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



Phyllis L. King  
October 6, 1978

Interview conducted by Dorothy B. Huyck  
Transcribed by Rev.com  
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NPS History Collection  
Harpers Ferry Center  
PO Box 50  
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425  
HFC\_Archivist@nps.gov

[START OF TAPE]

Dorothy Huyck: 00:00 It is October 6th, 1978. I am Dorothy Huyck. I will be interviewing Phyllis L. King, personnel management specialist, who is the personnel officer at the Grand Canyon National Park. Can I ask how you first became acquainted with the National Park Service?

Phyllis L. King: 00:32 Well, let's see. It was in Alaska when they had the job announced for the Alaska State Office.

Dorothy Huyck: 00:38 Do you remember when that was?

Phyllis L. King: 00:41 Well, it was in '72. 2/6/72. That's when I went to work for them.

Dorothy Huyck: 00:46 Had you traveled or been to national parks at all prior then?

Phyllis L. King: 00:51 Oh, a little bit, just visiting. But I've been working for the government since 1952.

Dorothy Huyck: 00:58 In what other agencies?

Phyllis L. King: 01:00 Well, just about all of them. Mostly Department of Defense, and FAA, BLM. All over the United States and then in Japan too.

Dorothy Huyck: 01:11 What were you doing in Japan?

Phyllis L. King: 01:15 My husband was stationed over there. So I was, let's see, administrative assistant, I think, when I was there.

Dorothy Huyck: 01:22 And how long had you been working in Alaska at the time of the Park Service [inaudible 00:01:28]?

Phyllis L. King: 01:27 Bureau of Land Management.

Dorothy Huyck: 01:28 What were you doing for BLM?

Phyllis L. King: 01:30 Personnel.

Dorothy Huyck: 01:33 So you came on board in Alaska?

Phyllis L. King: 01:35 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Dorothy Huyck: 01:38 And what position there?

Phyllis L. King: 01:39 Well—

Dorothy Huyck: 01:39 —Park Service.

Phyllis L. King: 01:44 It was administrative aide. GS-7. Only it was personnel too. Only I did the budget and everything else. It was a very small office.

Dorothy Huyck: 01:52 And where did you go from Alaska?

Phyllis L. King: 01:55 Well, let's see, I went from Alaska for a short period of time to North Cascades.

Dorothy Huyck: 02:01 In what position?

Phyllis L. King: 02:05 Let's see, what was I doing? I think they put me in as a clerk-steno. What happened was my husband was working for US customs, and I was a 9 in Alaska, and he got transferred to Washington, and there was never any openings. So, I stayed up there for about two years, and then I took a downgrade to North Cascades. And then he got injured, and so we decided to move back to Alaska. And I was the first to move back there, went back for the FAA, and they called me from Washington to see if I want to go to Big Cypress since I still had my 10-180s in. And then I transferred from Alaska, then down to Big Cypress as personnel management specialist.

Dorothy Huyck: 02:47 When did you go to Big Cypress?

Phyllis L. King: 02:50 Let's see, I can give you the right date here. I went there August 1st of 1976, and it was at Big Cypress Land Acquisition Office.

Dorothy Huyck: 03:02 And what grade was this?

Phyllis L. King: 03:07 Nine.

Dorothy Huyck: 03:10 And you stayed until?

Phyllis L. King: 03:10 Let's see, I came here April 15th, I think. Start of the pay period of this year.

Dorothy Huyck: 03:19 And what grade are you currently?

Phyllis L. King: 03:19 Eleven.

Dorothy Huyck: 03:19 Can I ask where and when you were born?

Phyllis L. King: 03:25 19th of April, '33.

Dorothy Huyck: 03:26 And where?

Phyllis L. King: 03:28 In Wichita, Kansas.

Dorothy Huyck: 03:34 Did you grow up in Wichita?

Phyllis L. King: 03:34 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Dorothy Huyck: 03:34 You attended high school in Wichita?

Phyllis L. King: 03:34 Right. High School East. East High.

Dorothy Huyck: 03:38 Are you, by chance, an only child?

