

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE, NEWPORT, RI

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

HISTORY OF THE WAVES

HISTORY
OF THE
WAVES

NO. 66

MARY WINTER MURPHY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

1998

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
THE HISTORY OF THE WAVES

INTERVIEWEE: MARY WINTER MURPHY
INTERVIEWER: EVELYN M. CHERPAK
SUBJECT: THE HISTORY OF THE WAVES
DATE: JUNE 5, 1998

EMC: This is the first oral history interview with Mary Murphy, who lives on 59 Walcott Avenue in Jamestown, Rhode Island. Today's date is June 5, 1998, and I'm conducting the interview at her home. I'd like to thank you, Mary, for cooperating with our program on the WAVES in World War II and consenting to be interviewed. I'd like to begin the interview by asking you where and when you were born.

MM: I was born in Boston, Massachusetts, April 2, 1921.

EMC: Mary, what did your father do for a living?

MM: My father was in the paper business in Boston, Massachusetts.

EMC: And your mother?

MM: My mother was a homemaker, and very active in everything -- Girl Scouts, and school PTA. She'd been a teacher, and got me through my Latin and Algebra.

EMC: Which is good. It's always helpful to have a teacher in the house. Did you have any brothers or sisters?

MM: I have two sisters. I'm in the middle.

EMC: Where did you graduate from high school and when?

MM: Needham High School in 1939.

EMC: So you lived outside of Boston.

MM: Yes.

EMC: Did you attend college or have any advanced training?

MM: I went to Guilford College in North Carolina for a year, and I went to the Boston School of Occupational Therapy for three years. It was normally a four year program, but due to the war it was accelerated, and they did four years in three. We went summers.

EMC: Oh, yes. So that was a very intensive program. When did you graduate from there, the School of Occupational Therapy?

MM: March 1944.

EMC: Okay. So the war was in full swing at that time. Did your family have any Navy connections at all?

MM: No, none.

EMC: Were any of your friends or relatives in the service?

MM: Well, I had friends from high school who went into the service.

EMC: Men and women?

MM: Men mostly. I didn't really know any women that were in the service. I had one friend whose sister went through Smith College, and then I think she was in Naval Intelligence and stationed in New York City.

EMC: To double back a little bit, where were you when Pearl Harbor was attacked in December '41?

MM: I was going to the Boston School of Occupational Therapy in

Boston.

EMC: Do you remember your reaction to that?

MM: I remember my father was driving me into Boston with a friend of his. And I remember them talking saying, "Well, it's not going to amount to anything." And they were wrong.

EMC: Yes, they certainly were. It did amount to something. Did you keep up with news about the war before you enlisted in the Navy?

MM: Oh, yes.

EMC: How did you hear about the WAVES?

MM: I don't know. It seems like I always knew about the WAVES. Because I think I even went into the occupational therapy field because I knew the Navy could use us.

EMC: Oh, isn't that interesting.

MM: I think. This is all so long ago.

EMC: Right.

MM: But I think I had this planned.

EMC: So that was at the back of your mind -- choosing your occupation so that it would be practical. What was attractive about the Navy, let's say, vis-à-vis the WACS or the SPARS or the Marines. Was there anything that attracted you more to the Navy than the other services?

MM? Well, I liked the philosophy of the Navy, what little I knew about it. And I grew up -- I've always grown up -- lived by the water. And I think I didn't want to leave the water. And I thought if I go into the Navy, I'll be near water. I liked the uniforms. I never thought of going into any other branch of the service. I don't know why. I always wanted to go into the Navy.

EMC: Well, the Navy had a good reputation and seemed to have high standards. When did you enlist?

MM: Oh, gosh.

EMC: What year? Just in general, what year did you decide to join the Navy?

MM: I think it must have been '45. It could have been late in '44. Because there may have been a waiting period by the time I enlisted till they sent me to WAVE Quarters K.

EMC: Yes. There usually was a waiting period of a couple of months.

MM: 5 May 1945.

EMC: And you had just finished school then. But did you work? Were you working after you graduated?

MM: I worked afterwards. Yes.

EMC: And where did you work?

MM: Worcester State Hospital psychiatric facility. And I worked there until I was accepted and went into the Navy.

EMC: And you were an occupational therapist there. Did you enlist in Boston?

MM: Yes.

EMC: Do you remember any of the procedures you had to follow?

MM: Yes. I was scared to death.

EMC: Oh, really? Why were you scared to death?

MM: Well, I was told to arrive at a Navy building on Summer Street in Boston. It must have been the Naval Headquarters of whatever district.

EMC: First Naval District.

MM: It was the First Naval District, and it was really strange. Because a salesman that used to work for my father was administering the exams that we had to take.

EMC: Oh.

MM: And so I went into this room, and there he was. And I didn't know that he was going to be there. And I took this exam, and I was very nervous. And I think I must have been sitting on a leg. Because I got up to take my exam back to this man, and I fell -- I went right down. One of my legs was numb.

EMC: Oh, for heaven sakes.

MM: So, it wasn't a very --

EMC: Graceful --

MM: Graceful entrance to the Navy. But anyway, I had my written

exams, and I had my physical there at Summer Street. And they discovered that I had a heart murmur, which I always knew I had.

EMC: Oh.

MM: I've had it since birth. But they wanted me to see a cardiologist at the Chelsea Naval Hospital the next day. So I went home. And I thought well, I'm never going to get in. They'll never take me. And I went to the Chelsea Naval Hospital the next day. And in those days you had to climb, I think, 90 steps to get into it.

EMC: You'd have a heart murmur after that.

MM: And I thought if there's anything the matter with my heart -
- And so they had made an appointment for me. And I saw this specialist. And he listened. He just listened. He looked at me and listened for a second. And he said, "What's the matter with those people over there at Summer Street. There's absolutely nothing the matter with you." And so I finally attained my goal of being accepted into the Navy.

EMC: And he gave you a clean bill of health after that. Well, that's good. So did you have to wait until you were sworn in a couple of months?

MM: I don't remember. I think I did. Because I know I went back to Worcester and worked. I know they gave me a big party and --

EMC: Going away party.

MM: ID bracelet and all --

EMC: All the rest. Was there any publicity about your joining the WAVES in the local papers?

MM: Yes.

EMC: They usually did that in those days -- gave women some credit. How did your parents feel about your decision to join the Navy? Were they pro? Were they con?

