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Diane E. Traylor
September 21, 1978

Interview conducted by Dorothy B. Huyck
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INTERVIEW WITH
DIANE E. TRAYLOR, ARCHAEOLOGIST

By
Dorothy B. Huyck

Southwest Regional Office
September 21, 1978

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AREA CODE 202 347-5395

[START OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1]

Dorothy Huyck: The date is September 21, 1978. I am Dorothy Huyck. I will be interviewing Diane E. Traylor who is an archeologist in the Southwest Region stationed at Bandelier.

Diane Traylor: No, actually –

Dorothy Huyck: Correction.

Diane Traylor: The Southwest Cultural Research Center in Santa Fe. My primary research area has been in Bandelier for the last four years.

Dorothy Huyck: Thank you. I appreciate your clarifying that.

Diane Traylor: Sure.

Dorothy Huyck: Can I ask how you first became acquainted with the National Park Service?

Diane Traylor: I started working with the National Park Service in 1967 as a seasonal ranger. Actually, that wasn't my title. My title was - let's see - oh, gee - I think we were called park guides. Myself and a friend and I worked there during the summer - I think it was the summer. It would have been the summer after my freshman year in college.

Dorothy Huyck: Where was this?

Diane Traylor: At Mesa Verde National Park. And at that point we were the first two seasonal women, I believe, who had ever worked at Mesa Verde in that capacity. There had been a woman superintendent there and maybe some other women, you know, in more authoritative positions but I don't believe there had ever been any like seasonal women working in Park Service, other than secretaries and things in that position, but not like associated with people who gave tours and so that's how I got started.

Dorothy Huyck: Are you referring to Jane Pinkley who was –

Diane Traylor: Right.

Dorothy Huyck: I don't think she was a superintendent, that's why I ask.

Diane Traylor: Oh, she was an archeologist, your right.

Dorothy Huyck: Did you ever know her?

Diane Traylor: No, I didn't. I've heard lots of stories about her but I didn't know her.

Dorothy Huyck: And after your first seasonal experience a Mesa Verde, then what?

- Diane Traylor: Actually, I worked at Mesa Verde in 1968 also for the Park Service, then I worked for the University of Colorado Research Center at Mesa Verde in 1969 as a student archeologist and then I worked again for the Park Service in 1970 at Mesa Verde as a seasonal ranger. The '67 and '68 I worked as park guides and we were given all sorts of duties because they'd never had that position before. Then '70 I was a seasonal ranger so I gave tours and that whole bit.
- Dorothy Huyck: How would being a park guide differ from being a park ranger in terms of your duties?
- Diane Traylor: Okay. Basically, the only things that we didn't do that the archeologists and rangers did was give tours. Actually, when the first created the position they didn't know what they were going to do with us and as it happens that summer was the first summer that they started limiting the size of guided tours at Mesa Verde and so what they did was they utilized us in giving out free tickets and mainly that's what we did that first summer and by the second summer they'd kind of expanded the program and we got to do some of the things like they have people stationed at the self-guiding ruins and you just kind of keep an eye on things so we got to do that and we also got to kind of be a helper in guided tours although we didn't actually give the tour. We would just kind of assist the ranger with the group of people.
- Dorothy Huyck: So, a park guide did not act as an interpreter?
- Diane Traylor: Right. Well, we did in one sense. I mean we worked on the information desk and, of course, we were always in the public eye, but interpreter in the sense that we didn't give guided tours, yeah.
- Dorothy Huyck: And when you became a park seasonal ranger in 1970, then were you doing interpretation?
- Diane Traylor: Right.
- Dorothy Huyck: Prehistoric?
- Diane Traylor: Prehistoric. Giving guided tours of two different cliff dwellings, giving campfire talks, working on the information desk and just kind of - we had roving positions we we'd just go out and meet the public at different viewpoints and kind of talk to them sit was kind of a more involved role than just being a park guide.
- Dorothy Huyck: That was strictly for the summer of 1970?
- Diane Traylor: Right. All those were summer jobs.
- Dorothy Huyck: Then what?

Diane Traylor: Let's see, in the fall of 1970 I graduated from - no it wasn't the fall, I guess it would have been December 1970 I graduated from the University of Colorado in Anthropology and at that point I sort of looked around for different jobs, it was sort of a bad time of year to be looking because, as you know, most of the jobs come up in the summer when there's field work to be done and I really couldn't find anything, so I applied to different national parks to work and finally, in I think it was '71, the summer of '71 I worked at Grand Canyon as a seasonal naturalist, which was kind of not my field but, you know, it was the same kind of interpretative work only toward the naturalist point of view of everything rather than archeology.

Dorothy Huyck: You were at the salt spring?

Diane Traylor: Yes, Salt Spring. And that's the last job I had with the Park Service until I started this work with the Southwest Region.

Dorothy Huyck: And what were you doing in the interim?

