

National Park Service (NPS) History Collection

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



Jane E. Scott
September 27, 1978

Interview conducted by Dorothy B. Huyck
Transcribed by Pro-Typists, Inc.
Digitized by Marissa Lindsey

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 typed 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

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Department of the Interior

Interview with Jane E. Scott,

Contract Employee

by Dorothy B. Huyck

Southwest Regional Office

September 27, 1978

Pro-Typists, Inc.

Professional Transcription Service

Area Code 202-347-5395

[START OF TAPE]

Dorothy Huyck: The date is September 27, 1978. I am Dorothy Huyck. I will be interviewing Jane E. Scott, who currently is the principal investigator for the Texas A&M Research Foundation and will be going to the Denver Service Center as a cultural resource specialist.

Jane Scott: Oh, I became acquainted, I guess, the way everyone else does, through visiting parks with my family.

Dorothy Huyck: Any particular area of the country?

Jane Scott: In the West. I guess the first visit to the Park Service that I remember clearly was one to Grand Canyon. And that's the first time I remember a ranger, being – seeing a ranger, recognizing a ranger, being impressed by a ranger, who was a good one.

Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible].

Jane Scott: Yes, uh-huh. No, I grew up in North Carolina. But I was travelling [inaudible].

Dorothy Huyck: Were you on camping trips?

Jane Scott: Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: You say you grew up in North Carolina. Were you born in North Carolina?

Jane Scott: No, I was born in Branford, Connecticut.

Dorothy Huyck: Branford?

Jane Scott: Branford, just outside New Haven.

Dorothy Huyck: B-r-a-n-f-o-r-d.

Jane Scott: That's right.

Dorothy Huyck: [When were you born]?

Jane Scott: In 1952.

Dorothy Huyck: [Are you an only child]?

Jane Scott: No, I have three brothers.

Dorothy Huyck: Younger or older?

Jane Scott: Two younger, one older.

Dorothy Huyck: How much older [is the older brother]?

Jane Scott: We're all two years apart. My older brother is two years older than I am.

Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible]?

Jane Scott: That's right.

Dorothy Huyck: You grew up in [Connecticut]?

Jane Scott: No, North Carolina. I lived in Connecticut until I was five, and we moved to North Carolina and I grew stayed there until I left home.

Dorothy Huyck: [Where did you live]?

Jane Scott: Durham.

Dorothy Huyck: [Did you graduate from school there]?

Jane Scott: No, actually, I graduated from high school in Winston-Salem. My last year of high school, I went off to a boarding school.

Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible.]

Jane Scott: Yes, yes.

Dorothy Huyck: And what is your father?

Jane Scott: He is a professor of history. My mother is currently in real estate, owns and runs a real estate company.

Dorothy Huyck: [Did you graduate from university]?

Jane Scott: From Yale University, 1974.

Dorothy Huyck: [Did you got to graduate school]?

Jane Scott: Yes, I did a year of graduate work at Yale in history in '75-'76 and got an M.A.

Dorothy Huyck: During this long education process, who was it in your experience that encouraged you, whether it was members of your family [inaudible]?

Jane Scott: Encouraging, in the direction of the National Park Service or in the –

Dorothy Huyck: No, in terms of just the educational process [inaudible].

Jane Scott: My family was very supportive of education and insisted upon it. My mother particularly, both of them, but particularly my mother. By the time I got to graduate school, both my parents, who had both been to graduate school, both had Ph.D.'s, were both disillusioned with graduate school and disillusioned with the prospect of getting jobs, once you had a Ph.D. in something like history, which is what I went into. So, they weren't particularly encouraging, although they weren't discouraging. But they

certainly didn't press me to go to grad school. And I guess it was just – I had several supportive professors at Yale, and I suppose in that phase they were the ones who were the most supportive. And a boyfriend.

Dorothy Huyck: Back in high school [were you good at math and science]?

Jane Scott: No, I was never very much drawn to math or science. I took calculus, but I suppose that class had – I don't know, no, I couldn't say that.

Dorothy Huyck: And actually, growing up as a child, would you play with boys?

Jane Scott: Oh, yes.

Dorothy Huyck: Were you [considered] a tomboy?

Jane Scott: Oh, yes, I'm sure I was.

