

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE, NEWPORT, RI

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

HISTORY OF THE WAVES IN WORLD WAR II

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OF THE
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NO. 15
CAPTAIN WINIFRED LOVE, USN (RET.)

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
1993

Naval War College
Newport, Rhode Island
Oral History Program

History of the WAVES

Interviewee: Captain Winifred Love, USN (Ret.)
Interviewer: Dr. Evelyn M. Cherpak
Subject: The History of the WAVES
Date: August 20, 1993

C: This is the first oral history interview with Captain Winifred Love. Today's date is August 20, 1993, and we are taping the interview at her home at Cappela South in Newport, Rhode Island.

Captain Love, I'm so glad you've consented to be interviewed for our program on the history of the WAVES during World War II. I'd like to start the interview with some background information on you, personally, prior to you're joining the Navy. I'd like to ask you in what year were you born and where you were born?

L: I was born in August 1914 in the little town of Morfield, West Virginia, where my father was a country doctor.

C: How interesting. What were the names of your parents?

L: Elizabeth Duncan Love and Robert Walker Love, and they both came to this country from Scotland around the nineteen hundreds in a stagecoach from New York to Morfield, West Virginia.

C: Do you know why they settled in Morfield, West Virginia?

L: Yes. My father had been a medical missionary in Peru, and one of his friends went to a neighboring town in West Virginia, and my mother would have no part of Peru. So they decided that the country, the area was not populated, had no doctor, and my father was still interested in missionary work, so, in a sense, as a country doctor he was still sort of a home missionary.

C: Was this in the mining area of Virginia?

L: No. No. It's in the mountain area. It's West Virginia.

C: West Virginia.

L: And it was basically agriculture.

C: Did you have any brothers or sisters?

L: I have three brothers.

C: What were their names? Can you tell me?

L: Raymond Cecil, John Allister and Ronald Walker, and they're dead, all of them.

C: I assume you spent you're growing up years in Morfield, West Virginia.

L: Yes, entirely. I went to Scotland when I was about twelve with my mother to visit relatives. Other than that, I was in West Virginia.

C: You attended elementary school there?

L: Yes and high school.

C: Did you take a college course in high school?

L: No.

C: Did you prepare for college?

L: No. That was not part of the course in a small West Virginia school. They just didn't know about that.

C: But you decided to go to college?

L: Oh, I had no choice. My parents had decided. All of us went to college. My parents had decided that long ago.

C: Where did you apply to college?

L: I went to Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, Virginia, the only place I applied, and we went over to see it. I was very happy with it, and that was fine. I didn't apply to a lot of other colleges.

C: Yes.

L: Because, you know, that was in 1931 and the procedures were different.

C: Absolutely. Things change. That was the Depression Era as well and funds were limited, etc., for most people, and it was unique for a woman to go to college in that time frame. Can you describe at all life growing up in a small West Virginia town? What were the activities?

L: Well, they were very limited. You did a lot at home and with the neighbor children, you know. We played in school. My father was the country doctor and everybody in town knew him - everybody in the whole county and I went with him a great deal on trips when he was out to see somebody. I would go and open the gates to let him, you know, for the car to go in. When he first came it was saddlebags, and then on to a car. We played. I started playing tennis fairly early. There were a couple of school courts and I played a great deal of tennis as did my friends and with my brothers, but they were quite a bit older,

and we did some things. But as far as I'm concerned it was very pleasant, and you knew everybody in the community, and you were very active in everything that went on. And, of course, my parents were very active in the community, so it was a very pleasant childhood.

C: Oh! That's wonderful. Were you a church member there?

L: Oh, my goodness, yes from the time I was a baby. My father was an elder in the church, and when the minister was away he preached. And very early I started teaching Sunday School, and I have been active in the church all my life. I'm a retired elder now in the Presbyterian Church, but I started as a child. Church and Sunday School were very a basic part of my childhood.

C: They formed your character.

L: And I went to a Presbyterian College - Mary Baldwin and church attendance was required every Sunday. That was alright with me.

C: It was something you had done, you were use to, and you weren't going to deviate from. Your father was a pillar of the community, I'm sure, as a country doctor. When you accompanied him on his rounds to see patients did you go into the home with him and see him examine?..

L: It would depend on ... no, I didn't see him examine them.

C: The patients, or treat them, or whatever?

L: Yes. And if it were something contagious or anything like that. I did not go with him to deliver babies I assure you, but he delivered thousands of them and never lost the mother, so he had a very fine reputation as a doctor.

C: Yes.

L: And when you went with him, there were other children, and we would see them play, or some of the adults would come out and talk to you. I was a great reader, so I had a book always. It was pleasant.

C: Yes. I can see that it would be. You graduated from Mary Baldwin College. Can you tell me in what year?

L: 1935.

C: What did you major in?

L: I majored in English and French.

C: What was your goal?

L: To be a teacher. And that was the goal of most women in those days.

C: Yes! That was my goal in life, too, and I did teach for awhile, so that's an occupation that women were involved in and still are. Did you teach after you graduated?

L: No. I went to Johns Hopkins University for two years of graduate work. Then I was invited back to the College on the staff as assistant to the president for fund-raising and alumni affairs.

C: Wonderful! Did you get a degree from Hopkins?

L: No, I did not. I wrote a thesis, but somebody else published it just about the same time on the same subject, so I would have had to start again on a thesis, and I got the job, so I put it on hold; and, naturally, I never went back.

C: Was it a masters program you missed?

L: Yes.

C: In what field?

L: English.

But I enjoyed it tremendously, and I have never lost my love for literature since then. Again, I'm a great reader, and I do a lot of reading of literature and stuff like that.

C: Oh, that's wonderful.

L: Not fiction.

C: No. I think fiction these days is kind of thin.

L: Oh, I don't touch it anymore.

C: No. Not anymore. I don't either. I read nonfiction.

L: I do, too. A great deal of biographies and essays and things like that.

C: I love biographies. I love them. Well, that was a wonderful opportunity to go back to Staunton to assist the president.

L: It was. I loved Staunton, and I enjoyed the job, and I traveled a lot raising funds with all the alumnae. I visited all the chapters, and made little speeches, and just raised money to build the gym. In 1942, we had our 100th anniversary and at that time I got a call from a friend of mine in the procurement office in Richmond saying they had just signed the papers allowing

women, the Law allowing women in the Navy, and I got up the next morning at four o'clock in the morning and took the train to Richmond and passed. We were the first women and they didn't even know whether we were going to wear uniforms or even get paid. It was that casual.

C: Now you had a friend, I assume, in the Navy Procurement Office...

L: I did.

C: ... who tipped you off about the legislation being passed.

L: Right, right.

C: Was there any Navy at all in your background, in your father's or mother's family?

L: No, - not at all. But I had two brothers in the Army then, and we saving sugar cubes at Mary Baldwin, and that was our contribution to the war, and I thought we ought to be able to do something more than that, and I was getting just a little concerned that I was not making any contribution when my brothers were busily involved very much, and so I was very happy to be able to join the Navy.

C: Oh! That's wonderful. Were you reluctant at all to leave Mary Baldwin?

L: Well, I would have been if I hadn't been so excited. I think I was the second person in Virginia sworn into the Navy.

C: Do you remember what day or month you were sworn in?

L: Oh, yes. The 29th of August 1942.

C: That was just about a month after the legislation was passed.

L: Exactly.

C: So you were very quick to take that on. When you went to sign up, did you have to take an examination?

L: I don't think so. I think we just had an interview and a physical examination. There was no other type of exam.