Diane Traylor: Well, I went to one semester at the University of New Mexico thinking of possibly entering the graduate school there and then in the spring of I guess it would be in the spring of '72, a friend of mine came through who had also worked as a seasonal at Mesa Verde who was opening an Indian arts and crafts store in Tahos, New Mexico and asked me if I would help manage the store and so I did that for a couple of years. And in the fall - in the spring of 1974, I guess it would be, just kind of by happenstance I met the man who was to be the Director of the Bandelier Archeological Project at the Bandelier Arts & Crafts show and we got to talking and I expressed my interest in trying to get back into the archeological field if I could and he said, well I'll be trying to hire some people next fall and I'll give you a call and if your still interested you can have a job. So that's what happened and we started - well let me give you a little background of our project, Bandelier Archeological Project was set up to do salvage operations, that is mitigation of archeological sites in the Bandelier portion of the Cochiti Dam flood pool. What had happened was actually the dam itself was set up to be built was back in the fifties was the first idea, but we were - and some archeology had been done around the dam and below the monument boundaries but nothing had been done yet within the monument boundaries up until 1974 and then all of a sudden the Park Service realized that they had to do something with those sites under law and so they decided instead of contracting it out to a university or something that they would do it in-house, so they set up this program and hired Don Fiero who at that time was working at the Museum of Northern Arizona to head the project and also another woman, Ann Hummer was to be his assistant. So, they got the program set up and we started just before Halloween in 1974

and set up a camp in lower Alamo Canyon and started excavating these sites and it was a kind of a hurry-up job. It was organized at the last minute and that's one reason they didn't get started earlier, was just because they were hired late and they had, of course, get a bunch of equipment together and everything so it just happened that that was the point at which they could start. So, we worked from late October until about the 8th of December, I think, in '74. It was freezing. We were miserable. We stayed out there Thanksgiving and the day after Thanksgiving it snowed about six inches. We woke up and it was 8 degrees and we only worked about a week after that. The ground was frozen, it was just impossible, so –

Dorothy Huyck: This was strictly the three of you?

Diane Traylor: No, it included - let's see, there were eight of us all together that worked that first field season. Then in April of '75 - we were off during the winter and during April of '75 we started again and at that point the flood or the water of Cochiti Lake was supposed to be raised and, in fact, it did start coming up that spring and we were really worried that we wouldn't be able to get our work done before some of the site were inundated.

Dorothy Huyck: Can I ask a question at this point?

Diane Traylor: Sure.

Dorothy Huyck: Is there an area within the National Monument that was being flooded by the waters of this dam?

Diane Traylor: Yes. That is correct. In fact, this year the water, I believe, has covered at least one of the sites that we excavated right along the river and it's very close to another. So, some of our sites were in - see what the Corps of Engineers is doing now is raising the lake to a permanent pool level which is a certain elevation and then a lot of our sites were actually in the flood pool which they say might happen once in a hundred years or something like that. But the reason that we also paid attention to those sites was because they might experience indirect impact because, for instance, this year with the water so high a lot of boaters and fishermen are coming up in to the monument and they, you know, occasionally get off and wander round so those sites are much more accessible than they ever were except to hikers.

Dorothy Huyck: How much of the land was in the original boundaries of the monument in involved as a result of this effort by the Corps of Engineers?

Diane Traylor: Okay. Eventually, I believe, it's supposed to affect the whole monument. I don't know exactly how much land that entails but it goes from the south boundary clear up past Frijoles Canyon. Beyond Frijoles Canyon is where

the northern boundary of the monument ends, so it encompasses the whole monument, or eventually it's supposed to, but it's mainly along the river so it's a pretty small section of the monument but it does affect those lands right along the river.

Dorothy Huyck: When you say it encompasses the whole monument –

Diane Traylor: Well, what I mean is the lake is supposed to - Rio Grande runs through White Rock Canyon which is the major drainage and then there are many drainages coming down through a series of canyons all along what they call the Pajarito Plateau and Bandelier is a section of the Pajarito Plateau and there are three major canyons that all drain into the Rio Grande, and so those three canyons - well at the mouth of those three canyons and in the lands adjacent to them would be the portion that is affected - would be affected by the lake, but actually it's a very small section of what is the whole monument.

Dorothy Huyck: So, the establishment of this lake will not have the effect of destroying the monument?

Diane Traylor: No, not at all, it's just mainly those section right adjacent to the river.

Dorothy Huyck: So, in the spring of '75 you undertook your efforts without the benefit of snow.

Diane Traylor: Right. Well, actually when we first started it snowed - the first week of April when we started so we had to take off a week and then start again and, actually, it was quite cool. We were all wearing jackets for a few weeks out there but then it was nice. That field season we were there from April until almost Thanksgiving of that year, '75. We had a varying size crew all through that field season. It was still kind of a core group of eight or ten people. We had a lot of volunteers who would come for maybe a week to a couple of months. What we tried to do was set up a system where those people could receive kind of a subsistence in a way. They'd be paid for their meals, essentially. At that time the per diem rate was \$6.00 a day so Don tried to work out a system so they could at least get system. Of course, a lot of them were just people who were interested and not able to find jobs and they just were glad to do that just for the experience. I think the most people we ever had, I think, was about 22 or 25, but by the fall we were pretty much down to about ten people again. So that was supposedly the end of the excavations. At that time, we had excavated - let's see, I think we had excavated twenty-three sites altogether. So then during that next year - or during the rest of '75 and into the next year we were going to get up the lab program to analyze all this material and it was a lot of material from all these sites. So, let's see, myself - well something else that happened was kind of a change in

command because the guy that had been the director decided to accept a job with Interagency Archeological Services in Denver and so he asked Anne Hummer if she would become the director and he asked me if I would become the assistant director and it was just kind of - I mean I really just kind of lucked into it because at that time I happened to be the only person on the crew who had an archeological background, who had a degree in archeology and who had had previous experience. A lot of other people who turned out to be great personnel but they really didn't have a background in archeology were on the crew so I really just pretty much lucked into the job so I became the assistant director at that time.

Dorothy Huyck: In '76?

Diane Traylor: Yeah, actually that was when the appointment went through - in '76. And then Anne became the Director.