Dorothy Huyck: And as you entered the teenage years, did someone expect you to become more ladylike?

Jane Scott: Yes, I'm sure my mother did. And my father expected me to become more ladylike. Teacher at that time certainly did. There was a lot of peer-group pressure, too, to do things that girls do, to attract boys.

Dorothy Huyck: And did you go along with this?

Jane Scott: Oh, yeah, I bought it all.

Dorothy Huyck: Were there activities [inaudible]?

Jane Scott: Oh, yes, I am.

Dorothy Huyck: Were there extracurricular activities that [inaudible]?

Jane Scott: Yeah, I'd say the main one was acting and theater work, which gave me some experience in projecting to people and being comfortable performing in front of a crowd or something like that, which one does a lot of in the Park Service. I've always liked hiking and backpacking and that, of course, has been helpful. And horseback riding. But I guess that didn't really help in the Park Service. I've never ridden a horse in the Park Service. But it seems related.

Dorothy Huyck: Once you had finished your master's degree did you then [inaudible]?

Jane Scott: That's right.

Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible]?

Jane Scott: Okay, the first job I had with the Park Service was between my undergraduate and my graduate study. That was the summer of 1975. And I worked as a seasonal at Mesa Verde National Park, seasonal interpreter.

Then I came back and went to graduate school, finished my master's, and went back to Mesa Verde for another summer.

Dorothy Huyck: In '76?

Jane Scott: '76, at which time I worked until October. Then I went up to Yellowstone National Park and was going to set up a volunteer arrangement for the winter. But that didn't really work out. And then I heard in January of '77 that I had a job down here in Santa Fe, which was a temporary GS-5, 180-day appointment, as a – my technical title, I think, was park technician – interpretive specialist. I was working for a man named George West over in the cultural resource center. And that lasted until September of 1977 – no, yes. And then in November of '77, Dick Sellers who is the regional historian in this region, who wanted to hire me but couldn't find a way of actually hiring me, arranged this contract with Texas A&M Research Foundation, and they were told that they would get the contract if they would hire me as the principal investigator. And they agreed, and so that's the arrangement under which I've worked since. I've never laid eyes on the Texas A&M Research Foundation, but it's a nice arrangement.

Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible].

Jane Scott: That's right.

Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible].

Jane Scott: That's right.

Dorothy Huyck: Is there some equivalent GS level [inaudible]?

Jane Scott: It's about a GS-9. At least it was when we set it up, but now it's probably about a GS-8, because the government's raised its salaries.

Dorothy Huyck: Okay. And what do you do?

Jane Scott: I'm preparing historic studies plans for 12 parks in this region. And national register nominations for six parks or sites in this region.

Dorothy Huyck: How does Texas A&M Resource Foundation happen to be involved?

Jane Scott: Research Foundation? The Park Service does increasing amounts of contract work, particularly in well, in all areas, I guess, but certainly in history and archeology. And Texas A&M is an institution with which the Park Service has done contracts before, in fact, which Dick Sellers has administered contracts before. And he's been happy with them, and so – and there he grew to have government contracts, they make about a ten percent overhead. So, it just seemed an easy way to set up – he wanted me to work for him and it was a way to do it. So—

Dorothy Huyck: How did you finally move out of this nebulous bracket into working [inaudible]?

Jane Scott: Well, I was on the Civil Service register that they choose you from to get jobs. A woman in the Denver Service Center by the name of Glennie Wall, whom I have met and who is a good friend of my – both my present boss and my former boss, Dick Sellers and Roy Weston, had five positions coming up. And she had seen some work that I had done and was interested in having me apply for jobs. So, we talked about it on the phone, and she just managed to get me off the register, which was no mean feat, but she did it.

Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible].

Jane Scott: I'll be starting work on December 18th.

Dorothy Huyck: Going back into your past [inaudible] have you found your supervisors and – I'd rather not mention names – to be encouraging or discouraging or maybe [inaudible]?

Jane Scott: I've found them all – none have been discouraging. Most have been exceptionally encouraging. And a couple have been – well, one has been sort of neither one or the other. Certainly not discouraging, but not actively encouraging, either.

Dorothy Huyck: How has [inaudible]?

