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



**Betty J. Wauer**  
**September 26, 1978**

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

- Dorothy Hyuck: 00:02 The date is September 26th, 1978. I am Dorothy Hyuck. I will be interviewing Betty J. Wauer, spelled W-A-U-E-R, who is the administrative officer at Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 00:18 Can I ask you how you first became acquainted with the National Park Service?
- Betty J. Wauer: 00:25 Yes. I had recently moved down to be with my sister. I had gotten a divorce, in Alpine, Texas, and went with a friend down to, I think, it was the first chili cook off they in Terlingua outside of Big Bend. And we had stopped in this little cafe down there, and we were having a cup of coffee, and there was a man sitting there that got to talking to us and turned out he was the engineering technician, I think he was called, at Big Bend with the maintenance division and told me that, in the meantime we had found out that I needed a job and this type thing, and he told me that the maintenance secretary's job was open at Big Bend.
- Betty J. Wauer: 01:11 So I was on the Civil Service register at Del Rio, which big Ben Bend got theirs from the El Paso district. So, I very quickly went down the next day, I think it was, and talked to the personnel officer down there at Big Bend, and that's home country to me anyway, the Alpine-Big Bend area. And it was like open arms, hugs and kisses practically because they just did not have that many single women that would be able to live that far out in the country because it doesn't suit most people. At that point in my life, it was really great for me. I think I kind of needed the isolation maybe to get myself kind of back in order.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 01:53 When was this?
- Betty J. Wauer: 01:53 This was, I started to work there, that was in like November or December, I suppose, of '67, because my EOD date with Park Service is January the second of '68. It took a little maneuvering maybe with getting the Civil Service papers switched, but I did get the job.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 02:14 And what job, what position was that initial one?

- Betty J. Wauer: 02:15 It was clerk typist in the maintenance division there as a GS-3.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 02:20 Okay. And then what transpired?
- Betty J. Wauer: 02:27 I brought my four children down and they joined me. They had been with their father, and we stayed there two and a half years, which was fantastic. We loved it, the little boys and I really had a good time. It was necessary for me to leave the park because of their schooling, because the school only goes through the eighth grade and my twins were getting to that point in life. And I had never given much thought to transferring with Park Service until my boss had taken such a great interest in me, the chief of maintenance there, Bill Jensen. And he suggested that I pursue trying to find another job. So I went to Amistad, which is in Del Rio, and they had no openings, but then the LBJ Area opened up, and I don't know why, but they put me in there as the administrative clerk, GS-4. I had gotten my four at Big Bend. And I went in I really didn't know much at all and that's one of the neatest areas I've ever been in, because it was very exciting. Mr. Johnson was still alive, and they were there quite often. And I met so many people from the Washington Office, Ed Bearss and a number of the researchers back there from Harpers Ferry and Washington. And of course, the regional people, I got to know so many of them because of the area.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 04:00 What year was it that you went to Big Bend?
- Betty J. Wauer: 04:02 That was '68, early '68. So, I went to LBJ in--
- Dorothy Hyuck: 04:07 Yes. I'm sorry. You said LBJ.
- Betty J. Wauer: 04:08 '70. Mm-hmm. And that's at Johnson City, you know?
- Dorothy Hyuck: 04:12 Yes.
- Betty J. Wauer: 04:13 I stayed there about a little over three years and then because of a desire of the family to get back out to west Texas, I transferred back out to Fort Davis. I took a downgrade and went back to Fort Davis as just an administrative clerk again. I stayed there about a year, and I had put in for this job at Bandelier once before and had not gotten in. So, this job came open again and I did put in for it and did get the job. And-

Dorothy Hyuck: 04:45 Did you come on duty here as an administrative officer?

Betty J. Wauer: 04:49 Administrative technician, and that was a GS-7, and then it became an administrative officer in June of '77.

Dorothy Hyuck: 05:01 And what pay are you currently?

Betty J. Wauer: 05:02 A nine.

Dorothy Hyuck: 05:02 So you have been here how many years?

Betty J. Wauer: 05:11 Four years now, little over.

Dorothy Hyuck: 05:16 Would you tell me a little bit about what your duties involve here?

Betty J. Wauer: 05:20 I do mostly the budgeting and programming for the park. I supervise the procurement and personnel functions and the office services functions such as the typing and filing, this type thing. We've had a number of special programs, some Title 10 public works programs last year and then a tremendous fire last year also. So, it's been quite challenging. It's been a little above what maybe the area would be in the budgeting and programming cycles.