C: What did your parents think about your joining the Navy?

L: Oh, my mother was ... well, they thought it was very interesting. I don't know that they were very excited because they didn't know. Again, they had two sons overseas, and I don't think they thought that it was absolutely necessary to have a

daughter in it. But they were always supportive, so it was alright.

C: And you were older then.

L: Oh, yes. I was 26, I think.

C: You might have been in 1942 - you would have been a little older, maybe 28

L: 28 yes.

C: At that point, so you were mature. You had lived on your own.

L: Oh, yes.

C: Managed your own affairs up to then. Well, you signed on in August and when and where did you report?

L: I was sworn in as an ensign. You know, you were commissioned then, and I went to Northampton, Massachusetts, to a training school for women.

C: Smith College.

L: Smith College. Right.

C: How long was the training, the indoctrination course?

L: It was just about a month. We were really the first ones, and we marched. We were the first class. They taught us to march in step and a few things like that, and a history of the Navy, but they really didn't know what we were going to be doing.

C: No. It was all very new.

L: Very experimental. They couldn't tell.

C: Do you remember how large this first group was?

L: I was trying to think of that. I don't know. I know I knew them all, so it wasn't many, and my friends - Quick and Wild - were there.

C: Oh, really. Can you tell me what their first names were?

L: Yes. Winny Quick and Billy Wild.

C: So, they were part of the first group?

L: Right.

C: And they're still your friends?

L: Well, Billy is dead. Yes. Winny and I have been good friends all these years.

C: That's wonderful. You made a bond...

L: Oh, yes.

C: with these individuals early on and retained your connections. Now were all of these women college-educated women?

L: Yes. As far as I know, yes, and they were all an older group. There were no new college grads then.

C: Women who worked.

L: Women who worked. Yes.

C: Had responsibility, had jobs. Do you remember who your instructors were? Were they male or female?

L: Yes. They were all male.

C: All male.

L: Oh, yes.

C: Do you know who the CO of this Station was?

L: No. I was really trying to think, and I could not for the life of me come up with it. He was a little surprised, you know, with a group of women.

C: Right. Now since you were there in September, were you kept segregated from the Smith College students, per se?

L: Yes, yes. We had no contact, didn't see them, and ate in a different place. The whole thing was just strictly self-contained.

C: Sure. Were you in their dorms, though?

L: Oh, yes. We were in the dorms.

C: Yes, but you were kept segregated from the regular college students. I guess Nancy Reagan must have been there around that time.

L: Well, maybe she was.

C: You didn't see her. Do you remember who your roommates were?

L: No, I don't. I was just trying. I just don't remember.

C: Do you remember how your day was structured?

L: Yes. It started very early and, you know, we marched to meals, and then we had classes in the morning. We had some military training as far as marching and saluting and all that sort of stuff. We learned how to square a knot, make a good bed with a square corner.

C: Right.

L: Not a square knot, and things like that, and we learned some things that, oh, about ships and all which we would never necessarily need; but, basically, the day was in the classroom, except an hour out for some military exercise.

C: Sure.

L: Marching to meals and all that stuff.

C: So you were taught Navy protocol, history and military background, in general, to indoctrinate you into the Navy. Well, I assume, your classes weren't too large.

L: No. I'm thinking maybe around thirty or something like that. I'm not sure.

C: Did you have exams on the material that you studied?

L: I think we did, but they were not - it wasn't terribly important. You were there; you were going to get assigned somewhere.

C: Did you have much homework?

L: No. Not a whole lot. I think we did quite a bit of reading, but it wasn't strenuous, really.

C: Right. Were there any problems with any of the individuals there that you remember? Did anybody drop out or, were there any disciplinary problems?

L: I think that one or two were very surprised the way it was structured, and one or two did drop out. They didn't know what they'd gotten into; and as long as you didn't know what your job was going to be, they thought maybe they had been a little premature in coming in. But, as a whole, I think the class worked out pretty well.

C: What did you do for recreation, or did you do anything in the evenings or weekends?

L: We didn't do a whole lot. We did go to the it wasn't an Officers' Club - but there was a place where you could go and relax a little bit. But I don't remember recreation was particularly a part of it. We were pretty well occupied six days a week. We had Sunday off and that was about it.

C: Northampton's a small town.

L: Oh, yes.

C: Did you wear uniforms?

L: You know we were measured for uniforms. We didn't have uniforms at first; but, ultimately, we got them before we left.

C: Oh, I see.

L: When we left Northampton, we all left in uniform.

C: ... the traditional Navy uniform.

L: That's right. The blue. It was interesting when we got to Washington. There was just two or three of us that went to Washington, and nobody had seen a woman in a Navy uniform. People literally stopped you on the street to feel it. You were

government owned, and they wanted to feel the quality of your goods.

C: Oh, really.

L: Oh, I don't think a day ever went by that we were not at first ... there were just two or three of us... we were just stopped on the street, and they wanted to know what we were doing. People would offer to buy you a drink, or some of them to take you to the movies, or something like that. It was very interesting.

C: Total strangers?

L: Total strangers.

C: That's amazing. It certainly was a different world then.

L: Oh, it was an entirely different world.

C: You know you'd be in a fright today if anybody did that to you on the street.

L: Oh, you would, but you weren't afraid then.

C: No. It was a different town and a different world as you said. Were the uniforms serge, or cotton, or wool?

L: They were serge. No, I think they were wool. Those were our blue and white and, then, we went into some kind of grey and white summer uniform. Later that came. Mainbocher designed that uniform.

C: Did you notice while you were in Northampton in training and indoctrination any glaring organizational or administrative problem with the WAVES? Did you think that things ran smoothly or were there any glitches?

L: I didn't see any glitches. None of us knew a whole lot. We didn't know what we were going to be doing, and where we were going to be doing it. Naturally, that was a source of concern, but we figured the Navy knew what they were going to do with us. The school went quite smoothly, and I didn't have any reason to suspect that there would be administrative problems, and I don't know if there ever were.

C: Was there a feeling of esprit de corps among the WAVES in Northampton?

L: Yes, there was. I think we were all proud to be the first in uniform; and we were all determined to be the best we could be in both Northampton and when we got out into the real world.

C: Did you have any ceremony when you departed Northampton? Any graduation?

L: Oh, they had a little graduation. I think we got some kind of certificate and then we took off.

C: Yes. Where were you assigned after you finished training?

L: I was assigned to BUPERS in Washington.

C: And this was in about October?

L: Yes.

C: 1942.

L: I was in procurement. We were first attached to Captain - she wasn't captain then - Miss Mac's office, and then we became part of the procurement program, and our whole business was reviewing applications for prospective women officers. You know they sent them from all the procurement offices. They had to be

approved by BUPERS. There were three of us - one man and two women who spent the days reviewing applications.

C: What did you look for in the applications?

L: Well, they looked for college grades, activity, and particularly for work experience, and then health. Did they need a waiver? Had they had a waiver? And, of course, the recommendation of the procurement office. The officers who had reviewed them were always important, and age was a factor. You know you couldn't take anybody who was too old. I've forgotten what ...

C: The cut-off date was?

L: Yes. But all of those things you had to consider. And the Navy was building up. Obviously the women were coming in fast, so we had a great many applications to review and our say was pretty much final. We did have to fend off congressmen. You know they were all busy sending letters or calling to see if their candidate had been accepted and, if not, why not? Pressure was on from the congressmen, so that was a factor even in those days.

