

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE, NEWPORT, R.I.

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

HISTORY OF THE WAVES

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OF THE  
WAVES

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MARY E. HAWTHORNE, PH.D.

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The History of the WAVES

Interviewee: Dr. Mary E. Hawthorne

Interviewer: Dr. Evelyn M. Cherpak

Subject: The History of the WAVES

Date: August 24, 1994

Cherpak: This is the first oral history interview with Dr. Mary Hawthorne. My name is Evelyn Cherpak. I'm the curator of the Naval Historical Collection. Today's date is August 24th 1994. The interview is taking place at Dr. Hawthorne's apartment at Blenheim in Middletown, Rhode Island.

Cherpak: Dr. Hawthorne, I'm very pleased that you consented to give this interview today on your navy career during the WAVES, and your recall to service during the 1960's and early 1970's during the Vietnam War. I'd like to begin with a few personal questions about your background before we launch into your naval career. Can you tell me where and when you were born?

Hawthorne: I was born in New London, Connecticut, November 9th 1916.

Cherpak: Did you have any brothers or sisters? And who were they?

Hawthorne: I had a sister, Anna C. Hawthorne who lives with me here. A brother, Kenneth A. Hawthorne, who lives in Braintree, Massachusetts and another brother, Frederick G. Hawthorne, who is now deceased.

Cherpak: What was your father's occupation?

Hawthorne: My father's occupation; he was a bricklayer.

Cherpak: And what was your mother's occupation?

Hawthorne: My mother's occupation, prior to her marriage, she was a seamstress. After her marriage, she had her hands full with all of us.

Cherpak: Yes, I can see with four children. And in those days women didn't work outside the home. When did you move to Rhode Island and why?

Hawthorne: When did I move to Rhode Island most recently?

Cherpak: No, your family. When did your family move to Rhode Island?

Hawthorne: They moved to Rhode Island from New London, Connecticut about 1922.

Cherpak: Why did your family pick up and move from New London?

Hawthorne: Oh, boy. I would have assumed it would have been my father's work. I would have to say because of the necessity produced as a result of my father's work we moved to Rhode Island where he would get a better position.

Cherpak: Where did you move? What city did you move to in Rhode Island?

Hawthorne: We moved to Providence, Rhode Island.

Cherpak: And did you attend school there? Grammar and high school?

Hawthorne: I attended grammar school at St. Mary's Academy on Bainbridge Avenue in Providence, high school at St. Mary's Academy of the Visitation on Bainbridge Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island.

Cherpak: Do they still exist?

Hawthorne: I graduated from high school there as valedictorian and went from there to the University of Rhode Island.

Cherpak: Did you take a college course when you went to St. Mary's?

Hawthorne: At St. Mary's we all got the same course, which was a classical background.

Cherpak: OK. So that was more college oriented.

Hawthorne: Oh, yes.

Cherpak: Was it a girls' school?

Hawthorne: Yes.

Cherpak: Does it still exist today?

Hawthorne: No, all of those schools now, many of them are closed, and they have joined with LaSalle Academy. So Catholic girls go to LaSalle Academy now, I think.

Cherpak: I see. You mentioned you went to the University of Rhode Island as an undergraduate. Why did you pick URI?

Hawthorne: It was the only college available within the area and financially feasible.

Cherpak: What did you major in there?

Hawthorne: I majored in Biology.

Cherpak: What year did you graduate?

Hawthorne: I graduated in 1937. As an undergraduate, my extracurricular activities included dramatics and debating and other activities.

Cherpak: So you are not solely just immersed in your studies, but you did other things, too.

Hawthorne: I was not athletic. Most of my extracurricular work was in dramatics, debating, and things like that.

Cherpak: Where did you work after you finished your college education?

Hawthorne: When I graduated from what was then Rhode Island State College, that was 1937. That was the height of the Depression; there were no jobs anywhere. However, it happened that a graduate scholarship, graduate teaching scholarship,

opened up at Penn State, what was then Penn State College, what has since become Pennsylvania State University. And so I went to State College, Pennsylvania to work on my master's degree and I supported myself there through the teaching assistantship program. It was called a graduate stipend scholarship. It paid thirty dollars a month, and we managed to live on thirty dollars a month in those days. I don't know if your interested or not. I'll give you an example of how we survived, because all of my work was in the laboratory, and so in order to eat we had to improvise. Penn State was the center of potato production for the state of Pennsylvania so all of these potatoes would be available so we would take those and bake them in the autoclave, which was the sterilizing machine, and we would live on produce that came off of the research projects there.

Cherpak: Isn't that interesting? That's certainly unique.

Hawthorne: I could tell you a lot.

Cherpak: Were you pursuing a master's in biology?

Hawthorne: Master's in biology.

Cherpak: What was your intention to do with that degree?



Hawthorne: At the time I was intending and hoping to get into a research program. I became involved with the potato research laboratories and I worked on and my thesis was gearing in that area. I received my master's degree in 1940. Still the availability of those types of positions, there were very few positions available. But they offered me a position teaching in one of the undergraduate centers of Penn State. And since that was a position that had a salary attached to it, I latched on to that with great alacrity.

Cherpak: Of course.

Hawthorne: And went to a little town, the Schuylkill graduate center of Penn State, located in a town call Pottsville, Pennsylvania.

Cherpak: Did you take three years to finish your master's degree?

Hawthorne: No, no, two.

Cherpak: Two to finish your master's degree.

Hawthorne: Your mathematics is right. After I graduated from high school there was one year in between there. . .

Cherpak: And Penn State.

Hawthorne: After I got my master's degree, there was one year in which I had no position and I came back to Rhode Island and I did substitute teaching in the high school that I had graduated from. But there was a whole year then the stipend scholarship came at Penn State and I went there.

Cherpak: Oh, OK, and then you continued on in their satellite campus.

Hawthorne: It took me two years to get the master's.

Cherpak: Yes, and then you got the permanent full time job in Pottsville, Pennsylvania.

Hawthorne: Yes, and then came World War II.

Cherpak: Where were you when Pearl Harbor happened? What was your reaction?

Hawthorne: I was in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, when Pearl Harbor happened. It was a Sunday afternoon and I had just come back from supper to the room that I had rented and when I opened the front door the landlady was standing at the top of the stairs with a shotgun. And I looked up and I said, "What's the matter?" She

said, "The Japs have bombed Pearl Harbor." I said, "Where is Pearl Harbor?" I had no idea where it was until I found out where it was. But that's where I was when Pearl Harbor came.

Cherpak: That must have been a shock to everybody.

Hawthorne: It was a shock to everybody. And then, of course, all the men started to get orders into the services and as a result they were consolidating the graduate centers and they sent me from Pottsville, to Altoona, Pennsylvania, and I was there at the beginning of World War II and that's where I enlisted, or signed up, for the WAVES.

Cherpak: How did you hear about the WAVES?

Hawthorne: Well, it was in newspapers and there were many advertisements around our town at that time.