Dorothy Hyuck: 05:59 I've heard about the fire last year. In what way did that affect your work?

Betty J. Wauer: 06:07 It would be like doubling the administrative workload. We hired on, oh, a number of rehab people and like 80 or so. And then all the purchasing for the fire was actually done by this area with a tremendous amount of help from the regional office, procurement office. But we don't necessarily have extra help when you have a fire or something special like that, it actually just doubles the workload on the staff. So, it was quite a challenge, and you know, it was hurtful because we lost a very dear friend that died on the fire line from a heart attack, not from the fire. And I found it very traumatic to ride up with, my husband took me up on the side of the mountain, he took pictures for the superintendent one night while the fire was still burning. And that really tore me up to see your park burning because these areas become literally ours, this protective thing.

- Betty J. Wauer: 07:17 But even with the hurt of that, it was a great challenge. I kind of enjoyed it. I even gave some thought to wanting to be a fire finance officer and go to the different fires. But I haven't done anything about that, but it's like anything maybe that becomes very exciting because there is – decisions have to be made, things have to be done and it gets you out of maybe the same hum drum existence. So, it's a very different circumstance.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 07:50 How much acreage was damaged by that fire within the park?
- Betty J. Wauer: 07:53 We lost over 10,000 acres in the park.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 07:57 Am I thinking that fire actually spread from Forest Service land?
- Betty J. Wauer: 08:00 Yes ma'am.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 08:00 Did the fire originate in the forest?
- Betty J. Wauer: 08:02 Yes. Mm-hmm.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 08:03 With regard to rehabilitation, you said that there were 80 rehabilitation workers in the park?
- Betty J. Wauer: 08:08 Approximately.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 08:09 What kind of rehabilitation were they doing?
- Betty J. Wauer: 08:14 Well immediately was to go in and cut down the standing trees that were a danger. Then they had to try to clear trails. We did leave the back country closed for a number of months, and I don't remember how long that was. Then the clearing and trail work, I suppose, was the biggest part of it. Then almost immediately after the fire was out, we had a severe flooding problem. And so, then these rehab people had to actually go in and literally rebuild trails that were washed away and try to clear the creek.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 08:56 I think you also had an unusual circumstance whereby you had archeologists working here during the time of the fire.
- Betty J. Wauer: 09:01 Yes, that's fantastic. I think some people really deserve some credits for that, because they actually went out ahead of the bulldozers and there's so many things that you don't

really think about in a fire. And so, to have, we had some just fantastically neat people that really dug in and helped. We ended up working like you'd work the full 12 hour shifts to try to cover and no one cared. It was one of those things that a park seasonal that just comes on jumps right in also because of the emotions, I'm sure. So, it's been exciting here. I've enjoyed the park. It was exciting at LBJ also. I like my job. It's become a little difficult to keep up with all the regulations in administration, but I do like it.

- Dorothy Hyuck: 09:58 Have those regulations multiplied in recent years?
- Betty J. Wauer: 10:01 Yes, we have – I'd say so many more restrictions because of the different emphasis. It seems like everyone has their thing they want to do that seems to add to the administration of an area. And I'm not saying they're all good or bad, but you know.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 10:27 Would you give me an example or two?
- Betty J. Wauer: 10:32 Well, just safety would be one example where I'm not so directly involved with that, but yet it involves my people because of certain restrictions on purchasing and these type things. Of course, EEO, which naturally I'm a great believer in, it benefits me also. That has caused numerous amounts of reports and recruiting efforts, these type things and all these different, I don't even know what to call it, but the emphasis made by certain groups or people or whatever, it does add to a paperwork load, mostly in reporting, but also in actions that you do take.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 11:24 Can I go back in your personal history and ask you when and where you were born?
- Betty J. Wauer: 11:29 At Barnhart, Texas, a little bitty town in December the fourth, 1937. I became 40 this year.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 11:40 Is that B-A-R-N-H-A-R-T?
- Betty J. Wauer: 11:43 Yes, ma'am.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 11:44 Were you by any chance only child?
- Betty J. Wauer: 11:46 No, I'm the middle child of five.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 11:50 And how much older are you than the next child?

Betty J. Wauer: 11:53 Four years. And there's four years between the one just older than me.

Dorothy Hyuck: 12:02 Did you grow up in Barnhart?

Betty J. Wauer: 12:05 No. I grew up in Big Lake, Texas, which is 18 miles from Barnhart. So, it was not that great a change.

