you think a woman should not tackle?
- Joy T. Horton: 35:01 No. There isn't a one. I think that they could, like I say, with a hard work and the background, be – In fact, I'm looking forward to the first president being a woman.
- Dorothy Huyck: 35:23 If a young woman came to you and asked about joining the Park Service, would you encourage her to do so?
- Joy T. Horton: 35:30 Oh, yes. Yes.
- Dorothy Huyck: 35:32 Have you any daughters?
- Joy T. Horton: 35:34 Yes, I have two.
- Dorothy Huyck: 35:35 Two daughters? What are their ages?
- Joy T. Horton: 35:38 One is 23 and one is 13.
- Dorothy Huyck: 35:42 And have you any sons?
- Joy T. Horton: 35:45 Yes, I have one that is 27. He works for the Bureau of Land Management in Vernal, Utah. And then I have two stepsons. One is studying to be a minister and the other one is living in Vernal, Utah.
- Dorothy Huyck: 36:05 If any of your daughters were to show an interest in the Park Service, would you encourage her to think about being an employee of the National Park Service?

- Joy T. Horton: 36:15 Oh, yes. Very definitely. I would encourage, however, I don't push. And the older daughter, she would like to go on to be an airline hostess, which my husband and I all encourage very much so. The younger one, she thinks maybe she'd like to be a naturalist, which, I don't know if that's just a normal thing for a Park Service kid growing up or whether it's really serious with her, but very definitely, I would encourage her.
- Dorothy Huyck: 36:49 If you looked ahead, say, five years, how do you see the opportunities for women in the Park Service five years ahead [inaudible 00:36:56]?
- Joy T. Horton: 36:58 I think they're good now and the way I feel, as long as I keep working hard and keep learning, I feel like the door has been swung open to me. I'm feeling real pleased about it and hopefully within five years, I'll have a lot more experiences that I'd be happy to have on my horizon too.
- Dorothy Huyck: 37:38 Would that include the possibility of moving to another park?
- Joy T. Horton: 37:41 Oh, yes.
- Dorothy Huyck: 37:43 You do consider yourself mobile?
- Joy T. Horton: 37:43 Oh, yes. I was advised that that was probably one of the growing points, is it being mobile, and I feel like I've made myself mobile with this move down here to Big Bend and I'll continue that.
- Dorothy Huyck: 38:06 If you were given an opportunity to go to another park, how would you work this out with your husband?
- Joy T. Horton: 38:13 Well, he's had two or three careers, what he calls careers and right now, he's happy to be supportive in what I want to do now. I think maybe he might be a little unique in that way of feeling and this is helpful to me because not all husbands are willing to do that or able to do that one way or the other. But he's the type that he likes to accept new things and he doesn't mind starting out at the bottom and working right up to the top. He's done that twice, three times since I've met him.
- Dorothy Huyck: 38:55 You mentioned that he was a seasonal ranger at Dinosaur and that he went to Racine, Wisconsin—

Joy T. Horton: 39:02 As a museum director.

Dorothy Huyck: 39:03 Which museum?

Joy T. Horton: 39:04 The Racine County Historical Museum.

Dorothy Huyck: 39:11 He had had background in museums?

Joy T. Horton: 39:12 Yes, he was at the Peabody Museum at Yale University. And originally, I guess he started out at a little museum there in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He'd had that kind of background.

Dorothy Huyck: 39:22 He's trained in the world of museums?

Joy T. Horton: 39:25 Yes. And then when we moved back to Vernal, why, law enforcement seemed to be the open avenue to him and so he became the Vernal chief of police.

Dorothy Huyck: 39:37 And where did he get his training for that?

Joy T. Horton: 39:40 Oh, I don't know. He probably had it in the service. Then when we moved down here, why, I didn't want him to get back into the law enforcement. That isn't any job for a family to always be on call and always be going. That's my own opinion, that isn't his. I think he kind of enjoyed it. He just got involved in other things besides law enforcement.

Dorothy Huyck: 40:23 You heard about the position here first, is that correct? And he was able to find a situation in maintenance?

Joy T. Horton: 40:30 Yes, trail maintenance man. The jobs are advertised throughout the Park Service when they have an opening and it looked like – We'd always thought of coming to the Southwest. I think that might be a dream of everybody that lives in a country where they have 40 below zero weather during the wintertime you think, "Oh, to be down there in the sunshine." We thought we'd give it a good grind, see if we really like the Southwest that well or if we wanted to return and endure the winters. And I'm not sure that we've made up our minds yet. From now on until about next May, it's just super here. It really is. So, I guess you're trading the heat for the cold, but the heat doesn't last as long, it doesn't seem like, as the cold weather.

- Dorothy Huyck: 41:35 There are increasing numbers of couples, husband and wife combinations, who are eager to be employed, both of them, be employed by the National Park Service and sometimes this can be a conflict, but you seem to have accomplished it. And I gather you expect to continue?
- Joy T. Horton: 41:55 No, not really. Were he able to transfer to a better job, I don't know how we'd work that, because I'm not as able to cope with changes as he is, to that degree. But were I given the opportunity for a transfer, he would go along and pick up whatever he could in his field wherever he is. That's the way he is. Not everyone could feel this way, so I feel like – When I say I feel that he is being very supportive in his attitude, that's part of it. Not everyone would have a husband that could do this or would want to, but he doesn't mind. It just seems like he's very happy to be mobile and he enjoys new country and new challenges and new faces, whereas it seems like an ideal job for us. And if we were lucky enough to get into another park where he could also work in the park, then that would be fine too, but if we can't, why, it's no obstruction of my continuing.
- Dorothy Huyck: 43:34 Would you tend to give a certain priority, I'm not sure about this, certain priority to what opportunities would be open to you or would you give equal priority to opportunities would be open to him?
- Joy T. Horton: 43:47 I think at this stage in the game right now, it's me that's being given the priority. Up until now, maybe you could say it was him, but I think we've talked it out and he feels like I do, that it's time for me to enjoy some of the feeling of excelling.
- Dorothy Huyck: 44:13 And is that a change in the general attitude, again, across the board in which you're participating?
- Joy T. Horton: 44:18 Well, it's kind of a change in our family to the point where it's feasible. Before we've always had small children running around and [inaudible 00:44:31]. At that time, I wouldn't say that he would have been willing to change-- been the person at home to do the things. I don't think he's quite that enthusiastic about that, but now that our situation has changed to the point where it isn't required, that care for the smaller children isn't required, why, we could work it out very well. And attitude changes too, yeah I think that he'd take another look at it.

