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



Delia O. Marquez
September 28, 1978

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

Dorothy Huyck: 00:00 The date is September 28, 1978. I'm Dorothy Huyck. I will be interviewing Delia--D-E-L-I-A--O. Marquez, M-A-R-Q-U-E-Z, who is a programs and budget assistant in the Southwest Regional Office, Santa Fe. Can I ask how you first became acquainted with the National Park Service?

Delia O. Marquez: 00:27 I was called for a job interview. That was my first – I hadn't even heard of the Park Service before that.

Dorothy Huyck: 00:34 When was that?

Delia O. Marquez: 00:35 In 1957.

Dorothy Huyck: 00:39 And did you take the position [inaudible 00:00:41]?

Delia O. Marquez: 00:41 Yes, I did.

Dorothy Huyck: 00:42 Here in the Southwest Region?

Delia O. Marquez: 00:43 Right. In this office.

Dorothy Huyck: 00:46 And what position did you enter in?

Delia O. Marquez: 00:48 It was a clerk-typist.

Dorothy Huyck: 00:52 What grade?

Delia O. Marquez: 00:52 GS-2.

Dorothy Huyck: 00:55 In 1957?

Delia O. Marquez: 00:56 Yeah.

Dorothy Huyck: 00:56 And then?

Delia O. Marquez: 01:01 And then I was there for about a year, I'd say, not quite the full year. And there was an opening in accounts maintenance. Well, it wasn't really accounts maintenance at the time. It is now. I forget what the title was, but something like that. And it was the cost accounting clerk, the next job that I had. That was at a 3. And then it eventually developed into a 5 in about a year and a half.

Actually, it was a 5 job, but I was in training at a grade 3. And I was there for at least 10 years.

- Delia O. Marquez: 01:46 And then when we came in the computer system, that abolished my job. So, they transferred me over to the voucher section, as a voucher examiner. That was in '69 til – Well, I was at a grade 5 from '69 until about 1970. No, wait a minute, '71. I'm not really sure of the dates exactly. And that was a GS-6 then. Until May 15, 1978, that's when I got my 7 as a programs and budget assistant.
- Dorothy Huyck: 02:41 Along the way, were you given opportunities for training programs and classes of any sort that helped you move up through these jobs?
- Delia O. Marquez: 02:51 Yes. I've had some training courses. Let's see. Well, when I was in accounts maintenance, I took six months of elementary accounting in the college in Santa Fe.
- Dorothy Huyck: 03:04 And the Park Service paid for it?
- Delia O. Marquez: 03:10 Yes. I quit that because I just couldn't run a house, keep children, and work, and go to school. So that was really why I didn't continue that. And I've gone to training courses that the Park Service sponsors also. Not really the Park Service, Civil Service Commission.
- Dorothy Huyck: 03:30 Such as?
- Delia O. Marquez: 03:32 Let's see. Effective letter writing. And then I went to Denver for a seminar on the relocation of people, the lands that they're buying. What else have I taken? Well, most recently, I went to a course in budget execution.
- Dorothy Huyck: 04:08 Let me go back in your personal history for just a minute and ask where and when you were born?
- Delia O. Marquez: 04:13 Okay. I was born in Santa Fe, October the 19th, 1937.
- Dorothy Huyck: 04:21 How many children were there in your family?
- Delia O. Marquez: 04:23 Nine.
- Dorothy Huyck: 04:24 And which one were you?
- Delia O. Marquez: 04:26 The third.

Dorothy Huyck: 04:28 The third oldest?

Delia O. Marquez: 04:29 Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: 04:29 Were you the oldest daughter, by chance?

Delia O. Marquez: 04:34 No, I was the second daughter.

Dorothy Huyck: 04:40 And how many years older was your sister?

Delia O. Marquez: 04:44 She is five years older.

Dorothy Huyck: 04:49 You grew up here in Santa Fe?

Delia O. Marquez: 04:51 Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: 04:54 What was your father's occupation?

Delia O. Marquez: 04:57 Well, he was really more or less on his own, doing odd jobs here and there.

Dorothy Huyck: 05:02 And your mother was busy with—

Delia O. Marquez: 05:05 With raising a family.

Dorothy Huyck: 05:08 Did you attend high school in Santa Fe?

Delia O. Marquez: 05:13 Yeah.

Dorothy Huyck: 05:13 And when did your graduate?

Delia O. Marquez: 05:13 In 1956.

Dorothy Huyck: 05:17 Have you done any additional work after high school?

Delia O. Marquez: 05:20 No. Other than that six months that I went to college. That was it.

Dorothy Huyck: 05:29 In that case, you were taking accounting?

Delia O. Marquez: 05:30 Yes, elementary accounting.

Dorothy Huyck: 05:37 When you were in high school, was there anyone in your family or in the community or among your teachers who encouraged you during high school years as far as the education process was concerned?

