

**National Park Service (NPS) History Collection**

---

NPS Oral History Collection (HFCA 1817)  
Dorothy Huyck's National Park Service Oral History Project, 1942-1987



**Judith Rozelle**  
**August 30, 1978**

Interview conducted by Dorothy B. Huyck  
Transcribed by Rev.com  
508 compliant version by Casey Oehler

This digital transcript contains updated pagination, formatting, and editing for accessibility and compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. Interview content has not been altered.  
The original digital transcript is preserved in the NPS History Collection.

The release form for this interview is on file at the NPS History Collection.

NPS History Collection  
Harpers Ferry Center  
PO Box 50  
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425  
HFC\_Archivist@nps.gov

[START OF TAPE]

Dorothy Huyck: 00:03 The date is August 30, 1978. I am Dorothy Huyck. I will be interviewing Judith Rozelle R-O-Z-E-L-L-E, who is a financial program specialist at Yosemite National Park. Judith, how did you first become acquainted with the National Park service?

Judith Rozelle: 00:25 My grandfather was the first acting superintendent of Zion National Park.

Dorothy Huyck: 00:29 Who was that?

Judith Rozelle: 00:30 Walter Ruesch, R-U-E-S-C-H. And my uncle was superintendent of Mount McKinley and Sitka. And I have a brother-in-law in the Southwest region.

Dorothy Huyck: 00:44 And who was your uncle?

Judith Rozelle: 00:46 My uncle was Vern Ruesch, who spent most of his career at Grand Canyon National Park.

Dorothy Huyck: 00:54 Your own father was not related to Park Service?

Judith Rozelle: 00:57 No, he spent about a month, I think, with the Park Service.

Dorothy Huyck: 01:02 Did you see your grandfather at Zion as a youngster? Is that how you first were introduced to the Park Service then?

Judith Rozelle: 01:08 Yes, I had very vague memories. I was only five when he passed away, but I remember him taking me up in the park and loving the area so much and instilling in me, well, a really fervent love that I still feel for Zion. It's my, I shouldn't say, that my favorite park, but that's because I was born and raised there.

Dorothy Huyck: 01:25 Yes. Were you born in the park?

Judith Rozelle: 01:27 I was born in St. George, a small town, 40 miles west of the park, but I grew up all through grade school and high school living in Springdale, just outside of Zion.

Dorothy Huyck: 01:39 What was your father's occupation that kept you in Springdale?

Judith Rozelle: 01:42 He was a civil engineer for the state road commission. So, he traveled a lot, and my grandmother still lived in Springdale, so we made our home base at Springdale, and he would return on weekends.

Dorothy Huyck: 01:53 Was your father a college graduate?

Judith Rozelle: 01:55 No, he wasn't.

Dorothy Huyck: 01:56 And your mother was a homemaker?

Judith Rozelle: 01:58 Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: 02:00 Were you one of several children?

Judith Rozelle: 02:03 I have two sisters and one brother.

Dorothy Huyck: 02:05 Are you the eldest by any chance?

Judith Rozelle: 02:06 No, I'm the youngest.

Dorothy Huyck: 02:08 And when were you born?

Judith Rozelle: 02:10 I was born July 24th, 1945.

Dorothy Huyck: 02:17 Then you went through high school in Springdale?

Judith Rozelle: 02:19 Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: 02:19 And you graduated from Springdale High School presuming?

Judith Rozelle: 02:22 Well, Hurricane High School. We traveled 25 miles to school every day.

Dorothy Huyck: 02:28 And did you go to college?

Judith Rozelle: 02:30 Yes, I did. I attended University of Utah, University of Arizona, and graduated from Arizona State University.

Dorothy Huyck: 02:36 And you graduated when?

Judith Rozelle: 02:38 1967.

Dorothy Huyck: 02:40 And in what field did you major?

Judith Rozelle: 02:42 Elementary education.

Dorothy Huyck: 02:46 During the educational years, high school and college, who was it that was encouraging as far as encouraging your studies and encouraging you to think about going to college?

Judith Rozelle: 02:59 My father was very adamant. He felt very deprived. Because of the Depression, he had not been able to complete college and it was a very important thing with him. And he continuously pushed all of us, and I was the first one in the family to finish.

Dorothy Huyck: 03:16 Were there other persons, such as teachers or community or church leaders that were also encouragers or was it primarily your father?

Judith Rozelle: 03:23 Primarily my father. I had a lot of encouragement from high school instructors, specifically the counselor there at the high school who got me an honors of entrance scholarship to the University of Utah.

Dorothy Huyck: 03:34 I'm sorry. He got you a?

Judith Rozelle: 03:35 An honors of entrance scholarship, which I had told him I didn't want. And he went ahead and applied for it anyway, so I ended up at the University of Utah.

Dorothy Huyck: 03:43 Did that provide funds?

Judith Rozelle: 03:45 Yes, it paid the tuition.

Dorothy Huyck: 03:48 And how long were you at the University of Utah?