Dorothy Huyck: Of the team?

Diane Traylor: Yes, of the whole project. Let's see, so going back to November - when we left the field in November of '75 we all took some time off and then we came back here to Sant Fe and tried to set up the lab facilities. At first we were in the old Santa Fe Prep School on Upper Canyon Road and that was a terrible building. It was falling apart and the roof leaked and we had some things stolen out of it so we were only there about a month and then Hal Cummings, who is just now leaving as the Director of the Cultural Resources Center found Los Yanos (phonetic) which had been an arts and crafts school set up by Peter and Marcy Cate and they were still living on the property but they had all these outbuildings and they were in the process of kind of disbanding the school. Although when we moved in they were still - so we moved into what had been the jewelry lab out there and at that time they were still people taking pottery classes and sculpture classes so it was kind of neat because for a few months we were the only Park Service people there and there were all these other people around us doing other things and we would go to see what they were doing and they'd come over to see us and that was kind of a neat exchange. But we set up our lab there and shortly thereafter a lot of other programs which are now part of the Cultural Resources came into being and eventually the Park Service leased the whole building and the adjoining property. So that's where we are centered now and we have the lab set up. I think we move there in February of '76 and we worked in the lab until May of '77 and during that time we analyzed all the materials - well all the artifactual materials which includes ground stone and chip stone and pottery - that's pretty much it - that we had brought out of the field and then we started the process of writing a report on all this stuff. Then, jumping back a little bit, in the spring of '76 Anne decided - well Anne had applied to graduate

school up in Boulder, Colorado, the University of Colorado and she was accepted there and she was also getting married that summer so she sort of turned the whole project over to me and at that point it seemed like it was going well enough that we probably didn't need to have an assistant director too, although many times since I have felt it would have been great to have an assistant because I really have been swamped sometimes with work, but anyway, that's how it happened and so I ended up in charge of the whole thing - well let's see, she left in June, so I guess in July of '76 I took over the project. So sometime during that next, well, I think in the fall or something we talked to - we had been funded by Interagency Archeological Services in Denver and during the previous field season we had found a site that turned out to be one of the earliest ones - probably the earliest site that's ever been found in Bandelier. We got some carbon 14 dates out of it that were almost 2,000 years B.C. and so, based on that, Denver decided they wanted us to explore a couple of other rock shelters. That's what this one had been, this previous one. And they wanted us to look at those because they were also in the flood pool to see if we couldn't possible find more evidence of, you know, earlier culture in Bandelier. So I wrote a research proposal and submitted that to Denver and they decide to fund us for another field season. So - and that was to begin in '77, last summer. So, let's see, we did kind of an unusual thing that year. Well, okay, during the lab part of it we had myself and four other people that worked with me. And in the field season in '77, two of those same people stayed and I hired - no, three of those same people stayed and I hired one new person and we had what may be kind of an unusual thing. Maybe other people have had it, but - it doesn't happen too often - we had an all-woman crew. And it turned out really nice, I thought. There were only the five of us and we were all compatible and go along real well and it seemed like it really - I don't know, camp life was really different too, there just didn't seem to be a lot of the pressures that exist between men and women when your together on a crew. It seems like there was less competition and just kind of less pressure and we had a nice summer. We were there from June - oh, gee, this story gets really involved. We were there from June - we were there one ten-day period and then June 16 there was a forest fire which started in Bandelier. So we had just started our second ten day period and stayed for a few days and actually we heard that the forest fire had started but kept calling to headquarters to ask if we should come out and the forest fire was in the upper part of the monument so it was miles away, really, from where we were and they said they didn't think there was any need and we say slurry bombers going over and eventually we could start smelling the smoke. Then the fire really got out of hand. Eventually it expanded to over 15,000 acres. That wasn't all in Bandelier, it was on Forest Service and also Department of Energy lands which

surround Bandelier, but the majority of the acres was in Bandelier that got burned so it was a really terrible fire. But anyway, there was so much going on there that when I tried to get them on the radio I didn't get any answer so we finally just decided to leave and the day we left was the worst day of the fire. It was when the fire just exploded. The wind got bad and it really spread throughout Bandelier. So, when we got out, which was around noon on Saturday, they were evacuating monument headquarters so we kind of helped do that and we left and we stayed in Santa Fe – let's see - almost three weeks altogether because the fire lasted, I think, eight days maybe I can't remember exactly. Then after the fire Bandelier decided that it would be a good time to do a burrow reduction program, which the, had been involved in, kind of reducing the Ferrell (phonetic) involved in Bandelier before and we had walked a lot of it and sort of knew the territory, they asked my crew to come back out during the fire and be part of this team. There were also archeologists from our office, other archeologists who came out and assisted with this program too. So there were like a group of maybe ten of us who went out during the fire - and especially we wanted to where the monitor like the bulldozer lines and the hand lines where the most damage could be done.

Dorothy Huyck: What was the hand lines?