C: Oh, yes. I guess they did. You know some things don't change.

L: No.

C: So you didn't want any political input into your decision making?

L: No. But it was hard to fight it off.

C: Oh, I'm sure it was. How many hours a day did you work? How many days a week?

L: We worked six days a week quite steadily, and I think we worked from 8:00 to 4:30, pretty standard time.

C: A 48-hour week.

L: Yes.

C: It was a long week. Where did you live when you were assigned to Washington?

L: I rented a room somewhere out in Silver Spring and took a bus to work. I think I was there the whole time. I was just trying to think if I changed, but I think I was there until I got orders to Hawaii.

C: Do you remember what your pay was during your Washington period?

L: Whatever an ensign got, and then I made j.g.

C: During that time?

L: Yes.

C: Do you remember what year that was?

L: It had to be ... I think it took twelve or fourteen months from ensign to j.g.; and then when I went to Hawaii I was a lieutenant. I had just made lieutenant which was in '44. Just made it. I was a senior - big deal! I was the senior officer in charge of that first group.

C: Well put. Yes, we'll continue with that, but I just want to double back a little bit to your Washington experience. Did you feel you were able to survive on Navy pay working in the District in those days?

L: Yes, because everything was so cheap, in comparison. You cashed a check for \$25 and it lasted a week or two, and you know you cash one now for \$150 and it's gone two days later. I did not feel financially stressed at all, but then I didn't eat at

expensive restaurants. I ate out every meal, but at the cafeteria in BUPERS. I guess I had breakfast and lunch at the cafeteria in BUPERS, but I did not feel - I was never an extravagant person. With two Scottish parents who would be. It wasn't a big deal, and you didn't have to spend money on clothes.

C: That's right.

L: In fact, you couldn't. You were in uniform all the time, unless for active sports.

C: Sure, sure. You had a limited budget there, per force.

L: That's right. Limited needs.

C: Limited needs. That's for sure. What did you do on Sundays for recreation or for extracurricular activity?

L: You washed your clothes, among other things, you know, and we would meet friends maybe for a special place for dinner or things like that, and I went to church still on Sundays, and you rested, letter writing, and keeping in touch with your family and friends. That was the day that you did most of those things. It was always a pretty busy day.

C: Sure, you caught up, because you were so busy all week. That's what we do now on weekends. We working folk, you know, have to take care of the house and whatever. Were your friends Winny Quick and Billy there?

L: Now wait. They weren't there then. Winny stayed at the school, and I've forgotten what Billy's first duty assignment was. They were not in Washington.

C: Did you have a chance to meet Mildred MacAfee?

L: Oh, I would see her. I was in her office for the first couple of months with a WAVE procurement who was attached to her office, and then I was able to be moved into the rest. I saw her very, very frequently.

C: Now, can you tell me about her? What kind of person was she? What kind of impression did she make on you? What kind of leader was she?

L: She was a quiet person, but a delightful person. She had a charming sense of humor. I had great admiration for her and I think anybody in here who worked for her did. Of course, she had quite a background that was very impressive, but she was one of the people that I admired tremendously and the more I saw her the

more I admired her. I considered it a real privilege and pleasure to have been as closely associated with her as I was.

C: Well, that's a fine statement about her character. She was an excellent leader...

L: Oh, yes.

C: ... of the WAVES, a former president of Wellesley College.

L: That's right.

C: I guess she went back there after.

L: And she married.

C: Right. She accomplished quite a lot in her time.

L: You know lieutenant commander was the top rank a woman could hold in those days, and we've come a long way baby.

C: Oh, we certainly have. There are a few admirals now.

L: Yes.

C: These days. It's still tough to get there, for anybody, I assume. Well, I just want to double back slightly and ask what your reaction to Pearl Harbor was in the beginning of the war. Do you remember how you felt on December 7, 1941?

L: Oh, I felt very strongly. I think everybody remembers where they were ...

C: Yes.

L: ... at that particular moment, and it was just very hard to believe that something like that was happening, and I think that stirred everybody to the fact that they ought to be doing something to help the war effort, and my feelings were practically close to violent on the subject, and still I must say I remember it very clearly.

C: Yes, I think. To us who were born a little later we always remember where we were when we heard of President Kennedy's assassination.

L: Yes.

C: It's one of those historic moments that stand out and stay in your mind, and I am sure December 7th, '41 was just the same.

L: And you know there was a tremendous feeling of tragedy and loss with all the ships that were sunk and the people totally unprepared. And note, when I think here were two Japanese talking peace in Washington, the top leaders, and then they were doing that.

C: Behind their back.

L: And I think, unfortunately, my opinions of the Japanese were formed right there, and they haven't changed too much.

C: Well, now they're competing with us on another plane, unfortunately - economic.

L: They lost the military war, and they're winning the economic war.

C: They certainly are.

L: No question about it.

C: No question about that. What was the feeling in the country? Can you give an assessment? Was there a lot of war fever and a lot of patriotism?

L: I think there was. Yes. Certainly the people that I knew had that feeling. I don't think they were all. Of course, some of them were older and they weren't all as fired up about it, but didn't feel they had to do more than save sugar cubes, or you know, things like that.

C: How did rationing affect you?

L: Not a whole lot at the college really, because our meals were provided and everything was taken care of. When we went into uniform and we were in Washington, in uniform, the rationing was not as severe, and the people would ... you'd go into a drugstore, for instance, in uniform, and the man would signal to you that he had a box of Kleenex.

C: Oh?

L: Would you like to have it? Of course, the fact they didn't realize that the Navy Exchange had things like that. You could get that. But the rationing was not too severe. I mean it didn't affect us that much.

C: Now, did you buy groceries at a Commissary or...?

L: Well, I didn't cook when I was in Washington.

C: Oh, so you didn't cook in the evening?

L: No. I never set foot in that Commissary. The Exchange, yes.

C: Can you describe or give me a feeling for wartime Washington because you were there during 1942, 1943?

L: It seemed to me it was exceedingly busy, and great hordes of people coming and going, and there was a certain wartime atmosphere. We had to get things done right away, and everybody was following the progress of the war with tremendous interest. You know the newspapers were just lapped up and the radio announcements and things like that. And I think it depended a little bit on your interests what part of the war you were following - the European or the Pacific.

C: Where were your brothers at this time?

L: One was with Patton's army as a tank driver and one was a doctor with the Army, and he was in a lot of these temporary medical places they set up.

C: Oh!

L: And they had real live war ...

C: experience.

L: Oh, yes.

C: They certainly did. They were in the front lines, literally.

L: Patton went in on D-day, H hour, you know, and my brother the tank driver was there.

C: Absolutely.

L: So naturally, you were very concerned. I was very concerned about what was going on in Europe.

C: Sure. Was your brother who was the doctor in Europe as well?

L: Yes. He was in Europe part of the time and in England part of the time.

C: So, yes, I guess, it did depend on where your relatives and friends were. I wonder if you ever had the chance, Captain Love, to meet any of the admirals and higher ups in the Navy, like Admiral King, when you were in Washington.

L: Well, as one of the very first WAVES, among the very few, we were invited to every party that was given. We represented the women in the service, and we met many, many of the top flight

people, and I remember going to quite a few officers' parties in the house of the CNO.

C: Yes. Admiral King?

L: Yes. We met practically every one who was anybody at that time, because we were the only ones. We represented women in the service then.

C: What were your impressions of Admiral King upon meeting him?

L: Oh ... so vague; and you know you were overpowered by rank when you were an ensign and j.g., and so you just assumed that he was a wonderful person.