Judith Rozelle: 03:50 Two and a half years.

Dorothy Huyck: 03:53 And then you transferred to Arizona?

Judith Rozelle: 03:56 This gets complicated. I then transferred to Arizona State for one semester, then transferred to University of Arizona for one semester and then transferred back to Arizona State for one semester to graduate. So, I was able to complete my education in four years.

Dorothy Huyck: 04:12 Were there particular reasons why you happened to shift to this extent?

- Judith Rozelle: 04:16 Yes. When I was a junior in college, I was accepted in the Peace Corps in the advanced training program. The concept is that you study during your junior summer, then you return to college and that gives you a year to study the language of the country that you will be living in, then you go back for another summer. Originally, our program was community development, and we were going to be midwives. The community development program in the country that I lived in was abolished. And they asked me to teach English as a foreign language. It was necessary, therefore that I have my degree before I go into Peace Corps. And the only way I could do it was to return to Arizona State.
- Dorothy Huyck: 04:52 Then were you actually in the Peace Corps at any time?
- Judith Rozelle: 04:54 Yes, I was. I spent two years in Thailand.
- Dorothy Huyck: 04:56 In Thailand. Which years were those then?
- Judith Rozelle: 05:00 1967 through '69.
- Dorothy Huyck: 05:05 And during those two years, which aspects of the program were you actually participating in?
- Judith Rozelle: 05:09 I taught English as a foreign language to high school students.
- Dorothy Huyck: 05:15 And you never got into the midwifery program?
- Judith Rozelle: 05:17 No, it had been abolished.
- Dorothy Huyck: 05:20 Then you returned to Arizona.
- Judith Rozelle: 05:23 Then I returned to Zion again for a short time, and decided to pursue a career with teaching. I spent some time in Arizona substitute teaching and decided that I would rather choose another field. So, I spent several years fluctuating. I think it's indicative of Peace Corps returnees that they are kind of at loose ends when they return. They prepare you for culture shock going but not returning. So, I spent a year as a professional dancer. I spent several months living in London working in a jewelry store, and finally returned to Utah, Southern Utah.
- Dorothy Huyck: 05:57 Where were you a professional dancer?

Judith Rozelle: 05:59 In Tucson.

Dorothy Huyck: 06:01 And how long were you in London?

Judith Rozelle: 06:03 About four months.

Dorothy Huyck: 06:07 And at the end of all this acculturation, you then returned to school and finished the degree?

Judith Rozelle: 06:13 No, I already had my degree.

Dorothy Huyck: 06:14 I beg your pardon. I'm sorry.

Judith Rozelle: 06:16 I returned to Southern Utah and worked to get in the restaurant that I had worked my way through high school and college at. And at that time, I was approached by an instructor from the Albright training class, and we had discussed Park Service and he said, "I think you should try and get in the Park Service." And I said, "Oh, that's a dream. It's something that would be unattainable." And he said, "You should put in your application."

Judith Rozelle: 06:40 At this time, I had already passed the FSWE exam, and had been offered a job with the retirement division in Washington, which I had turned down. I then submitted my 171 at Zion for personnel management specialist. At that time, I think it was just personnel officer. And the assistant chief naturalist came to me and said, "We need a seasonal, we need a woman. We need someone who already has housing. And we need someone who can start tomorrow. Are you interested?" So, I became a seasonal naturalist for the Park Service.

Dorothy Huyck: 07:16 Had you some particular training as a seasonal naturalist?

Judith Rozelle: 07:19 None at all.

Dorothy Huyck: 07:19 Grew up in the park, I realize

Judith Rozelle: 07:21 Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: 07:22 And that was considered acceptable.

Judith Rozelle: 07:23 Yes. And the fact that I had a degree.

Dorothy Huyck: 07:27 And that was what season? The summer of what?

Judith Rozelle: 07:29 Summer of 1973.

Dorothy Huyck: 07:32 Did you actually go to Albright eventually?

Judith Rozelle: 07:35 I attended an Albright training course for three weeks – Orientation to Park Operations – but only as a trainee.

Dorothy Huyck: 07:41 And when was that?

Judith Rozelle: 07:45 That was the summer of 1976.

Dorothy Huyck: 07:50 And therefore, between your summer season of working in '73 and the time you actually took the training at Albright, what goes in between, what fits the interval?

Judith Rozelle: 07:59 I was a seasonal naturalist for two years, for two summers. They approached me during the winter of '74, I believe, to see if I would like to be seasonal clerk-typist in the mail file room. I accepted that job. And when the admin clerk left, I assumed her duties. When the personnel officer left, I assumed her duties. Then my appointment was up, and I went back to my appointment as a seasonal naturalist. That summer, there was a position vacant as program clerk in the maintenance division at Zion. And I was on Civil Service register, and they selected me from the register, and I was a part-time GS-3.

Dorothy Huyck: 08:40 You were entering grade then was GS-3?

Judith Rozelle: 08:42 Yes. 32-hours a week.

Dorothy Huyck: 08:47 And what is your current grade?

