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



David Ames
October 4, 1978

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

Dorothy Huyck: 00:00 I'm Dorothy Huyck, I will be interviewing David Ames, who is the superintendent at Petrified Forest National Park. The date is October 4, 1978.

Dorothy Huyck: 00:25 I think you were at the Grand Canyon at the Albright Training Center between 1963 and—

David Ames: 00:30 No, I was at the Albright Training Center between July of 1966—

Dorothy Huyck: 00:34 '66.

David Ames: 00:36 —and April of 1970. I think, I guess, about the most interesting thing about my arrival there in July of 1966 was that the staff that was welcoming me was talking about two women that were going to be in the training session starting about two days later. I think there had only been three women through the training center up until that time. The training center started under Frank Kowski in 1957, in Yosemite, I believe. Moved to Grand Canyon in 1963 and I know that Barbara Lund had been through the training center. She has since left the Park Service. She was a naturalist, I think, and Glennie Murray, who is now Glennie Murray Wall, working in Denver. Have you interviewed her or plan to? She had been through the training Center, I think, in the spring of '66. I think she had just completed the prior session.

David Ames: 01:34 There was another woman who had attended the training session with Barbara Lund and her name I just don't know. I have a hunch she's not even in the Park Service anymore, but I don't know anything about her, but I remember there were two women, including Barbara Lund in one session. Howard Chapman would be a good source of information as to women in the training center as trainees, as would Sydney Roosh, who was the secretary for Frank Kowski for many years. She kept the best personnel records in the Park Service at that time. The Washington Personnel Office would call her to find out where people were or where they had been throughout their career because she had flawless records. She now is retired and lives in Springdale, Utah.

- David Ames: 02:22 At any rate, we had the first two women – during my four years there anyway, who I think were the fourth and the fifth women, but this could be wrong – they were Paige Cruise or Paige Lawrence, who is now Paige Lawrence Cruise, she was a historian, and Cynthia Kryston, who was then stationed, I think, at Adams Mansion. There was quite a lot of discussion among the training center’s staff as to how women should be treated. Should they have to do all – this was in 1966 – should they have to do all the same physical activities, like rock climbing, and law enforcement training, and all of that, as the men. So, Wayne Cohen [?] and the rest of us on the staff decided, sure, because –The atmosphere was kind of bizarre compared to say, today.
- Dorothy Huyck: 03:19 Bizarre in what way?
- David Ames: 03:20 Well, it was considered unusual that they would come into interpretive jobs and of course, they wouldn’t be considered for protection jobs. That was the official policy. I know, for instance, when I came into the Park Service, there had been six or eight names on the register. Two were automatically eliminated because they were women.
- Dorothy Huyck: 03:43 Automatically?
- David Ames: 03:43 Automatic. I mean, that was just—
- Dorothy Huyck: 03:45 By whom?
- David Ames: 03:46 By the staff as Mesa Verde National Park. They just figured that since there had never been women rangers in the protection field, why they would automatically just eliminate them.
- Dorothy Huyck: 03:59 What year was that?
- David Ames: 04:03 1963. The only women I was aware of in the Park Service, at that stage, in professional jobs, were Jean Pinkley, who was also there at Mesa Verde – she was the chief archeologist – and then this other woman who was the superintendent back east at the Adams.
- Dorothy Huyck: 04:18 Wilhelmina Harris?
- David Ames: 04:18 Yeah, Wilhelmina Harris, at the Adams Mansion. Adams National Historic Site or whatever it is. At any rate, the

atmosphere was really different than it is now. For instance, here at Petrified Forest, we have now one woman in a park technician position, but for law enforcement duties, we had a seasonal this summer who was a fully commissioned law enforcement officer, a woman. Even though she was a seasonal here, she had just resigned as a GS-9 park ranger in Yosemite to marry one of our park technicians here. That is Ginny Russo. They just moved to Lake Mead. So, it seemed very normal to have her be law enforcement as a seasonal and it is interesting, I think, to think of the change in attitudes over the last 12 years because those first two, with Cynthia Kryston and Paige Lawrence, it was questionable if they should even be in interpretation. No one ever thought – I don't think the idea ever entered anyone's minds that women would ever be coming into the Park Service in ranger positions or anything like that.