C: Oh, yes.

L: So I don't have any really anything to add to that.

C: Did you meet Admiral Nimitz there at all?

L: Yes.

C: Oh, you did in Washington. Admiral Nimitz, I remember vaguely. And he and his wife were in an apartment in Washington, I believe. Catherine Nimitz.

L: Yes. I don't remember her.

C: Is there any other outstanding personality?

L: No. You know I was trying to think that we met some of the topflight politicians, but I just can't remember who they were right now. Because they had been instrumental in getting the WAVES Bill through, and they were happy to meet WAVES as we were happy to meet them. But, at this point, the names have escaped me. It's, you know, fifty years.

C: Sure. Did you ever have a chance to go to the White House in Washington?

L: I never remembered going to the White House as a guest. You know, naturally, you went on a tour when you could escape. But I don't remember being there as a guest.

C: Well, you spent through, was it 1944,

L: 1942 into 1944 in BUPERS, and then it was in December of '44 that we took off for Honolulu.

C: You had orders then to Honolulu?

L: Oh, yes.

C: And what was your assignment there?

L: I was Assistant Personnel Officer there. There were six women officers on the ship, and we were at the embarkation point first. We took a troop transport train, and then we met in Shoemaker, California. It was an embarkation point, and we were there for a brief period, including over Christmas, and then we took off the day after Christmas on the old *Matsonia*, the troop transport. And there were about, I think roughly 200 enlisted and six officers.

C: Now, were these all women?

L: Oh yes, all women; and, then, we went up to Seattle and other men got on then which of course we didn't have.

C: Oh, you were kept segregated on the ship.

L: Yes. And, oh, I'll say we were. The Commanding Officer was so afraid that we would go out and seduce the men, and then we went up to Seattle and took on a very large contingent of men. It was a crowded ship.

C: Well, how did they keep you apart? I mean, what did they do for meals?

L: And, then, we were not segregated on the ship at all, but the Commanding Officer just kind of issued an edict to keep out of the way because you know a lot of the men had duties and he just didn't want the women to get in the way, and so it was a boring trip, you know; and as officer in charge I had to check on the enlisted constantly and listen to their complaints and things like that when I could get out of bed. After we left Seattle, it was a much smoother trip the rest of the way.

C: Were you seasick?

L: Going up the coast, yes.

C: From California to Seattle.

L: Quite a few of us were. But, interestingly enough, of the six women - five of us, one's dead - five of us have kept in very close contact. I see two of them. I spent the 4th of July weekend up at the Cape with one.

C: Oh!

L: And, then, one of them is coming down next week with her husband and so forth. So, we have been very good friends for those fifty years.

C: That's wonderful. Were these other women career officers?

L: No. Well, none of us were career officers.

C: At that point in time, I mean, did they evolve into career officers?

L: No, not any of them.

C: Except yourself?

L: Yes.

C: That's very interesting. Well, I'd like their names, especially the one on the Cape who is nearby. Perhaps I can interview her.

L: Well, she got out right after that. Her name is Dorothy Marvin, delightful person, and she was a buyer for Marshall Fields and Macy's. She had a very successful career.

C: So many of them did

L: Oh, yes.

C: before and after they joined the WAVES. Well, you set out for Hawaii, and this was 1944. You were assistant director of personnel. Where was this?

L: At Naval Air Station, Honolulu. It was the largest air station in the Pacific, and we had a tremendous influx of people coming and going, being reassigned or checking-in and so forth, and we had a good size Personnel Office, and I sort of supervised them. We kept busy. We had a very, very active social life as I'm sure you can imagine - more active than we actually needed because there were white dances regularly.

C: White dances?

L: In your white uniform.

C: Oh, I see.

L: And, if we didn't have them in the USO Honolulu, we had them in Kaneohe Bay or some of those places. And one of the skippers was a pilot, and he wanted a woman to fly with him a great deal of the time. We were practically flying down in the Volcano Haleakala, and things like that.

C: Where was he going on these flights?

L: Oh, he was just keeping his flight time in, because he was a skipper and he just liked to fly.

C: Oh, I see. Now, did you ever go with him?

L: Oh, once a week about.

C: So you had a tour of Oahu anyway. Did you go to other islands?

L: Oh, we flew over them, yes. Just take a look at them from the air, so it was all very interesting.

C: How many people did you supervise in Hawaii?

L: I think, maybe, we had an office of eight or ten. I'm not sure.

C: Were they enlisted?

L: Yes. I had a boss who, obviously, was an officer. We were the only two officers there, and I must say that I have over the years worked with the finest group of men. I just can't think of any boss that I didn't actually admire and kept in touch with many of them over the years.

C: Oh, that's wonderful.

L: And I don't know whether this is time to get into all the prejudices, but certainly we were during World War II, women were loved, and wanted, and needed. And if there was a lot of prejudice, I did not encounter it. I think they did expect you to get out after the war was over, and I did. I went the inactive duty when I got my points in.

C: Well, that's interesting, but you didn't encounter any discrimination?

L: No.

C: ... during your career in WWII?

L: No.

C: Well, that's a fine statement. I think everybody was pulling together at that time.

L: Oh, we were needed.

C: Yes.

L: There were lots of jobs that the women could do.

C: Where did you live in Hawaii?

L: We lived in barracks - Women Officers Quarters. Now we were segregated in the sense that there was a locked door at one end of the building, and there were other women there after awhile.

C: Did you have your own room?

L: No. Two of us. Dorothy Marvin up the Cape and I shared a room; and there was a communal bath. There was nothing like a private bath there or anything like that, but we were all good friends, and went out in the evening together. We all had our dates, but we were all together.

C: Where did you go and what did you do in the evenings besides the dances?

L: Primarily, the Officers' Club. Practically every evening, we went to the Officers' Club. Sometimes we went in town. Sometimes we got up early - about six o'clock in the morning - with some of the men and went fishing, and we would take the fish we caught and drop them at a Japanese restaurant, and they would keep them, cook them, and then we'd go back that night and eat our own fish.

C: Oh, isn't that interesting.

L: We played a lot of tennis when we had any time because there were courts there and went to the beach, naturally.

C: Did you work six days a week when you were there?

L: Yes.

C: So you had Sunday off again.

L: We had Sunday off.

C: For recreation. Did you take trips to any of the other islands during that time period?

L: We had a recreation place, you know, R&R, over on the other side of the island, across the mountain; and occasionally on a weekend, we would get off. And that's where Admiral Halsey came in when we were there one weekend; and I was stirring up something in the kitchen, and this older man walked off in, and he said, "Are you a WAVE?" And, I said, "Yes." And he said, "Well darling, you're the first WAVE I've ever kissed. I'm Admiral Halsey."

C: Interesting. I bet you were shocked.

L: I was absolutely shocked, and I said, "There's some more of us ... Send in the reenforcement." So I got Quick and Wild, and he brought his staff that weekend. We were off for the weekend. We had Saturday off, and it was all very interesting.

C: Oh, it must have been. Did you have another chance to see him?

L: Oh! He was with us all the time.

C: What kind of a person was he? He had a reputation, you know.

L: Oh yes! He had a reputation, and I thought some of his staff probably did more of his war planning than he. He was sort of a PR type, but very, very pleasant, no question about that. My date for the weekend was Harold Stassen, and...

C: Oh! For heaven's sakes. That is amazing.

L: And, you know, he was a perennial runner for the presidency.

C: Right! What kind of a guy was he?