Judith Rozelle: 08:50 I'm presently a GS-7 in an upward mobility program. The target grade is in 11.

Dorothy Huyck: 09:01 That is the grade, but what does upward mobility mean in your case other than the grade? What other factors go into your upper mobility program?

Judith Rozelle: 09:11 The training, of course. The background that is necessary for us to be qualified for the kind of work that would be expected of someone handling budgets and program at the 11 level.

Dorothy Huyck: 09:23 Primarily training and the experience that goes with it?

Judith Rozelle: 09:25 Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: 09:26 Is there a timetable for this mobility from a seven to an 11?

Judith Rozelle: 09:31 The written amendment, of course, restricts promotion too soon. The only restriction in that case would be my ability to perform the job and the training that I receive.

Dorothy Huyck: 09:43 What are the restrictions with regard to promotion too soon?

Judith Rozelle: 09:47 You have to be two grades lower for one year before you're eligible for the next highest grade or six months in one grade lower.

Dorothy Huyck: 09:58 And how long have you been in this program?

Judith Rozelle: 10:01 I just transferred here a month ago.

Dorothy Huyck: 10:03 And your work at Rocky Mountain National Park was not in an upward mobility program.

Judith Rozelle: 10:09 It was a GS-5/6 program clerk.

Dorothy Huyck: 10:14 We've left out something here. We've not moved you mentally from Zion to Rocky Mountain.

Judith Rozelle: 10:19 I was in the position at Zion as a GS-3 part time, I think approximately six months when I received my full-time permanent position at Coronado National Memorial as an administrative clerk, GS-4/5. And I was there 10 months when I received the promotion and transfer to Rocky Mountain National Park.

Dorothy Huyck: 10:41 As a GS-5/6.

Judith Rozelle: 10:42 Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: 10:43 And also an administrative clerk?

Judith Rozelle: 10:45 It was program clerk.

Dorothy Huyck: 10:46 Program clerk.

Judith Rozelle: 10:47 Mm-hmm.

- Dorothy Huyck: 10:51 So in a relatively short interval, you've done quite a bit of moving around.
- Judith Rozelle: 10:54 Yes, I have.
- Dorothy Huyck: 10:56 Job wise, and geography wise.
- Judith Rozelle: 10:58 Yes.
- Dorothy Huyck: 11:00 Will your upward mobility program be designed primarily for the time you'll be here at Yosemite, or could you be moved on again?
- Judith Rozelle: 11:08 Primarily here at Yosemite. We have set up an individual training plan, which gives me a certain amount of training, which I must complete before I go to the nine level. And the Whitten Amendment restriction is the only restriction that keeps me from the 11 level. Hopefully I'll be able to spend enough time here, two or three years, that I'll be able to really understand the position.
- Dorothy Huyck: 11:34 I'd like to make one note for the sake of the record here. The Whitten Amendment, is it W-H-I-T?
- Judith Rozelle: 11:40 T-E-N.
- Dorothy Huyck: 11:41 Thank you. Would you tell me a bit about what being a financial program specialist means?
- Judith Rozelle: 11:48 It's mainly budgeting and programming for all the divisions in the park service. Handling cost, accounting documents, keeping track of the budget, and making sure that we don't get in trouble. Making sure that the funds are reallocated the way they're supposed to be, the way they were set up. Basically budgeting. Doing the entire budgeting process from the 577, 10577 level up to the 10561 level, which is the final document that goes into region to tell them how we planned to spend our budget this year at Yosemite.
- Dorothy Huyck: 12:27 Did you study math to any extent when you were in school?
- Judith Rozelle: 12:31 I really liked math. And when I started out at the University of Utah, for one quarter, I was a math major, but I was there for seven quarters and had seven majors, so I'm not sure that's pertinent.

Dorothy Huyck: 12:44 Did you take math in high school?

Judith Rozelle: 12:45 Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: 12:46 And science also?

Judith Rozelle: 12:47 Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: 12:48 Were these courses that were more frequently thought to be appropriate to boys?

Judith Rozelle: 12:52 Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: 12:54 Were you by any chance considered to be a tomboy?

Judith Rozelle: 12:57 Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: 12:58 Did you play with boys as you were a child at the time of growing up?

Judith Rozelle: 13:01 Yes, I broke my nose in the sixth grade playing football with the boys.

Dorothy Huyck: 13:07 And as you grew into the teenage years, were you expected to become something more of a lady?

Judith Rozelle: 13:14 By my father, yes. I think he was rather disappointed that I was very outgoing. I think the tomboyishness wore off to an extent, at least when I was in social circles. I still am a tomboy quite often.

Dorothy Huyck: 13:28 How do you define that currently?

Judith Rozelle: 13:30 Climbing trees, riding horses, riding bicycles. Doing things that little boys do.

Dorothy Huyck: 13:38 And when you were expected to be a lady, did you in some way or another rebel?

Judith Rozelle: 13:43 I don't think so. I think I enjoy being a lady. I think there are certain times that it's exciting to be feminine and ladylike. And I think there are certain circumstances that call for it. And I enjoy that as much as I enjoy the other. I enjoy a variety.