Phyllis L. King: 03:40 Right.

Dorothy Huyck: 03:40 Was your father a college graduate or was he not?

Phyllis L. King: 03:47 My father was. My mother wasn't.

Dorothy Huyck: 03:50 What was your father's occupation?

Phyllis L. King: 03:53 Let's see, he was a jewelry store manager, and he died back in '43, I think.

Dorothy Huyck: 03:58 And your mother?

Phyllis L. King: 04:01 She's deceased.

Dorothy Huyck: 04:03 She had no professional employment?

Phyllis L. King: 04:05 Oh yeah, she worked for the post office and several banks.

Dorothy Huyck: 04:13 Did you attend college after graduating—

Phyllis L. King: 04:15 No. I started to do work for the US government the day I graduated.

Dorothy Huyck: 04:19 Now would that have been for the Department of Defense?

Phyllis L. King: 04:27 I was – well, it was the Air Force Procurement. Must've been Air Force Procurement Office in Wichita.

Dorothy Huyck: 04:36 Have you at any time taken any further education?

Phyllis L. King: 04:41 You mean college?

Dorothy Huyck: 04:42 Yes, or business college training.

Phyllis L. King: 04:43 No.

Dorothy Huyck: 04:48 I'd like to ask you about your high school education period. Was there someone who encouraged you during high school, a parent or a teacher, or maybe no one?

Phyllis L. King: 04:59 You mean to go to work for the government?

Dorothy Huyck: 05:00 I'm sorry, no. In terms of the education process, getting through high school.

Phyllis L. King: 05:05 Well, I don't know. My father died when I was very young, and my mother had to go to work, and she worked for the post office. And you know, she just expressed that, if you're going to take something in school, which, you know, she didn't finish school, she quit at the eighth grade, you should take something that's going to further your education. And I do this to my children now that, you might have to take care of yourself, so don't waste time. So, I took a lot of business courses and then after she remarried, my stepfather worked for the US Postal Service, and he encouraged me to go to work for the government. I could have went to college, but so many of the kids then we're just going to college for the fun of it, and I just enjoyed working. Which didn't turn out too bad.

Dorothy Huyck: 06:03 Going back to the period when you were growing up, even before high school, did you play with boys?

Phyllis L. King: 06:12 Play with boys? Well, not really too much, because I worked.

Dorothy Huyck: 06:18 Even as a youngster?

Phyllis L. King: 06:21 Well not, let's see. I started working when I was in junior high at a movie theater. Before that we used to play in trees, if that's what you mean.

Dorothy Huyck: 06:31 Would you say you were a tomboy?

Phyllis L. King: 06:34 Tomboy? Well, I don't know the definition of tomboy. I've always liked to be outside and ride bicycles and stuff like that. Of course, way back then they didn't have girls baseball teams and stuff like that.

Dorothy Huyck: 06:52 You were a tree climber?

Phyllis L. King: 06:53 Yeah. I was a tree climber and a bicycle rider into trees. You know, this kind of thing.

Dorothy Huyck: 06:59 In this process, were you playing with boys or primarily with girls, or separate?

Phyllis L. King: 07:06 Well, it's just everybody in the neighborhood then. Just like it is now, there's little boys and little girls around, they all play.

Dorothy Huyck: 07:15 Were you expected to become something more of a lady as you grew up, say in high school?

Phyllis L. King: 07:21 Well, my mother always said it was better to act like a lady. And that's the same thing I ask my children, you know, act like a lady. Get away with a lot more that way.

Dorothy Huyck: 07:38 Were there extracurricular activities when you were in high school that have been helpful since then in your Park Service work?

Phyllis L. King: 07:47 You're going back a long time.

Dorothy Huyck: 07:50 That's true.

Phyllis L. King: 07:50 I'm trying to think. Well, I worked. I guess you can say working was. I learned to keep house, and I worked at a flower shop, and I worked at a 10-cent store and a movie theater. And I think working prepared you in future career to understand what money was worth and that you did have responsibilities and to notice a lot of people that didn't pay attention to their own responsibilities. I don't know if that's what you're getting at.