Dorothy Hyuck: 12:12 And what was your father's occupation?

Betty J. Wauer: 12:15 He worked for Exxon Company, which was Humble Oil Company, for 32 years.

Dorothy Hyuck: 12:20 In what sorts of enterprises?

Betty J. Wauer: 12:24 Mostly like a gauger, a pump gauger.

Dorothy Hyuck: 12:28 And your mother?

Betty J. Wauer: 12:29 Was a housewife, and they're very strong churchgoers. I grew up going to church every time it opened. I'm not quite that dedicated at this point, but—

Dorothy Hyuck: 12:41 Guess that's not bad.

Betty J. Wauer: 12:42 No, that wasn't.

Dorothy Hyuck: 12:44 Did you attend high school in Big Lake, Texas?

Betty J. Wauer: 12:46 Yes. I started at school and graduated there.

Dorothy Hyuck: 12:51 Did you have any further education beyond high school?

Betty J. Wauer: 12:54 Only business school for four months in Dallas. And then I dropped out and got married.

Dorothy Hyuck: 13:02 When were you married?

Betty J. Wauer: 13:02 In '55.

Dorothy Hyuck: 13:08 And you were later divorced?

Betty J. Wauer: 13:10 Yes.

Dorothy Hyuck: 13:10 When was that?

- Betty J. Wauer: 13:12 That would've been in – Gracious. I can't even remember. It would be '66.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 13:16 And then you were remarried in?
- Betty J. Wauer: 13:25 I remarried the second time in '69 and then I was divorced from him in '74 and then I remarried again, it'd be two years ago. So, it would be '76.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 13:47 And you have had four children?
- Betty J. Wauer: 13:49 I have four sons by my first marriage. I now have a grandson.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 13:58 Going back to when you were in high school, was there someone who encouraged you during the educational process? Was there anyone in your family or a teacher who added encouragement to your work in high school?
- Betty J. Wauer: 14:17 I'd have to say my mother probably who is like a little sergeant major, bless her heart, for some reason, expected so much of me and I did well in school. I do well with schoolwork, I suppose.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 14:34 Did you give any consideration going to college?
- Betty J. Wauer: 14:38 Yes, I did. And my folks maybe didn't encourage me that much at that point because of maybe funding. When I went to business school also, I stayed with an aunt and uncle in Dallas because my folks were very protective of us girls, and to send me off to college was a little more than they wanted to do, I think. I was only 17 when I graduated from high school and to them, I think that was quite young.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 15:08 Were you the oldest girl?
- Betty J. Wauer: 15:10 No, I was the middle of four, well, there were four girls and then the boy and my two older sisters married directly out of school. And so, it was a little much. It was quite traumatic for them to leave me in Dallas with an aunt and uncle, I think. I grew up in a little bitty town, like 3000 people, very protected, I'm afraid.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 15:37 When you were in high school, did you take math and science courses?

- Betty J. Wauer: 15:41 Yes, I did. And math was, was, and still is my favorite subject. I love science. I like history also.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 15:49 How many courses in math did you take in high school? The usual algebra, geometry?
- Betty J. Wauer: 15:54 Two years of algebra. I did not get geometry because I skipped a grade and graduated a year early, but I took all the math that I could take in the three years I was in high school and I took every science, chemistry, biology, everything. I love science.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 16:12 Were these courses that were considered to be more appropriate to boys?
- Betty J. Wauer: 16:17 Yes, I'm afraid so. I think there were two people, two girls in the chemistry and biology courses back then, and I was one of them.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 16:28 You got grades that were good in the science and math courses?
- Betty J. Wauer: 16:32 Yes, I did. I was an A student in those.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 16:36 As you were growing up, did you play with boys as a child?
- Betty J. Wauer: 16:41 Well, I had never liked girls too much, I'm afraid. I wouldn't say I was a tomboy. I read a lot. I guess I did appreciate boys more than girls. I think I relate better, maybe. That's a terrible thing to say, but yes, I probably do.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 17:06 But you would not think of yourself as a tomboy?
- Betty J. Wauer: 17:09 No, I think I was quite feminine. I was popular, I think, with the boys, but I could also stand and talk and hold my own with the boys, which was quite an accomplishment 20 years ago.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 17:23 But your activities were not the tree climbing sort thing?
- Betty J. Wauer: 17:31 No. I liked – I was the president of the band, which I had been the first girl president of the band in I don't know how long. And I was also the president of the HE group, the home economics, which that's what I liked. I Guess I still do. I think rather than be the center of attention, I can take a

back seat if I can also lead, because I don't mind someone else being the superintendent. If I can have a hand in maybe helping it along, I suppose is the way to put it. But I was never the band sweetheart.