Jane Scott: Oh, the best example is – well, just out of all bounds, they've been encouraging. Giving me counselling on how best to get a job, giving me training in areas that I could use if I did get a Park Service job. In other words, my present boss has taken me out of this simple contract work and incorporated me into the division of history. Taught me Park Service procedures about Park Service work and so on, so that if I did get a job I would have these skills, or so that if I applied for a job I could say that I was being trained in these skills which in fact I did, and I think contributed to my getting the job. And just knowing contacts, giving me – supporting me when talking to other people, keeping me employed when positions would run out, trying to keep me employed, giving me recommendations.

Dorothy Huyck: [Did you attend any training]?

Jane Scott: No, except for the – I had first aid training and CPR training through the Park Service. But I've never attended a training course.

Dorothy Huyck: [What's CPR]?

Jane Scott: It's cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Dorothy Huyck: There are some people [inaudible] Park Service who are male oriented [inaudible]?

Jane Scott: Well, I can't really say that I do anymore. Not for my purposes, not a male-oriented organization. But that's a hard question to answer. Certainly, it's male dominated. But my experience has always been as a woman in the Park Service surrounded by other women in the Park Service – my first job at Mesa Verde, the woman who hired me, the person who hired me was a woman. The staff of seasonal interpreters if it wasn't 50-50, it was very close, women and men. So, I was instantly confronted with lots of women in ranger uniforms. I think it was a park that had a good many more women seasonals than most parks do, maybe because of the woman who was hiring. And her place was taken by another woman, so I worked for a woman there. Then my next Park Service job was over here at the cultural resource center, where in the ranks of the professionals there are certainly more men than women, but one sees professional women, archeologists and professional women.

Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible]?

Jane Scott: I share an office with a woman. I worked partly for a woman. So, my experience has always been working as a woman, surrounded by women working for the Park Service. And so, I haven't tended to view it exclusively as a male organization.

Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible].

Jane Scott: Of course, I haven't worked that many places.

Dorothy Huyck: [Is there anyone you would describe as a mentor to you]?

Jane Scott: Yeah, my current boss has acted as a mentor. I knew a guy – the guy who was assistant superintendent at Mesa Verde National Park when I was there was sort of a mentor, very much a coach. And he was an interesting case, because he was a typical Park Service male, – an ex-Marine, very – just your archetypical Park Service ranger, handsome, tall, strong, six feet two, very adept at things like mountain climbing and rescue work. His specialty was in ranger work. He didn't have much patience for interpretation. And yet, he was extremely encouraging for me to go into the Park Service. He said, "I'm all in favor of women in the Park Service." And he was very right-on, he was really straight in his approach. He wasn't – there was nothing shifty about it. He just thought I was good, and he wanted to see me have a career in the Park Service. So that – and that was really unusual. I mean, really striking because he was such a typical male ranger, sort of.

Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible]?

- Jane Scott: Uh-huh, yeah, I sort of did.
- Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible]?
- Jane Scott: Uh-huh.
- Dorothy Huyck: [Are there any Park Service jobs that you don't think women should do]?
- Jane Scott: I don't think so. A sort of easy answer to that question would be the physical labor jobs, such as rescue work and first aid and so on. And the interesting thing is that I have a good friend who you may have interviewed. Are you planning to – her name is Janie McDowell.
- Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible].
- Jane Scott: And I knew her – she was at Mesa Verde when I was there, and I knew her well. And she was just a real nice figure or – what do you call it, model, because she was in the ranger role. And in Yellowstone, even more intensively so, marking bears, capturing bears, giving first aid in the most horrible car accidents, tracking people down, shooting, carrying a gun at night, everything that a park ranger does, Janie does, and remains a very normal woman, a very lovable woman. So, having her as a model, I might be more reluctant to say that women can do those things, if I hadn't known Janie. But having known her, no, I don't think there are any jobs. I think there's a lot of physical labor that's – I think that's the interesting thing about women's liberation. I don't have trouble saying that more men than women are physically and mentally – or psychologically capable of doing those ranger-type tasks. But the fact is that there are some women who are. So, I don't think there will ever be as many women protective rangers in the Park Service as there are men. I sort of doubt it. But there will certainly be some, and they will be among the best.
- Dorothy Huyck: Do you think that being a woman yourself has made any difference at all [in your career]?
- Jane Scott: Oh, it's so hard to say. It's so hard to say because I don't really know the workings of – I don't think anybody really understands the workings of the Civil Service Commission, and how EEO enters into all of that. It probably has helped me in this day and age to be a woman, precisely because it would have hurt me in the past. Veterans preference, which has always been the difficulty for me in getting a permanent job, certainly works against women, I think.
- Dorothy Huyck: You've experienced that?
- Jane Scott: Yeah.
- Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible]?