Cherpak: So it was basically newspapers and advertisements, because the WAVES were authorized in July of 1942, I believe. When did you decide to join? What made you want to join the WAVES?

Hawthorne: Oh, well, I just felt, you want the truth or do you want what I tell people? I just wanted to be very honest and candid with you. I just wanted to be where the action was. And

I was in this little undergraduate center in Altoona, Pennsylvania. I had been teaching Biology, and running Biology labs and the bookstore and all of that for several years and I was intrigued by the military service. I just wanted to be where the action was.

Cherpak: Sure. It was a patriotic time for everybody.

Hawthorne: Yes, it was.

Cherpak: Everybody supported the war.

Hawthorne: I also wanted to be where the men were. The men were all going into the service so I had to go where they were. I don't know whether you want to put that in.

Cherpak: No, that's fine. So what year did you decide to join? Do you remember the year you enlisted?

Hawthorne: It was the class of 1944.

Cherpak: How did your parents feel about your decision to join? Did they say anything positive or negative?

Hawthorne: No. They encouraged me.

Cherpak: Great! What procedures did you have to follow to join the WAVES? How did you go about it? Did you go to a center to enlist?

Hawthorne: I went to a downtown hotel where they were recruiting people. I signed up there and that was all there was to it. Next I got a letter in the mail telling me to report to Northampton. So I was in Pennsylvania and I got a letter to report to Northampton, so I left Altoona and I went to my home, which was in Rhode Island, and my brother took me to where I was to get the train to go into Northampton.

Cherpak: Did you have to take any physical exams or any aptitude tests or intelligence tests before you set off for Northampton?

Hawthorne: I cannot remember that I did. You know 1944, that's fifty year ago. So I don't recall that I had to. But I'm sure that we had physicals. I'm sure they did.

Cherpak: So you took the train to Northampton and the reserve training was located at Smith College. How long was this training? How many months or weeks were you at Northampton?

Hawthorne: I think it was about eight weeks training.

Cherpak: And for this training what exactly did they put you through? What kind of courses or regime did you have to follow?

Hawthorne: Oh, we had what I would call academic classes which included letter writing. We had proper letter writing. Now it's awfully hard to recall everything.

Cherpak: Of course. What you can.

Hawthorne: And then we had a class in what they called ships and aircraft. We had to be able to recognize ships and aircraft, and I had a little difficulty with that so I had to figure some way to pass that course and what I did to pass that course was instead of trying to remember what the ship was, was to remember the audiovisual, like OK this aircraft, a B-1, the slide had a little plus in the lower corner. Because I knew they were going to use the same slides on the test. So I passed the test. I knew I would not be having to identify ships and aircraft. But I passed that and the writing and all of that. And then we, of course, we marched up the hill and marched down again; we had parades and I could remember, as you can see I'm very tall so in the platoon I was always in the front line. I'll tell you a little humorous story about that. They were going to have a pass and review. For the first time they asked me to be the platoon leader, you know, stand beside the troop in the pass and review. And we went through the practice and we went around the field and

so on. And then they called the platoon leaders up for a conference and they tell us what to do and then you go back to your platoon and that was fine. This particular day I managed to get my platoon around just fine. I went in for the conference just fine. And when I came back I wanted to get them to going and I kept saying, "Come on now, we're going to show 'em; we're going to be the best on the base and don't do anything, just follow me." And I'm looking up and at the other end this platoon next door waving to me. I was in front of the wrong platoon.

Cherpak: Oh, no.

Hawthorne: I gave the pep talk to somebody else's platoon.

Cherpak: Oh, dear.

Hawthorne: But anyway we made out alright.

Cherpak: That's good.

Hawthorne: In the end.

Cherpak: Did you have any other physical activity that you had to engage in besides marching and drilling?

Hawthorne: Oh my, yes. We had swimming and at that time I could keep afloat and swim, but I had not learned to dive so I was afraid of it. And you had to pass that. We got into the pool and we were all standing on the edge of the pool like so and I'm trying to get up enough courage to move forward and get my head in that pool when I felt the instructor come by and give me a good push on the backside and I went into the pool and I passed the course.

Cherpak: Oh, great. Diving is a little scary.

Hawthorne: Yes, we had that and we had, I could keep you all afternoon. We had another in connection with this; we had to know how to board a boat from like a derrick thing there was a seat on there and we came into the pool, we came on to the second floor and there was this derrick and we had to crawl into that and then they would let us down into the pool. I went through I can not tell you the experiences, new experiences we went through; I was scared to death through all of them but somehow or other I managed to survive. And I would say passing that boot school, that officer candidate school training, it just took a lot of nerve.

Cherpak: I imagine. Do you remember how many women there were in the initial training session that you were in the eight weeks? Did they have hundreds or . . . ?



Hawthorne: I can not remember the number, but there were at least that at the hotel where we were. The room that I was in there had three double deck bunks. So there was six of us in that room and there was one bathroom.

Cherpak: Was that at the old Northampton Hotel?

Hawthorne: Right. At the Northampton Hotel. They took over the hotel. They had six three double deck bunks; there was six of us in there and one bathroom, one shower in the morning, so you can imagine. We would turn the shower on and one would run in and you wouldn't shut it off; one would run in and one would run out and we never shut it off until we got through.

Cherpak: Were the teachers of the courses men or women?

Hawthorne: Women.

Cherpak: Women, basically.

Hawthorne: They were all women. All the men were at sea.

Cherpak: Right.

Hawthorne: These were all women and they were excellent. I have to say they were outstanding.

Cherpak: They must have been fairly new WAVES, only in for a couple of years.

Hawthorne: They were in for a couple of years. And I gave you a picture of one there. But they were excellent.

Cherpak: Did you have any social life during training these eight weeks?

Hawthorne: Oh, no, no. You didn't have time for social life.

Cherpak: Did you have homework at night?

Hawthorne: I believe that we did. All I can remember of those eight weeks were they were very, very busy and we moved from one activity to another trying to catch your breath in between.

Cherpak: Right. Did you ever find out from any of the other WAVES that were in that class the reasons why they joined? Did you ever talk among yourselves as to why you had joined the WAVES?

Hawthorne: No, no.

Cherpak: Did you make any lasting friendships or connections from that eight week time frame?

Hawthorne: No, not really.

Cherpak: Where were your roommates from? Do you remember? Were they from all over the country?

Hawthorne: Yes. But I don't remember specifically. In fact, I can not recall a single name right now.

Cherpak: Well, you graduated. I assume they had a graduation ceremony after you were commissioned ensign, after the eight weeks, and then you were initially assigned somewhere. Where were you assigned?