Diane Traylor: The hand line is a fire line which is a fire break which is put in by using hand tools, shovels and fire rakes and things like that and it's actually the men on the line you know where it's the bulldozers or something else they do with the heavy machinery then they can clear a big area much faster time. So, we were involved in that program. Then after that, after the fire was over, our office, Cultural Resources, decided that perhaps it would be a good idea to form a survey crew to measure some of the impacts of the fire. What we would do would be we would walk all these fire lines that had been put in and survey a certain section on each side of the line and record damage that had been done by the fire, as well as just archeological information, because much of Bandelier has never been surveyed. So, we kind of add to the data base. So, we were asked to that and so we called Denver - I called Denver and asked them if they would mind if we postponed the Bandelier project - doing the analysis part - well that's not exactly true. We went back and finished out excavations until August and then we started this fire study in the fall. But, Denver said it would be okay with them if we did that because it was a kind of a new and, you know, sort of a different study. So, myself and let's see, three of the ladies who worked with me and then one guy who had worked with us during previous excavations who did this survey across - kind of through a cross-section of the monument. It was really neat. We did it in September and October and it was a beautiful time of year to survey, and we had a series

of base camps set up which we worked out of. So, we did that and recorded a hundred sites which had never been recorded before in Bandelier and just kind of visually took note of what the fire had done to the sites themselves and the artifacts that were lying on the surface. And then, after we had surveyed all these sites we nicked out three to test excavate and collect kind of specifically samples which might have been affected by the fire and what we wanted to especially note was, or were artifacts that were datable artifacts that might have been affected by the fire's temperature. And so, we excavated three of those sites and took all these collections and sent them all out to various people. We had a number of things, like dating basidium (phonetic) and pollen samples and soil samples and a number of different things and then we wrote up the sections on like the survey and the excavations and just what had happened during the fire and then we sent out all these different special things to be analyzed and we're now getting them back. So that report is now pretty much finished and hopefully, we're trying to get it published pretty soon because what's happening in a lot of areas is they are now in the process in a lot of monuments and parks is they want to do control burns which hopefully cut down on the fuel loads in parks which will prevent any monstrous fires like the fire we had in Bandelier. So, we want to try to get this report out to a lot of different agencies so that it might help resources managers and also just fire fighters, you know, who have to deal with that. And we're also trying to set up a system here, of a team of archeologists who could go out during the fire season and assist any area that asks - that might have cultural resources that would ask for help like monitoring the fire lines being put in. So, that was really exciting to be a part of that because it was a very new program and although it created another whole load of work for us, we were really happy to do it and it was a short enough study that we did it - we could do it pretty rapidly, so it's pretty much set.

Dorothy Huyck: Does your forthcoming report have a title?

Diane Traylor: The one on the fire? Yeah, it's called, let me see if I can think of the title, it's kind of long - I'm not sure if I can give you the exact title. It's something to the effect of - it might be something like this - "The LaMesa Fire Studies on the Effects of Fire and Fire Suppression on Cultural Resources", or something to that effect. I can get you the exact title if you wanted it. So, that one is pretty much - getting close to ready.

Dorothy Huyck: And this will, presumably, have widespread circulation?

Diane Traylor: I hope so, yeah.

Dorothy Huyck: You seem to have fallen upon a very new area of enterprise.

Diane Traylor: Yeah.

Dorothy Huyck: As far as archeology is concerned.

Diane Traylor: Yeah, I have, and it's really expanded. At the time that we started it it was, you know, something very new that really had never been done before and I didn't realize really the ramifications that would come, you know, as a result. But now a lot of the agencies - they are calling us up and asking, for copies of the report, or just advice on certain things. So, it really has expanded and could almost - I would guess that they could almost hire a full-time or part-time person just to work with cultural resources managers in developing these programs.

Dorothy Huyck: You say it would be a good idea to set up a team of people who would go into future situations like this. Are you actually putting together things and personnel who might fit such a team?

Diane Traylor: Yeah, in fact, we're not, you know it's kind of nobody really - we all are so busy that - I mean, the job essentially falls back on myself and some other people who took part in this program before and none of us have really got the ball rolling and if we're going to do it we have to do it. We've been just kind of dragging our feet, but we have taken one step. We got four people trained last spring. Or, we sent them to - and I was included in that - we were sent to a basic fire behavior training class at Fort Union because we felt just kind of mulling over what had happened during the last - during the fire at Bandelier, we felt that it would have been very helpful to archeologists to know something about fire behavior.

[END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1]

[START OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2]

Diane Traylor: or whoever the person is can't take time to look after some archeologists which, essentially, they did during the last fire and one person from here was quite lucky. She got caught in a bad situation where the fire suddenly exploded and if it hadn't been for somebody who was trained there she might have either gotten killed or injured. So, we felt it was very important for people to get fire training if they were going to be part of this team. So, four of us got some training and we are trying to get some more people to get training. I think that, next week in fact, I've organized a little, kind of a session with some of these people who want to get a program going in terms of control burns and get some guidelines for some of these places. So, we're going to sit down and talk to people about those things but I also, at that same session, I want to try to get, stress the importance of getting a team to ether and maybe we can make it a reality this time.

Dorothy Huyck: Will you very likely be a member of this team?

Diane Traylor: Well, maybe I'm not, actually my job with this project is going to be over pretty soon. Myself and another woman, Linda Hubble, are the only ones left on the project now and we're finishing up writing and editing the main body of the report on the Bandelier project, so we're hoping to be finished by December and whenever we finish that will be the end of our jobs. We were just hired through the duration of the project. I don't really know - if there's another job with the Park Service or now, yet. But I would like to - if I did have a job with the Park Service still, I would certainly like to be part of the fire team.

Dorothy Huyck: Have you some prospects beyond the completion of the report?

Diane Traylor: Well, a couple. One job just came up, an opening at our center, which is - it's an archeologist position also.

Dorothy Huyck: This is the Denver Service Center?