L: He was just as nice as he could be, and we went to the beach alot, went swimming. They had a chef and we went to their place for dinner Saturday night or something like that, and then they

all went swimming and so forth; and Sunday we had to go back. But it was a most interesting weekend.

C: Oh, I should say! That sounds like a highlight of your Hawaii life.

L: It was. There's no question. His staff had come from someplace in the Pacific, and they were just there briefly - for a week, to recoup, to plan strategy, and things like that.

C: Fascinating.

L: Yes, it was very interesting - the whole thing.

C: Did you have a chance to meet Nimitz because his headquarters were there, too?

L: That's right, and I can't honestly say that I did. I think I would've remembered if I had.

C: Yes, because he was an outstanding leader.

L: Yes, and I think he did a lot of Admiral Halsey's planning.

C: Well, Hawaii has changed dramatically since you were there.

L: Oh! I've been back a couple of times. It's more Japanese than American now. All the signs are in Japanese.

C: What was old Honolulu like?

L: Oh, it was delightful! You know, it hadn't a lot of big buildings, and it was sort of a small town atmosphere, lovely beaches, and things like that. It was not crowded at all like when I went back years later. It was an entirely different place.

C: Oh, yes.

L: And there were one or two very fine clubs - The Outrigger Club. If you were officers, you were given membership in it, so that was a very nice place.

C: Was it a dining club?

L: Yes. It had a pool and dining and things like that. In fact, we were there on August the 14th when peace was declared. We were having lunch there and when we got back, well, you were just stopped in the street. There were thousands of enlisted men throwing their hats in the air and stopping us; and when we got back to our own base, the men were pacing the floor. Where were you? Where've you been? We want to go celebrate.

C: Yes.

L: It was an exciting day.

C: Oh, I'm sure it was. I was going to ask you about the end of the war, your impressions. How did you celebrate? Where did you go?

L: We went to the Officers' Club, and stayed half the night. Normally, the Officers' Clubs always closed at 7 o'clock - stopped serving drinks at 7 o'clock, and then you could have meals there. They made an exception on that night.

C: Oh, I'm sure they did.

L: Oh, yes. It was an exciting evening.

C: Yes. How long did you stay in Hawaii after V-J Day?

L: You know there was a point system. You had to have a certain number of points before you were eligible to come home and to get out, so I stayed until December, just a year. I had my points in then, and I came back on a converted hospital ship, the U.S.S. Rescue, to San Francisco and, you know, big signs "Welcome Home" and "Thanks for a Job Well Done." And, again, people who were in uniform, of course, they wanted to take you to lunch, or buy you

a drink, or do something, and to thank you for your efforts. And when the Vietnam War was over and those men came home and they didn't see anything like that, I just felt so sorry for them. We couldn't have been welcomed more.

C: You were appreciated so much.

L: Heavens, yes. Then again, the train back - another troop train back to Washington - where I was released to inactive duty.

C: Do you remember? Was that in January of '46?

L: It was actually - it took place in December, but I had two months leave accumulated, so, technically, it was February before I was actually - my time was up.

C: Right. Now, what did you do with the two months leave that you had? How did you use that?

L: Oh well, I went to work. I got out of the Navy because women could not transfer to the regular Navy.

C: That's right.

L: And, I thought, well, I'd just be hanging around. I better go get a civilian job, so I got one quite early with the Veterans Administration.

C: In D.C.?

L: In Richmond, Virginia.

C: Oh, in Richmond.

L: That was sort of a headquarters of the regional area, and I worked there. That was very pleasant.

C: Did you think at all about going back to Mary Baldwin?

L: No. I didn't. I just somehow felt that that was a fairly restrictive and limited life after you'd been out and away from it. I didn't feel that way at all when I was there; but after I had been out, I just thought there were other things.

C: Yes. After you see the world, it's hard to go back to small town life.

L: That's right.

C: Did you receive any medals for your wartime service?

L: Oh, we all got, just the regular Hawaii, whatever it was the regular Pacific. It was not a medal; it was just a ribbon. You know, that wasn't any big deal.

C: Right.

L: No specific medal.

C: Did you feel that the WAVES met your expectations?

L: Oh, heavens! More than that, really. I just enjoyed the people I worked with, and I saw another part of the world entirely, and I liked very much both the men and the women that I was affiliated with. And as soon as the bill was signed allowing women in the service - regular Navy - my friend, Winny Quick, who was still in, called me, and I went right back to Washington and reapplied, and joined the Navy again. But that was - what date was that? 1945 - no, 1948.

C: No. 1948 was when the enabling legislation was passed. Do you feel that your experience in the WAVES changed your life?

L: I think it did tremendously. Well, if I hadn't joined the Navy, I would have probably spent the rest of my life at Mary Baldwin. And, you know, that would have been a provincial type of life, much as I love the college - and I don't mean to

downgrade it ... it just was entirely different from the view of the world and the other things.

C: So you loved the Navy so much.

L: Oh, I loved it.

C: ... that you joined up again in 1948, and you had been working, I guess, for two, or three years in Richmond?

L: Right.

C: You stayed there with the Veterans Administration. That, I assume, was a government job.

L: Yes.

C: What was your first position when you rejoined in 1948 and what rank did you rejoin as?

L: I was a still a lieutenant. I think I was a lieutenant for about eight years. Absolutely one of the finest jobs. I went with the Inspector General. They had a survey board. They were surveying all naval installations. We spent a month in and a month out of Washington in every naval district in the United States: a month in Alaska, a month in the Pacific, and a month in the Caribbean. And for two years I travelled with a group of

about ten men. I was sort of administrative assistant and aide to an admiral.

C: And what admiral was that?

L: Admiral Sherman R. Clark.

C: I don't know him.

L: Oh, he's old. This was in '48.

C: '48.

L: For two years.

C: That was a wonderful experience.

L: Absolutely! I learned more about the Navy than I thought you could possibly know, and there were about

C: You were the only woman.

L: Yes. There were about ten men, and they were from civil engineers.

C: We were mentioning your joining the WAVES and your very interesting position traveling. Was your home base Washington?

L: Yes.

C: But you were on the road most of the time.

L: Mostly. Every other month, we were on the road.

C: That's amazing.

L: It was fine, fine group to travel with, and it represented all aspects of the Navy--Supply, Medical, Legal, and Civil Engineering and things like that, because they were going to be interviewing and surveying different installations, so they had to have someone from each corps to interview them and summarize what they were doing and so forth, and then we presented the final report to the Inspector General at the end of each trip.

C: Was this just an information gathering group or was there an intention to revamp or to close down installations or what?

L: There was the intention to revamp. There was a very definite purpose. It was to close down or consolidate and see if we could not save money and personnel, so that was the real purpose of the whole thing.

C: Right. Just the way we're doing today, too.

L: Right.

C: Some things never change.

L: Down the same road.

C: Yes. Well, that was a very unique position for a woman.

L: It was.

C: to be an aide to an admiral.

L: It was as interesting. The admiral didn't know whether to hold the door open for me or I should hold it for him, or should I carry his briefcase or should he carry mine.

C: Yes, it was kind of an awkward situation.

L: Well, he had a nice sense of humor.

C: Oh, well, that's good.

L: They all did.

C: You were in that position for two years?

L: Yes, '48 to '51. I don't know. Well, '48 to '51, but I think it was the end of '48.

C: That you began. How did you parents feel about your joining the Navy as a career officer?

L: That thought it was fine, because they knew how pleased I had been, and they'd heard all my reports about it, and it was a real career, the possibility of advancement and things like that.