MM: Well, I remember going to my father and saying, "What shall I do?" you know, way at the very beginning. And he said, "That's something I can't answer. You're going to have to make that decision for yourself." My mother said, "If I were your age, I'd go with you."

EMC: Oh. So she was --

MM: So they were --

EMC: Very positive about it and let you do what you wanted to do. Well, you joined. I think your paperwork said you finally entered the WAVES in May of '45. And when we talked, you mentioned that you went for your basic training to WAVE Quarters K in Washington.

MM: Arlington, Virginia. WAVE Officer Candidate School.

EMC: In Arlington, Virginia. Right. And that was because the U.S. Naval Midshipmen School at Smith had closed by that time. Did you go with a group when you went to Arlington?

MM: No, I didn't. My father put me on the train in Boston. There were two other women that were going, but I didn't know it ahead of time. I think I just met them on the train.

EMC: Probably. Yes.

MM: They were both physical therapists.

EMC: Oh, and you --

MM: And they were going into the Navy at the same time.

EMC: Oh. Interesting. Well, when you got to WAVE Quarters K in Arlington, what were your impressions of it and where were you

billeted?

MM: I was in a barracks. I was terrified.

EMC: Why were you terrified?

MM: Well, I'd never lived in a place with -- I don't know how many women were there. There must have been maybe a hundred. I don't know whether there were 50, 60, or 100. I have no idea. But we came from all over the country, and we were there. We were given uniforms. We lived in --

EMC: An open area?

MM: Open area. I had a bunk. And we went to a mess hall to eat. And we went, I think, maybe in formation. I'm not sure. We did an awful lot of marching in some field.

EMC: Oh, really?

MM: And I remember the men would lean over the fence and kind of gawk at us.

EMC: Oh, really? Were these other Navy men?

MM: Marines. I think there were some Marines out there.

EMC: Probably.

MM: I don't know. Anyway, it was kind of strange. Certainly if you had any big ego, I think it was taken away from you during this process.

EMC: Right. You were all --

MM: And you were sort of leveled out.

EMC: Yes.

MM: And I think it was stressful.

EMC: It was?

MM: I think it was very stressful. Because psychologically, as far as I was concerned, I had the feeling that I might not make it.

EMC: Oh.

MM: And I'd have to go back home. And that was going to kill me.

EMC: Kind of in disgrace.

MM: That was going to kill me. How could I go back to Worcester State Hospital after the big farewell party.

EMC: Right.

MM: And I don't know. I really don't know whether other women felt that way. But I certainly did. And it wasn't until we got that certificate that you knew you were in.

EMC: Right.

MM: And up to the last minute it was a mystery to me.

EMC: Yes. Now were you there for eight weeks?

MM: Gosh. It seemed like forever.

EMC: Normally it was eight weeks for the officers.

MM: Was it eight weeks?

EMC: Yes. Eight weeks of training.

MM: It was in the summer. It was hot.

EMC: Oh, in Washington -- yes.

MM: In Washington.

EMC: With no air conditioning. And, you know, wooden barracks.
Did you go to classes during this time frame?

MM: Oh, yes. And you know I really don't know what we studied.
We studied Navy history, I think, and organization personnel,
ships and aircraft, correspondence, and law.

EMC: Oh, yes.

MM: And how to be an officer.

EMC: And protocol, I guess.

MM: Yes.

EMC: Did you do any aircraft and ship identification?

MM: Yes.

EMC: None of that. They did teach that at Smith.

MM: They did?

EMC: Did you have tests?

MM: Yes, all the time.

EMC: Did you like the marching and drilling?

MM: Not really.

EMC: Did you feel that you adjusted easily to the discipline of military life, or did you find it constraining?

MM: The discipline didn't bother me. It was the uncertainty of how it was all going to end that bothered me, as I remember. That bothered me more than anything.

EMC: Did you make any friends during this time frame that you kept up with after you left WAVE Quarters K?

MM: I think two other people went with me to Great Lakes from WAVE Quarters K. Now I can't remember now who they were. But I was only at Great Lakes a year. It was a very busy place and a huge base. There were two or three huge hospitals at the base. And I moved around the three of them. I didn't stay in one place all the time.

EMC: Oh, yes. You didn't maintain contact at all.

MM: No.

EMC: Did you have any limited time off in boot camp? Do you remember of the eight weeks?

MM: Yes. Because I went to see the WAVE personnel officer -- Medical Service Corps WAVE personnel officer, who had been a teacher of mine. And she was in charge of the women in the Medical Service Corps in the WAVES. And I did go to her office to see her. And I think we had lunch once or something. I think our time off was limited.

EMC: Very limited, yes.

MM: Very limited.

EMC: Right. Because you were kept busy for those eight weeks being indoctrinated. Did anything noteworthy or amusing or outstanding that you can remember happen during your training period?

MM: No. I don't remember anything too much.

EMC: Well, were you selected for the Medical Corps at the

training school?

MM: Well, being an occupational therapist, it was preordained that that's what I'd do.

EMC: Right. Yes.

MM: I knew right from the beginning that I would go into the Medical Service Corps.

EMC: Yes. They were going to use you and your skills and your training in that area. So I assume you didn't really need any other special training because you had work experience, and you had a degree in occupational therapy. Now you mentioned that you were posted to Great Lakes, Illinois after you graduated. This must have been in '45 -- maybe July '45 -- about that time. Did you go there directly from WAVE Quarters K, or did you go home first to Boston?

MM: I think I went directly. I'm not sure about that. But I don't remember going home.

EMC: Right. Yes. Probably you went directly there. And you mentioned you were there for a year. And what kind of living situation did you experience there?

MM: Oh, we had deluxe WAVE officers quarters with our own rooms.

EMC: Single rooms?

MM: Single rooms. Beautiful living room, patio. It was built for us. And our own chef who used to make Baked Alaska.

EMC: Wow! The Navy fed you well.

MM: It was something I'd never experienced before. It was like living in a lovely little inn.

EMC: That was marvelous. You really lucked out compared to some of the other women. Now what exactly did you do in these three different Naval hospitals at Great Lakes that you were rotated about?

MM: Well, I remember the first -- It was a huge, huge base. In order to move from one area to another you had to take transportation. I was in the general hospital I think first. We worked in a rehab unit, working with the PT's and the OT's. And I'm not sure they had speech therapists then. I don't think they did.

EMC: What exactly does an occupational therapist do? How would you rehabilitate these people or train them?