Diane Traylor: No, it's here at the Culture Resources center and what it is - oh, there's a lot of little tiny jobs sort of that come up. The parks and monuments call our office from time to time and ask for someone to come out and do a clearance, say if they're building a building and want to make sure there's no resources there that they would damage, so it would be going out on these little short surveys and doing evaluations or nominations of sites to the national register and a lot of kind of, you know, just little jobs. So there's that position open which I'm thinking about and also, although there's not really a position created yet, there's a job, or maybe a job with the historic preservation people. This last summer I took nine weeks off from the project to go back out to Bandelier and help stabilize a site out there which we had excavated previously and which a team of people from Santa Fe had begun to stabilize in our last field season but the hadn't been able to finish it so it was literally falling apart. So, Bandelier really wanted it stabilized and our office said that they would work with Bandelier to do the job so four of us went out, two people from Bandelier and two people from our office and got the thing stabilized. And so, kind of in line with that I got to know the people in the historic preservation department.

Dorothy Huyck: HCRS, is this part of HCRS?

Diane Traylor: Well, they're a branch of the Park Service, I don't know - I don't really know exactly, but that's the only title that I know them under, is Historic Preservation. And they're trying to get, or the guy who's sort of second in command there who does a lot of the field work is trying to get a permanent crew of people together because he's stuck with the same problem that we were with our project. We could only get temporary

appointments for - I was the only one really who has what's considered a permanent appointment. It's just to the end of the project but still I haven't had to go through rehiring all the time and everybody else that was associated with the project has had to go through these ridiculous temporary appointments of anywhere from thirty days, we finally got them extended to year appointments but we've still run into problems there and it's been really a very uncomfortable situation because having to go through these rehiring things, people who had been working on the project for two years had to apply for their own jobs again, which was really kind of an insult because they were obviously the most qualified people, having done all the previous work, you know, to continue, and yet they were having to compete with other people for their own jobs. We're faced with that situation and so is this guy so he's trying to set up a more permanent crew of people and I'm interested in that too. That would be a little bit different, a nice change for me really, because they work mainly on historic structures, although there might be some archeology involved because sometimes they're digging around the foundation or something and they find some stuff that they have to deal with archeologically so I'm going to see if I can do that too. I've done a lot of different things in line with this. When I started the job I certainly didn't realize I'd do all this other stuff. It's been real exciting and I've been very fortunate, I think, because I've just kind of fallen into these things one after another and it's been fun. Hard work, but fun.

Dorothy Huyck: Can I go back to your personal history and ask you when and where you were born?

Diane Traylor: I was born in Grand Junction, Colorado in 1947, the December of 1947.

Dorothy Huyck: Were you by any chance an only child?

Diane Traylor: No, I wasn't, I come from a family of seven children and I'm the second oldest.

Dorothy Huyck: Is the oldest child a boy or a girl?

Diane Traylor: A girl. She's a teacher.

Dorothy Huyck: You have one older sister?

Diane Traylor: Right. Then I have three younger brothers and two younger sisters.

Dorothy Huyck: How old is the next child?

Diane Traylor: The next one is my brother Robert who is twenty - oh my goodness, I have hard time with ages anymore. He's 26, and he's currently in law school at Drake University in Iowa. And then, you want me to go through the rest of them -

Dorothy Huyck: Well yes, I mean, did you grow up in Grand Junction?

Diane Traylor: Yes, I did.

Dorothy Huyck: And did you graduate from high school there?

Diane Traylor: Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: What was your father's occupation?

Diane Traylor: He's an attorney in Grand Junction.

Dorothy Huyck: He, therefore, is a college graduate?

Diane Traylor: Right. He graduated from the University of Mississippi and my mom is from Colorado, eastern Colorado and he met her when he was stationed at Fort Carson and liked Colorado so much that when he came back after World War II and he went to D. U. and took some refresher law courses and then decided that he wanted to live in Colorado. They were looking for a small town and liked the western slops, so they decided on Grand Junction.

Dorothy Huyck: Is your mother also a college graduate?

Diane Traylor: No. She's in the process. When she got married, she was a sophomore at Colorado College and this year my youngest brother graduated from high school and my mom went back to school at Mesa College in Grand Junction which just because a four year college so she's going to try to get her degree in biology.

Dorothy Huyck: Have you done graduate work after your left C. U.?

Diane Traylor: No, I haven't. I've been involved - I've thought about it a lot from time to time and -

Dorothy Huyck: You did take one semester -

Diane Traylor: It wasn't really graduate credit, I was just kind of going to U & M to kind of get a feel for the school so I really don't have any hours of graduate school.

Dorothy Huyck: While you were in college, and also in high school, who were the people who encouraged you, if any? Would they have been parents, or teachers or community leaders?

Diane Traylor: I think my parents encouraged me a lot. They encouraged everyone in our family - my mom always said that she raised us all to be independent and I think probably of the people, there may have been some friends too, but I'd say my parents probably encouraged myself and all of us to pretty much do what we wanted to. They were very supportive of whatever we

wanted to do. My dad's a real - he thinks everybody should go through school and get a good job but he's now - you know, he's happy if we're happy with what we're doing. That's kind of the extent of the pressure.

Dorothy Huyck: Did you in high school, for instance, take courses that were in the math and science field?

Diane Traylor: Math, no, I've never been very good at math, so I didn't take too much in math. I - actually in high school I was more interested in biology than anything else. I've been interested in archeology since I was a kid. I guess just in reading and stuff I was always fascinated by the field, although I never really thought of it - I guess I didn't really decide to go into the field until I was a sophomore in college. I have thought that maybe I would go into biology in my first two years at school I concentrated heavily on biology and botany courses in particular. So, I didn't decide until late, although I had the interest for a long time.