C: Steady pay.

L: Right, right. A steady job, so they were quite, I think they were really quite enthusiastic about it.

C: Did you ever get a chance during the war - I should have asked you about it then - to go home to West Virginia?

L: Oh, yes. When my brother went into the service, he left me his car. Whenever I could get a Saturday off, I was only about 150 miles from Washington, so I would go home when I could. Of course, in Hawaii, it was a different matter.

C: Yes, right. So you did make some trips home during the war.

L: And the same way with Richmond which was inactive duty.

C: Right. Was there gas rationing in the war? Did that affect you at all?

L: A little. But if you had three or four people in the car, it helped. And, again, gas was at the Naval Station, but there was rationing. You wouldn't just go out and spend the day running around.

C: No, no. You had to be careful...

L: That's right.

C: ... of your use of the car. What was your next assignment after you finished with the survey board?

L: I went to Philadelphia as a public relations officer to the Naval Air Center, I think it was called. There I made lieutenant commander.

C: Do you remember what year that was?

L: No, I really don't. I was there, I think, just two years, so - '51 to 53 - so, it was in one of those.

C: Well, you were moving up rather rapidly then.

L: Well, I think most of us in those early days were. The competition wasn't that

C: Keen, I guess.

L: No. That was a PR (Public Relations) job; and when the British ships came in to test the steam catapult and *Life Magazine* and all those people came, and I just kept a steady flow of information because we had a lot of labs which were experimenting. And so we managed to keep busy, and get out a weekly, little publication of all the things that were going on.

C: And you were responsible for coordinating the weekly publication.

L: Right.

C: Did you do much writing on your own?

L: Well, I edited. Yes, I wrote the news releases on my own, and I put out the paper pretty much on my own.

C: Oh, I see. So, it's kind of a one person job.

L: Oh yes, it was.

C: You had a lot of responsibility. Did you have much contact with the press, the outside press?

L: Oh, yes. They came quite a bit. One time one of the wives gave birth to triplets, and we had a christening party. They had three little boys and then the triplets, and *Life Magazine* came and covered the Navy Christening. It was delightful. I keep in touch with that mother. Periodically, she calls.

C: Isn't that interesting.

L: Yes. It was a fun thing.

L: It got great coverage - all over the country.

C: Oh, I guess.

L: Each of the little boys was holding a little triplet when they were christened, you know. It was a big deal.

C: Oh, yes.

L: It was a fun job.

C: Yes, it sounds like a fun job. Did you live on the economy then in Philadelphia?

L: I had an apartment, fairly far from the Naval Base, but there were several other officers who lived there (aviators); and so we took turns driving back and forth, and it was pleasant. It wasn't bad. The traffic was not anything like traffic is now.

C: Oh, no. Were you the only women officer in this command?

L: No. There was one other, and we've been very good friends. As a matter of fact, I had a note from her last week, and we went to Europe together once or twice and it was pleasant.

C: Did you feel at all isolated as a woman officer in those days from the mainstream from social life?

L: No. I had some friends in Philadelphia, had a college classmate there, and one of my old bosses in the Navy belonged to the Philadelphia Country Club. He got me a membership in it and things like that, so I didn't feel isolated.

C: Yes.

L: Your whole life was basically Navy, and the people you dated and all those were Navy, and it was pleasant.

C: Where did you go after your assignment in Philadelphia?

L: I came right up here to WAVE Officer Training School.

C: In Newport?

L: Yes. I was the Office-in-Charge of the Officer Training School here, the WAVE Officer Training School.

C: Right! Oh, that is very, very interesting. Well, I'm sure. What were your responsibilities there?

L: Well, obviously, I had a staff of maybe eight or ten - two men and one of the men was Doug Kiker who became later quite a well known commentator and things like that.

C: Yes, news commentator, of course.

L: That's right. Two men and then maybe about five women; and, of course, they taught and I coordinated things, coordinated with BUPERS about the curriculum. Was this a good course? Should this be changed? And just things like that; and, then, the detailer came up for each class and interviewed everybody who set those things up, and we worked with the men quite a bit on some of the things that went on to incorporate the women.

C: Now this was strictly WAVE officer training. How large were the classes when you were there?

L: They were not large, because there weren't nearly as many people coming in, so some of the classes - I just hesitate to give numbers - but I think 30 or 40 might have been some of the classes ...

C: What was the curriculum like when you were in charge of the training?

L: Well, obviously, there was a lot of naval history, naval indoctrination, procedures, writing and things like that, how to prepare reports because that's the things that women were going to be doing.

C: Forms and the like.

L: Yes. And all that.

C: And Navy protocol.

L: Oh, yes.

C: How long was the course of the training and indoctrination?

L: We had four classes a year, so that would be three months.

C: Yes. Three months, and then they graduated.

L: Yes.

C: Did you know who the CO was?

L: Oh, yes. Captain W. B. Perkins, and he died about a year ago. I have kept in touch with Captain Perkins and his wife over all the years; and, in fact, they called me when he died. Fine, fine man. He was a topflight officer and person.

C: Oh, that's good. That was a very interesting billet. We have a very scanty bit of information on the Women's Officer School in Newport in the archives.

L: Yes.

C: We don't have too much; and it would be interesting to find more, to gather more because this was very unique before it was blended into ...

L: Yes.

C: the OCS, I believe, around 1968 or so they were amalgamated. Did you ever have any problems with the women, any disciplinary problems?

L: Yes. One of them got pregnant, and I took her up to Boston. There were those homes then for unwed mothers? And there were one or two homosexual problems that we had to get rid of, some excuse for, but those were very sparse in comparison to the number who went through and performed admirably.

C: Yes. I guess, there's always some deviants in any large group.

L: Oh, yes.

C: You spent a couple of years here in Newport then.

L: Right. Yes. I loved it.

C: You loved the community.

L: Oh, I feel in love with it the first weekend.

C: Oh, really. Did you ever think that you would return to Newport?

L: Oh, after awhile, I thought: Heavens, this is where I'd like to be. I loved the community. I loved the atmosphere, the beaches, the whole thing.

C: It was a different Newport then, too.

L: Oh, gosh, yes! It didn't have all the tourists and all these things then.

C: Yes. It's changed dramatically even in the 19 years I've been here and I can see the changes.

L: Oh, I'm sure.

C: I can see the changes, but there were more dramatic ones from the '50s to the '90s. What was your next assignment after you completed your Officer-in-Charge of Training here?

L: I was the WAVE Detailer; I was a WAVE Assignment Officer.

C: And that was?

L: In Washington, BUPERS. Yes. And I was there, I think, about four years.

C: And that must have been the '50s, too.

L: Let's see - '56 to '60. And one of the things when you assign people, one of the things that you did was try very hard to get new assignments for women, new jobs, so that they wouldn't just be stuck in communications and assistant this and that. And, now, Frank Snyder was the Placement Officer, and they controlled the jobs, and he was so helpful as were several of the others trying to find new jobs that would be suitable for the women and break them out of the old mold.

C: Yes, the new billets. Was he successful and were you successful in doing this?

L: Yes. Oh, yes.

C: And in what kinds of new jobs?

L: I think we got. Well, for instance, getting Jane Potter to the War College was an outstanding thing, and they just moved into more responsible billets and out of communications; in BUPERS we got quite a few new jobs for women that they hadn't had before.

C: Oh, for example?