Dorothy Huyck: 08:38 Were there special factors that went into your wanting to work for the Park Service once that job was offered?

Phyllis L. King: 08:45 Well, I don't know. I don't know if you've always been for the Park Service or not, but working for the government, you hear a lot of things over and over and over. And I knew I was started at Department of Defense, and you hear things, that how good the Park Service is. And I've always liked the idea of what the Park Service has done, you know conserving the land. And it's hard to describe, but I feel very fortunate that I was hired, and I wouldn't leave. As bad as they are sometimes, still wouldn't leave them, you know.

Dorothy Huyck: 09:18 When you think over the supervisors you have had in the Park Service only, not in other agencies, but when you think of the supervisors you've encountered in the Park Service, have you found them to be encouraging or discouraging, or have you met some of both?

Phyllis L. King: 09:37 Well, I would say the majority of them are encouraging.

Dorothy Huyck: 09:41 How did they show that encouragement?

Phyllis L. King: 09:45 Well by, when you needing help, being helpful. I think, of course, that's in anything. You know, some people are just not helpful, but I would say Park Service is--the Department of Defense is a lot different. You're dealing with military and very few civilian supervisors. And if you need help, you'd normally get it. But I would say the Park Service supervisors as a whole are pretty good.

Dorothy Huyck: 10:18 Have you encountered any supervisor who was discouraging?

Phyllis L. King: 10:24 How do you mean, discouraging? You mean to my career, or just discouraging to everybody around?

Dorothy Huyck: 10:32 Only in your experience of supervisors.

Phyllis L. King: 10:36 No, there was one, he could care less about anything.

Dorothy Huyck: 10:40 That wasn't particular to you?

Phyllis L. King: 10:43 No, it wasn't particular to me, against personnel as a whole.

Dorothy Huyck: 10:47 Is that the way his supervision came across? He couldn't care less about anything?

Phyllis L. King: 10:53 Yeah. To everybody. But that's one out of a lot, so that's not too bad.

Dorothy Huyck: 11:02 There are, of course, some people who think of the Park Service as a rather male-oriented organization. Do you?

Phyllis L. King: 11:10 No, I really don't. I have my own particular feelings of why there aren't more women in higher positions.

Dorothy Huyck: 11:21 Why?

Phyllis L. King: 11:23 Well, I think it really gets down to mobility, because for many years I wasn't mobile because my husband was in the military, although I worked. And it was a matter of priorities, he had to transfer. And so, I did. And then of course we have an unusual family. He understands me wanting a career. And like I stayed two years in Alaska trying to get a higher-graded job, but we had smaller children then, and I had already sent them down to him in hopes that I would get transferred. And he got injured and well, no that wasn't, he had to go to Washington. So, somebody had to be down there. And, but as soon as he could move, he's encouraged me, and we just go anywhere. But it really is down to mobility. If you can't transfer to higher jobs, then you're limiting yourself, but that's nobody's fault but your own.

Dorothy Huyck: 12:25 Have you been given opportunities to take divisional training courses since you've been at the Park Service?

Phyllis L. King: 12:30 Oh yes.

Dorothy Huyck: 12:30 Such as?

Phyllis L. King: 12:31 Really. Oh, well I have a whole list. Do you want them all? I'll just give you a copy. How's that?

Dorothy Huyck: 12:37 Fine.

Phyllis L. King: 12:37 Would that be easier?

Dorothy Huyck: 12:38 Yes, very good.

Phyllis L. King: 12:42 Right. They've been very good in training, and I think they normally are. If you want to learn something, you know.

Dorothy Huyck: 12:53 Has anyone from the Park Service acted as a mentor for you?

Phyllis L. King: 12:59 How?

Dorothy Huyck: 13:00 Well, as a supporter, someone to whom you could turn to for suggestions, advice.

Phyllis L. King: 13:07 You mean about furthering my career?

Dorothy Huyck: 13:10 Yes. Well, within the job. Within the present job, not in the job at the time you came. With whom you maintained a long-standing—

Phyllis L. King: 13:21 Well, most of the people in the Park Service, I still talk to them on the phone and stuff like that. But do you mean if I had a particular problem, would I call them?