Dorothy Huyck: Did you play with boys as a child?

Diane Traylor: Oh, yes. In fact, I think boys were probably - well, I don't know. As a family, as brothers and sister we were pretty - we sort of used each other as friends. We had other friends, like school friends and there were a couple of other families that had a lot of kids. When we'd all get together, we'd have a good time. But we really did a lot of playing, I think, among ourselves. We lived outside of town a few miles and we just did a lot sort of within our family. I think I was kind of a tomboy. I played with my brothers a lot, baseball, all those games.

Dorothy Huyck: You think you were kind of a tomboy. As you entered the teenage years were you in any way expected to become more of a lady?

Diane Traylor: Well, I can remember times, you know, probably when my parents told me I should act more like a lady. I was kind of a shy person when I got into my teenage years, and I didn't have - I really didn't have too many boyfriends like going through high school and things. I had a real close girlfriend that I did a lot of things with and then, you know, still my family, brothers and sisters that I did things with. But I have always loved the outdoors and I continued to like - I skied and did a lot of outdoor things.

Dorothy Huyck: Were there other extracurricular activities such as the skiing that have proven beneficial over your career since you've been in the Park Service?

Diane Traylor: Well, I think that - probably the fact that I try to stay in good physical shape. I swim and I run some and, you know, just - I really like the outdoors and I'm sure that that helped, just in keeping with the jobs, because a lot of the work, oh God, this summer I think is the hardest

physical work I've ever done. We hauled rocks, we hauled dirt, you know wheelbarrows full of them and I know that I wouldn't have been able to do it if I hadn't been in good shape. I think it's helped, you know, to - well just in the field. For instance, when I was working in Mesa Verde as a student, I know that a lot of women who came out there eventually hated field work because they really had no idea of the physical effort that it entailed, They had sort of a romantic idea about archeology, which I'm sure I had too, you know, but they just couldn't work in the hot sun. I don't think it was their fault they just didn't realize what hard work it was.

Dorothy Huyck: As you were growing up did you travel to national parks at all?

Diane Traylor: We traveled to a few. We mainly in the West I'd say. I had been to Mesa Verde several times and we went to Yellowstone and the kind of places, Arches, places sort of close to home because my dad usually only would take like a week or two off a year and he tried to take it during the summer so we could go someplace but many times we went to national parks.

Dorothy Huyck: Were these camping trips?

Diane Traylor: Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: That must have stood you in good stead -

Diane Traylor: Right, oh, gee. The camp situation - like when we were working, excavating, we used to stay down for ten days at a time. It takes a lot of stamina you know, to live out in a camp for ten days and sometimes we had baths and sometimes not. There was a stream which ran close by and, of course, the river. But sometimes when it was cold it was just too cold to take a bath and you had to cook outdoors and on a fire and it got a little taxing sometimes, but mainly I think I enjoyed it.

Dorothy Huyck: I'd like to ask about your supervisors since you've been in the Park Service.

Diane Traylor: Okay.

Dorothy Huyck: Have you found your supervisors to be encouraging or discouraging or possibly some of both.

Diane Traylor: I think some of both. I work under the Regional Archeologist right now who just makes me angry sometimes because he's not a particularly - well when I get interested in something I want to get it done and I want to get the ball rolling. He's not particularly a very forceful person I don't feel and yet I have to go to him in my situation either for his approval or just, you know, if I have something to say or something I have to go to him and so I think I've been discouraged somewhat by his actions. But he has been very supportive in other cases too. I think, in general, in my own feeling about

being a woman in a supervisory position with the Park Service, that there's still a lot of discrimination against women. I feel that I have to fight sometimes to have my viewpoint just even accepted as a valid viewpoint. Like there'll be meeting where other archeologists are involved and a lot of times they'll be all men. I mean I have been in situations where there've been all men and myself and sometimes I just feel that people, they may ask me my opinion but they don't often have very much regard for it and I've felt a lot of times that women are still treated as kind of, you know, whatever, sub-professional or something. Although in my particular case I have been given a lot of freedom too, I think. Cultural Resources just happens to be set up in a good manner where when you're given a job you can pretty much run your own show and I've appreciated that a lot. Probably because of my own personality more than anything. So I think there's both. I've experienced both. And sometimes, on the other hand, people have asked, you know because of all these little different studies I have done, I do have a kind of expertise that maybe a lot of other people don't have at this point, about Bandelier, specifically and so I've been called upon to kind of give, or as the authority, or people just think I'm the authority and I have to tell them, wait, I don't know all the answers you know, so it's kind of worked both ways, I think.

Dorothy Huyck:

What grade are you?

Diane Traylor:

I'm a GS-9.

Dorothy Huyck:

And you must have started out - what was your grade as a seasonal -

Diane Traylor:

I started out as a GS-3.

Dorothy Huyck:

When did you acquire your 4?

Diane Traylor:

I wasn't made a 4 until I became a range Park guides could only be 3's and rangers were 4's and when I went to Grand Canyon I was raised to a 5. I started out as a 4 there and then I was raised to a 5 and I think that was mainly just based on length of service and then when I started out with the Bandelier Project I started out as a GS-4 and moved to a GS-7 when I became assistant director and then I stayed as a 7 for a year. Now this is something - when I was made director of the project they kept me as a 7 and Anne tried to get - she had been raised to a 9 when she had been raised to the position and she had tried to get that for me as well as the guy I work for, my boss and personnel wouldn't go for it so I served a year, which was all right because in some ways I didn't feel, you know, that I was particularly qualified for a 9 so I don't think it hurt me to stay at that level and last, I think it was last winter I was raised to a 9.