- Dorothy Hyuck: 18:15 As you went through the teenage years, were you expected to be something of a lady?
- Betty J. Wauer: 18:25 Oh, definitely back then.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 18:28 Did you rebel in any way?
- Betty J. Wauer: 18:31 No, not necessarily.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 18:35 Were there any extracurricular activities that you undertook that were later helpful in your Park Service work?
- Betty J. Wauer: 18:44 I don't know. I got involved quite frequently with talking in public, which I think has helped. Like in my church, I was quite active in that and even taught a Sunday school class to younger children by the time I was older. I also sang in a group which I don't have that great a voice. I have an accompanying voice, which I think helped. I probably was very outgoing, which has helped.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 19:15 Let me ask if, I may, about your Park Service career. You entered in 1968. Had you been employed prior to that while you were having young children at home?
- Betty J. Wauer: 19:28 No. I went from maybe the business school to practically the 10 years and 11 years and the marriage broke up and I had not really worked.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 19:42 So your working life has been strictly in the Park Service?
- Betty J. Wauer: 19:44 Well, I had about two years there that were not, and it was from one job to the other, trying to support myself until the Park Service job came along.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 19:53 Then with regard to solely the Park Service period, I'd like to ask about your supervisors. Not their names, but rather whether or not during your Park Service career, you've encountered supervisors who were encouraging or discouraging or maybe you've met some of both?

- Betty J. Wauer: 20:13 I would some of both, but I would say by far they've been encouraging. But I would like to underline here that I do not act like a female. I have worked with females that use that and that makes me as mad, I would assume, as it would a male.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 20:31 Can I ask right there, how is it the females use that, which you do not do? What have you observed in other women?
- Betty J. Wauer: 20:40 Well, I can't stand the teary-eyed female and I will admit I am not a crier, so maybe I have an advantage, but I do not like that at all, but it's not only that, but I cannot stand the using the female attraction either. Now I will manipulate, if possible, but I also know males that will manipulate. So, if I feel that something's really important, I'm going to use almost everything. I've got to maybe get that through or to get them to see this thing. But I suppose I don't like the using the sex itself and I especially do not like the tears. I just can't abide that.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 21:23 So when you use everything you've got, quoting your phrase, it does not involve necessarily feminine attributes?
- Betty J. Wauer: 21:31 No, because I, well, no, not at all. I will be as strong as the next individual allows me to be, but not the female parts I hold.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 21:49 Going back to supervisors, you were speaking of those who were encouraging. How did they display their encouragement? How were you aware of their encouragement?
- Betty J. Wauer: 22:01 I guess mostly I like new things and I think that's why I'm here. I lean more towards liking math and bookkeeping and whatnot. So, I know that's why I'm in this particular job, but I like the challenge of new things. I like to know what's going on and I like to learn new things and I don't think I've had, I've had almost no one that has said mind your own business, or you shouldn't know that, almost without exception. My supervisors have been extremely encouraging to me.
- Betty J. Wauer: 22:41 I just have had almost no problems. I have had a few fellow workers that maybe felt threatened by a woman, which we still have a little of that, not that much anymore. And I've had a few people, of course, that didn't necessarily want to

encourage me, but not that many. I found the guys in Park Service, I know this is going to sound like an old cliché, but there's so much work to do in Park Service, and in the field areas, there is never enough people. And so therefore I find very little of this I'm not going to let you do that because that might threaten me. It's generally, if the person can handle the job, usually that's the person that gets the job. So, I've been really encouraged. I've worked with some extremely, I think, Brilliant superintendents. And I feel like I've been very lucky. I'm on my fifth superintendent.