- Jane Scott: I've taken the PACE exam, for example, and gotten a score of 98, and been told that when they were filling these intake ranger positions back about a year ago, they were taking names off the PACE register. But a woman in Washington told me we're not taking anybody with a score under 103. Well, nobody but a person with veteran's preference can get a score of over 100. So that has been – but I know that there's a lot of pressure from EEO to hire women in upper levels. So, I'm sure that it has probably helped me in getting this job in Denver.
- Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible]?
- Jane Scott: Eleven.
- Dorothy Huyck: You were mentioning the fact that you worked in a variety of work. Do you see anything evolving that might be or can be an old-boy network [for women]?
- Jane Scott: Oh, gee, that's an interesting question. I suppose it could happen.
- Dorothy Huyck: But has it happened?
- Jane Scott: I don't really think so. I certainly maintain close contacts with the women. I guess the people who I am in touch with still, who I used to work with geographically in other locations, are all women. And we certainly communicate about jobs becoming available and how our careers are progressing and things like that.
- Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible.]
- Jane Scott: Yeah, one friend particularly has asked me, since I work in a regional office, to let her know when jobs are going to be available, because she's out in the field area. And I remember a case of two women getting jobs because a woman in the regional office had let them know that the jobs were becoming available. They might have gotten them anyway. But I can see something like that coming about, and perhaps it is already evolving. But it would be hard to give it that label because it's part of the larger system of people within the Park Service helping each other out.
- Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible.]
- Jane Scott: Yeah, which remains a family orientation.
- Dorothy Huyck: So, you see it as not limited to men and old-boy networks and possibly the evolution of women and an old-girl network [inaudible]?
- Jane Scott: That's right.
- Dorothy Huyck: You mentioned your friend who asked you about a job in the regional area. Without mentioning her name or where she is –

Jane Scott: Okay.

Dorothy Huyck: – is this by any chance related to the fact that there is a certain degree of isolation in –

Jane Scott: In park areas? She didn't want me to find her a job in the regional office. She just wanted me to look on the regional office bulletin board and find other areas available. There is a factor is isolation that bothers me, but doesn't bother this woman, for example. She'd be happy to go to Glacier, Alaska. She just wants to move out of the particular area that she's in.

Dorothy Huyck: [Are you bothered by the] isolation?

Jane Scott: Oh, it's a very interesting question. I used to not be bothered by it at all. I grew up in a good-sized town, I went to school in an urban area and by the time I left graduate school I was very eager to get out in the country. And I spent a summer that was most influential in getting me interested in the Park Service, was spent in Wyoming, when I was a junior in college working for the Forest Service as a volunteer. And I just thought that was great, just exhilarating, and wonderful. And Wyoming became my idea of the best place in the world to live. At this point, I don't think I would live in Wyoming for large sums of money, because I have become much more interested in living in areas where there are a lot of other people. And I'm sort of frightened by the prospect of living off in a small park area with a group of people numbering no more than ten to 20. But that definitely came about as a change, when I first started working for the Park Service and lived in Mesa Verde, which you could call isolated, I loved it. It didn't bother me. I was glad for the quiet and the privacy.

Dorothy Huyck: So, it was a temporary experience. It's not what you would want for the long run.

Jane Scott: No. Although I expect the time to return when I would be happy to go back to isolation.

Dorothy Huyck: What makes the difference?

Jane Scott: I think being married or unmarried, wanting a family.

Dorothy Huyck: Are you?

Jane Scott: No.

Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible].

Jane Scott: No.

Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible].