- Dorothy Huyck: 05:33 What was your role at the training center at that time?
- David Ames: 05:35 I was an instructor.
- Dorothy Huyck: 05:36 In what field?
- David Ames: 05:37 Well, all fields, but primarily interpretation, but then all the instructors would assist all the others in whatever their specialty was. So, we all got involved in every field, protection, search and rescue, fire control, Park Service history and organization, and that sort of thing.
- Dorothy Huyck: 05:54 Because of the research I've done, I'm a little puzzled with this attitude toward women interpreters, in that a woman had, for instance, inaugurated the interpretive program at Rock Mountain in 1928 and '29. Two women had worked in the '30s at Mesa Verde.
- David Ames: 06:14 They were considered historical oddities, I guess you'd say, because there just were very few women in the 1960s.
- Dorothy Huyck: 06:21 Of course, there had been others in Yellowstone, in Yosemite. Are we to assume therefore that that history wasn't particularly well known and therefore women were considered oddities in these roles?
- David Ames: 06:32 I remember it was brought up that women had been. It was just a historical anecdote that – Here's something unusual that happened back in the 1930s, there were even women.

That was the way it approached, and nobody ever thought about it any differently.

- Dorothy Huyck: 06:51 Therefore, it was assumed that in the '60s you were cutting new ground, new territory.
- David Ames: 06:55 Oh yeah, because then it wasn't like we were – I think we could see that it was liable to change, especially as – and this is what I wanted to point out here – maybe in that first summer of 1966 we thought of those two women as maybe the last two or two of not very many in the future, but then it quickly began to change. By the next class, there were three.
- Dorothy Huyck: 07:23 Which class is that now?
- David Ames: 07:24 Now were talking about the Fall of 1966, there were three women that came into the training. I'll just read off their names here because I've got it written down. Where they are now, I don't know. Laura Lee Martin, Sue-Jane Kerbin, and Sharon McAllister. I really don't know where those three women are right now. The following class, which would have been the Spring of 1967, there were four women in that class. This just – I think by this time – I can remember Wayne Cohen [?], for instance, the supervisor of the training center saying, "You know, it's no longer an oddity. Maybe there should be women on the staff. It's possible that women may someday go into protection jobs rather than just interpretation." He started putting forth a lot of very radical statements like that, which of course, soon came to pass.
- Dorothy Huyck: 08:27 There seems to have been a change in his thinking in a rather brief period of time.
- David Ames: 08:30 Right.
- Dorothy Huyck: 08:31 Had the earliest women shown themselves to be capable?
- David Ames: 08:35 Absolutely.
- Dorothy Huyck: 08:36 Was that a part of the change in attitude?
- David Ames: 08:41 I'm sure it had a lot to do with it. They showed themselves to be quite capable and it's interesting too because I think the ones that were very capable are remembered and some

that weren't, maybe that were average or that were less than capable, are forgotten. There are some here I can't remember. Along with a lot of the men that were the same way. If they blended into the woodwork, I really can't remember them, but then again, there were 3,000 trainees there while I was there, so I – and I have a very poor memory.

- David Ames: 09:06 Let's see here, by the Spring of '67 – Maybe these names will help you too, if you bump into them later. Joan Murphy, Mary Dodd, Mary Jane Inman, and Diana Smith. Now, Mary Dodd, her sister is a friend of my wife, and she lives in Tucson, but I can't remember where Mary Dodd – I think Mary Dodd is still in the National Capital Parks or somewhere in the east.
- Dorothy Huyck: 09:41 I have the impression she may be in Florida.
- David Ames: 09:41 Okay, that's quite possible. Mary Jane Inman went to Florida, and I don't know where she went after that, but she worked in the Everglades. Mary Jane Inman was interesting because she was one of the first women, even though she came in, in an interpretive role, I believe, as a park naturalist, she could ride, rope, and shoot. That made everybody stop and think. She was better at some of the ranger skills than most of the men in the class because she had been a packer, and a horse wrangler, and all that kind of stuff. Diana Smith married Paul Ghiotti, so they now reside, I think, down at Saguaro and she is no longer a permanent employee, as far as I know.
- David Ames: 10:28 Okay, flip over here, now see, that was the spring. This class was the – I've got to check something out here. I guess Summer of 1967. Now there are one, two, three, four, five, six women in this class. You'll notice the trend is like a very nice graph going up. The women were Lois Koretz, Louise Felton, Kathleen Kirby, Linda Stanton, and Sherry Stair, and Barbara Taylor. That should come out six, I don't think I repeated anybody. I can't tell you any anecdotes there. I don't know where they are at this stage.
- David Ames: 11:39 The next class, which is undated. I'd have to really do some – The training center can tell you the dates on these people.
- Dorothy Huyck: 11:48 That might be the Fall of 1967.