- Dorothy Hyuck: 23:39 And they have been consistently encouraging?
- Betty J. Wauer: 23:42 Mostly. I would not want to call names are even referred to an area—
- Dorothy Hyuck: 23:46 Of course not.
- Betty J. Wauer: 23:46 But I have – I shouldn't be critical. There were, there was two maybe that I wouldn't put at the very top of the list, the other three I would, and those two were not that bad. You know? So, I've been, I feel like I've been very fortunate.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 24:09 Has the fact that you are a woman in any way affected your opportunities for increased responsibilities or promotion?
- Betty J. Wauer: 24:22 I don't quite know how to answer that because I think early on in my career, like when I was an administrative clerk, I felt like I didn't have as good an opportunity as if I was a male, but lately I personally feel now that I have a better chance probably because of the push for females. But in a way, in the administrative field, it is recognized as a field a woman can go up in. So, I don't know that I feel like it's been that much of an advantage or a disadvantage for me.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 25:04 Have you been given the opportunity to take any training courses or classes since you've been with the Park Service?
- Betty J. Wauer: 25:10 Oh, numerous training courses.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 25:11 Such as?
- Betty J. Wauer: 25:13 All types of administrative training in personnel, fiscal, and procurement. I've had some like problem analysis courses now that deal more with management maybe than strictly just the work that I do. I have just begun helping with

instruction of a program and budget course that Park Service has. And I just absolutely love that. I even surprised myself because I really enjoy instructing in something I really know.

- Dorothy Hyuck: 25:50 Where do you handle this instruction?
- Betty J. Wauer: 25:53 There's three of us right now involved in the Southwest Region and that's a chief of maintenance and a superintendent and an AO, myself, that I assisted with this course last year in Santa Fe, in the regional office. And then this past, I think it was August or so, we taught the course for the week in Buffalo River in Arkansas. So, I am still an amateur at it, but I really like it.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 26:28 Would you say that your specific talents, training, abilities are being well used by the Park Service?
- Betty J. Wauer: 26:35 Yes. I think so.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 26:39 Has anyone acted as a mentor for you during your Park Service career?
- Betty J. Wauer: 26:46 Oh, I have numerous loves. I guess my first superintendent was kind of special to me. He is dead now. Also, there's so many people I could name that I really would hate to, but there was maybe a very special person in the regional office, and that was Carl Walker, who was the past chief of administration. And there's just so many people I could name those two would probably be the special ones.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 27:22 Do you think that there are any jobs in the Park Service that a woman really should not tackle?
- Betty J. Wauer: 27:28 No, I doubt it. I can't think of any. I would love to be a chief of maintenance, but now that I've remarried, I'm not quite sure how that would work.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 27:39 There are some people who consider the National Park Service as a rather male-oriented organization. Do you?
- Betty J. Wauer: 27:47 Definitely not. I think maybe the forefront is mostly male, but that's okay. It takes us people in the background to keep them out there. It's mostly because the people you see in Park Service – I'm never seen, I've never even heard of, and that's fine – but the people that the public see mostly is

male. So, I don't think it's that bad. I sound totally pro Park Service, don't I?

- Dorothy Hyuck: 28:22 That's okay. You are married to a Park Service employee?
- Betty J. Wauer: 28:31 Yes.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 28:34 Is he in this park?
- Betty J. Wauer: 28:35 No, he's not. He was in the regional office. He is now on an acting assignment in Washington.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 28:42 Does that mean he's likely to remain in Washington?
- Betty J. Wauer: 28:44 I think we will relocate to Washington, and I have put in for about three jobs. I haven't been accepted on one yet, but life is going to change for me again. I am really looking forward to it. I hate leaving the field, but I think it sounds very exciting to me. I am looking forward to getting in something maybe even different back there.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 29:13 What kinds of jobs are available to you within the Park Service in Washington? What are the possibilities?
- Betty J. Wauer: 29:19 Much more than anywhere else, actually, because there's so many specialties of course, back there and my love in life is the budgeting and programming. And you know, they do have their program analyst, budget analyst, these type things. There are some AO jobs back there. Fact is, I have put in for one now, but that's what I know, and I would be comfortable with that, but I am not going to be against something else if it comes up, something that would be a challenge. I wouldn't mind getting into a specialty. I would love getting into a training type job where I could actually do some instruction on what I know. Most of those jobs, though, are limited to people with an educational degree, which I do not have.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 30:10 As you said earlier, the administrative categories have always been, or are more acceptable as far as women are concerned. This is an occupation that women have—
- Betty J. Wauer: 30:19 Yeah.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 30:23 —succeeded in for some time. It would appear that you have a second advantage as a woman in this field over shall

we say the woman ranger, who, if she is married and her husband is transferred, may not have as many opportunities to find employment in a new location as you have in going to Washington—