MM: We worked in different areas. My specialty was psychiatric. But I think I worked in physical disabilities in the Navy some. And what we would do -- we'd try to give somebody who had broken a leg or had a physical injury of some kind something to do that interested him that would use the muscles and the joints to strengthen them and get them well faster. This is simplistic.

EMC: No. That's fine.

MM: Then one of the hospitals in that compound was for brain injuries. And I really hadn't had too much experience in working with people with head injuries and the brain. I learned you know, sort of on the job. And then I can't remember what the third hospital was that I went to. I can't remember any rhyme or reason for going from one to another. While I was at the first one, we had a visit from a woman who was a weaver. And she had a studio. And I swore I'd never forget her name, but I've forgotten it. She had a studio in -- where they have the Kentucky Derby.

EMC: Louisville.

MM: Louisville, Kentucky -- just outside of Louisville. And she came. And she invited us all to come to the Kentucky Derby that spring. That must have been the second year because they're in May.

EMC: Yes. They are in May.

MM: And that must have been the end of my time there. Well, six or seven of us went on the train. And she put us up. Her school was not in session. And she had these little cottages up and down this mountainside. And she put us all up. And she had a dinner the first night we got there and served us all mint juleps in silver mint julep cups. She was a great lady.

EMC: She must have been.

MM: She had done weaving for Roosevelt in the White House. Her name may come to me.

EMC: Now how interesting.

MM: But we stayed all the weekend. We went to the Kentucky Derby. Margaret Truman was there. Was Truman the President then?

EMC: '46. Yes, he would have been.

MM: This was '45.

EMC: No. You --

MM: '46.

EMC: '46 it would have to be -- yes.

MM: It was '46. It was Truman then.

EMC: Sure.

MM: But she had done the weaving for the Roosevelts in the White House. She was quite famous.

EMC: Oh, she must have been.

MM: And she came to the Naval Hospital at Great Lakes to work with the occupational therapists.

EMC: And teach them weaving.

MM: Well, we all knew weaving.

EMC: Oh, you did? Oh.

MM: But she came for a workshop.

EMC: Or something, yes.

MM: She was a fascinating lady.

EMC: Oh, well, that's very nice that you folks made that contact.

MM: Her first name was Lou. And I cannot think of her last name. Well, we had a great weekend. Her name was Lou Tate.

EMC: Oh, it's most unusual.

MM: Then went back. And then shortly after that I got what they called 24 hour orders. I had to be in USNH at Samson, New York, within 24 hours.

EMC: Oh, my heavens. Well, can I just ask you --

MM: I'm going ahead of time. Yes.

EMC: A few more questions about Great Lakes. You said you were there for a year. Was there anything that you disliked about your job there, your assignment?

MM: I didn't like the climate. I was sick a lot. I was sick there with strep infections. And I think it was before Penicillin.

EMC: Oh. I think Penicillin -- we had it in the war.

MM: A little later? No? I don't know. Anyway, I was awfully sick. They had to put me in the hospital.

EMC: Oh, really? Now that's something.

MM: And they called it the strep belt -- Chicago and that area.

EMC: Very cold.

MM: That bothered me. I didn't like being sick. The climate was absolutely awful in the winter.

EMC: Yes, it is.

MM: And was it hot in the summer. But we used to go on our days off into Chicago. And we'd go on what they called the Skokie Line. And because it was after and during part of the war -- I don't think V.J. Day had happened yet when I was there.

EMC: Well, V.J. Day was August '45.

MM: Well, I was in Great Lakes on V.E. Day.

EMC: No. You couldn't -- Wait a minute.

MM: V something day.

EMC: Wait a minute. If you joined in May '45, V.E. Day was May '45 -- about May 8th, '45.

MM: Darn it. I seem to remember being there during that time. Well, never mind.

EMC: Yes, from what you say -- See, it says you were in Worcester State Hospital from June '44 to May '45. So V.E. --

MM: It must have been V.J. Day that I was there.

EMC: V.J. Day you would have been in Great Lakes in August of '45. Yes.

MM: That must have been when it was.

EMC: About August 15th.

MM: Well anyway, we used to take the Skokie line into Chicago. And there were old trains and old cars. And they had little pot bellied stoves. And I know everybody from the base would try to get on a car that had a pot bellied stove. Otherwise you froze.

EMC: Yes.

MM: In the winter.

EMC: Yes.

MM: But Chicago was a great place to go on time off, liberty, because of the wonderful restaurants. And the Chicago people were great to service people. If you were in uniform, you didn't pay for a taxi. They were free.

EMC: Oh, that's fabulous.

MM: Yes.

EMC: And did the civilians that you met on the street in Chicago -- Or if you didn't meet any, how did they treat you?

MM: It was a very service friendly place.

EMC: Oh, good.

MM: Yes.

EMC: Service friendly then. Because some of the women said that the civilians treated them very well when they saw them in

uniform. So you went there for social activities. Did you date at all during this time frame? Was there any men available, or were they all sick in the hospital?

MM: I dated some, but not a lot. And it seems as if we went out -- four or five women would go together. We'd go in and have dinner. And we'd go to an the opera or the theater or something.

EMC: Yes. Because most of the men were in the service. And if you didn't meet anybody on the base, you know that wasn't handicapped, then that was that. I imagine you lived with other WAVES who were not in occupational therapy or not in the Navy Medical Corps.

MM: Yes. We all lived together -- everybody did.

EMC: So there was a complete mix of people in all different occupations. Did you ever make any contacts there that you kept in contact with over the years?

MM: Yes. I kept in touch with another occupational therapist for years -- in fact, up until just a few years ago. And with a girl that came from Kansas.

EMC: Oh. Interesting. That's good. I guess many of the WAVES did. Now I had asked you the negatives of your job, and it was

the climate you said. But what about the positives? Was there anything positive about your assignment at Great Lakes?

MM: Well, it was a brand new world for me. I'd never experienced anything like this before so it was exciting. And you felt you were helping. You felt you were doing something helpful. That's one of the reasons I went into the Navy, I think a strong patriotic feeling. I think I felt badly I didn't get in sooner.

EMC: Well, you couldn't have because of your education.

MM: Anyway, it was exciting. And I loved it.

EMC: Oh, good. That's great. So the initial apprehension of the basic training evaporated after that which was great. Now you mentioned you were in Great Lakes for a year, and then you got this 24 hour orders. And can you tell us about that?

MM: Well, the patients at USNH at Samson on Lake Geneva in New York were all diagnosed with TB. They had all contracted TB during their time in the service.