- Dorothy Huyck: 14:02 There are certainly some people who think that the National Park Service is a rather male-oriented organization. Do you?
- Judith Rozelle: 14:10 Fortunately, it's becoming less that way. I think up to this point, it has been very male oriented, especially in the ranger division. I feel that probably the most female-oriented positions in the park are in the administrative division.
- Dorothy Huyck: 14:25 I think that's always been the case.
- Judith Rozelle: 14:27 But then of course, you go back to the typical feminine type jobs like clerical duty, secretarial Budgeting is much more feminine than carrying a gun or giving tickets or riding horses.
- Dorothy Huyck: 14:41 Are there any jobs within the Park Service that you think really a woman should not undertake?
- Judith Rozelle: 14:46 No. I think that the position should be limited only by the person's abilities.
- Dorothy Huyck: 14:53 Has anybody ever acted as a mentor for you within Park Service to encourage your work and inform you of opportunities?
- Judith Rozelle: 15:05 At almost every park I've been at, I've had many people, especially men, who have been willing to help me. Men more than women, as a matter of fact.
- Dorothy Huyck: 15:14 How do you explain that?
- Judith Rozelle: 15:17 I'm not really sure. I would like to say that it was because they recognized the fact that I had ability, perhaps they were concerned at finding women who have ability, because they felt like there was going to be a push for more women in the Park Service. I'm not really sure.
- Dorothy Huyck: 15:35 One man in the Park Service has said, who is by the way, very gender blind, I think you could say, has said to me that he has difficulty in encouraging his women to encourage each other.
- Judith Rozelle: 15:47 I think that's true. I think that women have had so little opportunity for so long that quite frequently, when they get

in a position, I'm not sure what term to use in this case. It's almost a very protective feeling about their position. We work so hard. For example, the highest paid woman at Rocky Mountain National Park being Mary Silvernail. And I'm not saying she was this way, but it's very difficult for women to get above that. And it's quite an ego satisfaction to think, "I'm the highest paid woman in the park." And I think it's because it's such a novelty. Suddenly we are being able to say that we are higher than a GS-7 or even a GS-4 or 5.

- Dorothy Huyck: 16:41 So in your own experience, it has been men who have been the encouragers?
- Judith Rozelle: 16:47 Basically. I suppose I should clarify that because I have always worked for men. I have never had a female supervisor. At Zion, the chief of maintenance was very encouraging. And the administrative officer who gave me a lot of responsibility and a lot of help that didn't exactly go with the position, but I could handle it and help out. At Coronado there were only men. I was the only woman. And at Rocky Mountain, once again, I was in the maintenance division, which were basically men. And they were very, very encouraging.
- Dorothy Huyck: 17:17 You've therefore not encountered a discouraging supervisor?
- Judith Rozelle: 17:20 No, I haven't.
- Dorothy Huyck: 17:21 That's exciting. Have you taken additional coursework or been given opportunities to take classes that would aid and abet your Park Service career as you've moved around?
- Judith Rozelle: 17:33 I have taken the introduction to maintenance management course in this last summer at Rocky Mountain National Park. I was selected to be an instructor trainee for that particular course. The title has now been changed. Aside from that, I've taken courses such as defensive driving instructor. Things that were not necessarily pertinent to my position but gave me a chance to branch out and do some things that I enjoy doing like teaching, and meeting people within the service.
- Dorothy Huyck: 18:07 Do you think that your specific talents and abilities are being well used by the Park Service?

Judith Rozelle: 18:14 Yes, I believe so. There are probably positions I would rather branch out into, but of course that could come later on. I feel that training position in the structured position, or even a position where I'm able to meet the public instead of sitting in an office. But I think that's personal preference.

Dorothy Huyck: 18:36 You do feel optimistic then about future opportunities?

Judith Rozelle: 18:39 Yes, I think so. Perhaps because of my experience. And I've been so lucky to this point that I keep thinking that it will continue to be lucky.

Dorothy Huyck: 18:49 Have you been married at any time?

Judith Rozelle: 18:51 Yes, I have.

Dorothy Huyck: 18:52 When was that?

Judith Rozelle: 18:54 In 1973, when I started with the Park Service.

Dorothy Huyck: 18:57 And are you currently married?

Judith Rozelle: 18:58 No, I'm not. I'm divorced.

Dorothy Huyck: 19:00 And when were you divorced?

Judith Rozelle: 19:01 In 1974?

Dorothy Huyck: 19:05 Marriage is of course for some people a real complicating factors as far as the Park Service is concerned. Do you see the two meshing being married and being an employee of the Park Service?

Judith Rozelle: 19:15 For a woman, I think it's extremely difficult. A man generally can move. His wife becomes very mobile. She follows him, but when a woman has a career in the park service and has to move in order to advance, quite often her husband has some kind of position that he can't move if he's not with Park Service. And unfortunately, because of the nepotism law is quite often a man and woman, man and wife aren't allowed to work in the same area.