- David Ames: 11:49 Should be, but some years we had summer classes and some years we didn't, but this is probably the Fall of '67, but I'd want to check it out. Yeah, it is, the Fall of '67. There were one, two, three, four women in that class. It's interesting too, the women were all grouped together in the center behind the secretaries. I'm just beginning to notice that.
- Dorothy Huyck: 12:12 In each of those pictures?
- David Ames: 12:12 In all the pictures, the women are grouped, so far anyway. First picture – I don't have one from the Summer of '66 for some reason, but I think they're in the middle too. In the Fall of '66, there are three women in the middle right behind the secretaries. Same with the Spring of '67, they're grouped right behind the secretaries. Exact same spot, even though there were six of them, they're lined up in a T formation behind the secretaries. Here we are in the Fall of '67, and they're lined up right behind the secretaries. That'll change later.
- Dorothy Huyck: 12:51 How do you interpret that?
- David Ames: 12:54 Well, I'm sure that whoever was lining up the pictures, which I can't remember, would have felt it was a good idea to have the women all in a group because they were sort of unusual and they needed the protection of all the boys around them.
- David Ames: 13:08 Okay, let's see, Fall of '67. The women in the training class were, Jean Larson, Mary Goosey – and I don't know if she's a relative of Neil Goosey or not, in the Park Service – Mary Anne Stein, and Carrie P. Jones. Her middle name was Paige, Carrie Paige Jones. Carrie P. Jones—
- Dorothy Huyck: 13:32 Was she from Virginia by chance?
- David Ames: 13:36 Yeah, definitely, strong accent. I talked to her on the telephone last spring when I was working in BEE [?] and I can't remember where she is now. She's somewhere in the eastern half of the United States, but she is still with the Park Service because she was a supervisor involved with the placement of somebody. I remember talking to her on the phone.
- David Ames: 13:59 Okay, now there's a winter class, 1968.

- Dorothy Huyck: 14:03 '68?
- David Ames: 14:05 '68, in other words, January. It was a short – Sort of a strange short class that was squeezed into the dead winter months that we normally didn't have a class. The women are still grouped in the middle, but there's one woman who's not standing in the row with the women. She's back another row with the guys.
- Dorothy Huyck: 14:22 Insisting on being an individualist of some sort.
- David Ames: 14:24 Yes, and she was an individualist. Her name – Let's see. Her name was, at that time, her name was Marion Riggs. Her name is now Marion Durham. She was an archeologist and at that time she was stationed in Washington, but since then she worked for Walnut Canyon National Monument, and she quit. I think she now works for the Forest Service in Flagstaff and her last name is Durham, Marian Durham. Then the four women lined up in the normal position here behind the secretary are, Sally [Sue?] Ann Zart, Jo Anna Long, Mary Rinehart, and Diane Morris. I don't know where they are at this stage.
- David Ames: 15:28 Spring of '68. Aha! The women are now – They're balanced still, but they're now no longer standing bend the secretaries. They're standing at each end of the row down here. This is Karen Lindquist over here. Kathy Dilonardo became a park superintendent not too long after that by about two and a half, three years later. Within three years, she was a park superintendent at, I think, Castillo de San Marcos or St. Augustine. Castillo de San Marcos, I think. I just found out today that she's working at Independence Hall. She must be a historian because that was her field, but I'm not too sure what she is there, probably chief historian or something.
- David Ames: 16:23 Okay, the Summer of '68, three women in that class. They were, Diana Skyles, Julia Holmaas, and Lucia Guminski. Now, Lucia Guminski, I've – You hear about from time to time, and she is now in the Washington office, I think in the branch of training or interpretation. Have you interviewed her?
- Dorothy Huyck: 16:49 I haven't interviewed anybody in Washington yet.
- David Ames: 16:51 Okay.