Hawthorne: I was assigned to Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, and I was assigned to what they call the low pressure chamber unit. My assignment included training of the naval aviators in oxygen indoctrination. I can tell you what that means in a minute. I taught courses in survival. How do you survive at sea? How do you survive in the arctic? How do you survive in the tropics? We learned those things. And as for the oxygen indoctrination, in those days the aircraft were not pressurized and so these aviators had to learn when they go to about 10,000 feet, they had to learn to put on their oxygen mask or they would become what we call anoxic and they had several deleterious systems. So what we did was we taught them the scientific biology of why they had to put on the mask. Then we

took them into the low pressure chamber. That chamber had pressure pumps that would withdraw the oxygen. And we taught them when you feel the least sensation that's different, put on your oxygen mask. Well, it worked out fine, but it was a real challenge because some of these young men they thought that maybe this might be a test of whether or not they could survive as aviators. And so many of them will try to last as long as they could, even beyond the 10,000 feet. And, of course, if they did, then the next thing you have is nausea or other symptoms. So I would say to my people right in the very beginning this is not a test of your strength; this is a test of your knowledge of yourself and when you're going to need oxygen. And I never had much problem with them.

Cherpak: Now you were in what corps?

Hawthorne: At that time you called it the Hospital Corps. It is now called the Medical Service Corps.

Cherpak: And what was your title or your rank?

Hawthorne: Aviation physiologist. I was an aviation physiologist in the Hospital Corps of the Navy Reserve.

Cherpak: And how long did you spend in Pensacola? How long were you detailed there?

Hawthorne: I was detailed there in October and in February, I don't know why, but I got orders to go to Norfolk, to the low pressure chamber in Norfolk in February.

Cherpak: In February, you mean.

Hawthorne: In October I went to Pensacola. In February, I went to Norfolk. And I no sooner got there, I was there a very short time, maybe three or four months, when I got orders to the boot school, but it was Naval Training Center, Bronx, New York. It was the boot school.

Cherpak: Very good. Can I double back and ask you just a few questions about your stay in Pensacola? When you were there you were obviously at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola. That is still in existence. Where did you live when you were there? Did you live on base?

Hawthorne: Yes, there was on base the WAVES barracks. We had our own barracks.

Cherpak: OK. So you lived with the other WAVES that were there. Did you have any spare time off during that stay in Pensacola? Weekends or whatever?

Hawthorne: Not that I can ever remember.

Cherpak: So did you work a five or a six day week?

Hawthorne: I think we worked a six day week. Because we would start at seven o'clock in the morning. I can remember standing outside the WAVES barracks with a couple of other people that were going to the low pressure chamber and were in the same assignment, the same billet that I had, and I can remember one of them saying to me, "When you got nothing to do all day and you got to start doing it at seven o'clock every morning, it's an awful state of affairs." What she meant was when I would have aviators in the low pressure chamber, they would be observers outside. They didn't have anything that they had to do. But you had to be there, so there was enough people there if there was any kind of a catastrophe. So it didn't matter whether you were making a run on the chamber or not, you had to be on duty from seven o'clock in the morning. How did I get on this topic?

Cherpak: Because I asked you about your living conditions.

Hawthorne: Oh, you asked me about spare time is what you asked me. I do not remember having a leave, or a weekend, or anything like that. I don't know, maybe other people did. Remember I was a little bit older than some of the others. I'd already gotten my master's degree and I was a little older than some of the others, so maybe I got more tired. We did have to do duty at the

enlisted WAVES barracks when they charged us with duty at the enlisted WAVES barracks.

Cherpak: And what did that consist of?

Hawthorne: Well, we had to go down there in the evening and just make sure that everybody got in on time, that there were no problems. And I dreaded that assignment.

Cherpak: Why?

Hawthorne: Well, because I'd get at that desk and say my prayers that there wouldn't be any physical or mental problems arise with these young enlisted WAVES. And, fortunately, I didn't have anything difficult. But they logged in and they logged out and they went their way, but they had to be in at a certain time and you had to make sure that the barracks were secured and that kind of thing.

Cherpak: Sure. Was there anybody checking the WAVE officers?

Hawthorne: Not that I know of.

Cherpak: So you were trusted.

Hawthorne: Yes. We didn't have anybody checking us. You mean up at the barracks?

Cherpak: Right.

Hawthorne: No, not that I know of. You could come and go as you wish.

Cherpak: Did you work with lots of other WAVES in the aviation physiology billet?

Hawthorne: There were both men and women in this aviation physiology billet. And, of course, you had enlisted men working there at the unit. The chief, for example, he ran the low pressure chamber for you and I can remember some other male officers working with us. They were physiologists. Not MD's, but they may have had similar scientific backgrounds to what I had.

Cherpak: Sure. Did you find the work rewarding and satisfying?

Hawthorne: Yes, I felt very satisfied once the class got through, graduated from their training; it would be kind of a pride to see them all on the field. They are through and on their way. We also did retraining. We had naval officers who had already been overseas in their aircraft that came back for



retraining and just to make sure they knew about survival and they knew about oxygen and that. So we not only had the officers, that were coming to be naval aviators, but we also retrained some that had already had some experience.

Cherpak: That sounds very interesting.

Hawthorne: That was keeping them up to date on . . .

Cherpak: Oh, certainly they needed that. Do you remember what your pay was at all as an ensign? I can't imagine you would have too much spare change.

Hawthorne: I do not remember. I do not remember. I'm a strange kind of person. The monetary aspects of my positions through the course of the years never meant much to me. What meant most to me was what I was doing, how I was helping people and they were learning. That teacher thing got in me when I was working on my master's degree and it never left. Somebody said to me one day, "you know, Mary, you can take the teacher out of the classroom, but you can't take the classroom out of the teacher." I guess I was always a little . . . So that monetary aspect, all I know is I didn't have to worry about getting enough to eat or a place to sleep.

Cherpak: Right. You had all those facilities for you on base.

Hawthorne: I wasn't travelling anywhere, so I didn't need any money to spend.

Cherpak: That's right. So after Pensacola you spent a few months in Norfolk, you said, doing the same thing. Was there anything you wanted to say about that time frame that was different or unique?

Hawthorne: No. I would say I enjoyed being assigned to Norfolk, because there was Norfolk beach and I know that I seemed to have had more time to get to the beach at Norfolk than I did in Pensacola, but I don't know why that was.

Cherpak: So that was your sole recreational activity at that point in time. Well, you next mentioned that you were sent to Hunter College in the Bronx. And what was your assignment there? This was the WAVES boot camp, as you said, and it was training for the enlisted.

Hawthorne: My assignment there was to set up the Navy Rehabilitation Training Center and the purpose was to provide assistance to what we call the allied health personnel serving in various hospitals: the occupational therapist, the physical therapist. We were training assistants to help the professionals to be able to spread the care of the professionals to more people by providing them with assistance that could do some of their

things without requiring the extensive training that they had to have to become the physical therapist or an occupational therapist. My job was to set up that school.

Cherpak: Was the school at Hunter?

Hawthorne: No, the school, the Navy Rehabilitation Training School, was at U.S. Training Station the Bronx. But when I got there I set up an affiliation with Hunter College in order to get some help from there, to use some of their people to give lectures and things like that. And I also set up some affiliations with some of the hospitals in the area because we only had St. Albans Naval Hospital so that they could get some clinical training and experience there.