Dorothy Huyck: 19:43 Was your former husband a Park Service employee?

Judith Rozelle: 19:45 No he wasn't.

- Dorothy Huyck: 19:47 But did you in some way run into this movement mobility problem?
- Judith Rozelle: 19:51 No, not really because I hadn't started my permanent career then, I was only seasonal.
- Dorothy Huyck: 19:56 Certainly many women do comment on the mobility factor. And it's been thought that one of the reasons women were not advanced within the Park Service was that they were not mobile, but not every woman thinks that she's beset by mobility problems.
- Judith Rozelle: 20:12 I have known women that have worked in the Park Service. For example, we went to a retirement party today. The woman is single, has been single for her entire career, and retired as a GS-5, and has been mobile. Moved to Cape Cod, moved to Zion, moved to Yosemite. So, I'm not sure I could agree with that, that they had been held back because they were not mobile. I think that's true in many cases. If you are married and your husband has a position and you're not mobile, then certainly you can't expect to advance at least not as rapidly if you were mobile. However, I think there are many women that have been mobile that just have not received the opportunity until the last few years.
- Dorothy Huyck: 20:55 You've seen that changing?
- Judith Rozelle: 20:57 I feel like it's changing. I worked in very close connection with several people from the regional office in Denver. And it seems to me like women are advancing rather rapidly there if they're mobile. Sue Edelstein, for example, moving to superintendent of Sitka. Now, if she didn't have the mobility, she would probably still be a public information specialist in the Denver area. That would've held her career back.
- Dorothy Huyck: 21:24 You yourself have been, I guess, you consider yourself to be mobile as far as your career is concerned?
- Judith Rozelle: 21:28 Yes, I am. I would say the record shows that.
- Dorothy Huyck: 21:36 Have you given or received any assistance from another woman as far as finding jobs are concerned? I know you've had excellent encouragement from your supervisors. Have you seen any woman give you suggestions about job opportunities?

- Judith Rozelle: 21:51 Within the Park Service?
- Dorothy Huyck: 21:52 Yes.
- Dorothy Huyck: 21:53 Or have you given another woman such information?
- Judith Rozelle: 21:58 I've tried very hard in many cases because I know a lot of people in the Park Service, so I hear about opportunities. If it's something that I think someone I know would be interested in, I'll send them a vacancy announcement or let them know in some way that the positions are becoming available. For example, several announcements that have been issued here at Yosemite, since I've arrived, I've sent back to ladies I know in Denver.
- Judith Rozelle: 22:22 I would like to think that if I could help anybody in any way, I certainly would because I feel so lucky to have help. I can't think specifically of women that have gone out of their way to help me, but I know there have been women who have explained jobs to me, probably the personal officer at Zion who gave me some insight into restrictions and the things you had to go through in order to be able to qualify for positions. I can't think of any women that really stand out in my mind. I know there have been women who have helped.
- Dorothy Huyck: 22:57 Some organizations find that women develop rather a network of information exchanging vacancy announcements, letting one another know that things are opening up. Have you seen any of this within the Park Service?
- Judith Rozelle: 23:13 Yes, I have in several cases. In both instances of the job, the transfer from Zion to Coronado, I was notified by a man from the Rocky Mountain area. And when I moved to Yosemite, I learned at the vacancy announcement only because of a man. It was only advertised in Western region; therefore, I never would've seen it. And he made sure that I received a copy. In fact, there were two men. The employment officer in Western region personnel officer, but I have seen women do it. I know when I left my position at Rocky Mountain as a program clerk, I called several people that I had met, several women in small national monuments to tell them my position was becoming available, and that I would send them an announcement if it would like one.

- Dorothy Huyck: 24:05 Did you get some response to that?
- Judith Rozelle: 24:08 In two cases, no. In one case, yes. And the two cases were that it would be merely a lateral for them. And even though it would be a bigger area and would look better on their application, they weren't willing to move just for a lateral.
- Dorothy Huyck: 24:23 Do women make a mistake when they are not willing to move to a lateral appointment, do you think?
- Judith Rozelle: 24:28 Oh, I think so. I think that it has to be an individual choice. I think there are cases where lateral moves are wrong, but there are many cases whereby moving laterally, you put yourself into a position that's not so dead end. You certainly give yourself more experience in other areas. I think that in my particular instance, when I am finally an 11, to remain in budgeting would be a mistake. I would even be willing to lateral out to get other experience in property or procurement or personnel in order to qualify myself, say for an administrative officer position in a park. In those cases, I think it's necessary.
- Dorothy Huyck: 25:06 So you yourself certainly would take a lateral appointment at another stage in the game in order to open up new opportunities?
- Judith Rozelle: 25:12 Oh, yes. I think that we'd all rather have the promotion. And I certainly would opt for promotion over a lateral, but I would not dismiss lateral.
- Dorothy Huyck: 25:22 What about a young person entering? Would you encourage someone fresh out of school to consider the Park Service as a long-time career?
- Judith Rozelle: 25:32 I would encourage them after they had done some more things. I had such a varied experience. And I really am excited about my past experiences, and what it's given me. If I had gone into Park Service immediately, I would've received different experiences, but certainly not the wide variety that I have. I think that experience and kind of a freedom, not being tied into a career immediately, especially right out of school, is important.
- Dorothy Huyck: 26:01 Did the Peace Corps do that for you?