Dorothy Huyck: 13:30 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Phyllis L. King: 13:30 Nobody in particular. I pretty well know what I want. I haven't had any difficulties, so I, you know—

Dorothy Huyck: 13:40 You say you pretty well know what you want.

Phyllis L. King: 13:45 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Dorothy Huyck: 13:45 Do you know how you arrived at knowing what you want?

Phyllis L. King: 13:46 Oh, I don't know. Just thinking it out, I think. You set your priorities, right?

Dorothy Huyck: 13:53 Where do your priorities lead in the longer run?

Phyllis L. King: 13:57 Well, eventually retirement, naturally, but I continue to want to get ahead. I'm not going to just take a job to be getting a higher grade at someplace I wouldn't want to go, because I think you're going to be unhappy with something like that. But I would like to progress. I enjoy personnel and I like to travel. We've travelled all our lives.

Dorothy Huyck: 14:33 Would you say that your particular talents and experience and abilities are being well used by the Park Service?

Phyllis L. King: 14:35 I would say so.

Dorothy Huyck: 14:38 Are there any jobs with the Park Service that you think a woman should really not tackle?

Phyllis L. King: 14:54 Well, I think there are jobs that women are not suited for physically. I wouldn't say mentally, but I would say physically, and I think there are some jobs men are not physically built for too.

Dorothy Huyck: 15:10 [Crosstalk].

Phyllis L. King: 15:10 Huh?

Dorothy Huyck: 15:10 You want to give me an example?

Phyllis L. King: 15:15 Well, let me think. Some laboring jobs. There are some women that are just not built for—

Dorothy Huyck: 15:27 If a woman applied for a laboring, is it a job that she should or should not tackle?

Phyllis L. King: 15:31 If she can do it, I'm all for it, but I don't think trying to get a job you're not capable of doing is what I'm getting at. If you can do it fine, but a lot of times, I think we're getting into, a lot of people try to get jobs just for the sake of getting one that are not capable of performing it. And that's in any field. There are some women that are physically built to do those. They're fine. If they can, fine, if not, then I don't think they should try to get into them just for the sake of saying I've got that kind of job. Mentally, I think we can do anything.

Dorothy Huyck: 16:15 Do you think being a woman yourself has in any way affected your opportunities or added responsibility or promotion?

Phyllis L. King: 16:36 Being a woman? No. I hope that I didn't get any promotion just because I was a woman. I don't care for tokenism. And I really think it should be based on what a person can do. Physically, mentally, and for no other reason.

Dorothy Huyck: 17:07 [Buzzer sounds]. Do you need to answer it?

Phyllis L. King: 17:09 No, not unless she does it for three rings.

Dorothy Huyck: 17:13 You are currently married?

Phyllis L. King: 17:15 Right.

Dorothy Huyck: 17:17 And you were married when?

Phyllis L. King: 17:18 I was married in 1952.

Dorothy Huyck: 17:21 Is your husband employed?

Phyllis L. King: 17:24 No, '52. No, he's retired from US Customs, medically. And from the US Air Force. And I have three children.

Dorothy Huyck: 17:32 How old are they?

Phyllis L. King: 17:33 I have twin girls that are eight and a daughter who will be 13 next month.

Dorothy Huyck: 17:40 You have, therefore, three daughters?

Phyllis L. King: 17:41 Right.

Dorothy Huyck: 17:43 If one of your daughters expressed an interest in working for the Park Service, would you recommend it to her?

Phyllis L. King: 17:48 Oh, they already have, yes. They're definitely Parkies.

Dorothy Huyck: 17:53 All three of them?

Phyllis L. King: 17:54 All three of them, yeah. And they are really enjoying living here, too. One daughter wants to go to the Army Academy when she graduates, and then she would like to get into this type of work.

Dorothy Huyck: 18:08 And obviously that's something you would recommend to her?

Phyllis L. King: 18:12 Oh sure.

Dorothy Huyck: 18:16 As you look ahead, say in the next five to ten years, what do you see as the opportunities for women in the Park Service?