EMC: Oh. Was this a Naval hospital?

MM: This was a Naval hospital.

EMC: Up in the Finger Lakes.

MM: Up in the Finger Lakes, near Geneva, New York. All the servicemen and women who had TB who lived east of the Mississippi were at Samson -- U.S. Naval Hospital, Samson, New York. And the ones west of the Mississippi were at Long Beach, California.

EMC: Oh.

MM: So I got these orders.

EMC: Why 24 hours?

MM? Because I understand that the patients, a large group of patients at Samson had written their Congressman and were dissatisfied with their rehabilitation. They felt nothing was being done for them in the way of preparing them for life after this. And so from all over the country, I think there were six or seven of us that got these 24 hour orders. I was the only one from Great Lakes. But an educational officer -- teacher was sent, two or three OT's, some PT's, and I think maybe two teachers. We all arrived the same time.

EMC: Isn't that something. How did you ever get there? Was it train again?

MM: I went by train. I got on a train in Chicago.

EMC: You had to go by train to get there -- yes.

MM: The Navy gave me my tickets and my orders.

EMC: It's hard to get to Lake Geneva, New York, I would think.

MM: Yes, I know. It is hard.

EMC: Out in the middle of nowhere.

MM: I just went.

EMC: Yes.

MM: You just do what you're told. And, of course, we all arrived there. And I don't think we were terribly welcomed. We weren't greeted with open arms because of the way we got there.

EMC: Right.

MM: I don't think the Commanding Officer was too happy about the situation.

EMC: Yes. Because it reflected badly on him.

MM: But anyway, we were there. The Navy was not known for its experimental use of medication in those days. And at Samson they started using streptomycin, which was a new drug for the treatment of tuberculosis. And I worked on two wards. I worked on the ward they were using the streptomycin, and I worked on the control ward where they weren't using it. And it was sad. And it was scary because people died.

EMC: Yes.

MM: And the chaplain that I had gotten to know quite well died. And an enlisted WAVE that I knew (her father was a headmaster of a school I went to) died while I was there. And it was very sad.

EMC: Oh, my heavens. Now, was she working there?

MM: She was a patient.

EMC: Oh. She was a patient.

MM: She was a patient.

EMC: Oh. All these were patients.

MM: The chaplain wasn't. He and I were working there.

EMC: Well, it must have been dangerous for you too, because you may have contracted it.

MM: Well, you know, in those days there wasn't much you could do. I remember the doctor saying, "Get out in the sunshine" for at least ten or 15 minutes a day because the sun is a disinfectant -- the ultraviolet rays, I guess. And they had something in the elevators that was supposed to disinfect you.

EMC: Oh.

MM: Patients had to be at a certain level before they'd give them liberty.

EMC: Oh.

MM: And I think that a lot of them wore masks.

EMC: Yes. You probably would have to wear a mask I would think.

MM: Yes. It was tough. And most of the patients that I knew had been prisoners of war in Japan. And they had worked in steel mills. And they had walked them to the mills in the snow without adequate clothing. And then they worked in the steel mills in great heat. And then they'd march them out sometimes in ice and

snow. And with months of that with no good nutrition and rest, they were candidates for TB.

EMC: Good Lord. Yes.

MM: And being so --

EMC: Weakened.

MM: Overworked and weakened. And one man showed me his back and chest. It was just all pitted with burns from the from shoveling stuff into the --

EMC: The fires. Yes.

MM: But it was tough. These men suffered.

EMC: Oh, they certainly did.

MM: And they were bitter. A lot of them were very bitter, but very appreciative of whatever we could do for them. And I was only there eight months.

EMC: Oh, you were.

MM: They closed the hospital.

EMC: Oh, really?

MM: And --

EMC: Why did they close it?

MM: They turned it into a VA Hospital.

EMC: Oh. Well, were these patients sent elsewhere then?

MM: I don't know. I was sent elsewhere.

EMC: You were sent elsewhere.

MM: Some of them may have stayed there because they were all --

EMC: Yes, veterans.

MM: And I spent most of my time -- I was trying to develop a vocational rehab program. And I went to Bausch & Lomb and Eastman Kodak. I talked to Rotary people. And I was trying to get small assembly processes that we could bring in for the patients to do.

EMC: I see.

MM: And then when they were discharged, they could go into the plant and work. And I had a great time. It was a fascinating experience. They gave me time to go do this.

EMC: Sure.

MM: And I wrote up the whole program and presented it to the CO. And a week later he said, "This is great, but we're closing. And you're not going to be here."

EMC: Oh, gosh.

MM: I got my orders right after that. It had taken me five or six months to do this.

EMC: Sure. And you had a lot of public contact then.

MM: I really felt it was successful and we were going to get somewhere.

EMC: Right. Oh, dear.

MM: So that was pretty frustrating.

EMC: Right. All your work kind of gone to naught.

MM: But --

EMC: So did they ever bring in these processes and --

MM: Not while I was there.

EMC: No.

MM: Now whether the Veteran's Administration picked up on any of it, I don't know.

EMC: They may have implemented it. You don't know.

MM: Because all the information was there that I had gotten, and all the contacts and everything.

EMC: But you did all the legwork.

MM: I loved doing it. It was fun.

EMC: To institute that.

MM: It was fun.

EMC: Yes. It sounds like it.

MM: It wasn't fancy work, you know. It was basic.

EMC: Yes. You weren't in the hospital all the time. You were outside. Well, that sounded great. Where did they barracks you at that time?

MM: We had a wing of the BOQ.

EMC: Oh.

MM: And I don't know if you're familiar with Geneva, New York, or Samson.

EMC: Not at all.

MM: But I was there in the winter. We got snowed in.

EMC: Yes.

MM: We couldn't get to the hospital. I mean we couldn't walk. It was just fierce snowdrifts.

EMC: It was that bad.

MM: And they had to bring food over on sleds to feed us. And it was kind of interesting.

EMC: Yes. It was another harsh climate, though.

MM: But I loved it. It was right on the lake, and it was just gorgeous -- just beautiful.

EMC: Oh, I'm sure it was scenic, very beautiful.

MM: We didn't get away much; there was gas rationing.

EMC: Yes.

MM: I didn't have a car. A lot of people didn't. And we rode bicycles everywhere, all around that area on our time off. And it was just gorgeous.

EMC: Sure. Wonderful exercise, too.

MM: We played a lot of bridge. Because you couldn't go anywhere. There was no place to go.