Jane Scott: Well, at this point I could easily because I seem to be headed for a career in the Park Service that is in regional centers or service centers which are in urban areas that wouldn't be difficult to be married in. But I've always thought it's a difficult question, if one were to be a field employee, moving from field area to field area, how you would manage a marriage. And I don't feel drawn at the moment to working in a field area. I see myself as working in Denver or in other regional offices if I stay with the Park Service. And so, it doesn't really present a problem.

Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible].

Jane Scott: No, that's right.

Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible].

Jane Scott: Yeah, in most parks. Yeah, I know very few women – I only know of one – well, no, maybe a couple more, who are both married and working in field areas. It seems to be something that's difficult to do. Most women I know who work for the Park Service are either single or divorced, with – and some with children. But few with husband who move with them from area to area.

Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible.]

Jane Scott: Yeah, uh-huh.

Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible].

Jane Scott: Well, that's hard to say. I can't help but think they will improve. But then you never know if you're going to run into a sort of a backlash or recurrence of conservatism. I guess I'd have to say that I expect them to go on getting better and better.

Dorothy Huyck: Do you see any evidence of that kind of backlash?

Jane Scott: No, not regarding women. But you see it in other areas of equal opportunity.

Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible].

Jane Scott: It's amazing. That's why women's history studies are so interesting, because you get back to the past and you see how much progress was made at certain times by women, and how much consciousness-raising went on, and then we reverted it to these lulls, which changed our views of what we wanted to accomplish, and then woke up again. And I can see us going back to sleep, just because of the historic pattern that I've seen before.

Dorothy Huyck: Do you see evidences at all of women going [backwards]?

- Jane Scott: Yeah. Not many, but certainly there have been changes in the women's movement. There's a – I see a growing tendency among women to be a lot less militant, to avoid alienating people by militancy, to be more concerned with sort of placating men, pleasing men, while still – I don't know, I guess my thoughts aren't well enough defined to express. I don't see women going to sleep yet. But I think it could happen because we do that – I mean, all of us do that on issues that we could get excited or concerned about and then we forget about it.
- Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible]?
- Jane Scott: Uh-huh. But the federal government, because it tends to keep the employees that it takes on, is a nice hedge against that. Because if women are moving up in the ranks, they're going to stay up in the ranks for a short period of time. And once you get women in upper-level position over time, interested in seeing more women being hired, then I think it's going to be hard for us to lose our ground.
- Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible]?
- Jane Scott: Yes, we do. Which they're talking about revising.
- Dorothy Huyck: (Inaudible.)
- Jane Scott: Yeah, it's hard for a woman to get in, but once you get in, I don't think it's so hard for you to advance. That's where I think EEO programs within – EEO, for example, couldn't really help me get my job. But the EEO program supports my promotion from now on, I think.
- Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible].
- Jane Scott: No, not directly.
- Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible].
- Jane Scott: Yes, through their newsletters, through their setting these goals, we want so-and-so many women in the region in upper management positions.
- Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible.]
- Jane Scott: Yeah, I do. Not all, but I think it does.
- Dorothy Huyck: I've been asking you a lot of questions. Is there something we have not touched upon [that you want to mention]?
- Jane Scott: Well, let's see. Not really. I guess the one thing that always – I've always been very aware since I've been working for the Park Service that it is formerly a male-dominated agency. And I guess one thing I've always been aware of and sensitive to is the public's perception of women in the Park Service. I'm very impatient with women in the Park Service who

don't do their jobs right, because especially women in field positions, in uniform, because I feel like we're so likely to alienate the public just by being women in uniform that we have to work extra hard. And I worked with a lot of women rangers in Mesa Verde and a lot of them really irritated me, because they'd wear red fingernail polish, for example, which I didn't think was appropriate in a Park Service uniform. And just behave in a sort of a silly fashion. So, I have real high standards for women in uniform. I think it's a very hard role to play, to be in a uniform, wearing that whole Park Service outfit, playing a role that most people see as being a male role, and somehow managing to play the role and do justice to the job, and at the same time not totally lose touch with your feminineness.