Phyllis L. King: 18:23 Well, I think they're going to increase slowly. The opportunities. Let me restate there. The opportunities, I think, are pretty well there, but you're going to have to get more women that are mobile, again, okay. And that is what's going to make it slow, because there's very few of

us that the husbands are where they can move around. And I think the majority of women are married. Now, I think the women that aren't married, it's going to go pretty fast, but the ones that are there's going to have to be some changes. But if I wasn't mobile, and my husband hadn't retired, I would still be following him around.

- Dorothy Huyck: 19:13 There are, of course, some instances where husbands are following wives around.
- Phyllis L. King: 19:17 Well, mine is now, but he's retired.
- Dorothy Huyck: 19:23 [inaudible 00:19:23].
- Phyllis L. King: 19:23 Well, but very few. That's going to take a lot of years for men to change their thinking, and I don't know if we really want them to, do we?
- Dorothy Huyck: 19:33 I'm not so sure that anybody's following anybody in these cases. It's more like a mutual agreement to—
- Phyllis L. King: 19:39 Yeah. Well, it's an understanding.
- Dorothy Huyck: 19:40 —fight for each other's careers more than one following the other.
- Phyllis L. King: 19:43 Right. But depends on what kind of jobs they both have, I think.
- Dorothy Huyck: 19:50 What about those instances where both persons are employees of the Park Service, and both in professional roles?
- Phyllis L. King: 20:00 I think the Park Service is pretty well like the military. It tries to keep them moving together.
- Dorothy Huyck: 20:07 There do seem to be new instances in that, but by the same token, there have been many cases where, say, two rangers, a man and a wife, where the one is invariably expected to resign.
- Phyllis L. King: 20:20 Well, I think that's their own personal matters. You have to make your priorities. I don't think you're going to change, if they've got a priority that they want to, the husband wants to continue working and she doesn't or retire. I mean, it's really their own business.

Dorothy Huyck: 20:40 I'm thinking in those cases where, in fact, both members of the family would like very much to continue their careers.

Phyllis L. King: 20:46 But it's still a matter of personal opinion. I mean between them. I don't think you, in fact, I don't think anybody should get involved in that. You know, I think it's between a husband and wife.

Dorothy Huyck: 21:00 So a wife who, shall we say, is a ranger is given an opportunity for promotion in another park. This is something you think that they should solve.

Phyllis L. King: 21:11 They should solve it.

Dorothy Huyck: 21:12 I'm thinking of the Park Service man who is of sufficient rank that, it was interesting in his comments, his thought was that, increasingly, the Park Service is going to have to take two professionals into account, because when you move two people and ask either one of them to resign, that person's leaving behind a lot of input into the Park Service, a lot of investment the Park Service has made in that individual.

Phyllis L. King: 21:40 But you're not asking them to resign. What I'm saying is, just like my husband got transferred to Florida. Okay. I stayed up there for two years, and he knew where I was, and it was all right with him. Of course, telephone company to make a lot of money, and the airlines, me back and forth with the kids. In our family, he understood this, okay? That there was no way for me to transfer down there after that length of time. So, it wasn't his request that I move. It was my own decision that, you can only do so much. And what was my priorities? I could've stayed up there and sent him the kids and left him down there. I could have kept the kids, but you know, you have to decide what's prime, and our family was number one. You know, you can let it go for a while, but you have to make up your own mind.

Dorothy Huyck: 22:37 So in your particular case, you handled it by staying in Alaska for two years?

Phyllis L. King: 22:38 Right. Trying to get a job down there in my own grade.

Dorothy Huyck: 22:41 And your kids?

Phyllis L. King: 22:41 Well, I had them for a while, then he had them for a while.

Dorothy Huyck: 22:47 What finally brought this to a conclusion?