L: I'm just trying to think of well, some of them were on the detail desks of the men, and that was a whole new thought. I was

very interested then in integrating the assignments. I thought that we would do better if we didn't have a particular women officer assignment, if the men at the male desk assigned us, and there was a women at one of the male desks to keep an eye on things. But that took place ultimately.

C: Yes.

L: But, it didn't take place on my watch, but certainly was something I wanted to see happen, and I was very glad when it did.

C: Did you voice your concerns to others about this?

L: Oh, yes. I was very vocal about it, and just making sure the women didn't. They wanted to mark certain billets just for women, and that would mean that they would never go any further. They'd just rotate between those, and I fought that very hard, and that did not take place I'm happy to say.

C: That took place ultimately.

L: Yes. I mean it didn't take place that they were women that were assigned certain billets that were marked "coded for women." So, I'm glad for that.

C: Did you receive many complaints about assignments made?

L: Oh, some, yes, but not too many. What was a real problem was assigning married couples. You know, to get the husband and wife in the same job was very difficult. And you wanted to make sure that a woman didn't always do the same type of job, that she got a variety of jobs. That was part of our training supposedly.

C: Was there resistance to Jane Potter going to the War College?

L: Oh! There was tremendous resistance.

C: What was it based on?

L: That there was no need for a woman at the War College. They'd never use the training, so they shouldn't be going; and, as I said, it took the Secretary of the Navy to make the actual decision that a woman could go to the War College.

C: So she was really a path-breaker.

L: Oh, very much so. And after she left, they were happy to have another woman at the War College, so it has expanded as you well know.

C: Yes.

L: Since that time.

C: Well, that was a fascinating position that you had.

L: It was, and I worked with very nice people. It was interesting, and I shared a little cubicle with the Submarine Detailer, and the people would come over from their interview with Admiral Rickover and give the full report and so forth. That was always interesting.

C: Did you ever have a chance to meet Admiral Rickover?

L: I sent a couple of women for him to interview.

C: Oh, boy. I bet that was...

L: They came back and reported in. I remember one telling me he said to her, "Have you read Plato?" And, she said, "No, admiral, have you?" And, that didn't go over too good; but, ultimately, he did take a woman on his staff.

C: Oh, that's interesting. Did you meet any of the other higher ups - any of the CNO's, when you were in Washington?

L: Oh, yes. Again, we met many at BUPERS, the Chief of Naval Personnel and all those were there. They were very friendly to

the women officers as a whole, so I thought it was a good place.
Admiral Burke.

C: Oh, you met him?

L: Oh, yes.

C: What was your impression of him?

L: Very fine. I was tremendously impressed with him.

C: He's still alive.

L: Yes, yes.

C: Quite elderly. Where did you go after your position at
BUPERS in Washington?

L: I didn't go to Washington?

C: No, after this assignment as a detailee?

L: Oh, then, I went to the Headquarters of the Atlantic Fleet.

C: Where was that?

L: That was in Norfolk.

C: What was your position there?

L: Well, that was again in personnel, and we were there during the Cuban Crisis, and that was a very exciting time.

C: Well, what was going on during this time with the Navy? What was happening in Norfolk that...

L: Well, as you know, there was both the Atlantic Fleet and the Headquarters of the NATO business, so we were primarily the Atlantic Fleet, and we made assignments constantly. You know, who the people were reporting in, and you assigned them to various places in the Fleet, and then came the Cuban Crisis, and we worked from seven in the morning to midnight trying to get things in order. I remember my boss saying once the weapons were so sophisticated that you had to back up to Maine to fire on Cuba, and you know it was a ...

C: So there were actual plans for an invasion?

L: Oh, yes. It was a touchy situation there, but I enjoyed the Atlantic Fleet, and I liked Norfolk very much.

C: What did you like about the region, the area, and the job?

L: It wasn't too crowded. I had a very nice apartment. There was a beach. There was a very nice Officers' Club, and nice restaurants and things like that, and then I had quite a few friends down there, so that always makes a difference.

C: Oh, yes. It's kind of the hub of the Navy, that whole region.

L: Yes, that's right, and I enjoyed being close to the ships, and all those things which you certainly didn't get in Washington.

C: Oh, no. You're kind of out in a port actually.

L: That's true, but then that was great.

C: How many years did you spend in Norfolk?

L: 1960 to 1963. Three years.

C: Were you promoted at all during the 1950's and early 1960's? You said you reached lieutenant commander.

L: Yes, I must have been. I can't remember. Oh, I think I made commander when I was in BUPERS somewhere between 1956 to 1960, because I remember there were several of us that kind of planned

a party together to celebrate our commander's promotion, and then I guess I made. No, I didn't make captain until my last assignment.

C: So you were a commander by the time you were in Norfolk, which is a fairly high billet for a woman in those days.

L: Yes, and then ...

C: Were there any other highlights of that time period in Norfolk? Any other crises that you had to deal with?

L: I guess the Cuban Crisis was the main one. You know, that's better. You might consider it routine, but we were busy and I had, let's see, an officer assistant, two enlisted, two officers - another WAVE Officer working for me, very pleasant.

Unfortunately, she died of cancer quite some time ago. No, I think it was ... I think I made commander in BUPERS in the 1963 to '68 time frame, not the 1956 to 1960, because I was a lieutenant commander in Norfolk.

C: Oh, I see. Okay, you were a lieutenant commander in Norfolk. What was your assignment after you completed your Norfolk tour?

L: I came back to OPNAV, OP-01, for PG education, and I mean I was sort of supervising PG education, and an Admiral Survey

Board. Again, a survey board to see what billets, and I was again a sort of administrative assistant to an Admiral's Survey Board, and we sent out questionnaires to all admirals trying to figure out which billets could be upgraded and which should be downgraded and things like that. But, again, OPNAV was a very good tour, and I enjoyed that.

C: Yes. D.C. again.

L: Yes.

C: Who was your CO there? Do you remember?

L: No. It was an admiral, and I cannot for the life of me remember his name.

C: Did you succeed in getting any of these billets upgraded or changed?

L: I think so, yes. Of course, the Admiral's Survey Board was composed primarily of admirals, and I was their "oh, flunky", so to speak, but I enjoyed working with them very much.

C: You were already with the high brass.

L: That's right. They were a nice group of men to work with.

C: Anybody outstanding that you remember from that time period?

L: Not particularly, no. I'm not really very good at names...
They fade.

C: Oh, yes, they do; they do. Now, what time frame was this?
Your time in the district began as OPNAV, OP-01?

L: '63 to '68.

C: So you spent a good five years doing that.

L: That's right. Yes.

C: Now, you mentioned you supervised or were involved with PG
education.

L: Yes, that's right.

C: That's postgraduate education...

L: That's right.

C: In the Navy.

L: What courses were being offered, and how much money could we spend on things of that nature. You know, it wasn't choosing people to go.

C: Right.

L: Or anything like that.

C: But it was the program, the curriculum.

L: Right. There was quite a bit of work involved in that.

C: Was the PG School then in Monterey?

L: Yes.

C: Did you ever have to fly out to Monterey?

L: No, I never did.

C: You just did it by remote control, so to speak.

L: Yes.

C: From Washington. What was your next billet after '68?

L: '68 to '73 was the Navy Training Publications Center.

C: Now where was that?

L: That was down the Navy Yard.

C: Oh, in Washington again.

L: In Washington, yes. That was my last tour.

C: What did you do there?