Dorothy Huyck: 16:52 I've interviewed Diana Skyles.

David Ames: 16:54 Where's she now?

Dorothy Huyck: 16:55 Point Reyes.

David Ames: 16:57 Okay, there you go. Lucia Guminski is now Lucia Guminski Snyder, I think, I believe. The FBI agent that came up to teach some of the law enforcement in that class referred to her as Luscious Lucia, but this was not--He picked on everybody and I just happened to remember that, but he picked on everybody, man or woman. She has kept that nickname, from the people in that class, she has kept that nickname for the rest of her career.

David Ames: 17:36 Okay, Fall of '68. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven women, that was the most ever at that stage. I think now they're running 50% and by the way, that's where this is all leading. The women in that were Susan Kopczynski, Loretta Schmidt, she's in the Virgin Islands I believe, last I heard, or was trying very hard to get transferred.

Dorothy Huyck: 18:02 Puerto Rico.

David Ames: 18:03 Puerto Rico. San Juan National Historic Site, Puerto Rico. Thea Whitaker, and I believe she's still active in the Park Service.

Dorothy Huyck: 18:12 She's a superintendent in Ohio at William Howard Taft.

David Ames: 18:17 Taft, okay. She took Ron Tolman's place, I think. I think I've talked to her on the phone about somebody transferring. Kathleen Catalano, and I read her name recently, I believe, but I can't remember what park. Linda Finn-

Dorothy Huyck: 18:38 I have a feeling she's in Florida.

David Ames: 18:38 Linda Finn's at Redwoods or was up until not too long ago anyway. Since I left that area, I'm not too sure if she's still there. She was chief naturalist. Shirley Keethley [?], Stone's River, Charlene Carpenter. She married Vic Viara and as far as I know she's no longer working. Two weddings resulted from classes while I was there and that was the second. The first was Diana Smith marrying Paul Ghiotti. One ranger marrying another.

- David Ames: 19:22 Now, the women are in the same row. No, they're not, they're in two different rows and they're kind of just scattered through the group here in this class. This is the Spring of '69. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight women in that class. Madeline Billy, Linda Gruen, Helen Lindsley, I've heard of her from time to time. I think she's still – As a matter of fact, I think she may have been one of the first women to get involved in law enforcement work. Helen Lindsley, up at Yellowstone. I seem to remember something about that.
- David Ames: 20:12 Carmen Bush, Elizabeth Knight, Doris Omundson, who's now a superintendent. I'm sure you're going to interview her. Carol Scanlon, recently resigned, and Ernie Escalate, who – She's in the Virgin Islands, right? Because she used to be down at Tuzigoot. Ernie Escalate, her I know fairly well because she was stationed near the training center and came back for other courses. Oh, there was one more woman in that class, that makes eight, I guess. Ellen Lang. Sitka, I think she's superintendent there.
- Dorothy Huyck: 21:00 I think she has resigned.
- David Ames: 21:02 Oh really, that's interesting.
- Dorothy Huyck: 21:04 But there's another woman there as superintendent.
- David Ames: 21:08 Okay, now we're at the Fall of '69. Now, Rose Fujimori was in this class. She is the area manager for Pu'ukohola. She's tremendous, very bright. There were one, two, three, four women in that class. Janet Chess, as far as I know she's still a historian in the Park Service. I read her name somewhere not-
- Dorothy Huyck: 21:41 She's a superintendent.
- David Ames: 21:41 Superintendent, okay. Which park, do you know?
- Dorothy Huyck: 21:43 Yes, Fort Caroline, I believe.
- David Ames: 21:47 Fort Carolina.
- Dorothy Huyck: 21:47 Janet Chess Wolf.
- David Ames: 21:48 Right, right, yeah, she got married not too ... A long time ago. Deborah Jensen, Susan Helper and Rose Fujimori.