Phyllis L. King: 22:50 Well that I found that definitely, there was no Park Service job in the region that I could carry my grade with, that there was one at North Cascades that I could save pay with. So, I took a downgrade, which didn't bother me. I mean, I didn't mind going from a nine down to a four, because that was my priority. That was my business. But I could have said to him, you quit, and you stay up here. And if I would have asked him to, he would've, but I wouldn't expect to ask him of that where he wouldn't ask me that. And it's the way we live, and that's fine with me, but I don't think a lot of families are programmed that way. But I don't think you can plan to move two, unless you have a position for two. I don't know if I explained how I felt about it. The military tries to move two if they possibly can. And the Park Service, I'm sure, does too. But if you can't, then you're going to have to set your own priorities.

Dorothy Huyck: 23:58 Do you see any organized effort going on among the women in the Park Service to help one another in problem solving advancement?

Phyllis L. King: 24:13 What kind of problems?

Dorothy Huyck: 24:15 Well, some women do have mutual problems, for instance, the problem of isolation. In some areas they are much more isolated, very small company.

Phyllis L. King: 24:28 Well, I work, and I don't really get involved with the ones that stay home. If that's what you're getting at.

Dorothy Huyck: 24:36 Well I'm thinking of employees only.

Phyllis L. King: 24:38 No, I've never been in a place that's been that isolated. You're talking about work problems?

Dorothy Huyck: 24:44 Yes, and of course men tend to have an old boy network sometimes.

Phyllis L. King: 24:49 Yeah.

Dorothy Huyck: 24:50 I guess part of the question would be, are women involved in anything like that among themselves that you are aware of?

Phyllis L. King: 24:56 Not that I'm aware of. I think women tend to stay out of other people's business. They gossip a lot. Men do too, but I don't think they, they try to get involved in other people's business unless they're really asked for it.

Dorothy Huyck: 25:12 Do you find that professional women gossip more?

Phyllis L. King: 25:17 I think the whole world gossips a lot. Now, if you really want to get down, I don't say badly, [inaudible 00:25:25] anything like that. Put it this way, being in Personnel limits, to some respect, of what you should get involved in, and personal business is one of them. And so, I try not to get involved in that kind of thing. So, if they do, I sort of back off from it because it's very bad business because you might have an employee that has problems and then just leave, not know, until you get involved in it, hands off type of thing.

Dorothy Huyck: 26:03 I've been asking you quite a number of questions about your experiences as a woman in the Park Service. Is there anything that we've not talked about that you'd like to comment on?

Phyllis L. King: 26:18 Well, maybe one, one thing since it's not going to be published, but I think women have to more or less prove themselves, where a man is taken at face value when coming into a position, a new position, when you transfer. You sort of have to prove yourself to the other people around. I don't care how highly qualified you are, your ratings. Which I think eventually will change.

Dorothy Huyck: 26:56 Do you see it changing now?

Phyllis L. King: 26:59 I think in some respects. Men, in a way I feel sorry for them, because they really don't know how to cope with us. You know, I think they're resigned to the fact, or happy with the fact, that we're coming up in the world, but they really still don't know how to cope with us. They want to yell at a man, they feel like can do it, but I think some men are still holding back, they don't want to really get into, not a battle is what I'm trying to say, but how we're going to react. And I think when a man transfers in, they pretty well can just go ahead and say what they want to. It takes them a little time.

Dorothy Huyck: 27:54 Are men learning how to cope with women?

Phyllis L. King: 27:56 I think so.

Dorothy Huyck: 27:58 How is that happening?

Phyllis L. King: 28:01 Well, I think by seeing that there's more of us in higher-graded jobs and that we can do our job and not just in the clerk field, like women have been in for a long time, where we can make decisions and we can stand up for our own decisions and stand up and fight back. And you know, in clerk-type jobs, there is not this opportunity because you're lower grade and the boss gave you something. And I was in clerk jobs for a long time, and you didn't have the opportunity to give your opinion. You weren't asked, and you weren't expected to give one. But as you get into higher grades and you have responsibilities, you got to stand up and fight them sometimes. And when they see we're right, I think they'll change.

Dorothy Huyck: 28:45 Is it becoming more acceptable for a woman to stand up and say what should be said?