- Delia O. Marquez: 05:48 Well, yes, our junior and senior – I took really commercial courses, which were shorthand and typing. And she encouraged us to take those courses so that we could get a good job after we graduated from high school. And then I also took bookkeeping, one year of that.
- Dorothy Huyck: 06:06 Was this the same teacher who—?
- Delia O. Marquez: 06:09 No, this was somebody else. She only dealt with the shorthand typing, business integration, courses like that.
- Dorothy Huyck: 06:20 In what way did these two teachers show their encouragement?
- Delia O. Marquez: 06:25 Well, in finding out that if we didn't take those courses, especially the shorthand and typing teacher, that we're going to end up just being salesclerks, and nothing really important. And I did not want to be a salesclerk. But it didn't really just take her encouragement. I was ambitious myself. I knew what I wanted, really.
- Dorothy Huyck: 06:48 What did you think you wanted?
- Delia O. Marquez: 06:49 I wanted to work in an office. [crosstalk 00:06:54] But I had never thought I'd go into the accounting field at that time, or I would have spent more time taking more bookkeeping courses. Because I really haven't used my typing and shorthand. Very little, but what? Three years?
- Dorothy Huyck: 07:08 I gather there was, one time, a commercial teacher here whose son was a lawyer?
- Delia O. Marquez: 07:12 Yes, that's her.
- Dorothy Huyck: 07:13 Is this the same person?
- Delia O. Marquez: 07:16 Mm-hmm (affirmative). She was the commercial teacher for years and years.
- Dorothy Huyck: 07:19 She seems to have supplied her son with good secretaries for some time, from her classes.
- Delia O. Marquez: 07:24 Probably. She probably did.
- Dorothy Huyck: 07:25 Did you take math or science in high school?

- Delia O. Marquez: 07:30 Yes, but not really advanced math. I never took algebra or geometry because I didn't figure I'd be using those anyway.
- Dorothy Huyck: 07:41 As you were growing up, did you play with boys?
- Delia O. Marquez: 07:46 Well, maybe with my brothers and cousins, but not that much. I was more of a feminine type. Never a tomboy.
- Dorothy Huyck: 07:53 So you more of a ladies' girl?
- Delia O. Marquez: 07:54 Yes.
- Dorothy Huyck: 07:58 Had you been in any national park areas before at all, like Bandelier for instance, before you came to work with for the Park Service?
- Delia O. Marquez: 08:05 I sure hadn't, no.
- Dorothy Huyck: 08:08 Could I ask a little bit about what you do as a programs and budget assistant?
- Delia O. Marquez: 08:13 I've been there, let's see, three months. And I haven't learned all that I'm going to. I'm sure there's a lot more involved in the type of work that I'm going to get involved in. But right now, I prepare program authorizations. And post those to our ledgers, and keep them in balance. And then reconcile with the print outs. I get print outs once a month. Make sure that they're in balance with what the printout has and what we have. And prepare AOPs – annual operating programs – to input into the computer.
- Delia O. Marquez: 09:04 And that's the budget end of it. Also, I keep the position status report up to date. That's all your people that work in the Southwest Region, their position numbers, both permanent and less than full time. I post all the actions that come in daily, as they prepare my personnel. And make sure that we have a numbered position authorized, budgeted position for each action. And then assign new numbers when a new one develops. And update that, I send an update sheet to Washington once a month. On the programming aspect of it, I prepare work orders, establishing new accounts, increasing old accounts, closing completed projects. And I also keep a log on those. Those are also reconciled once a month with the work order summary. And we have a report called PARMs [phonetic].

- Dorothy Huyck: 10:19 What does that stand for?
- Delia O. Marquez: 10:21 Well, it's really, I'm not really that familiar with it, I'm just learning about that now. And anyway, it's for management and for Washington and several people get this printout and we keep it up to date. After the new construction and even construction that hasn't been started, but the planned construction for five years. It's a five-year program. And what I do with that is, I go ahead and submit – What can I call? Well, it's for the printout.
- Delia O. Marquez: 11:06 Update sheets, I guess they would be called. We update it as to when the project is going to be completed, when they've been completed, when they're starting, what kind of a project it is. And this is for the computer. This is all something real new to me that I've just started learning lately, so I'm not all that familiar with it yet.
- Dorothy Huyck: 11:30 On the one hand, a computer abolished your earlier job and [crosstalk 00:11:31]—
- Delia O. Marquez: 11:31 Yes. Now I'm working with a computer. Even after I took the other job, we were feeding the computer information. But see, instead of manually posting – well, with the National Cash Register machine. Instead of doing it that way, the computer inputs it faster. And I think it's a better system, myself. I'm all for computers.
- Dorothy Huyck: 12:00 Can I ask about your Park Service supervisors? Have you found them to be encouraging, or discouraging, or maybe you've met some of both?
- Delia O. Marquez: 12:05 Well, I probably have met some of both. Not really too much discouraging, but they don't really encourage that much. But they've been easy to get along with, really. I have no complaints.
- Dorothy Huyck: 12:18 Have you had encouragement as far as taking on added responsibilities, new duties and then possibly being promoted?
- Delia O. Marquez: 12:27 I wouldn't say that. I think that I've taken the initiative myself. Not really with encouragement. They've allowed me to do it.