Cherpak: How long was this course?

Hawthorne: I can't remember the exact length of time of a single class. I can't remember that. I would guess, maybe about eight weeks or so. I don't remember that exactly.

Cherpak: And you were training, I assume, basically enlisted women to do this.

Hawthorne: We called them in those days Corps WAVES. So these were people who were familiar with hospitals and their interiors

and the patients and everything. We brought them in, many of them already had their stripes on. Third class, second class, in fact, we even had some first class corp WAVES that came in and took this training, so we didn't have to teach them a lot. We could concentrate on the specialty. We had at that time four specialties: occupational therapy assistant, physical therapy assistant, rehabilitation of the blind and rehabilitation of the deaf. Those were the four that we started.

Cherpak: Excellent! Well, you did show me some pictures of what you had done with some of these naval personnel that were being rehabilitated. Can you comment on that and the interaction with the actual individuals that were being rehabilitated? You showed me pictures of the deaf at the Stork Club and the like.

Hawthorne: What I did was, I think his name was Frampton, anyway he was head of the school in New York for the training of the deaf. I can see his face, but I can't remember his name. Anyway, he was in charge of the school for the deaf in New York and he came and helped us to set up a program for training these assistants in rehabilitating the deaf, and he had all kinds of connections in New York.

I might tell you about the one, for example, when we took all. . . Now Dr. Frampton, he planned the classical lectures that were supposed to be given and then he would set up programs for, let's say, for the deaf being rehabilitated, and I think I

showed you on one occasion we took them to the Stork Club and I have a picture of that for you. And that was the great thing about that program, both for the blind and the deaf, they received their instruction in the classes and then we took them out for rehabilitation. We took them, meaning the Navy men who were having hearing difficulties and seeing difficulties, into a social environment to make it easier for them to go back and become rehabilitated and then return to society. It was an excellent program.

Cherpak: It sounds it. It sounds it. And you were the assistant director. Do you remember who the director was?

Hawthorne: They named the medical officer the director; I got the title of assistant director because I was just lieutenant JG at the time and you couldn't be a director and be a lieutenant, but I did everything and I'm not saying that to, he didn't know anything about rehabilitation.

Cherpak: And he was just an administrator.

Hawthorne: Administration.

Cherpak: So you had to do the program planning for that. Well, that must have been quite a challenge.

Hawthorne: Yes, it was, but I had good people helping me. I don't want to imply that it was all my thinking. I brought on board an occupational therapist, a physical therapist and I just said to them, "this is what were going to do" and they planned the classroom work and they planned the practical experiences, some of which were done right at our offices at Hunter and some of which were done at our offices at the Bronx, and some of which were done at Hunter College. And, in another words, I brought them on the faculty and they did the teaching, because I wasn't a physical therapist, you know. And I was fortunate in so far as I had very competent and capable people that planned and executed the program. Now the interesting thing about that is that was the beginning of the medical assistants, because, as I will tell you a little later, the navy now recognizes medical assistants. I was part of the team that developed the physician's assistant program and so were now more or less accepted. But I had a great deal of difficulty with the occupational therapist. The professional therapists wondered why they should cooperate with us in training assistants who would be able to do the things that it took them four years to do. But, somehow or other, I managed to convince them that if they would work with us and get these assistants, the assistants could do those things in the hospital that did not require their extensive training. And they could concentrate on the more complicated cases. And, somehow or other, I got the idea sold. So if you look at the thing today

you'll find the most difficulty with the physician's assistant, but that came later, that was at the medical school.

Cherpak: Right. Well, that sounds very interesting and very, very challenging. How long were you in this assignment? Time wise?

Hawthorne: When was VJ day?

Cherpak: VJ day was in August 1945.

Hawthorne: OK. Well, I was there until August 1945 and shortly after VJ day, the school closed down and they sent me to the naval hospital St. Albans, where I served as assistant to the rehabilitation officer until I returned to civilian life.

Cherpak: Well, let's just double back a minute. Because I want to ask you some questions about your personal life during this time period when you were the assistant director of the rehab training center in the Bronx. You must have been promoted at some point in time to lieutenant. Do you remember when that was? Did that come when you were at the training center in the Bronx or before?

Hawthorne: I think I was made JG when I was at naval hospital St. Albans, but I am not sure of the dates when my rank was increased.

Cherpak: When you were at the rehab training center in the Bronx? Where did you live?

Hawthorne: Oh, the navy had taken over one of the big apartment buildings there and we had apartments in there. I think there were two of us in one apartment, but it was a navy billet.

Cherpak: Right, right. So you had several rooms then in the apartment. You could do your own cooking.

Hawthorne: Yes, you could do your cooking.

Cherpak: So you were, more or less, kind of like a free agent. Did you have any spare time when you were in New York or did you work a six day week again?

Hawthorne: Well, we weren't at the school six days a week. But I don't remember having had a lot of spare time, meaning to take a leave or something like that.

Cherpak: No. Just doing things with the WAVES socially. Did you do anything with other WAVES socially?



Hawthorne: Nothing spectacular that I can remember.

Cherpak: OK. When VJ day came around you said they closed down the training center and you were sent to St. Albans. What was your reaction on VJ day?

Hawthorne: I must tell you about VJ day when I was at the rehabilitation training school. It was VJ day alright, and some of us were in the lounge, some of us officers were in the lounge. The commanding officer of the boot school had sent the band up and down by the barracks trying to get the WAVES to go out and celebrate. By the WAVES I mean the students, the youngsters who had come in to become WAVES, the students of the boot school. And the band they'd sent it up and down, up and down and these young folks wouldn't go out at all. And he was getting upset about it. And, so he came down to the lounge where I was there with some of the drill and discipline officers who were there and he came and he said, "you people who have barracks," you see these were the barracks for the corp WAVES and for the boots that were in training, and he said, "You folks who have barracks get down there to those barracks and get those people out. Tell 'em history is in the making, and I've sent the band up and down there and they won't come out. Go down and get them out." So they were going out and this one D and D officer was next to me, and I didn't have a barracks. She said, "Well, will you come down and help me?" and I said, "Sure, I'll help you." So I went

down to her barracks and I stood at the door and we made sure they had on stockings and that they were dressed as they went out the door. And, finally, the last one went out and I looked up and here at the base of the stairway is this little girl with her arm around the banister and the tears were flowing down her cheeks, and I thought "poor girl," must have just heard of somebody that got it. So I went over and I put my arm around her and I said, "you know, war is hell," and she looked up at me and she said through her tears, "I waited two years to join the navy and now it's all over." I gave her a slap on the back and let her go. But we all went down into New York. That night I did. And you can't believe that I was there in New York, Times Square, on VJ day night.

Cherpak: What was it like? Can you tell me?