- Judith Rozelle: 26:04 Yes, the Peace Corps and the several years that I spent fluctuating after I returned from Peace Corps.
- Dorothy Huyck: 26:13 So with that background, you would find this as a form of employment that you could recommend to a younger woman?
- Judith Rozelle: 26:21 Oh, yes.
- Dorothy Huyck: 26:26 Would you consider trying to mesh marriage with a Park Service career again at a later date, assuming you were interested in marrying an individual?
- Judith Rozelle: 26:35 I think so. I think it's possible. I don't believe that both careers are going to advance at the rate that they would've not being married, but I think that's the decision you make. And certainly, if I were very much in love with someone, I would be very loath to give up my career, but I certainly would not seek the rapid advancement that I've experienced in the last three years.
- Dorothy Huyck: 27:00 So you do see the feasibility of both persons carrying on their respective careers, but maybe with not the same degree of rapid advancement.
- Judith Rozelle: 27:08 I think it would be possible in an area such as Washington DC or in Denver where you have the service center and the regional office. I think it would be almost impossible on an area level. I think it would be impossible because you would end up in a supervisory-type situation with a spouse and not only would Park Service frown on that, I think it would be destructive for the service and destructive for the individuals involved.
- Dorothy Huyck: 27:41 Before we started the tape, you were telling me about your experience on film, on camera, in Rocky Mountain National Park. Do you want to recount that very quickly?
- Judith Rozelle: 27:52 The whole story? They just filmed a training film at Rocky Mountain National Park showing the visiting public and also other areas, the problems involved in the snow plowing and opening of Trail Ridge Road. In order to introduce the film, they wanted a tourist to come into the visitor center and very irately demand why I was not allowed to go over Trail Ridge Road, and I was the tourist.

- Dorothy Huyck: 28:24 I guess you had to take several take takes of this particular film before it worked?
- Judith Rozelle: 28:28 Yes, that was a definite problem. I suppose I might as well tell the whole story. Southern Utah, Zion National Park is a very strong staunch Mormon area. And my grandfather was the superintendent there, was an inveterate cusser and I suppose I picked that up from him. My mouth at times has been edited.
- Dorothy Huyck: 28:53 Your grandfather was a Mormon?
- Judith Rozelle: 28:54 Yes. And in fact, when they were looking for someone to be the acting superintendent at Zion, someone from Washington came to the area and he was going around asking people's advice. And he went to a Bishop of the Mormon church in Rockville, and they had been considering my grandfather, Walter Ruesch, and the bishop said, "Oh, he'd be marvelous. Except he has one terrible horrible habit." And he kept emphasizing this habit over and over again. And finally, fearing the worst, the Washington official asked, "What is the terrible habit?"
- Judith Rozelle: 29:27 Thinking maybe he was a robber or a murderer, something. And the Bishop looked at him and said, "He swears." That's off the track. We were on our second or third take. And I think I had two lines, which should have been very easy to handle, but as I approached the desk and demanded to know why I could not cross Trail Ridge Road, I flubbed my lines. And in the heat of frustration fell up on the desk, screaming obscenities while the assistant superintendent broke up hysterically behind the desk. And all this is now preserved for posterity on film and soundtrack with the National Park Service.
- Dorothy Huyck: 30:05 You obviously did another take after that?
- Judith Rozelle: 30:08 Yes, I finally [inaudible 00:30:10]. Yes, I was hoping we would be able to try one more time.
- Dorothy Huyck: 30:15 Have you had other unusual experiences of this nature in your Park Service career?
- Judith Rozelle: 30:19 Oh, I've had many unusual experiences in my Park Service career.

- Dorothy Huyck: 30:23 For example?
- Judith Rozelle: 30:27 I guided walk when I was a seasonal naturalist. And a lady who was very overly endowed in all bodily parts, although she was extremely heavy, decided she would go with us on the Angel's Landing hike. It's a five-mile round trip, extremely strenuous trip. We made the first two miles, and she was red faced and huffing and puffing. And I said, "Are you okay?" And she said, "Oh, I just forgot to take my blood pressure pill this morning." So, I tried to encourage her to wait there for us. No, she had to complete the walk. When we get out to the end, I always took a rest period and sat around and talked with people and described the area. And she told me that she could no longer shovel the snow because she had a bad heart.
- Judith Rozelle: 31:09 And at this time I was panic stricken and carrying a radio, which no one had ever bothered to show me how to use. So, we started down the hill again and we'd stop, relax. I would pour water on her pressure points, trying to keep her going. She was at the point of almost total exhaustion. I found two of my supervisors coming up the trail searching for me, and it would've been fine except that I was carrying a radio. I just didn't know how to use it. So, I had never bothered to call in as to why I was late from the trail. Oh, there have been so many experiences. Walking into my office in Coronado and finding a rabid coatimundis running around inside.
- Dorothy Huyck: 31:48 A what?
- Judith Rozelle: 31:49 A rabid coatimundis.
- Dorothy Huyck: 31:50 Oh, a rabid—
- Judith Rozelle: 31:52 Yes.
- Dorothy Huyck: 31:53 —coatimundis.
- Judith Rozelle: 31:53 Yes.
- Dorothy Huyck: 31:54 Oh, my goodness.
- Judith Rozelle: 31:54 And so we just vacated the office and waited until he left and then we returned to the—