L: Well, the basic work of that was to write training manuals for every rate in the Navy, and the Instructor Guides for those training manuals, some correspondence courses. Most of the correspondence courses were done in Great Lakes, but we had Chiefs of every rate who worked on the training manuals; and, of course, a large civilian staff (four GS-14's, a lot of 12's and 13's) who wrote and many times they had to rewrite and help the chiefs.

C: They weren't skilled in writing.

L: No. No. I've been here for two weeks, and I haven't got my hands dirty yet. He was a machinist's mate. It was not a terribly popular assignment for a lot of the men, but it was

shore duty, and that was important. I enjoyed it, too, and I retired from there in February of '73.

C: When did you make captain?

L: Sometime down there.

C: During that time frame.

L: During that time frame. I can't give you the year.

C: Was there any special ceremony when you did? Did you have any ceremony of your own?

L: No, I didn't. I remember coming in to my desk. There was a great bouquet of flowers were sitting there. The people had heard about it then.

C: Well, that was quite a first.

L: Yes. It was. I think Captain Council and I were in the first class, the first group. I don't know how many there were - maybe a half a dozen that were selected for captain.

C: Sure and it's very difficult today to get that far.

L: Yes, that's right.

C: It's extremely difficult, so you were kind of a path-breaker in that sense, too.

L: And I was the first Commanding Officer because there were a lot of others - the chaplains; a lot of others that were attached to this just as a sort of umbrella group.

C: You were the first female CO.

L: That's right. Of a shore establishment.
That was, I suppose, the biggest thing that happened.

C: Was that written up or commented on?

L: Oh, yes. There were some newspaper clippings on it. I don't know where they are.

C: That you were the first female CO of a shore establishment.
That's really quite something.

L: And then I retired in '73 and went around the world for four months.

C: Did you have any ceremony when you retired in '73?

L: Oh, yes. There was a big ceremony, everybody in whites. Some admiral came up from Pensacola to perform the ceremony. Oh, it was a big deal.

C: Did you get any ribbons or medals at that point in time?

L: Yes. You know I hate to tell you I can't remember what it was.

C: But you did get commendations?

L: Yes, yes.... It was all very pleasant.

C: I assume you enjoyed your thirty years in the Navy?

L: Oh! Every one of them. I'd do it again. The only thing that bothered me is that I had to retire.

C: Oh, did you want to stay on?

L: Oh, I was looking for the desk where you could sign up for the second 30 years, but there wasn't such a desk.

C: Right, right.

L: Oh, I enjoyed it very much.

C: That's very unique. So you feel the Navy was good to women.

L: The Navy did so much more for me than I ever anticipated. I could never repay it, so I feel it was just a privilege and a pleasure to serve.

C: Oh, that's wonderful. That's a wonderful comment. You mentioned after you retired you went around the world. That was your little reward.

L: Captain Council and I went around together, yes. Oh, that was fun. Many, many times, while on active duty I went to Europe on a space available, and must have gone to the Caribbean at least ten times.

C: You did a lot of traveling.

L: Oh, a lot of traveling.

C: Pleasure traveling, I assume.

L: On a space available. There was plenty of it then. It wasn't hard, particularly from Norfolk.

C: You're closer to the Caribbean.

L: And we left just every February. And then Washington wasn't too far, so I did a lot of traveling. So when Captain Council and I went around the world, we didn't go to Europe. We just went to places we hadn't been before, like Egypt and Iran, and India, Pakistan, Nepal, and things like that.

C: More exotic places.

L: Oh, yes. Very definitely.

C: Absolutely, and it was safe to go in '73.

L: Oh, yes.

C: That was 20 years ago.

L: Very safe to go and not crowded.

C: Right, right. Did you want to work after you retired?

L: Well, I did. I worked for about five years.

C: Where did you work?

L: I worked in Washington.

C: In what capacity?

L: I worked again in personnel. It was a consolidated personnel office for small businesses that didn't have their own personnel. We interviewed. They gave us what type of jobs they wanted. We interviewed. We gave them the typing test, the shorthand test, whatever else was required, and then interviewed them, weeded out a lot, and then sent them to the companies themselves. I was attached for about two months to the NAM (National Association of Manufacturers) in Washington, and we staffed their new office. They moved there.

C: What was the name of the company? Do you remember?

L: Well, no. I'm just trying to think of it, but it has escaped me.

C: But you worked there for five years in D.C.?

L: And then, I became pretty badly handicapped with MS, and the doctor ...

C: Did that just occur at that point in time?

L: No. I had had it for years.

C: Oh, really.

L: But it had been in remission; and, fortunately, it had not been diagnosed.

C: As such by the Navy.

L: That's right, or I would have been retired.

C: Yes.

L: So that was fine.

C: Where did that first crop up? Was it in your 20s, 30s?

L: Yes. We were in Paris, and I suddenly. We were going to the Cathedral, and I couldn't see out of one eye completely, and optic neuritis is often a forerunner of MS, or it's often diagnosed as optic neuritis, but it is MS. So, fortunately, they missed it, and that was fine.

C: So, it really surfaced about '65 I would say.

L: Yeah, that's right, and I was very lucky to have had it for so many years and have it in remission, or I would have been retired.

C: Right. From the service.

L: That's right, and some of my best jobs were at the end. I would have missed them.

C: Sure. Of course.

L: So I was very happy that it didn't happen.

C: You retired from civilian life at that point in time when

L: Well, I just did volunteer work. I worked at the Kennedy Center, worked in the Church, drove for Meals on Wheels, all that stuff.

C: Well, you were very active.

L: I was very active then.

C: Very active. You just kept going, and doing all this charitable work.

L: That's right. When you stop going, then...

C: When you rest, you rust, I guess.

L: That's exactly right. Yes.

C: Did you live in Washington proper?

L: I lived in Arlington.

C: Outside the city.

L: Right. But, it was pleasant. I enjoyed my volunteer work.

C: Oh, absolutely. When did you finally get into your current lifestyle, where you're six months in Florida and six months in Newport? When did you finally decide that?

L: Maybe eight years ago.

C: Oh, really.

L: Or something like that.

C: Fairly recently.

L: Yes, fairly recently.

C: Did you live in Washington or Arlington until that time?

L: Until that time, I did. And there were so many concerts and plays, and things like that. You had a great deal to choose from.

C: Washington is exciting.

L: It is exciting, and lectures at the Kennedy Center, and some of the other places.

C: It's very lively. It's alive. There's a lot to do, and a lot to see.

L: Endlessly alive.

C: Endlessly alive is right.

L: Well, I enjoyed it.

C: How did you get together with Commander Potter? Had you known her all these years?

L: Oh, somebody introduced us. Oh, no. We were stationed together in Norfolk, and somewhere else. I think we had two tours together; and when we both ended up in Washington, we decided to share an apartment.

C: Oh, I see. So you were living with her in...

L: Oh, yes, for a long time.

C: For a long time in Washington, D.C.

L: About twenty-five years I think, all told.

C: So then, you decided together on this wonderful lifestyle.

L: Yes. We did. We didn't have any problems about that. She was stationed in Newport twice.

C: No. That's fine. You knew the town, and you wanted to come back.

L: Oh, yes. I loved it.

C: Now, you have the best of both worlds with Florida ...

L: Yes.

C: and with Newport in the summer. Well, that's wonderful. I have certainly enjoyed interviewing you on your Navy career, and on the WAVES.

L: I think I've talked much too much.

C: Oh no. Everybody says that, but no. I'm delighted that you consented.

L: And you don't have to type up a lot of that stuff. You can just listen to the tape and get rid of some of it.

C: Oh, we'll do our editing later. Thank you very much, Captain Love.

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