Hawthorne: What was it like! It was a sea of bodies for one thing. And everybody was yelling and dancing and screaming and I remember in Times Square, you know, that thing that goes around. And that was VJ day and once I just remember a lot of lights flashing. I don't know where they came from, stores or what, but, and, of course, the bands were playing. That day I remember. I'll never forget it.

Cherpak: People were celebrating because it was the end of the war. And kind of the end for many people, like the little girl of her naval career.

Hawthorne: I have to tell you one more story of the end of the war. Because, again, my students were all enlisted. But I was on my way going up to my office and this little platoon of boots, they were in their civilian clothes yet, they weren't even in uniform yet, and this little platoon of boots in civilian clothes was marching down the hill and their singing, "platoon four has won the war, parlavoo. Platoon four has won the war, parlavoo. Platoon four has won the war so what the hell are we marching for." And that was a little platoon of boots. I never forgot it.

Cherpak: That's amusing. Very interesting. Well, great celebrations on VJ day, and your next assignment was at St. Albans hospital. Where was St. Albans located?

Hawthorne: It's on Long Island.

Cherpak: And that's a naval hospital, correct?

Hawthorne: Yes.

Cherpak: I don't know if it's still in business, but it was long of standing.

Hawthorne: We had a WAVES barracks there, at St. Albans.

Cherpak: And you were assistant rehab officer?

Hawthorne: Yes.

Cherpak: Now what were your responsibilities?

Hawthorne: Well, I was scheduling the rehabilitation for the patients. For example, if they recommended physical therapy I would make up a schedule and arrange between the patients and the physical therapist who got together and mostly scheduling patients. I did no teaching or anything at St. Albans.

Cherpak: So that was an administrative assignment.

Hawthorne: Yes, purely administrative.

Cherpak: How long were you there?

Hawthorne: Not very long, because by that time the. What date was VJ day?

Cherpak: About August 15th, I believe, 1945.

Hawthorne: So shortly after that, then I went back to Altoona for one year.

Cherpak: Well, let's finish the navy first. But you were at St. Albans for a short period of time.

Hawthorne: I have difficulty remembering dates.

Cherpak: So Dr. Hawthorne, you left the service in 1946, when they were drawing down. I'd like to ask you a few general questions about your naval service and your reaction toward those two years. Did you ever feel overworked in any of your assignments?

Hawthorne: No. Because I was so preoccupied with the assignments that I had and with getting things done no effort was too much effort, so I never felt overworked. I was never bored because there was always something else that I had to do. My mind was always actively focused on the job to be done. And with that you're not thinking about time.

Cherpak: That's right.

Hawthorne: In no job or in no position that I was ever in in my lifetime did I ever feel I was overworked.

Cherpak: OK. Did you feel you were treated fairly in the WAVES?

Hawthorne: Oh, yes I was. I felt I was treated very fairly. Now I get a little bit, I don't know what term to use here, but let me put it this way I lack understanding, perhaps, of some of the women today. I was always, not always, in most circumstances, the only woman on an assignment. I was the one female with many men working both, well, I'll say, throughout my career in the navy. I never, never, never had any problems with, what they call today, sexual harassment. Never. Now, I don't want to get on that tangent, but I contend that there's a high probability, at least, that the women bring it on themselves. And let me give you an illustration of that. When I was in Pensacola when those squadrons would come back and they would have a big party and, of course, there was a lot of fun and games and dancing and music and so on, but, also, there was drinking there. But my feeling was as soon as you could see the party getting out of line you left and you went home. But at least that is what we did and you asked the question "Was I ever treated unfairly?", and my answer is unequivocally no. I felt I was treated with a great deal of respect and I was treated as an equal and I never ever had any kind of a problem as far as being a woman in a man's field.

Cherpak: Oh, that's very good. That's great. Did your assignments meet your expectations?

Hawthorne: Did my assignment meet my expectations?

Cherpak: Did you have any preconceived expectations about what you would do in the navy?

Hawthorne: Well, my assignment. Most of the time, I was given almost a carte blanche. For example, when I went to the rehabilitation training school the only assignment I got was to set up the school and train these people to be able to do x, y, and z. Now I had to figure out how to do it. And, of course, I know I'd say to myself, Mary, you don't know all this. The first thing you got to do is get people here who know how to do it and get them doing it. So, I was kind of a . . .

Cherpak: Ombudsperson.

Hawthorne: Yes.

Cherpak: Get good people to work for you. That's great. Did you enjoy the WAVES?

Hawthorne: Oh, yes.

Cherpak: Do you think you had opportunities you would not have had in civilian life in the navy?

Hawthorne: I don't see how I can answer that. Because I don't know what opportunities I would have had if I stayed in. But I can say that I feel that the navy gave me ample opportunities and challenged my talent, my wit, and my knowledge and skills to the extent that they could be challenged until I was satisfied. I can't answer because I don't know beyond the outside.

Cherpak: That's a good answer. What was your rank when you detached? What did you leave the service as? Lieutenant?

Hawthorne: Well, I left the service from St. Albans. I think I may have been a JG. I think the others came up later, but I'll tell you the secret of my success. As I would bring the people in, whether they be enlisted or officers or what, I would say to them, let's say, to my enlisted people, now, look "I can not do what you are doing. I can not type. I can not file. I can not do that, but I'm depending on you to make me look good. You make me look good, meaning you do your job, then I'll look out for you." And I'm usually having them working their little hands off. Because they knew if they made me look good, I'd make them look good.



Cherpak: Well, yes. One hand butters the other. Did you make any lasting friendships from the WAVES service? Anybody that you've still kept in contact with?

Hawthorne: Well, not a lot. One of the people the psychologist who was at the Rehabilitation Training School, Dr. Miriam Crowley, she's now Dr. Miriam Crowley DePew. We correspond at Christmas. And that's about the extent of it. But I've kind of lost track; it's a long time ago. You see, the problem is, after I got out of the navy, I still had a very varied career.

Cherpak: So that was just one small portion of your lifetime, during WWII. Do you feel that the experience in the WAVES changed your life at all in any way?

Hawthorne: That's a very difficult question to answer. Changed my life.

Cherpak: Do you feel that it broadened your horizons and added to your life experience?

Hawthorne: Oh, there's no question about that, the fact that. Oh, my goodness, I didn't understand the question.

Cherpak: No, this is an amplification.

Hawthorne: Well, of course it broadened my horizons. Look at all the different people that I met, with all kinds of different educational and professional backgrounds and in working with this kind of person or these kinds of people, I think it made me a bigger person. Because I learned; my vistas were opened by seeing through their vistas. Oh, yes, there's no question in my mind that it broadened me a great deal as a person.

Cherpak: Did you ever have the opportunity to meet or to see Mildred MacAfee, the head of the WAVES?

Hawthorne: I never had the opportunity to meet her. She may have shown up when we were in training, but I don't remember having seen Mildred MacAfee in person.

Cherpak: Did you find from your experience as a WAVE that the organization was a smoothly run organization?