- Dorothy Huyck: 31:58 What distinguished that it was rabid?
- Judith Rozelle: 31:59 Well, we suspected it because he was foaming at the mouth and because it's very unusual behavior for him to come in where there are people. We weren't sure of course, until we killed him and send his head to Tucson to be analyzed.
- Dorothy Huyck: 32:13 How did we kill him?
- Judith Rozelle: 32:15 One of the rangers shot him. And his mate, apparently, they had shot just two weeks before was also rabid. I'm sure that there are thousands and thousands of times that I have had to maintain a great deal of sense of humor about myself in Park Service situations. Because I think that's the exciting thing about Park Service. You run up against so many different kinds of experiences with the visiting public, with people in the area moving from area to area. Meeting people from Washington, from regional centers. And you're constantly being thrown into social situations that demand adaptation.
- Dorothy Huyck: 33:00 And your adaptation seems to have been very healthy all the way along. And I gather a sense of humor also. Are there other attributes that you think are particularly pertinent, especially as far as women are concerned in Park Service positions?
- Judith Rozelle: 33:16 I think you have to be patient. I think you have to be firm. I hate to use the word aggressive because that seems to bring up a bad picture. I think women do have to be aggressive. I think they have to temper it, but I think it's necessary to be aggressive. And I think you have to have some semblance of ability. I think women probably at this point have to be almost more able.
- Dorothy Huyck: 33:51 More able than men?
- Judith Rozelle: 33:54 I should bite my tongue when I say that because as I said before, I can see it changing. Quite often, I would get the feeling from past experiences that women would have to be more highly qualified in order to get a position. Unfortunately, the reverse has happened in several instances where women, I felt were selected in a case where a man perhaps was more highly qualified.

- Dorothy Huyck: 34:18 You really think some reverse discrimination's taking place?
- Judith Rozelle: 34:20 Place. I don't think it's rampant. I think it has occurred. I don't believe that it's suddenly changing, and the great tide is swinging and it's going to be a woman-oriented service. But I have seen it happen, and I think it's from people trying very, very hard to make up for the deficits that occurred in the past.
- Dorothy Huyck: 34:38 Have you observed this happening primarily in the administrative brackets?
- Judith Rozelle: 34:41 Yes.
- Dorothy Huyck: 34:43 Which apparently have been areas that women could hold responsibility in times past?
- Judith Rozelle: 34:48 Yes.
- Dorothy Huyck: 34:48 Much more so than in the ranger categories.
- Judith Rozelle: 34:51 Yes.
- Dorothy Huyck: 34:51 I think there is still some problem in the ranger category.
- Judith Rozelle: 34:56 For a woman?
- Dorothy Huyck: 34:59 Yes, for a woman. I think it's difficult. A woman has to really prove herself, especially in law enforcement abilities. The ability to shoot a gun, to be able to confront someone in a very difficult situation in a park, in a law enforcement capacity. Traditionally, we have looked at women as being weak, and I think the woman has to work very hard to overcome that image.
- Dorothy Huyck: 35:24 When we speak of a woman having to be aggressive, we take that for granted in the case of a man, but we apparently do not take it for granting in the case for woman. Is that something that has to be worked out somewhat?
- Judith Rozelle: 35:38 I think so. I think sometimes people are caught off guard by an aggressive woman. I think some people are turned off by an aggressive woman. That's why I said, I think it should be tempered. I have found instances in my position at Rocky Mountain National Park, specifically where I had to

become very aggressive and had to shout at the top of my lungs, along with the men. And then it was always nice being able to go back and smile and say, "I really am a lady, and it's possible for you to be a nice soft-spoken man and be very strong. And it's possible for me to do the same thing."