[END OF SIDE A]

Jane Scott:

Oh, for interpreters it's not so hard because an interpreter is really responding to human beings and trying to communicate and empathize with people. I just found it a tremendously challenging job in that regard. You're giving out – you're communicating, you're dealing with people. And that's a role that women play very well I think. And I wasn't – there weren't many things that I was expected to do in that uniform at Mesa Verde that I had to be super conscious of the male line. It was just fascinating because people have such a high opinion of the Park Service. It's amazing. They just love us to death. They really have a lot of admiration for the Park Service and for that ranger in uniform. And in many ways, I was impressed by the way in which they could shift over to seeing a woman in uniform. But they laid upon me all the expectations they would lay upon a man. There's this constant expectation in the general public that park rangers are really forest rangers. So many people confuse those two roles. And even if you're working in an archeological park as I was, they expect you to know a great deal about forestry. They always – people would say, did you get your degree in forestry? And talking to them about archeology and they say, did you get your degree in forestry? And I was very careful to try to know the plants and the birds and the geology of the area, in as decent a way as I could, even though I'm not trained in those fields at all, because that was the expectation. If you didn't know those things, you weren't really a ranger. Things like building a fire, when we'd give campfire talks, I always felt very anxious about – not anxious about it, but very much aware that people expected you to be able to build a fire, be able to chop wood, even though you were a woman. It's just very interesting, the way they were willing for you to be a woman and sometimes kid you about it. But since you were wearing a uniform, they were expecting you to do everything a man could do. The whole uniform business is sort of weird, because I think it's very important that women wear exactly the same uniform as men as that they are accepted as

rangers. And then, a lot of women look silly in that uniform. It's not the least bit flattering. But you just have to – it's a real challenging job for a woman, because you have to say, okay, my role in this job is not to be pretty, my role in this job is to be functional.

Dorothy Huyck: Professional.

Jane Scott: Yeah, professional. And just – it's not an issue that it's not a flattering uniform.

Dorothy Huyck: You work at both [inaudible].

Jane Scott: Uh-huh.

Dorothy Huyck: And you mentioned the fact that you got comments from people.

Jane Scott: Uh-huh.

Dorothy Huyck: Were they puzzled, by and large?

Jane Scott: Some were. Most – I wouldn't call they puzzled but interested. And they'd say things like, "What do they call you? Do they call you rangerettes?" That was a common comment. A lot of women would say, "I'm so glad to see women in the Park Service. I always wanted to be a park ranger when I was growing up, I'm so glad to see women in the Park Service."

Dorothy Huyck: Did anyone express offense that a woman was a park ranger?

Jane Scott: No, no one expressed offense, but there were always people who – men, middle-aged men, usually, who you would feel were sort of bemused by your being a Park Service ranger. Kind of taunting.

Dorothy Huyck: A subtle –

Jane Scott: Yeah, very subtle. Very subtle.

Dorothy Huyck: Oh, there was some taunting?

Jane Scott: Well, taunting in a subtle way. I guess I'm real sensitive to peoples' attitudes, regardless of what they say, and I certainly dealt with people who I felt were bemused and slightly irritated by my being a Park Service ranger.

Dorothy Huyck: When you had finished your program, I assume you took walks?

Jane Scott: Uh-huh.

Dorothy Huyck: Did you feel you had been able to overcome any of that, or was it just standard in their vision of you, that [inaudible]?

Jane Scott: No, sometimes I did feel as though I had overcome it. Not always. A lot of the contacts in which those kinds of opinions were expressed were not at walks or talks, but we did a lot in Mesa Verde of just standing around in the ruins or standing at the information desk. And that's when you'd really relate to people more directly. And they tended to be much more informal in those kinds of situations. It's in many ways the most challenging position in the world. I think everyone should be an interpretive ranger at some point because there you are, and the public just comes to you with just anything it wants to come to you with, every – anything it wants to come to you with. You become – people come up and tell you the most unlikely things. Confess –

Dorothy Huyck: For example?