- David Ames: 22:10 Okay, and the last class, January 1970. One, two – only four women in that class. This was a park technician course, and I don't think any of these women are now rangers, but let's check. Melina Basye, Lee Struble [?], Caroline Higgins, that's it. Nazmia Darwish, she was from Jordan as a foreign, like an exchange student.
- David Ames: 23:10 I thought it might be interesting to look through some of these other picture too, for other courses. These weren't intake training courses, but they were miscellaneous other classes that were given during those years just to see, there might be some women here that have either were then or have since gone into professional positions. Okay, here is Phyllis Shaw, who at that time was a – I think an administrative clerk of some sort at Death Valley or some place – for John Muir. She is now program and budget officer number two assistant in San Francisco. I don't know about the other women in that course. That was an orientation class.
- David Ames: 24:02 Let's see. Here's a concession's management seminar though that would have had superintendents and chief rangers and there are no women in that picture. Here's a law enforcement workshop, it's all men. This was January 1968 and of course, now today, that would have at least five or six women in a class that size and maybe a great deal more. Here's a park management class for new superintendents and there are no women in that class. This was in 1968. Okay, I don't think we're going to – Here's a supervisor's course for safety, 1968, and there are no women in it, and it was a general course for all sorts of supervisors, low and middle level supervisors in various safety-oriented things and zero women in that, in supervisory capacity at that time. That was a big course, about 50 people in that class.
- David Ames: 25:51 Okay, here's your class in administrative practices in 1968 and Carol Martin was in it, Carla Martin. Her husband had been in my class at the training center and was killed during that class. Of course, she's been a superintendent since then. You're probably going to interview here maybe down in Tucson. Okay, here's an interpretive management course, 1969. This was for people that were everything from chief naturalists and historians on down to just supervisory naturalists and interpreters. There is one woman in the class. Let's see how she was here, okay,

Esther Humes [?], Southwest Region. I don't know what her position would have been, but she was from the regional office. So, there were no field supervisory interpretive people that came to that class.

Dorothy Huyck: 26:52

I believe she retired fairly recently.

David Ames: 26:57

Okay. Here's a T group, they were popular back in the '60s, leadership lab. This is 1969 and this looks like it was full of people that were in mid-level management, maybe aspiring to around a GS-12, 13, 14 group. No woman in the course. Now, of course if they did that sort of a class, it'd have a bunch of women at least, if not half. Maintenance management, no women. I don't think women are making great gains in maintenance even today. Managerial grid, no women. That course is still being given today and there'd be a lot of women in the class today because that is for a broad spectrum, from the GS-9 level on up to whatever, no upper limit. Anybody that's in management, or getting into it, or higher-level supervision. There's absolutely no women in that class. Looks like about 30 people.

David Ames: 28:09

Okay, here's a class in supervision and group performance, which is the next layer. First level supervision course, April 1969. The only woman in that class is Carol Scanlon. That wouldn't happen today either I don't think, it's kind of historical. That's the same kind of class only for instructors and Carol Scanlon is in that one. Here's a class for administration for line managers, which would be for people who've just become unit managers, like a district manager or a district interpreter and that kind of thing. This was in 1969, there are no women in that class. This is just a group of us superintendents back in 1970, and this is the Western Region superintendents, and there are no women in that group. That's it. That's probably useless information.

Dorothy Huyck: 29:21

On the contrary, it's a good chronology.

David Ames: 29:25

Yeah. The thing that I remember is the trend of everybody talking about the two women that were in the class in the summer of '66 and then how within a class or two, it wasn't even a subject for discussion, it was normal and from very rare to just being normal. In some classes it was six, or seven, or eight in a course. Now, when I go back as a guest instructor, I'd be surprised if there were fewer than

15 in a class of say, 40. Quite often, I've never really counted. I've never paid that much attention, but I do notice that there are – Of course, minorities, the same thing goes for minority people. Oh gosh, there were only maybe three or four Black trainees during the 13 sessions that I was there, and three or four Asians, and a few Indian trainees that were in the Park Service and/or with the tribal park came over. That was about. Now, minority student participation is—