Phyllis L. King: 28:51 I don't know. I do all the time. I don't know if it was acceptable or not, but you know, if I feel I'm right, I'm going to fight for it. If I don't fight for it and I'm right and then something goes wrong, it's my fault. So I'll battle with anybody.

Dorothy Huyck: 29:11 You have an EEO movie showing here this afternoon.

Phyllis L. King: 29:14 Well, it's not really EEO. I went to the Trouble Employees workshop, which the Park Service has now really getting involved in, and this is one of the movies.

Dorothy Huyck: 29:27 Technically it's not EEO?

Phyllis L. King: 29:29 Well alcoholism and people that have alcoholic problems are handicapped, they feel, because of a sickness. And so handicap falls under EEO. So, we showed them the movie at the EEO meeting, and now we're trying to get all the supervisors to go see it. Very good. And I happen to be the coordinator for the park. And it's quite interesting.

Dorothy Huyck: 29:54 Anything else you should comment on?

Phyllis L. King: 29:58 I don't know. I'm trying to think. Oh, well all in all, I think the Park Service is far ahead of many organizations.

Dorothy Huyck: 30:11 What kind?

Phyllis L. King: 30:11 Pardon?

Dorothy Huyck: 30:11 In what kind?

Phyllis L. King: 30:16 Well, in the training. I know training wise, we're allowed to get a lot more training. And transferring around and advancement. That's my feeling, but I don't know. I'm all for the Park Service. I'm not just saying it because, but I am all for the Park Service, and they certainly have been good to me. There's not too many women that I know of, and the only ones I'm familiar with is in Alaska. There's not too many women that are in very high positions. And I don't like BLM. I can't describe the feeling, but they're not as open-minded.

Phyllis L. King: 31:11 And of course FAA is a man-oriented organization, and I don't think they'll ever change, really. But I think the Park Service is really for us. I think there should be a little discretion in trying to get more women in higher-graded jobs. I mean, I think that they should look at it on what they're qualified for.

Dorothy Huyck: 31:49 Rather than?

Phyllis L. King: 31:50 Tokenism. Again.

Dorothy Huyck: 31:53 Are there women who are qualified for higher jobs?

Phyllis L. King: 31:57 I think so. I really do, but a lot of them too, can't move around. So, they're pretty well stymied. And we'll see, I just came from Big Cypress, and I would say out of all the, well, there was only two of us there that were the higher-graded ones, but out of the whole group, there was only about four that could possibly move around, if there was promotions someplace else. And here, I'm sure there's not very many either, maybe one or two.

Dorothy Huyck: 32:34 Does that include women, well you don't have any women rangers here.

Phyllis L. King: 32:37 No, no.

Dorothy Huyck: 32:38 I don't really understand that.

Phyllis L. King: 32:39 Why? No women rangers? Well, it's just really been recent where they've been trying to get more women in, but you've got to get on the certificate, Civil Service certificate. Number one, there are vets blocking that. And we've got quite a few park technicians. There's only a one up there, two of them, that aren't married.

Dorothy Huyck: 33:03 There are only two women park technicians that aren't married?

Phyllis L. King: 33:10 Right. That are not married. And it just takes time, it really does, to get them in and then work up to the grade of nine. It takes a little while to do that. And if they were getting in on the ground floor and continuing to be where they can move, then they'll get up there.

Dorothy Huyck: 33:36 Are your park technicians capable of laterally moving through the ranger series? Or are they going to—

Phyllis L. King: 33:36 I don't know if these have the qualifications or not, without going to look in their files, but maybe that's not their idea either. So, then they might get married and then they decide they don't want to work. We had a girl that was offered a position who was a seasonal in the Forest Service in the San Francisco, career conditional. And she wouldn't take it because she had a boyfriend here. Well, she was an archeologist, so she could have went up, but her priorities were not that of getting a high grade for the US government or anything. Her priority she had set for herself. So, there was a potential, but the potential didn't want any part of it. And I think that's still what we're running into. So, I don't think there's really any way of saying how many there'll be, but I think it'll increase, but it's going to be slow.

Dorothy Huyck: 34:39 Thank you.

[END OF TAPE]

[END OF INTERVIEW]