EMC: There was no place to go, I guess. You were stuck in the middle of nowhere in a way. So you had to make your own entertainment.

MM: Yes.

EMC: About how many women were there? How many other WAVES? Do you know -- have any idea?

MM: I don't know. I'd say 30 or 40.

EMC: Oh, yes.

MM: And then nurses. There were lots of nurses there.

EMC: Navy nurses.

MM: Yes.

EMC: Oh, so you had a good mix of people there which is good.

MM: Yes.

EMC: So were there any negatives to the job, or the assignment?

MM: No. I liked it. Well, the only negative was the fear of getting TB.

EMC: Yes, I can imagine.

MM: And I've always tested positive. Any time they give me a

test now I test positive because I was exposed.

EMC: Yes. So in other words, you're carrying the germ.

MM: I guess so. A lot of other people are too.

EMC: Are too, yes. As long as it doesn't develop. Were there any negatives about the job?

MM: I don't think so. Well, the negative was that I wasn't able to implement my program.

EMC: That's right. Yes. That's too bad. But that's the way things go, I guess. Well, your next assignment from your list here is Brooklyn, New York. How did you get there?

MM: They sent me to USNH Brooklyn because they didn't know what to do with me. No one had anticipated this closing down of Samson. I went to USNH Brooklyn. And I knew Brooklyn was closing.

EMC: Oh, the Brooklyn Naval Hospital?

MM: I think I was only there six or seven weeks.

EMC: Oh, really?

MM: I wasn't there very long.

EMC: Oh, for heaven sakes.

MM: It was very low key because it was closing. And I had a corpsman that worked in our department. He put the local Brooklyn paper on my desk every morning. And it absolutely terrified me because everybody was being killed, or raped or assaulted on the streets in Brooklyn, you know.

EMC: Way back then?

MM: 'So we didn't dare go anywhere.

EMC: Oh, yes. You must have been there in about '46 after the war was over.

MM: Well, it wasn't anything to do with the war.

EMC: No. I know. But I'm just saying it was Brooklyn.

MM: It was in a bad neighborhood.

EMC: Oh, I see.

MM: The hospital and the Navy yard weren't in very delightful

neighborhoods.

EMC: No.

MM: They were dangerous.

EMC: Yes. So you stayed put within your compound.

MM: Well, I had a friend. I think she was an education officer. She was a goer. And she loved to go to hockey games. So we went to the hockey games.

EMC: Oh, that's interesting. But did they put you in barracks on the base?

MM: Yes, we were quartered in a wing of the Hospital.

EMC: Interesting. Well, that was a short stay.

MM: I don't remember doing much work while I was in Brooklyn.

EMC: Probably just helping in the closing down of the hospital. Well, you were in the Navy after the war was over. Obviously they needed you. Because so many of the women who were both enlisted and officers served for the war, the duration and six months, and then were mustered out. But you stayed in after for quite awhile.

Now your next assignment was Jacksonville, Florida. And was this directly from Brooklyn?

MM: Yes.

EMC: And can you tell us about that assignment? Where were you assigned in Jacksonville?

MM: I was assigned to the Naval Hospital at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Florida. And I got there, and there was an OT department being run by a civilian occupational therapist who, I think, kind of resented me coming in. She'd been there for a long time. It was hard for me, too, because it was like a hobby shop.

EMC: Oh.

MM: And it wasn't what I think it should have been.

EMC: Oh.

MM: So we had kind of a tough time for a few months.

EMC: Oh, you must have in easing in.

MM: Yes. And the Navy also really didn't know what to do with me

there. Because they'd had this woman doing what they wanted her to do. The staff used to come down and use the photo lab. And it was a very well equipped occupational therapy department, but it was being used by the staff as much as by the patients.

EMC: Oh, I see.

MM: And on off hours it was open for staff.

EMC: Right.

MM: And that sort of bothered me. Because I felt that I should be working with patients and helping people that needed help.

EMC: Right.

MM: Anyway, the Navy sort of settled that question because they made me WAVE Separation Officer. And they made me Insurance and Education Officer.

EMC: Oh.

MM: And they made me -- what other thing was there -- there were three things that I had additional duty: Benefits and Insurance officer, WAVES Separation officer, and Civil Readjustment.

EMC: Oh.

MM: But I was still Officer in Charge of the Occupational Therapy Department. But they gave me so many other things to do that it was tough.

EMC: Yes. You couldn't spend that much time doing work in your field that was needed. And you said you had enough patients that needed this kind of help.

MM: Oh, yes. You know at air station there were tremendous amounts of accidents.

EMC: Were there still wartime casualties there?

MM: Well, people were still flying off and on carriers, and flying from the field. I think when I was at Jacksonville is where they were having the Berlin airlift.

EMC: That must have been '48 or something.

MM: Well, I was there from '47 to '51.

EMC: Oh, a good four years.

MM: I was there five years -- '47, '48, '49, '50, '51.

EMC: Yes, okay. That was a long time, a long assignment. Well, throughout this five year period, did you have all these additional duties, as well as being Director or Head of the OT Department? Did you have any help or assistance?

MM: In the OT Department I had plenty of help. There were -- There was another Wave. She was a registered OT, and I was a registered OT. And we had corpsmen. We had four or five corpsmen. We had corps WAVES. I started a Gray Lady Volunteer Program.

EMC: Oh, that's great. That's a good idea.

MM: Yes.

EMC: Fantastic. Where were you domiciled during that time?

MM: Well, we lived in a wing of the BOQ.

EMC: Five year period? Oh, okay. Were there many WAVES there, and maybe nurses? Was it a full complement?

MM: The nurses lived in Navy nurse quarters. And I lived with the aerologists (now meteorologists), personnel officers, fiscal, payroll, etc. The civilian OTR lived in nurses' quarters.

EMC: Oh.

MM: I'm trying to think where the PT's lived. I don't think they lived where I did either. Anyway, I lived with the women that were working with the aircraft up in the tower.

EMC: The control operators, or aerographers or something.

MM: I think there were legal officers.

EMC: I'm going to stop the taping.

EMC: And did you live there for the five years?

MM: Yes.

EMC: In the BOQ?

MM: Yes.

EMC: Okay.

EMC: What did you do for social life during this time frame in Jacksonville?

MM: Oh. I had a great social life in Jacksonville. Two doctors

and I bought a canoe. And we canoed all over Florida, and we had a great time. I had a Girl Scout troop. I don't know if that's considered social. My troop sold more Girl Scout cookies than any troop in Florida, because we sold them to the guys going out on the carriers. They were going out on six month cruises.