- Betty J. Wauer: 30:39 Very definitely. That's why maybe administration is difficult for us to keep up with, but it also has great advantages because I could – it's like within personnel, you have your staffing, classification, and training, EEO, so many things. And I find a lot of those interesting. Now that doesn't mean I could laterally in or promote in because maybe I wouldn't know that much about one of those categories, but I have the basics where I could qualify for maybe a lower grade and be able to learn. So, it's a very neat field, being an AO. It's gotten very difficult, but it's also quite challenging. It's kind of fun.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 31:32 How old are your children?
- Betty J. Wauer: 31:35 My twins have just turned 22 and the next son is 21. And the next one is 18
- Dorothy Hyuck: 31:44 Is the 18-year-old still living with you?
- Betty J. Wauer: 31:46 He is, but not out of necessity. So, he will be on his own.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 31:52 So for you, the possibility of a moving to Washington is very positive?
- Betty J. Wauer: 31:57 Yes, I think so.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 31:59 And what is your husband doing there, in what area?
- Betty J. Wauer: 32:02 He is the chief of the Natural Resources Division; I believe is the title. He's in the science department.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 32:16 If a young woman just out of school came to you and asked if you would recommend the Park Service as a source of employment in its various capacities, rangers or administration or naturalists and so forth, historians, would you recommend the Park Service to a younger woman who's just beginning to look at careers?
- Betty J. Wauer: 32:35 Oh, definitely. The grade levels maybe are not the highest in the world, and maybe there's quite a few demands on you, but it's such a beautiful place to work because of a

feeling that you are personally doing something no matter who you are and what job you have. I worked a few places in like businesses that you work from eight to five and you draw a paycheck and there's just a difference. And I don't care who you are, there is definitely a difference in working out in a field area. So yes, I would.

- Dorothy Hyuck: 33:12 And if you were to look down the road, say five years, what would you anticipate as opportunities for women five years hence?
- Betty J. Wauer: 33:22 Almost unlimited in Park Service. I think whatever their main interest is, if they would pursue it, I know it takes a little luck because jobs aren't always open, but almost anything they want to do.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 33:37 Do you see veteran's preference making any difference in the opportunities for women?
- Betty J. Wauer: 33:42 Some yes. Especially for our young college students, the park techs that are coming in. Yes, it does. Once we go to a Civil Service register for a park tech, there is, probably most of the time it's going to have veterans at the top and you cannot reach the girls.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 34:06 Would that be true of rangers also?
- Betty J. Wauer: 34:09 Yes. The ranger and park tech series. That's definitely a problem for the females. Now, the clerical type registers usually don't have the veterans on it.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 34:21 I was talking with someone only yesterday with regarding professional positions rather than clerical, said that she thought that there were very few veterans being encountered at all when you go to these registers, and I was puzzled by that.
- Betty J. Wauer: 34:36 We found that – I know the Albuquerque register, which is where we go to on our park techs, there is, I don't know of a time – I do too, I know of one time in the four years of calling for like at least two registers a year that only one time I remember that there weren't 10-point veterans on the register. And most of the ones that we've gotten are like four to five veterans to begin with.

- Dorothy Hyuck: 35:06 So it's your experience that there certainly is a veteran's preference factor when you look at the register?
- Betty J. Wauer: 35:12 Oh yes, definitely. We've gotten good people, so that's fine, but it's very difficult for the girls to get in.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 35:25 Does that in any way affect your earlier statement, that the opportunities are unlimited?
- Betty J. Wauer: 35:32 I guess I'm thinking after you get in, they're unlimited. If you will make it happen. I think a lot of it is if you make it happen yourself. But that's not a true statement then completely because it is difficult for a girl to get into the park technician ranks to begin with. It really is.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 35:54 And that would be true in park ranger series also?
- Betty J. Wauer: 35:56 Yes. The reason I don't say park rangers, in a field area, we have so few occasions that we ever call for a park ranger register. So, it's usually done by an intake trainee thing, which is not done by us at the field level. So, my experience is mostly with the park tech people.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 36:18 I've been asking you quite a collection of questions. Is there something about your experience in the Park Service that we have not talked about that you'd like to comment?
- Betty J. Wauer: 36:27 Not necessarily, no. I'm happy with it. I get bugged occasionally maybe because the funding is never quite enough, and you never have enough people and so on and so forth. And I think we neglect our parks and I want my little grandson to see them, but I'm very happy with it. I am extremely pleased. I feel like I lucked into just where I should be.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 36:52 That's wonderful.
- Betty J. Wauer: 36:53 And I've enjoyed the interview.
- Dorothy Hyuck: 36:56 Thank you, Betty.

[END OF TAPE]

[END OF INTERVIEW]