Hawthorne: As far as I could see, but I was not involved in the administration, the central administration, up there at the top. So I have no knowledge of what went up there. I can only speak of what went on in the Hospital Corps.

Cherpak: As it related to you.

Hawthorne: Yes.

Cherpak: Well, you were detached in 1946, the war is over and you remained on inactive duty for about eighteen years and pursued your other interests. What were the circumstances under which you returned to active duty in 1964?

Hawthorne: Yes. I was a professor of Biology at Boston University. I was on the graduate faculty and the undergraduate faculty. I had taught there for seven years and I was due for a sabbatical. As you just mentioned, I was in the Reserves and as a member of the Reserves I had to do two weeks of active duty each year. I was getting ready for a sabbatical from the university. At the time I had been asked to join the Psychological Corporation in New York and I was going to work there with them on preparing exams. So I wanted to get in my two weeks of active duty. So I called CON-1, the medical officer there, and told him who I was and asked if he could arrange for me back to back training duties so that I could cover my duty for two years while I went on sabbatical from Boston University. So he asked me, "Well, what do you do at Boston University?", "I said, "I teach Biology. He said, "What is your specialty?" I said, Cytology and Genetics and, without hesitation, He said, "Oh, I've got just the training duty for you." He said, "down at the medical school in Bethesda, Maryland, they have just made pap smears routine part of women's physicals. As a result, the pap smears are piling up and the pathologists are being swamped. We want to get someone to set up a training course for the corpsmen

in the laboratory to be able to screen out the normals so that the pathologists job in reading pap smears would be a lot less. And so do you think that you could do that in two weeks?" At that time, I didn't think there was anything that I couldn't do, so I said "of course," and anything to get the two weeks of training duty that I needed and I said, "of course, I can do it in the two weeks."

So I went off to the Naval Medical School to set up the course. In the meantime, I have to indicate here that I had become very interested in developing self instructional programs whereby students could learn by themselves in various areas. I had just written a two million dollar proposal and submitted it to the university to set up a self instructional laboratory at Boston University.

Cherpak: In Biology?

Hawthorne: In Biology. But especially in the specialties. When I got to the Naval Medical School, I felt like I had walked into heaven because there they had a television studio where they could make television films; they had a movie studio where they made movies. They had an art department where there were full time artists doing drawings. And they were all set up for self instruction. But they hadn't done anything to apply all of this mechanics to teaching. So I reported to the captain and he told me what I had to do. And then I went to the pathology lab and

started to work with them, and I won't go into all the details, but what I did was, I had all of those people that could work with me to make a television tape. I had slides in which I had them take pictures of the cells to show what was normal and what was not normal. And all of this was put into a audio-visual, and into those visuals we added an audio. In other words, here's a slide showing the beginning of a deterioration of a cell and here's a tape saying this cell is deteriorating, notice the chromosomes are here there and there. So as they looked at the slide they got the instruction and the audio tape. And so we developed the teaching materials during the first week. And then in the second week I put a class through it, and I noticed that when I was giving the test, I noticed that the pap smears were piling up, the questionable ones, so I said to myself, "oh, this can't be." Then I said to the class, "all right, now the next test you have to do with not more than ten percent overcall, not more than ten percent overcall or you don't pass." So that was a little more challenging for them, but it did tighten it up and, to make a long story short, when that class finished I was satisfied that the teaching materials, the visuals accompanied by the audios, did teach corpsmen how to read pap smears, so I left and went up to the captain and I said to him, "Sir, we have the class. I put one class through, but I'm uncomfortable and I think we really should put another couple of classes through to make sure that the teaching materials we have designed actually accomplished what we think they are accomplishing." Well, he

said, "That's easy enough "You have two more weeks of training duty. I'll ask for them to send you here", which they did, and I went down for the second two weeks and spent that time testing the materials and they came out very well. And the pathologist was very pleased and the captain was very pleased. So when I went up for my farewell, which is customary in the navy, to go up and tell the captain your leaving, he said, "Oh, sit down here, Mary, I want to talk to you," and I said, "yes, sir." So I sat down and he said, "I've got a real problem here," he said, (now remember this is during the Vietnam War) he said, "I've got physicians coming in here in their civilian suits. We've got two weeks to train them to become knowledgeable about diseases that are indigenous in South Vietnam and two weeks is all we have and, also, I have some physicians aboard ship that are going to Vietnam that have just had these two weeks and need more training now. How can, if you had it to do, how can I develop a training program to teach these physicians to become aware of what they are going to need in Vietnam?" And I said, "Well, that's easy, captain. You just package it." And so he said, "What do you mean by package it?" So then I said, "This is essentially what we've done in this pap smear course and as we use the visuals that we can make from slides showing the organism and audio tape telling what the organism is and then we can put with that some pictures of slides that they have and some papers, you know, research papers and we make one package on each disease, "Oh," he says, "You can do that." And I said, "Well, given the time," but

I said, "I'm sorry about that, captain. I'm on my way to New York." Oh, no you're not on your way to New York. Don't get your things packed." So thereupon I was called back on active duty to go to the Naval Medical School in Bethesda, Maryland, and during that time we developed what we called the global medicine synopsis series, and I called it global medicine because while this time we were in the tropics we might some other time be in the Arctic, and so I called it the global medicine. And in that series we developed about thirty six packages and these packages the physicians that came into the medical school for the two weeks they would sit by the slide and listen to the tape, write down the questions and we have an authority in tropical medicine there, a Captain Amberson, who would come and answer their questions. And then we sent these packages aboard ship so that the men who were physicians that were aboard ship could listen, observe the slides and listen and be at least acclimatized to the fact that a fever in this country means something different than what it means in Southeast Asia. So that's what I was doing at the Naval Medical School.

Now I did one other thing there that I don't know whether you're interested in it or not. But I said to the captain, "We did a self instruction program in the laboratory diagnosis of malaria," and so when I got that done I went to the captain, the pathologist, and I said, "Listen, we have these youngsters, these lab people, in here and they accomplish a lot." Now why don't you let me go over to the local community college and arrange for

them to go over there and get their academic work and when they get through here they will have their academic credit and they will be eligible for an associate degree or something of that sort. And I won't tell you who the pathologist was, but he said to me, "Mary, you've got to be some kind of crazy." Yes, he said, "These fellows are only here about four weeks and they are two years at the community college." I said, "No. You know I'm not crazy. When these men are here for the eight weeks, they are in class from 0800 to 1600 hours constantly. Those two year students over there, half of the time are stuffing toilet paper into wire and making things for floats and parades," and I said, "just let me try." Well, when I went over to that community college they said they were thrilled because they said if you will let our students come over to your labs to get the clinical training, we'll let your students come over here and take courses for academic credit.

Cherpak: What community college was that?

Hawthorne: That was Montgomery Community College right there in

Cherpak: Baltimore County.