Dorothy Huyck: 12:38 Without naming names, have your supervisors been male or female?

Delia O. Marquez: 12:43 I've had all male, except one female.

Dorothy Huyck: 12:53 You think, then, it's been your initiative in large part, rather than their specific encouragement that tells you move along?

Delia O. Marquez: 13:00 Yes, I think so.

Dorothy Huyck: 13:02 On the other hand, I guess they were not discouraging.

Delia O. Marquez: 13:04 No, they didn't discourage, but they really didn't encourage you that much. I don't know about my new supervisor now. I haven't been there that long. But I'm sure that I'm going to be learning quite a bit more than what I have now.

Dorothy Huyck: 13:19 You've obviously learned in previous jobs too.

Delia O. Marquez: 13:22 Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: 13:24 Was that more, again, at your own initiative? Or has there been somebody who's really encouraged you at different stages?

Delia O. Marquez: 13:32 That's a hard question to answer. Well, the job's there. And then a person can do as much as you want, over and above what you're expected to do.

Dorothy Huyck: 13:51 There are some people who think of the National Park Service is a rather male-oriented organization. Do you?

Delia O. Marquez: 13:57 It really is.

Dorothy Huyck: 13:59 How do you notice that?

Delia O. Marquez: 14:02 Well, your higher grades are mostly male.

Dorothy Huyck: 14:10 Do you think that being a woman has in any way affected your possibilities for added responsibilities and enhancement?

Delia O. Marquez: 14:22 I don't think so.

Dorothy Huyck: 14:27 Would you say that your specific talents and abilities are being well used by the Park Service?

Delia O. Marquez: 14:31 Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: 14:36 Do you think that there are any jobs a woman working for the Park Service really ought not to tackle?

Delia O. Marquez: 14:42 Well from my viewpoint, I would not. I'm thinking about myself. I wouldn't want to be out there in construction, something that deals with hard manual labor. Some women would like to do that kind of jobs, but I don't. But I figure that anybody can learn just about anything if they want.

Dorothy Huyck: 15:00 Are you married?

Delia O. Marquez: 15:04 Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: 15:04 And when were you married?

Delia O. Marquez: 15:07 1965.

Dorothy Huyck: 15:08 And do you have children?

Delia O. Marquez: 15:08 Yes.

Dorothy Huyck: 15:12 How old are they?

Delia O. Marquez: 15:14 Twelve, ten, and eight.

Dorothy Huyck: 15:16 Three children. How have you found working, combined with keeping the family going? You mentioned that it was difficult to go to school.

Delia O. Marquez: 15:26 Right. It's hard work, really. You have to devote most of your time to work, and let your house go. And your children just, you don't see them that much really.

Dorothy Huyck: 15:37 Have you been able to find babysitters for them?

Delia O. Marquez: 15:40 Yes. I have had no problems.

Dorothy Huyck: 15:44 And has a member of the family helped you?

Delia O. Marquez: 15:45 Yes. My mother has taken care of all three of them for most of the time when they were infants, which is the critical

time, to get someone that will give them a lot of love and care.

- Dorothy Huyck: 16:00 Were you employed by someone prior to coming to work with the Park Service?
- Delia O. Marquez: 16:04 Yes. For the state welfare agency. I guess it's state welfare. New Mexico Department of State Welfare.
- Dorothy Huyck: 16:17 Was that after you got out of high school.
- Delia O. Marquez: 16:17 Right out of high school. I was home about a month before I got my first job.
- Dorothy Huyck: 16:22 That must have been what? About a year?
- Delia O. Marquez: 16:25 About nine months.
- Dorothy Huyck: 16:27 Can I ask about your husband? Is he employed here in Santa Fe?
- Delia O. Marquez: 16:27 Yes.
- Dorothy Huyck: 16:37 And in what area is he employed?
- Delia O. Marquez: 16:40 Well, he had been working for the state. He's on a leave of absence at this point. He works for the motor transportation department.
- Dorothy Huyck: 16:53 Certainly someone would have a major part of the financial responsibility for families, especially if husbands are between jobs. Have you had that kind of responsibility at some time?
- Delia O. Marquez: 17:05 Well, only now that he's on a leave of absence. But he is he's in the construction business, and what he's doing is adding onto our house at this point.
- Dorothy Huyck: 17:16 He presumably will want to go back to the [crosstalk 00:17:19]—
- Delia O. Marquez: 17:18 Yes.
- Dorothy Huyck: 17:25 Is one of your children a girl?
- Delia O. Marquez: 17:27 No, they're all boys.

Dorothy Huyck: 17:30 If a young woman came to you, someone just out of high school for instance, and asked about joining the Park Service, would you recommend employment with Park Service to them?

Delia O. Marquez: 17:39 Yes, I would.

Dorothy Huyck: 17:47 I've been asking you quite a collection of questions. Is there something that you'd like to comment about that we haven't talked about?

Delia O. Marquez: 17:53 Not really, I guess you've covered just about everything.

Dorothy Huyck: 17:55 All right. Fine. Thank you.

[END OF TAPE]

[END OF INTERVIEW]