- Dorothy Huyck: 30:27 In those early years, was a woman inevitably expected to perform better at the training center than a man?
- David Ames: 30:39 No, no, as a matter of fact, I think – It was never really – I suppose setup as a set of standards, but I don't think they had to perform, maybe, all of the activities. For instance, if they had balked at rope climbing, repelling down cliffs and that sort of thing, I think the atmosphere would have said that was okay, whereas – both from peer and staff. You'd want to ask the other staff members that too, they might have a different point of view, but I think they would have thought it was okay because they would have to do that since they're women and since they're in interpretive jobs, that's okay if they chicken out on that.
- David Ames: 31:20 Just like we would if a man interpreter was there and he had a difficult time with some of those activities, it wouldn't be held against him as much as if he were aspiring to be a protection ranger and should learn to ride, rope, and shoot, and do all those things. Then, he'd have to do pretty well at it, or he'd have a difficult time.
- Dorothy Huyck: 31:40 Did you have women who in fact balked at certain activities at the Training Center?
- David Ames: 31:43 No, I can't remember ... I can't remember any women balking. As a matter of fact, I remember women doing things, like repelling for instance, and the sheer peer pressure of them doing it, there would be a 100% participation from the most timid members of the group. Just because the women were doing it, they had to do it. Actually, that turned out to be a positive advantage.
- Dorothy Huyck: 32:09 This must have happened before your time, but do you have any recollection of how it comes that there were

women initially sent to the Albright Training Center in the first place?

- David Ames: 32:17 They were – Okay, that was due to the difference in selecting trainees. It used to be, up until 1965, a person would join the Park Service and be chosen by a park. The park would choose the person individually. Then, within two to five years, they would be sent to the training center as a trainee. Then, beginning with a class in the Spring of 1965, the Park Service began to hire people centrally in Washington, off the Federal Service Register, send them to the Training Center right away, and then the Training Center would assign them to parks after three months at the Training Center.
- David Ames: 33:00 So, the first two or three – Well, I know – I can think of three women who went through the training center before I went there as an instructor. Two of those were back log trainees, trainees from parks, that had a home assignment, and so they just came because they were interpreters in those parks, and everybody eventually went to the training center.
- Dorothy Huyck: 33:20 In their cases, presumably, their superintendent sent them?
- David Ames: 33:23 Yes. Yeah, they at least weren't kept from going to the training center.
- Dorothy Huyck: 33:26 Is it possible then that a superintendent-
- David Ames: 33:26 [Phone rings]. Excuse me.
- Dorothy Huyck: 33:26 Is it possible then that the decision of one or two superintendents to send women on their staff to Albright was the decision to put women into that training session?
- David Ames: 33:46 I'm sure it had a lot to do with it.
- Dorothy Huyck: 33:47 Rather than the training center in any way inviting these persons.
- David Ames: 33:51 Oh yeah, the training center – Let's see, I'm fairly sure I'm correct. The training center was never in a trainee selection position. They just trained whoever arrived and they never selected, or discouraged, or whatever trainees in any way. So, the trainees – It would be up to the superintendents and

the ones that broke ground were the ones that sent the first two or three women from their parks. Then, of course, the next people that broke ground were the personnel types that hired women off the registers.

- David Ames: 34:20 When that became centralized, women started coming into the Park Service in the O25, the professional series, in great numbers, only after it became centralized with intake trainees. Now, that may have been a coincidence or not, I don't know, but that's when it happened. That's when you start seeing two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight women per class as opposed to none for class after class.
- Dorothy Huyck: 34:46 How do you see the opportunities for women today?
- David Ames: 34:49 They're definitely better than they were 10 years ago, or 15, or 20 years ago that's for sure, just in sheer numbers. In fact, now in a lot of things. A lot of the people that were rabidly against it are retired or dead. A lot of the people that joined the Park Service in the past 15 years have joined, and looked around, and seen women working in the Park Service in professional jobs. Whereas prior to 12 or 15 years ago, you didn't see them. They just weren't there, in that '50s and '60 period.
- David Ames: 35:24 Like you mentioned, there were some historically, some isolated cases, but that has a lot to do with attitude. If it's normal, it's okay and it doesn't shock you, but if it's the first of anything, no matter how good it is, it's going to surprise you and then you get into the resistance to change kind of thing. It's the same I suppose with women being chosen as park superintendents and that sort of job. There were – Well, Wilhelmina Harris, I guess, was the only one until, what, 1970 or 1971, some place in there.
- Dorothy Huyck: 35:58 Historically, the first woman superintendent would be 1940.
- David Ames: 36:01 Oh, okay. I keep getting confused with the only one at a particular time with the first ever. In 1965, how many were there? Just her? I think so. At least she was used as the example of the only one. I don't know if there were any others, but I don't think there were. Now, there must be what, 20?
- Dorothy Huyck: 36:25 Probably a dozen.