EMC: Wow!

MM: The BOQ was right on the St. John's River. And we used to shrimp out there. And we'd have shrimp and go to the commissary to buy food for dinner. We'd cook ourselves in our quarters.

EMC: Oh. You could cook in your quarters?

MM: Well, more or less.

EMC: Little hot plates or something.

MM: The BOQ was right next to the Officers Club. And they had a wonderful pool. We could go to dances over there.

EMC: Oh. So you had a good old time then.

MM: Yes. It was fun. We played tennis. I played a lot of tennis.

EMC: Oh, that's great. What did you think of the climate?

Because you're in an entirely different climate.

MM: I loved it.

EMC: Yes. I should think you would. Warmer winters and probably very hot summers.

MM: It was hot, but I got used to it. I was married on the 28th of July in Jacksonville.

EMC: Oh. Well, tell us about that. Now did you meet your husband in Jacksonville?

MM: I met my husband in Jacksonville. See the women lived right there in the BOQ. We all ate together.

EMC: Oh, I see. And there were men and women.

MM: Men and women. They're not too segregated. We lived in a different wing, but we ate in --

EMC: Common area.

MM: In common areas. And so my husband's squadron had been reactivated for the Korean crisis.

EMC: Oh, was he a pilot?

MM: He was a Navy pilot.

EMC: Oh, I see.

MM: And so his squadron was in Jacksonville getting carrier qualified for the Korean War. So that's how we met.

EMC: Oh, how interesting. So he was in that same BOQ and in the dining room. Oh, that's fantastic. And you said you were married in Jacksonville.

MM: 28th of July.

EMC: Of 19 --

MM: Of 1951.

EMC: Oh, okay.

MM: And my father and mother came down from Boston --

EMC: Good.

MM: With my two sisters on the train.

EMC: Yes. That was the way to go in those days.

MM: And my father had called me and said, "What kind of clothes do I need?" And I said, "Well, get a summer suit." And he got off the train drenched in perspiration. There was no air conditioning then on trains. I said, "I told you to get a summer suit." He said, "In Boston this is."

EMC: Yes.

MM: It was a light weight gray flannel.

EMC: Oh, Lord, yes. You'd die. You need a pinstripe or something down there.

MM: He said, "Why did you have to get married in Jacksonville, Florida, on the 28th of July?"

EMC: Oh, my word. Were you married on base?

MM: We were married on the base.

EMC: Did you wear your uniform?

MM: No. My husband did but I didn't.

EMC: And did you have to get special permission to wear a gown?

MM: I don't think so. No. In those days I think you didn't have to wear your uniform unless you were on duty.

EMC: Oh, well, that's great. How long was your courtship? Do you remember?

MM: Very short.

EMC: Oh.

MM: Our first date was the 17th of May which was an air show, an air show at the air station. And we were married the 28th of July.

EMC: Wow! You're not kidding. That was just a two month courtship.

MM: It was --

EMC: Very swift. Did he go out to sea on a carrier after that.

MM: He was transferred back here to Quonset Point to get ready to deploy. I became pregnant right after we were married. And the

Navy wouldn't separate me for three months. They said they had invested too much in me, and if I should miscarry or lose the baby then they wanted to keep me.

EMC: Oh, boy.

MM: So after three months I was discharged from the Navy.

EMC: Oh, I see. So you remained in Jacksonville.

MM: I stayed in Jacksonville.

EMC: And was he up in --

MM: He came here to Quonset Point.

EMC: Oh, so you were separated.

MM: And then my parents lived in Needham, Massachusetts. And he would spend time with them. They had Thanksgiving dinner.

EMC: And you were stuck down --

MM: And I was stuck down in Jacksonville.

EMC: Oh, gee.

MM: Yes. Now you can stay in the Navy when you're pregnant.

EMC: Oh, yes. There's no prohibition against leaving the Navy, you know. Well, Jacksonville was a very positive experience for you then. Were there any negatives to the assignment at all?

MM: The only negative to the assignment was that I wasn't sure that the Navy physicians really knew what to do with me. And that sort of bothered me.

EMC: Did they treat you well?

MM: Oh, yes.

EMC: There wasn't any prejudice or harassment?

MM: Oh, no. No. They just weren't educated about what an occupational therapist was. The woman who was running the department and I became very good friends.

EMC: Yes. Initially there was --

MM: One: she wasn't running an occupational therapy department. She was running a hobby shop.

EMC: Right. Yes.

MM: Because that's what she wanted to do.

EMC: Yes.

MM: And so she had been there three or four years before I ever got there. So none of the physicians that were working with her knew anything different.

EMC: Right. Yes. That's right. They had to be educated -- re-educated. And that's hard.

MM: Yes. That was tough.

EMC: Yes. Oh, so that was the downer. But there were a lot of pluses too, as you mentioned.

MM: Well, I look upon it as, you know, it was a fun time.

EMC: Yes. Sounds like it.

MM: Because once I found out that they didn't expect too much of me, I kind of just went with the flow.

EMC: Yes -- rolled with the punches there. Yes. Did you get home

at all during this five year period?

MM: Oh, yes.

EMC: You had leave.

MM: Oh, yes.

EMC: Did you travel any other place besides back and forth to Mass?

MM: Well, my sister was living in Washington at the time. I'd visit her. And I visited friends that I'd made in the service at their homes. And I had a very close friend, a Navy nurse, who lived near Tampa. And I used to go visit with her family -- and another friend that lived in Lakeland, Florida.

EMC: Oh, yes.

MM: But she was a Red Cross worker, a woman with the Red Cross who was stationed at Jacksonville. And she lived in Lakeland, Florida. And I used to go and visit with her at home.

EMC: Oh, that's great. So you got around and traveled. Where was your husband?

MM: I went to Havana, Cuba.

EMC: I was going to ask you. That's why I'm asking you about travel. I should have said that. Because quite a few of the gals in the Navy did go to Cuba.

MM: Well, my good friend who was an aerologist knew all the pilots because she was up in the tower. And she called me one day at work and said, "Get your bags packed and be down here at three thirty this afternoon." It was a Friday afternoon or something. "And we're going to go to Key West." So we went. And the pilots had to have flight time. And they were alone in the plane. And they were two-seater planes. And so they said if they didn't take us they'd have to put bags of sand in the plane, you know. So they were always glad to take anybody.