Dorothy Huyck: Do you think that being a woman has in anyway influenced your opportunities and responsibilities?

Diane Traylor: Within the Park Service? I don't know. I think at this point in time is a good time to be a woman in the Park Service because I'd say that at least women are being given more of a chance to be in responsible positions. I would kind of guess that if the same situation would have happened maybe even five years ago they might have looked for a man to fill the position as director of the project even though he was an outsider and didn't know anything about the project. I'd say maybe even a few years back they might have looked for a man to fill that role, so I think that that's encouraging that they felt, I mean I've always been very flattered that they felt I could do the job and gave me that position.

Dorothy Huyck: Has anyone acted as a mentor for you during your Park Service career?

Diane Traylor: Well, let's see, I don't think any one person, actually I've had a great deal of support from the people in my own group. They've been very supportive. You know, we've discussed a lot of things among ourselves and recently this guy that's in charge of the Historic Preservation Program, he's been a good person to kind of bounce things off of. In terms of archeology, though, I think there's probably one person whose opinion I respect very much and who's also a friend of mine from C.U. who works at Cultural Resources and that's a guy named Larry Nordby who is in charge of the Pecos Archeological Project, and he's always supported me in things. I have had him review a lot of my work and I just respect his opinion as an archeologist and I've talked over many things with him, problems that I have been having with my job as well as archeological things. He's been a great deal of help to me.

Dorothy Huyck: There are some people who think of the Park Service as a very male-oriented organization. Do you?

Diane Traylor: I think I'd have to say yes, even though I just made the statement that I think that women are getting more chances in the park service. I still think it's a male-oriented organization, pretty much. I know, for instance, that at Bandelier there was a woman who was chief of interpretation and she and I used to kind of talk, compare notes. Her position was a fairly authoritative one, supposedly, but she had a lot of problems because everybody in the administration at Bandelier was a man and they'd have weekly staff meetings and stuff and she just felt that her opinion wasn't valued as much as some of other people even though in her particular department she knew it better than anybody else. So she'd give a report on what she was doing and then someone would either think that, you know, they'd try to pick holes in it or something, and I know, right now there's a

woman superintendent of Hubble Trading Post and I have heard from friends of mine who work out there that she's having a very difficult time because that's - I mean that's a very important position but she still runs into that in dealing, with I think probably people here at regional office, and probably male employees. I've found that same thing too, although the only male employee I've ever had was a very understanding man and I never had any particular problems with him, but I think, I mean I always, and this was in my own head too, just as I think in terms of my upbringing as a woman, I always sort of felt like. I was always a little hesitant at putting myself on an equal par with men because I was afraid that maybe my opinion wasn't as good, but I think I'm finally getting out of that but when I first started I would be a little bit hesitant to get into an argument on some point with a man because I felt like well maybe they do know more than I do or something.

Dorothy Huyck: Do you know why you're growing out of that?

Diane Traylor : I think probably maturity and experience. I think I finally feel confident enough both in my role as a manager and as someone who knows something about my particular area that I feel more confident in my statements because I do know more now, and I think that makes me more confident.

Dorothy Huyck: Are you a member of any professional societies?

Diane Traylor: No, I'm not, really a group person too much.

Dorothy Huyck: Would you say that your specific talents are being well used by the Park Service?

Diane Traylor: I would have to say yes at this point. They are probably being overused. Really, I have felt that sometimes. Like this last - especially in this last year I have three different projects that I have undertaken and although I guess I could have said no I'm enough of a hardhead, and also, I say the opportunities there to learn something new so I went ahead with them. But I have felt a little bit imposed upon at times because people have asked me to do talks on fire and this and that and a lot of times it's just really been too much for me and caused a lot of extra work on me. But I think in overall terms that I have been given. I think I have been given what I am capable of doing.

Dorothy Huyck: Are there any jobs that the Park Service has to offer that you think a woman should not tackle?

Diane Traylor: Well, let's see. Actually I had a discussion about that one day with somebody because they were talking about women superintendents and I was a little bit aggravated at the Park Service at that time because the way

they were putting it was they were trying to meet a quota of women to put in supervisory positions and I felt that they were pushing it too fast because I felt if they couldn't find a woman that they felt was capable to do that job then they shouldn't put one in there because not only - if she didn't do a good job then they were going to say well women are lousy in this position and it would bring down all this criticism against having a woman superintendent, plus it would be a hardship on that particular woman because maybe she had been pushed into that position without being really prepared for it. That's kind of the way I feel in terms of where I know the EEO program - I mean it's a good thing and I'm glad to see that they're giving women opportunities to do something besides secretaries and file clerks because there's a lot of capable women around to do things but I think that maybe the Park Service is pushing women a little bit too fast into some of the roles and they really aren't prepared for them and I think maybe what they need to do is set up more training programs. I have felt, for myself, for instance, that I could have benefitted from a management training course, if they'd just told me something about, gave me management skills and skills in budgeting and stuff like that which I - everything I've learned I've just kind of scrapped out of here and there and I still learn all the time you know, and I make mistakes and I think that the training programs would be very beneficial.

Dorothy Huyck: Have you been given any opportunities for training programs?