- David Ames: 36:26 A dozen, okay.
- Dorothy Huyck: 36:29 You referred to the fact that there were at least two marriages among these classes, which brings up a very interesting question I'd like to ask you. What about the future for those persons who are both professionals and are married to each other?
- David Ames: 36:41 Bleak.
- Dorothy Huyck: 36:41 Why?
- David Ames: 36:41 It really is.
- Dorothy Huyck: 36:43 Why?
- David Ames: 36:43 Because the Park Service is so mobile and as any ranger knows, who has ever aspired for a particular job, or even in a particular park, or even in a particular general region of the country, they know the odds are against that. When you try to get two people going to the same place, at the same time, in the same kind of work, the odds are geometrically astronomical. They really are. For instance, if I wanted to aspire to one job someplace, the odds are 1,000 to one against it. If I want to go to a particular region of the country, the odds are fair. They're not great, but they're fair.
- David Ames: 37:24 The Park Service is full of people who only want to work in one general area, one region and it may take them five to ten years to get there. Some of them never make it. Never get to the part of the country they want to work in. If you add to that trying to do that for two people simultaneously, it's really difficult. Mary Bradley would be a great person to talk to on that subject because I know right now, she's got a bunch of names on a list of husband/wife teams in the Parks Service that want to be transferred together and to my knowledge it hasn't worked yet for anybody.
- David Ames: 38:01 There was a woman who just resigned in Hawaii. Ginny Russo just resigned at Yosemite. So, there go two GS-9 professionals right there and there aren't that many to start with. So, when they start resigning in numbers like that, it's going to be difficult, it really is. What I find interesting is that the individual woman who is liberated enough to get into that field, is making the choice to resign. That surprises

me. In other words, why does the GS-9 park ranger, which is tough to get, the Park Service is jammed with park technicians, thousands of technicians all aspiring for a few O25 park ranger positions. Why does the GS-9, who's already got it, quit and discard that, and decide to marry a park technician who may or may not make it? In the case of Ginny Russo and Dennis Burnett, he made it within a couple of months, but it might not have worked out that well.

Dorothy Huyck: 39:12

Where a couple is not determined to move to a particular area, but is willing to move jointly anywhere, that opens up a few more possibilities. I'm interested in this because I've talked with at least one regional director who said that after all the Park Service has an investment in both of these persons, the husband and the wife. They're both professional employees the Park Service has probably invested quite a bit in these people. It is his assumption that in due time the Park Service will recognize that investment and really make a greater effort to move people jointly. Can you imagine that happening?

David Ames: 39:53

Sure, yeah, I can imagine it happening. It'll be a little difficult in that a lot of the – Especially parks, because until you get to the really big parks, rarely have two positions open at the same time in that field. Two park ranger jobs say, or two chief ranger jobs, or especially if they get any higher than Grade 9, then there aren't very many jobs. Let's just talk about two GS-9s right now. A park like Yosemite, or Yellowstone, or Grand Canyon could theoretically have two open at the same time fairly frequently. Whether that – Then it gets very complicated when you compare the backgrounds of the two individuals and are they both the best for those two jobs or would you have to bend something to get the other one in, whichever one it was.

David Ames: 40:44

Then you get into a personnel thing because you might have somebody who loses out on a job because somebody's spouse got the job, man or woman, and they got it because the Park Service was trying to move the couple and so they moved the other half of the couple in over someone more qualified. So, what do you do with that? That's why I say, the odds are geometric because there's so many things working against it, just pure personnel policy, trying to hire the best person. The odds of getting two people that are the best for two jobs in the same place that maybe only hires 15

people to start with, or 20, or whatever, it sounds kind of difficult. I would hate to have to try to do that for anybody.