EMC: Yes. Gee, I wonder what the Navy would think of that today.

MM: I don't know. So we went to Key West, and they dropped us off. They went back home or something. I mean they were putting in their flight time. And then some other pilots came and picked us up on Sunday night I guess. But anyway, we went to Havana. We were in Key West one night -- Friday night. And there's nothing in Key West, except there were a street of bars and the Officers Club which was nice. And we were walking down the street and we saw a travel agency. And it said: Visit Havana or something. So

Loretta and I went in. And Loretta said, "Oh, let's go for the weekend -- Saturday night." So I said, "I don't want to go with a bunch of old ladies on this tour." Well, it ended up there were just the two of us.

EMC: Oh.

MM: And we flew to Havana. And we were met by the son of the owner of the tour company and the driver. What do they drink?

EMC: Rum.

MM: Rum -- Cuba libre or something -- and were taken to our hotel. They picked us up, took us to dinner. We were the only two people on this tour. They were the tour director and the driver. And they took us out to some nightclub outside of Havana. It was absolutely like a fairyland. It was beautiful. And we danced. It was fun.

EMC: Yes. Sounds it.

MM: And next then they took us back to the hotel. And the next morning Loretta and I went to church. And we had coffee -- that Cuban coffee, which is so strong. And it has chicory in it, I think. And then they picked us up and took us on a tour of all the environs and back to the airport. And we flew back to Key

West, and then got our Navy pilots and flew back to Jacksonville.

EMC: That's quite a jaunt.

MM: It was. One other trip I had with Loretta was to New Orleans. She got us rides to New Orleans. She was going to a wedding. And we did New Orleans. It was fun.

EMC: Oh, that's great. I asked you that because people went in the old days to Cuba.

MM: Yes.

EMC: A lot of the WAVES did.

MM: It was a beautiful city.

EMC: Yes. Past tense.

MM: Yes.

EMC: Well, that's interesting. You got around then and had a good time and a social life and met your husband all in Jacksonville, Florida. It was a very big base, I imagine, wasn't it?

MM: It was an air station, yes.

EMC: Yes.

MM: It was a big air station.

EMC: Right.

MM: I can't remember how many beds the hospital had. I've forgotten.

EMC: Yes.

MM: It was a big hospital.

EMC: Did you have to work five days a week on this assignment?

MM: Oh, yes. I think all of them --

EMC: Yes.

MM: I didn't do shifts or anything like that.

EMC: No. There's no shifts or no Saturday work.

MM: No.

EMC: Did you feel that you were well treated by your superiors at Jacksonville?

MM: Yes.

EMC: No problem.

MM: No.

EMC: Was there any pressure at all in this billet?

MM: No. I don't think so. I don't remember.

EMC: Did you feel that you could survive on your pay?

MM: Yes. I did very well. I'd worked in the state hospital in Massachusetts for \$75.00 a month -- with board and room were included.

EMC: Oh, I see.

MM: And maybe uniforms.

EMC: So the Navy paid a little better than that.

MM: Yes. They certainly did. I thought I was very fortunate.

EMC: Free room and board. Now what were your ranks as you went through? You began as an ensign, and what did you end up as?

MM: Lieutenant.

EMC: So you progressed, which was pretty good in those days. Did you, during all your Navy assignments, your six years or so, did you write to your parents or your friends about your WAVE experiences and how you felt?

MM: Oh, I'm sure I did.

EMC: Did you save any letters?

MM: No.

EMC: Oh, that's too bad. Because they're good to have to look back on. Did you ever have a chance to see Mildred McAfee Horton or to meet her, the Director of the WAVES?

MM: Well, I don't think I ever met her. I'm trying to think if she was at our graduation from WAVE Quarters K. And I don't remember that she was.

EMC: Yes.

MM: I don't think I ever did meet her.

EMC: Yes. Maybe you didn't. Now you must have been discharged around the beginning of November -- late October?

MM: It was after Thanksgiving.

EMC: Oh, it was after Thanksgiving.

MM: I was thinking my husband had Thanksgiving dinner with my parents, and I was still in JAX.

EMC: Okay. So it must have been late '51 that you were discharged. How did you feel about being discharged from the Navy?

MM: Well, of course, I wanted to be. I was ready to get out of the Navy. I had applied to the World Health Organization.

EMC: Oh you had?

MM: Before I met Jim.

EMC: Oh, really?

MM: And --

EMC: That's interesting.

MM: I was excited about that. And I was looking forward to going.

EMC: Oh, the new UN.

MM: Well, it was medical -- World Health.

EMC: Yes. Right. I think it's an arm of the UN.

MM: Is it?

EMC: I think it is.

MM: Then right after I applied for the World Health Organization I met Jim. And when I got the response for the World Health Organization I was getting married.

EMC: Oh.

MM: So I didn't go. And I've always thought, you know, which road do you take?

EMC: That was the end of that.

MM: But I was ready to get out of the Navy anyway. So I was glad.

EMC: Yes. Good.

MM: Jim and I were both 30. And we wanted children.

EMC: Do you think that the WAVES was a smoothly run organization, from what you noticed during the six years you were in?

MM: I don't know. Because I think they moved me around a little bit you know. The woman who was in charge of the Medical Corps WAVES, I asked her why they sent me to Brooklyn. She said, "Well, I didn't know what to do with you. We had to send you somewhere. And I wanted to send you to Florida, but I couldn't send you at that point."

EMC: Oh.

MM: "There wasn't an opening for you then," or something -- or "you hadn't been cleared, or something. I don't know." But I just -- And I felt -- I was always sort of upset that I wasn't -- that

-- the CO must have known that Samson was closing when I was there. Why did they let me go out and do all that work?

EMC: That's frustrating.

MM: You know, that's frustrating. And I don't know that that had anything to do with whoever was running the WAVES I guess.

EMC: No. It was just a peculiar situation.

MM: Yes.

EMC: But anyway, do you think that the WAVES that you met -- the women you were with -- had a strong sense of esprit de corps and loyalty and patriotism?

MM: I know I did. I think I knew some that didn't.

EMC: Oh, really? I wonder why they were in then.

MM: I don't know. People do things for different reasons.

EMC: Yes, they do. There's a whole host of reasons why they join.

MM: But I think on the whole, both the men and the women I met

were there for patriotic reasons.

EMC: Yes. That was the overriding reason.

MM: I know my husband was. Till he died, he was very patriotic.

EMC: And he was --

MM: And I don't think you see that much anymore.