Diane Traylor: No so much - well, I have really, I've gone to a safety program, I went to a stabilization school which I really didn't think that I would have a chance to use it, but I ended up having a chance and I went to the fire school and I went to a program that the University of Arizona had on tree-ring dating. So, I have had several opportunities kind of related to my field but not specifically related to management skills and I definitely think that that is being overlooked. Not just for women but for anybody because I know other people over at Cultural Resources who - I mean it's funny because once the Park Service puts you in a certain position they sort of assume that you are going to know how to do all these things and you don't.

Dorothy Huyck: Have you asked to be sent to any training courses?

Diane Traylor: I have on various occasions, although a lot of them - my supervisor hasn't realized and this is probably my own fault too, but he may not have realized that I wanted to get some of these courses so I haven't found out about them until they are already over or something.

Dorothy Huyck: You haven't been notified that there are management courses available for instances?

- Diane Traylor: Yeah, just like I think that when I entered on the job if personnel had told me - well I guess it seems like that should be the job of personnel. If they had said okay, now under this position along with this job there is an opportunity to go to this and this course, would you be interested in taking any of these courses and nothing like that was ever presented to me so for a lot of months I didn't even realize that such courses existed or I would have asked to be included in them and then as I kind of - well I kind of sluffed it off myself because as I got more experience I felt that maybe I didn't need so much help anymore but I think that if I had been given the notification when I first took the job that those courses existed I think I would have benefited a lot from them.
- Dorothy Huyck: Have you been married?
- Diane Traylor: No, I haven't.
- Dorothy Huyck: If you were to marry and were still with National Park Service, would you hope to combine your Park Service career with married life?
- Diane Traylor: I would like to do that, yes, although I have thought that if I had children I think that I would, unless there were some part-time job I don't think I would like to combine all three of those, at least while the child is young. If I had children, I would spend the time with them.
- Dorothy Huyck: We were talking about the possibility of combining marriage with career.
- Diane Traylor: Right and I think that if I didn't have children or until I had children I would like to continue working, at least part-time. It would depend on what my husband's interests were and needs too, because although I've never been experienced at marriage my own feeling is - I mean I've seen other couples in the Park Service where the dual careers have really separated people and I wouldn't want that to happen. I would want to feel that my marriage came first. I know, for instance that the job I'm now demands so much of my time that either I would have to be married to a person who understood that, my devotion of so much time to the job, or I wouldn't want to have this particular kind of job and be married too because I'd feel like it would just be too much for both people.
- Dorothy Huyck: Are you giving any thought about going back to graduate school?
- Diane Traylor: I think about it from time to time, but I guess my feeling is now is I'm getting such great experiences on the job that although there are certain situations where graduate school probably would have been or would be helpful, that I'm just learning so much that it's like graduate school. I feel like I've written three thesis already. I think as long as I can continue to get a variety of experiences with the Park Service and unless I got into some job that just seemed to kind of be the same and kind of dead end in

terms of new experiences or learning that I probably wouldn't go back to graduate school. I'm kind of stuck sometimes because in my current position like if this job ends and I apply for sort of a comparable position, a lot of those positions at the higher levels are not offered to people who don't have graduate degrees. You know, that's kind of a point against you, although your experience sometimes they will take either/or. So far, I've been lucky I guess, and I'm still really interested in botany I think particularly, which I feel would be a good combination with archeology so I think about it from time to time but not too seriously.

Dorothy Huyck: As you look ahead, say five or ten years how do you see the opportunities for women in the Park Service?

Diane Traylor: I think there'll be more opportunities and probably better opportunities for women in the Park Service. At least I hope so, because I think there's a lot of capable women.

Dorothy Huyck: Do you see evidence of the fact that there are increasing opportunities currently?

Diane Traylor: Yeah, I do. For instance, our Cultural Resources center has got – it's always in the state of flux with personnel. We're kind of a few core people. In the last year, for instance, there's been two women who have accepted jobs at a higher rate and more responsibility. So, I think I see that happening kind of in my own little sphere and I think - and I know some other people - you know, just the appointment of women superintendence and stuff. I think that that will become more and more frequent and so I think that there will be more opportunities for women in a lot of different fields. Maybe where either the Park Service or the women realize that they could fill that position, I don't see why not.

Dorothy Huyck: I've been asking you quite a collection of questions. Is there something that we have not talked about that you'd like to comment on?

Diane Traylor: Oh, gee, well, I don't know. I can't think of anything specifically. I've just kind in general, I've enjoyed my experiences and work with the Park Service. There are a lot of headaches, I think, working for a federal agency, as anybody who works for one knows. The paper work is atrocious and there are a lot of things that are wasteful and there's procedures that you have to go through that a lot of times seem ridiculous but I think overall - I think any field you go into there are headaches and overall I - like for myself I have made more good friends in my years in the Park Service than I had in high school or college - people I still associate with and I think in a working situation that working here in Santa Fe has been really an ideal situation. I think, at least in our office, there's a great deal of personal freedom. You still have to work within the

system but you pretty much can do a lot of thing the way you want to do them and your left alone and if your given the responsibility for something then there's not somebody looking over your shoulder all the time. So, I've really enjoyed working for the Park Service. I guess I think of this job coming to an end sometimes, I think - you know, sort of think of other things that I might want to do or something, I don't know that there's too many better places to go. It's a pretty good organization for all its disorganization. So that's just kind of a general comment on the Park Service. I feel like my work here, like in the last four years has helped me grow as a person and mature. I think too, the responsibilities have been a part of that but I think the supportive group of people and the friends that I've developed through the Park Service have all been really enriching to my life. I've enjoyed the experience.

Dorothy Huyck: Thank you.

Diane Traylor: Your welcome.

[END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2]

[END OF INTERVIEW]