- Dorothy Huyck: 45:25 You have a 13-year-old at home. Where does she go to school?
- Joy T. Horton: 45:29 Well, up until the eighth grade and including eighth grade, she can go right here, at Big Bend. They have a little school right here that's very adequate and very good. After that, we'll either have to send her to a private school where they can furnish the board and the education, or we will have to move with her. Two choices.
- Dorothy Huyck: 46:04 So even she could move [inaudible 00:46:05].
- Joy T. Horton: 46:06 Oh, yes. But it'll be next September before we have to make a decision on it. And although we know it's there and we look forward to it, we're waiting to see what's going to happen then. Because we do have older children that she probably go and be taken care of adequately, but then on the other hand, we'd like to be the ones to be there too. We'll work it out when the time comes. But we've been here for four years and when we came down here, four years seemed like a long time. Well, not quite four years, it will be though by the time that she's ready to leave. And that four years, it didn't seem like a big problem then. It really isn't now, it's just a matter of change.
- Dorothy Huyck: 47:08 I've been asking you quite a collection of questions. Is there something we did not talk about that you'd like to comment on?
- Joy T. Horton: 47:17 Well, I've had a real opportunity, I feel. I worked for 12 superintendents even though I only worked in one place besides Big Bend. That's counting the two assistant superintendents here at Big Bend. And each one has added a great deal to my life and I really appreciate each and every one. Even though they were all superintendents of the one area, most of them, and they had basically the same job to do, they took to it a new and fresh approach each time. It was just like an education to watch each one do their thing as they came and went at Dinosaur and I've appreciated this. It's been fun for me to get the different viewpoints. I grew too, I never felt that I didn't grow along with them.
- Dorothy Huyck: 48:36 Growth is important?

- Joy T. Horton: 48:37 Yeah. Just to get another attitude or another change of ideas, exchange of ideas sometimes that is growth. And I felt like I did.
- Dorothy Huyck: 48:53 Are you able to apply some of that growth and some of the observations—
- Joy T. Horton: 48:56 Oh, yes.
- Dorothy Huyck: 48:57 —now?
- Joy T. Horton: 48:57 Oh, very definitely. And I think that if I go into another park or another place that the ideas that's been presented to me is definitely continue to help. At the time, sometimes I felt like that Dinosaur was kind of a training ground for superintendents and it probably was. The caliber of superintendents that we got in there made it all worthwhile and now I sit back in I have them in Washington and National Capital Parks, Glacier and strung all over and it's really fun for me. It really is because you can call them up on the phone for some reason and they're still there and they still know you. Jim Tobin happened to be one of my bosses. Now in the Washington Office. It's fun to still see all these directives coming out and think, "Oh, I used to work with him" and enjoy it.
- Dorothy Huyck: 50:21 Well, thank you very much, Joy.
- Joy T. Horton: 50:28 Oh, you're very much welcome.
- Dorothy Huyck: 50:32 Talking about the fact that frequently, women are employed because they need the financial basis that employment provides for them, this is not a whim. And I gather that you have been employed for good reason.
- Joy T. Horton: 50:50 Yes, I first started out working because my husband was ill. And then he passed away and I had two children to raise. It's always been a case of working because it was necessary. Then after I'd gotten so much [inaudible 00:51:19] in, why, when I remarried, we had more children to keep up with and to this day, we have parents that we're providing for. And although we don't consider it a burden, it certainly couldn't be accomplished if I didn't work. And now that I've gotten that much of a background, working because I had to, if and when I get to the point I don't have to work, I will have the opportunity to grow in the job. I'm

putting it kind of badly, but you see, I haven't had a choice yet and I feel like I'm glad for the opportunity to be able to grow and not just do the same thing year after year after year.

- Dorothy Huyck: 52:20 It's interesting how often women I interview use that word, "grow." I don't use it initially; it often comes back to me.
- Joy T. Horton: 52:28 Well, I feel like that's what I've been doing. I feel like at first, just was happy to do the job that I was assigned to do and I felt like I could've done more or maybe even better because sometimes you feel like you get in a rut. But the enthusiasm comes back and then you go ahead just to go a good job. But I'm really, really pleased with the opportunity that's made available to me now.
- Dorothy Huyck: 53:13 Through the upward mobility?
- Joy T. Horton: 53:15 Uh-huh (affirmative). Yup, really pleased. I'm just up in the morning and I can't wait to – seems like I can't wait to get down here to do the job that I want to get accomplished for the day. It's not entirely a new feeling, I've always felt a certain enthusiasm for it, but then I've never felt quite this good about it like, "Well, when I get this done, I'll get something else accomplished!" I feel good about it. I really do.
- Dorothy Huyck: 53:49 Thank you.

[END OF TAPE]

[END OF INTERVIEW]