EMC: No. You don't see that degree of it. He was in World War II, wasn't he?

MM: He went through flight training in Pensacola, Florida, and was made an instructor and taught in Fort Lauderdale. And then his squadron -- they were deactivated. And he stayed in the reserve.

EMC: Oh, I see.

MM: Up in Niagara Falls. And then when the Korean crisis came, they reactivated his squadron.

EMC: Oh, I see. That's the story. Did you ever know any WAVE who was discharged for disciplinary reasons, or any problems that were encountered?

MM: I honestly don't know. When I was doing WAVE separation, I separated a WAVE who had become pregnant and was not married. And I think maybe that wasn't --

EMC: Yes. That would have been cause.

MM: That wasn't considered a very good thing to do.

EMC: That would have been cause for separation.

MM: Yes.

EMC: Do you feel that the war made you, and your experience in the WAVES made you more independent and self reliant?

MM: I don't know. I don't know whether being in the service makes you independent and self reliant. I think the Navy tends to take care of you.

EMC: Rather than develop these traits.

MM: Although there are two sides of that. I don't know. I don't know that I can answer that question.

EMC: Did you feel that your Navy experience broadened your

horizons?

MM: Oh, yes. I certainly met an awful lot of people in a lot of different places -- different backgrounds.

EMC: Sure. And that's eye opening I think.

MM: Yes.

EMC: Did you have any other career ambitions or ambitions to continue your career as a result of your service?

MM: I don't know that it had anything to do with my being in the service. I wanted to stay working. I wanted to work. But I had a husband that didn't want me to work.

EMC: And you had children.

MM: And I had children. But I really didn't like staying home with children.

EMC: Oh.

MM: I really wanted to work.

EMC: Yes. Because you had developed a career before you went

into the WAVES.

MM: I did go back to work.

EMC: Oh, you did?

MM: Finally. I had a friend who was working at Bethesda Naval Hospital, and she called. We were living in Vienna, Virginia at the time. And she called and said, "We're desperate, Mary. Won't you come work. And you can just say your own hours and do your own thing." And so I talked it over with Jim. And I worked from ten to three or something. It was ridiculous. And I didn't work vacations. And I didn't work summers. And I did that for a couple of years. And I loved it. It was a whole new profession. It was eighteen years later.

EMC: Oh, yes. It was in the '60's.

MM: There were a lot of changes. And I was able to work in mental health, which was what I wanted to do. And then we came here. And I worked here, too. But my husband wasn't happy about it.

EMC: Oh. When you came to Newport, you mean?

MM: When we came here. Yes. I worked part time at first. But

then I worked full time.

EMC: Was that in a hospital?

MM: I worked in the State Residential Facility for the Retarded.

EMC: Oh.

MM: And then I worked in the Newport Hospital at the Community Mental Health Center. They had an in patient/out patient program.

EMC: Oh.

MM: And I loved it. I worked over there for four years. And then I worked four years at the State Hospital in Cranston, Rhode Island.

EMC: Oh, that's great.

MM: IMH.

EMC: Yes. So you've had quite a bit of experience.

MM: So I really liked working. And I was really unhappy when I wasn't working.

EMC: Do you feel that what women were expected to do and be changed as a result of the war?

MM: Ask me that again.

EMC: Do you feel that women, in general, what they were expected to do and to be changed when the war was over?

MM: In the service?

EMC: Yes. Servicewomen. As a result of the war, do you think that they -- their expectations were raised, and their goals were heightened?

MM: Because of their experience in the WAVES?

EMC: Experience in the WAVES -- yes.

MM: Oh, dear. I don't know.

EMC: Do you think they were more directed to the home and hearth after the war, or do you think they were more directed toward jobs and occupations? This is a general question -- your own feeling about that.

MM: Well, I think I would have wanted to work whether I'd been

in the service or not. I think that's just me.

EMC: Yes.

MM: I think at that time in the late '40's and early '50's, I don't think women that had children and husbands thought much about working -- because they didn't.

EMC: Right. Exactly. It's unusual.

MM: I think -- Some people -- I don't know. Now see, I grew up. My mother worked. She had been a school teacher and had always worked. She didn't really after she had us children. But she did a lot of things in the community. And she was --

EMC: Active.

MM: She wasn't sitting at home waiting for us.

EMC: Yes. Well, you had an example there.

MM: And -- I don't know. I don't know whether being in the service made that -- made any difference. I don't think it did to me. I can't speak for other people.

EMC: Did you attend any WAVE reunions after the war? There were

several.

MM: No. I'm not a reunion person.

EMC: Yes. Boston and New York I think --

MM: No. I don't go to reunions.

EMC: Well, you were a Navy wife you say for thirty years. Your husband was in --

MM: Twenty-three years.

EMC: Twenty-three. He was active duty U.S. Navy.

MM: He was in the service for thirty years. We were married for 23.

EMC: Right. So active duty then. You never really left the Navy.

MM: No.

EMC: You kind of transitioned into being a Navy wife.

MM: I always felt that my experience in the Navy helped me be a Navy wife.

EMC: Oh, that's a good comment.

MM: I think so. Because I knew what it was like.

EMC: And what to expect. And you were moving. You could adjust to moving around as much as you did. Do you belong to any WAVE organizations like WAVES National? I believe I asked you where you finally settled after the war.

MM: Well, I didn't settle. Because we moved around with the Navy.

EMC: You moved around. But you finally settled --

MM: With my husband here in Jamestown, Rhode Island.

EMC: Yes. Settled here in Jamestown. Okay. Did you ever talk about your WAVE days to your children?

MM: Oh, yes.

EMC: Did any of your children join the Navy?

MM: No.

EMC: And you have two daughters, did you say?

MM: I have three daughters and a son.

EMC: And none of them were inspired.

MM: No. None of them have left Rhode Island except one.

EMC: Oh, really? Great. Do you have any other comments to add to your oral history about your experience in the WAVES? Anything you want to say about anything unusual that happened?

MM: I've never regretted being in the WAVES. I think I felt very lucky that I was able to do what I wanted to do, and that my goal was to become a WAVE. And I did. And, on the whole, it was a great experience.

EMC: And you stayed in much longer than most of them in the post-war period, which was most unusual for most of them. So you would say that was the significance of your Naval career for you and your life -- the fact that you had a goal and you achieved it. Well, very good. I want to thank you very much for sharing your memories of that special time in your life with us.

MM: Well, I thank you for listening to me.

EMC: You're quite welcome.