Hawthorne: Yes, yes, yes. And so that was the beginning of it. And of navy people being able to get academic credit at civilian colleges and now you know the extent of that program, because I



set it up for the physician assistant program and now they're getting academic credit, and I set it up for the Air Force when they were in the Air Force. Oh, I got off on a tangent.

Cherpak: No, that's fine, because you were talking about education and about your work being recalled to active duty. But you were recalled on active duty for seven years, weren't you? From 1964 to 1971. How did that happen? Being extended and extended.

Hawthorne: First of all they called me back for a year when I said to the captain, "we'll package it," and at the end of that year he said to me, "There's the telephone, Mary. You call your dean and tell him I'm going to give you orders for another year here." And he was there, so I called the dean and they did. They made an extension for one more year, so when the year was up I went back to the captain and I said, "My year is up I guess I better get back to Boston. He said, "No, call the dean again, so, finally, the dean said to me, "Mary, anytime you want to come back to Boston University there is a job here for you, but I can not keep that open because we've got to have someone in there" and so then I told the captain, "forget it." I'll give you (these aren't his words, paraphrased of course), but he said, "we'll prepare you permanent duty orders." And that's when they signed me up permanently and I had to, I couldn't have an

absence, I had to resign, of course, from the university and then I stayed on until 1971.

Cherpak: Now, did you stay on at the Naval Medical School in Bethesda?

Hawthorne: Yes.

Cherpak: And what did you do during that time frame?

Hawthorne: Oh, well, more of the same thing. When we were doing the global medicine synopsis series and for the physicians, we had training programs for continuing education of allied health professionals, nurses, physical therapists, and so on. Those weren't self instruction; those were two week classes coming in. I was head of the academic department at the Naval Medical School there. And so I had to plan the training for the continuing educational professionals, the original training for the corpsmen and so on and, so that's what I was doing during those seven years.

Cherpak: 1964-1971.

Hawthorne: 1971. Now the problem that came up was actually, at heart, I was still a professor of Biology and now I was a commander. I had made commander. What I didn't know was that

when you're in the regular Navy, I should have shipped over to the regular Navy but I was so involved with my job that I didn't think of it, and I didn't know that there was a thing called a blue book that told when people moved from commander to captain. I didn't know anything about the blue book and you know, most of the people who were in there regular navy, they knew all this, but because they had come up through the ranks and so on. But I didn't know it. So then one day I was sitting at my desk and I got a letter from BUPERS--unless sooner promoted you will be returned to the Inactive Reserves. I looked at this, unless sooner promoted? What is this all about? I never failed anything in my life before? What happened was there had been meetings, you know, advancements in ranks that had been going on, and I was passed over, but the reason was here I was a commander, with maybe, by that time, eight years of active service, all of it educational. But I was coming up against commanders who had active duty overseas and all kinds of ribbons and so on. And here was this little commander of Medical Service Corps with six or eight years of active duty. Well, I got passed over. So I went to the captain and I said, "Captain, look at this, "You know," I said, "What did I do wrong?" and he said, "You didn't do anything," and then he told me that. So they did everything. Even the Head of the Naval Reserve, at that time, went to bat for me for captain, and they said the only way you'll make captain will be to get your senator to put in a bill and my senator, he

didn't know me from Adam, and I didn't, so that's why I was returned to inactive service.

Cherpak: Inactive reserves.

Hawthorne: It was inactive service.

Cherpak: You were retired to that.

Hawthorne: Retired to inactive service. So then, what do you think happened to me then? When the Air Force found out that I was leaving the Navy as head of the academic department, they called up and said we need the same thing down here. We want to set up a physician assistant program.

Cherpak: Where was that?

Hawthorne: Shepard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Texas. And I went down there as Educational Advisor to the Commander, and I did the same thing for the Air Force I'd done for the Navy.

Cherpak: But in a civilian capacity.

Hawthorne: To set up the physician assistants program.

Cherpak: In a civilian capacity.

Hawthorne: In a civilian capacity. Well, civil service. But I was so far from home and I was always so far away from home that I kept trying to get home. Trying to get home. Then, finally, . . .

Cherpak: How many years did you stay in Texas?

Hawthorne: I didn't stay there very long because I'm trying to get home, you know. I'm moving around. I have no roots anywhere. Finally, the American Association of Community Junior Colleges, they were putting on a project to study what community colleges could do in terms of primary healthcare and they asked me to come up there.

Cherpak: Where was that?

Hawthorne: That was in Washington, D.C. And so I went there for a year and worked on that project and we published it. I have the publication here that I prepared during that stay. It is entitled Community College and Primary Healthcare by Mary Hawthorne, and then when I finished with that, I went to Michigan State and was head of the Physician Assistant Program at Michigan State.

Cherpak: Now what did that consist of?

Hawthorne: Well, I had already set up the physician assistant program for the Navy and for the Air Force and what happened was that one of the men that was involved with the physician assistant program, the head of his physician assistant program, was in an automobile accident and they were looking for someone to come up there and take over that program for just a year and so that's why I went out there to Kalamazoo. Now what did I do after Kalamazoo? Oh, that's when I went to the . . .

Cherpak: You went to the affiliated education program service, office of academic affairs, Veterans Administration.

Hawthorne: That's where I went. Veterans administration.

Cherpak: So, you went back as a civil servant to the Veterans Administration. And what did you do there?

Hawthorne: At the Veterans Administration?

Cherpak: Right.

Hawthorne: Ok, let's see. I was doing for the Veterans Administration essentially what I had been doing for the Air Force and the Navy, setting up clinical programs. Here again, the Veterans Administration has many hospitals and, of course, those are clinical settings. Community and junior colleges are

always in need of clinical settings to send their students. So I was head of their affiliated education services for the Veterans Administration in which I was getting community colleges to send their students to the Veterans Administration hospitals and providing care there, and then I retired from the VA.

Cherpak: That sounds like a fascinating career, both your return to the Navy and your post-Navy career which went on for about thirteen years. I wanted to ask you a few questions about the Navy. You retired in 1971. Was there a ceremony in connection with your retirement?

Hawthorne: Oh, yes, there was a big ceremony. Oh, let me tell you about that. See, I had worked closely with them, they had a whole photography department there. And I had worked with them. And they had a big ceremony and the whole thing. I was piped aboard. It was a big ceremony and here's the photographers around taking pictures all around. And the next day the head of photography came to me and said, "Mary, I don't know how to tell you this, but, you know what, there was no film in that camera. I don't have one single picture of my retirement ceremony. Not one.

Cherpak: Oh, no. Oh, for heaven's sake. How awful.

Hawthorne: And it was, believe me, you know my heart was going like this and I was trying to look natural for the photographers and everything. I have not one picture of my retirement ceremony.

Cherpak: Oh, what a gaff. That's unfortunate.

Hawthorne: Yes. And if you don't believe me, I'll give you the name of the captain. Captain Stover and he's in California somewhere.

Cherpak: But you did receive some medals during your naval career. Do you remember what they were?