- Judith Rozelle: 36:19 I'm not trying to infer that in order for a woman to be aggressive, she has to yell and scream and shout. She has to know what she wants and be sure she knows how she's going to get it before she goes out and starts trying. I think that she needs all the backup material because they keep waiting for her to fail. And that if she just gets all the backup material, does all of her homework, and can just sail right through it, that's what I call being aggressive, not necessarily shouting and yelling, although that was an instance that I used.
- Dorothy Huyck: 36:53 You seem to have had very helpful and encouraging supervisors. Someplace along the line, I guess you've also encountered persons who kept waiting for you to fail.
- Judith Rozelle: 37:02 Oh, yes. Yes. In many cases, men and women in both positions that I have just assumed in the last year, Rocky Mountain and here at Yosemite, there were women within the park who had applied for the position and felt very strongly that they were very highly qualified and could not understand why they had not been selected. This created a very, very extremely touchy situation. And I feel the pressure, although it may be self-induced, to perform at a very high standard continuously so that they can feel that "Gee, maybe that's why she was selected."
- Dorothy Huyck: 37:48 Were you able to alleviate any of these attitudes as far as the persons who are not selected are concerned?
- Judith Rozelle: 37:56 Oh, I think so. I think that all of the cases, the women had been very, very exceptional. At first, very, very cold. And I can understand that but coming around in a very short time and not necessarily just through my efforts, but because they were just very, very nice women, and very intelligent, and recognized why the selections were made the way they were and didn't hold grudges. I can't think of any case where anyone has held a grudge.

Dorothy Huyck: 38:25 I've been asking you quite a collection of questions about your experience with the National Park Service. Is there something we have not touched on or commented about that you'd like to speak to?

Judith Rozelle: 38:37 I can't think of anything off the top of my head. I'm sure tonight I'll sit there thinking of all these marvelous things I could have said.

Dorothy Huyck: 38:46 Thank you, Judith. You were just talking about the summer of '73 in Zion.

Judith Rozelle: 38:53 Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: 38:53 When you were a seasonal naturalist.

Judith Rozelle: 38:55 Yes. I gave evening slide programs and at the beginning of the season, being inexperienced as I was, I used to encourage questions from the audience. I learned very quickly that that's a dangerous habit to do.

Dorothy Huyck: 39:08 Why?

Judith Rozelle: 39:09 Unless you're very, very comfortable and I was brand new, please remember, and know all the answers and can handle everything that is thrown at you, you can really become frustrated. You can lose your grip, and your rapport with the audience very fast. For example, I had just asked if there were any questions. And a little old man from the audience, raised his hand and jumped up and said, "Hey, honey, are you married?" And I vamped little and looked back and smile and said, "Hey, honey, are you married?"

Dorothy Huyck: 39:38 And you said, Hey, honey?

Judith Rozelle: 39:39 "Are you married? Are you rich?" Same mistake I made with the film at Rocky Mountain.

Dorothy Huyck: 39:48 So you said, "Hey honey, are you rich?"

Judith Rozelle: 39:50 Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: 39:50 Did he sit down at that point?

Judith Rozelle: 39:51 Yes, he did.

- Dorothy Huyck: 39:52 Quietly.
- Judith Rozelle: 39:53 Yes. And the audience broke up and the rapport was immediately established. And we went from there and had an excellent program feeling very, very comfortable, but it could have been terribly embarrassing, and a very uncomfortable situation.
- Dorothy Huyck: 40:06 Did you have similar experiences that you had to handle that could have been, or were potentially embarrassing that—
- Judith Rozelle: 40:12 Oh, yes. More frequently in dealing with the public on the naturalist basis where you're taking guided hikes, giving slide programs in the evening. On one of my first walks, when I did not know all of the plants and animals and things, and I was having a little trouble, there was some expert who kept telling me I was wrong. "That's not true. That's not what that is." And finally, I got to the point where I just totally had to ignore him. If I had the group themselves cut him down, they said, "She knows. And she says that, it's true." Another example, I sort of specialized in ethnobotany and told people on my hikes the way the Indians and the pioneers used the plants and the animals and the different things in order to subsist.
- Judith Rozelle: 41:04 I did not bother to learn scientific names of plants because I felt that someone wanted a scientific name, I would be more than happy to give it to them back at the visitor center, most people are more interested in relate more to a common name. There was another seasonal naturalist, Pete Scott, who was a science major, an excellent naturalist, very, very adept. And Pete knew the names of all of the plants, the scientific names. One day I was taking my hike out and at every plant we'd stop, and I'd say, "The Indians used this this way, or the pioneers cook this this way, or you may taste this berry." And a lady would say to me, "What is the scientific name?" And so, I'd write down the name.
- Judith Rozelle: 41:46 And I'd say, "I'll write that down. We'll get a whole list. You can come back, and I'll give you the scientific names." And finally, very disgustingly, she said, "Pete Scott knows all the scientific names." And I was just mortified, and I went back to the visitor center. Pete had just come in from his walk. And I explained to him what had happened

because I thought that it would make him feel good, and we'd get a laugh out of it. And he really started laughing. He said, "Judy, I just came back from the rock pasture hike, and I was telling everybody all the scientific names and some little couple kept saying, how did the Indians use this? How did the pioneers... Did they eat this? Can you eat this?" He said, "Well, gee, I don't know." And they said, "Well, Judith Rozelle knows all those kinds of answers."

Dorothy Huyck: 42:27

Oh, I'm glad we added it.

[END OF TAPE]

[END OF INTERVIEW]