- Dorothy Huyck: 41:35 One last question, in observing the performance of women in professional roles in the Park Service, have you observed that on the whole these are jobs that women can carry out effectively?
- David Ames: 41:48 Absolutely. I think I was lucky in that when I came into the Park Service, I knew very little about it. About the second person I met in the National Park Service was Jean Pinkley. She was the most powerful personality, the most interesting personality, and the most skilled person at Mesa Verde National Park. Amongst a lot of really good people, but she really stood out. She was the chief archeologist, she was a GS-12, and the chief ranger was a GS-9. That gives you an idea, the relative – Her stature in the park. She was highly respected by field archeologists that were doing field work on Wetherill Mesa at that time. These were all PhD level professional archeologists and they respected her. They didn't always agree with her, but then again archeologists didn't agree with each other, so that certainly didn't take any points away from Jean.
- David Ames: 42:46 She ran a big division that had three permanents and about 25 seasonals at that time. Like I said before, I still think for a live personal interpretation, she had standards that were higher than anywhere in the Park Service to this day, in interpretation. It was just excellent, really excellent. So, when I got the training center and they started about women coming in, I didn't think it was that unusual because I had this memory of this person who was so outstanding. Whereas, if I'd have started almost any place else, I probably couldn't have conceived of a woman in the Park Service at that stage just because I hadn't seen any before.
- David Ames: 43:25 Being young, and fresh, and going to Mesa Verde, and there was Jean Pinkley, a living legend. Why to me women seemed, not only normal in the Park Service as intake rangers, but they seemed more than capable as managers. That's been blown out by them seeing other women who are now in management in the Park Service, and they all seem extremely successful. I can't – You start talking about Doris Omundson, and Mike Hackett, and Carla Martin, and people just right in this region that most familiar with.

They've all got a lot of years of a record now and they're well thought of by, not only those of us in the peer group, other superintendents, but I know they're respected by people like Howard Chapman and the other management people at the higher levels in the region. They're just doing great.

- David Ames: 44:15 If they goofed up, the word would get out and they're just doing fine, so I can't think of any failures. Now it could be that they were chosen because they were a little better than average, a Jackie Robinson sort of thing. Got to get somebody really great if we're going to go in and do something new.
- Dorothy Huyck: 44:31 One of these days a woman will goof up inevitably.
- David Ames: 44:35 I'm sure they all have too. I don't think of any superintendents that haven't, but they haven't goofed up in anything that's – They haven't made any unusual goof ups that we don't all make apparently because I certainly haven't heard of it. We all goof up, but they haven't done anything that's so bad that they're no longer a superintendent. I'd call that goofing up, I guess. Acceptable level of goofing up.
- Dorothy Huyck: 45:00 I've asked you a variety of questions about women in the Park Service, is there anything we haven't talked about that you'd like to comment on?
- David Ames: 45:12 I really can't think of anything. I think it will – 12 or 15 years ago talking about women in the Park Service – excepting some past historical examples, isolated examples – 12 or 15 years ago it was conjecture. Will it work? Can they fit in? That kind of thing. Now, they're talking about, can they be regional directors? Can they be director? Because there are already a bunch that are now or have been superintendents and that sort of thing in the past few years. We've got a deputy director over in the next region here. Highly successful in those levels. I have a hunch that in five or ten years it'll no longer be a point of discussion, it'll just be an accepted thing, like Black people playing baseball. I mean, that's no longer a point of discussion, but in 1948 it sure was and that was only 30 years ago.
- David Ames: 46:01 I have an idea that it'll go the same way and it'll just no longer – You better write your article fast because it may

not sell in 10 years, except as a historical document. Right now, they're certainly on the uptake, on the increase, and getting into more key positions. It's too bad you weren't here a couple of months ago because we just lost one professional woman on our staff here because she got a better offer from Coulee Dam National Recreation Area.

Dorothy Huyck: 46:31

Who was that?

David Ames: 46:32

Gwyneth Shoot. Now, the person that originally called me for you, it was a personal officer in the Santa Fe office, I think.

Dorothy Huyck: 46:40

Yeah, Ben Moffat, the public relations officer. Celia—
[Inaudible 00:46:44]

David Ames: 46:44

Celia, yeah, it was Celia. She somehow thought Gwyneth was still here and she had just left a few weeks or days before that. You might want to – I don't know if you've been interviewing women that have quit the Park Service for one reason or another, but interview Marion Durham in Flagstaff, Gretchen Graham up at Bryce Canyon, she's married to the chief naturalist now and I don't think she's working anymore, but she had worked here for a while. You might want to interview some that have decided against it because they would probably have certainly a far more critical point of view to their chances because apparently, they decided their chances weren't very good. All I can think of are the successes and you might want to interview some who decided to opt for other things.

Dorothy Huyck: 47:43

Thanks very much.

David Ames: 47:44

Okay.

[END OF TAPE]

[END OF INTERVIEW]