Jane Scott: Oh, I remember a woman who was travelling with a bunch of her daughters and had obviously done very little travelling without her husband. And perhaps the reason she talked to me was because I was a woman. And she – people will just come up and start telling you about their trips a lot. They'll say, we were here, we were there, we were here, we were there. And this is where we've been, and you encourage them. And she was doing this, and then she had had an incident that had obviously bothered her very deeply, in Arizona when she had taken her car into a gas station. And the man had told her that she was leaking oil, and she had said something like, "What do you mean I'm leaking oil?" and she was real anxious. And he said, "Well, if you don't want me to help you with it, you can go find another gas station." He'd just been real short. And she was really upset by it. She called her husband about it and she talked about it with all her daughters. And here she was telling me about it, someone she didn't even know. And I remember that very clearly, because I thought women who don't have to deal with the world, who have a man there coping with problems like cars and gas stations for them, don't get used to the fact that there are a lot of nasty people out there, who treat you bad. And so, she had run into one of them, and she was in shock over it. And she was telling me about it, maybe because I was a woman.

Dorothy Huyck: What were you able to do for her?

Jane Scott: Oh, I just said, – I think I remember saying, "Well, you get out on the road and you realize that there are a lot of nasty people out there. Blow it off, shrug your shoulders, don't let it ruin your trip." But you're sort of like a father confessor. It's interesting.

Dorothy Huyck: You found yourself playing that role with a variety of people?

Jane Scott: Uh-huh, sure did.

Dorothy Huyck: [Inaudible].

Jane Scott: Yeah, it did. Yeah, it's a real parental role because people are coming up and telling you things in a sort of a childish way, bragging, telling you about what they know and you realize that what they know – especially in archeology, people have – tell you about their theories about where people came from, and from a professional, archeological or historical standpoint they sound sort of silly. But that's the last thing you want to say. And so you're saying – you're talking it over with them, trying to be diplomatic, asking them if they'd read something else about it. And that's a sort of parental or teacher role, and you feel that you're guiding them along. And in general, as a Park Service ranger, you're teaching people, guiding people, and people want that kind of feeling from you. They're really into it, especially with their children. They want to see you teaching their children, but they also are not adverse to being taught themselves and guided.

Dorothy Huyck: Have you encountered the opposite kind of person who has or thinks he or she has an expertise in an area who wanted to take over from you?

Jane Scott: Yes, uh-huh, you do, definitely.

Dorothy Huyck: How do you handle that?

Jane Scott: Oh, it's so long ago. If I felt that they really did know more than I did, I would ask them to talk about what they knew and admit that I didn't know as much as they did. If I felt that they were providing misinformation, I would just handle them in as diplomatic a way as possible but try to keep them talking to the group. I never had to say, "I'm leading this talk, you're not, so please shut up." It never got that bad. I guess when you really encounter that is when you're talking to people one to one, and they're telling you about their theories or their knowledge. And you feel sort of suffocated because there's no way that you can come out and say, "Well, I think you're wrong, this is the way I feel about it." When they're being just very overbearing. But those were mostly in situations where it was just me talking to them.

Dorothy Huyck: Now, as compared with your work at Mesa Verde, have you been encountering the public in your current contract relationship?

Jane Scott: No, almost not at all. I encounter the Park Service people, I make trips to all the parks that I'm working, but not the general public, no. And I sort of miss it. Although in some ways, I – it's a hard job to deal with the public and in many ways I'm relieved not to be doing it anymore. But I think that I am good at it, to a certain extent, and I'd like to go back to being in it again. I sort of miss it. I really do.

- Dorothy Huyck: In your forthcoming job, [inaudible]?
- Jane Scott: No, I won't. In the Denver Service Center, in the position I'll be having there, it's interesting, because the public becomes the park areas, and you feel a certain alienation from the park areas. They certainly feel a certain alienation from you. There's quite a bit, one gathers, of resentment in the field areas of the Denver Service Center. So that the park – people in the field become the public in a way, which is sort of a shame.
- Dorothy Huyck: So, in effect you're going to have to communicate with them.
- Jane Scott: That's right, exactly.
- Dorothy Huyck: In many of the same ways, but on the different level of employee.
- Jane Scott: Uh-huh, that I used to with the public, that's right.
- Dorothy Huyck: Some of your interpretive background certainly will be useful, in the whole area of working with people.
- Jane Scott: That's right, uh-huh, yes.
- Dorothy Huyck: Anything else [we should talk about]?
- Jane Scott: Well, I'm sure there are things we could talk about, but I can't think of anything more specific.
- Dorothy Huyck: Thank you.
- Jane Scott: Thank you.

[END OF TAPE]

[END OF INTERVIEW]