Hawthorne: They're all listed there. But the biggest one is the Navy Commendation Medal.

Cherpak: You got the World War II Victory, the American Campaign, the Naval Reserve medal, the Armed Forces Reserve medal, and the Meritorious Service medal.

Hawthorne: That Meritorious Service Medal was awarded to me at that retirement ceremony. And not one picture, not one. Typical Navy.



Cherpak: Oh, that's unfortunate. Now, just to double back, when you got out of the WAVES in 1946, you were in the inactive reserves, I believe, because there weren't any active reserves for women.

Hawthorne: Inactive reserve and they have to do two weeks of training duty. I was in the research reserve unit at MIT. We met every week at MIT. I think it was every week, or was it every month?

Cherpak: Probably every month.

Hawthorne: Every month at MIT. And then we did those two weeks of training duty and it was research reserve, so we had, it was a large group; they had physicists, and chemists, and biologists, and engineers. What the research reserve did, I think, you might find to be interesting. They would get us together and when we went on active duty we would go to some place like, let's say, Brookhaven. That's where, at that time, they were doing the atomic research. And we were all scientists, so the program was, navy men would come forward with problems that they were having in connection with their research and if it were a biological problem, the biologist would get together and go over that and make recommendations. So it was all research and that one, when you see the commander on the boat there, that's when we went to the unit at URI and the oceanography service and so they had navy

people there telling them about what their problems were. Those reserve tours of duty were very interesting.

Cherpak: That sounds fascinating. Now were you in those inactive reserve units from 1946 until your recall in 1964? Was there a break at any point?

Hawthorne: I was in the inactive reserve for that whole period. But I was only in the MIT unit at the time, during the time I was at BU.

Cherpak: Oh, OK.

Hawthorne: The other units were not research reserve units.

Cherpak: OK. There were other units. But you still had to spend your two weeks in the summer or whatever time frame.

Hawthorne: Two weeks; it would be in the summer because I was teaching.

Cherpak: Obviously. Did you receive a pension from the navy?

Hawthorne: Oh, yes.

Cherpak: So you do have a pension from the navy. Have you maintained any formal connections, or informal connections, with WAVES organizations, or with the navy over the years?

Hawthorne: Well, as you can see. Oh, it's not here. I'm a member of the Naval War College Foundation. I have joined the WAVES unit, the Oceanstate WAVES Unit. I belong to the Reserve Officers Association. I belong to the Military Orders of World Wars and I belong to the Retired Officers Association, in addition to the Naval War College and the WAVES.

Cherpak: That's great. Well, you are maintaining a lot of service connections. How would you sum up your naval career if you had to?

Hawthorne: I'd have to think about it.

Cherpak: Positive. Negative.

Hawthorne: In answer, it's very, very difficult for me to come up with a single word that would summarize my naval career in a single word. I would have to say that as I look back over all of these assignments, all of the various people I have had the opportunity to work with, to get to know, to see what they are doing and to learn from them I would have to say that the whole

career was exciting, challenging, satisfying and I think I wouldn't trade it in for any other you could possibly think of.

Cherpak: Well, that's wonderful. Very, very positive statements. You had a very interesting civilian career as well a lot of time in academia teaching, and we had kind of jumped from one portion of your naval career, from the WAVES in 1946 up to your recall in 1964. But there's some time in between that. And I wonder if you could hit some of the highlights of your civilian career and your graduate studies at Michigan State. Just fill us in on what you did during the interim between 1946 and 1964, that eighteen year stretch.

Hawthorne: Yes. Well, when I came out of the navy in 1946 from St. Albans, from there I went back to Altoona for one year and taught in the undergraduate center at Altoona. But I had the GI bill opportunity. So with that I went off to the University of Minnesota first, because I felt that I wanted to know more. I knew I was a good teacher then, but I wanted to increase my knowledge. So I went off to the University of Minnesota to work on a doctorate degree with a special design for teaching, not research, special design for teaching. And I was there for a year at the University of Minnesota and it was an excellent experience. But, in the meantime, the head of the Biology department at Michigan State came and I was talking with him and he told me that Michigan State had already designed a course,

specifically designed to train teachers of Biology. I said, "that's what I'm looking for." So I transferred from University of Minnesota to Michigan State, and there is where I got my doctorate degree.

Cherpak: In Biology?

Hawthorne: In Biology, in the teaching of Biology and although for a Ph.D., as you know, you have to do original research and my research there was dealing with at that time again cytology and genetics, so my doctoral dissertation was dealing with the effects of antibiotics on mitosis. Well, the reason I did that is at that time antibiotics were just beginning to be used in medicine and the question was coming up, well, what effect are these antibiotics having upon the cells of the human body? And I picked that up. I happened to pick an antibiotic which was a fungicide and that's what my doctoral dissertation was in and that's what that publication was for. So when I completed the work at Michigan State, I got my degree in August.

Cherpak: Of what year?

Hawthorne: 1950. And there wasn't time to look for a position. But a friend of mine, he was head of the Botany Department at Penn State, he wanted to go on a sabbatical to get his degree. And he asked me if I would come and replace him for one year

while he went on his sabbatical. So that was a wonderful answer. I went right from my degree into a job, temporary, but into a job. And when that year was over, my sister was talking to the dean down there at the University of Rhode Island and the dean said, "Oh, Mary's doing a swell job, but we don't think we've got enough money to keep her here." And Anna said, "Oh, just pay her anything. She's anxious to get home. Money doesn't matter." So they came up and offered me something. I can't remember what. But, in the meantime, Penn State, where I had left, had been asking me to come back and they offered me a great deal more than Rhode Island, and so I took that. I went back to Penn State to teach after I got my doctoral degree.

Cherpak: And after you finished the year for the other college.

Hawthorne: The year at URI, then I was back at Penn State teaching and I was there until Penn State to Boston University-- that's it and then that's when Vietnam came up. I left Boston University and went back on active duty.

Cherpak: OK, so you've taught at about three different universities during that eighteen year time frame. You obviously enjoyed teaching.

Hawthorne: Yes, very, very much.

Cherpak: I think you consider that your forte.

Hawthorne: In fact, here I get into all kinds of volunteer work. And I have volunteered in the tax aide program, you know, when we go and do people's taxes of low income and elderly for free. But sometimes when I'm doing that I find myself being a little pedantic, and I'll say to them, you know, you can take the teacher out of the classroom, but you can't take the classroom out of the teacher.

Cherpak: Well, you're very, very involved here in many activities.

Hawthorne: Yes. Well, that's my nature to get involved, I guess.

Cherpak: That's great. But do you have any more comments on either your naval career or your civilian career before we wrap up the interview?

Hawthorne: My goodness. I think I've given you about all the comments I can possibly give you. I don't know of anymore to add, except to say it has been very challenging and exciting experience all through.

Cherpak: Well, I thank you very much for granting me this interview. We will have it transcribed and then give you a copy, and add it to our collection of WAVES interviews. Thank you.



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