

Nan Snow Interview Summary
First Person Plural Project
25 April 2014

Intro - First Person Plural Project

MR Early life in Oklahoma? Moved around, moved schools? Father's work?

NS West Oklahoma in Carnegie, Oklahoma
"Edge of the Dustbowl; near end of the depression."
No one could pronounce name Nana Lou McInturff.
Father in bridge construction—meant lived all over
Started school in public school in Tulsa
Was in Carnegie [Oklahoma]for WPA [Works Project Administration]
Wanted to give more stability when starting schools
WWII broke out while in Tulsa
Father worked at the DuPont Company--sent to state of Washington --for project that no one knew what was
Lived in Yakima, Washington, Father worked in Hanford, Washington--"I don't know what we're working on, but I've never built anything like it."
Finished it; return to Arkansas
Find out it was the nuclear bomb plant
Was wonderful for a child to go into a different area of the country you never envisioned before

MR Was it a culture shock?

NS Liked to make fun of the way we talked
More for them than it was for me
In the 40s and it was an integrated school

5 min

MR Take that experience with you? Was it strange back in Arkansas?

NS Had not lived here
difference in quality of education was more the surprise
Comfortable because home and family there

MR Mother doing anything? Just stay at home?

NS Stay at home mother; challenged by moving everything and setting up again
Aunt and Uncle had apartment housing in Harrison
Lived there with family
Only child; came later in parents' marriage
Family remains terribly close; hold all family traditions
Something I wasn't getting when we moved around so much
Cousins—mostly female—called selves sisters
From 4th grade till High School in Harrison
A lot in terms of outdoor activities; spent most of the time outdoors
Pretty innocent experiences in that era

10 min

Had a lot of close friends---both boys and girls
One experience, this was an era where girls were girls and boys were boys
Outdoor activities broke stereotype a bit
wanted a girls' basketball team. No girls' athletics in Harrison. Went to the superintendent of schools. He said "no--"It's not ladylike." "Well, in this case, we'd just prefer not to be ladylike. We'd like to play basketball." Did not get the team.
Worked a little on Title IX; that was a joy
We all felt vindicated

MR Eye opening experience for you?

NS Can tell by me telling story—never forgot it
My first "ah ha" moment

MR Went on to UCA [University of Central Arkansas] after, then the Teacher's College? What was path? Wanting higher education?

NS No one in my family had ever been to college. My parents, particularly mother, determined I was going.
He [father] told me that if I started I finish.
Financial hardship for them
Worked at ASTC [Arkansas State Teacher's College] the whole time was student
Growing experience
Silas Snow came to speak in Harrison

15 min

President and Mrs. Snow drove me down for a weekend
ASTC offered me a job and a scholarship
Had no plans to be a teacher
Not all that many of us were not education majors

MR What influenced you to pursue journalism?

NS Both grandfathers had small town Arkansas newspapers
Never wanted to be a teacher, wanted to be a journalist
Worked in the public relations office
Also did service editor of *The Echo*--If journalism major, probably going to be an editor
Really good journalism education at ASTC

MR Any "ah ha" moments in college, or after?

NS Not in ASTC, Felt like given equal opportunity, Women outnumbered men, because it was a teacher's college. Had them when started to look for work

MR Any teacher that influenced you?

20 min

- NS Roberta Clay-- basically was the journalism department
Really good grounding in it
Met husband at ASTC, was born in Harrison and he moved away a year before I came
- MR After graduation apply, applied to Arkansas newspapers, *Arkansas Gazette*
- NS Went first to Washington D.C. with 3 other girls
Worked, Agricultural Department, in personnel office of the Farmers' Home Administration
Married—moved to Little Rock
Did apply to *Arkansas Gazette*
Editor said “We don't allow women in the city room.”
Went to work floor above the *Gazette* for advertising and public relations agency
Worked for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers then--to U.S. Office of Personnel Management in Little Rock

25 min

Worked in and out of Dallas
Became Regional Women's Program Coordinator
Traveled, conducting upward mobility training for lower-grade women employees; early 70s
Gotten involved in the second wave of feminism
First Federal Women's coordinator for Arkansas before regional
Appointed to Arkansas Governor's [1973] Commission for the Status of Women

- MR Experiences in Washington D.C., inspiration for Government work?
- NS Connections to journalism
Working for government for 15 or 16 years
Went to SMU [Southern Methodist University] in Dallas part-time while working in Little Rock;
description of innovative education and liberal arts master's degree pursuit while commuting between Arkansas and Texas.
Quit and went back full time—second master's in public administration
Served internship with the Dallas Chamber of Commerce and worked on the First Leadership Dallas Program
Finished school and formed own consulting business
Met Dorothy Stuck thru the Federal Women's Program

30 min

Describes admiration for Dorothy Stuck's previous work and her positions in the government
Formed a management consulting firm together—Stuck & Snow in Little Rock
Describes the wide-variety of work they consulted on and connections in their 15 years of business

- MR Wide variety of experiences?
- NS Goal when left college: “Not do anything more than 5 years, because there's too much to do just one thing.”
- MR What got involved with Governor's Commission? What'd you get out of it?

NS Needed someone from federal sector
Describes Diane Kincaid's [Diane Kincaid Blair] leadership and the work put into the report
Intergovernmental personnel act enacted

35 min

First intergovernmental personnel assignment in Arkansas
Assigned to office of Governor Dale Bumpers
Performed a study on status of women in state government, 1974
Speaks of one striking experience from study
One of biggest battles—fought to overturn policy forced pregnant girls to leave school
Connects with experiences today and the impact that report had
Bumpers publicized report
Very rewarding experience to look back on and see progress
Went with Kincaid to the National Association of Governor's Commissions on Status of Women meeting in St. Louis
Betty Friedan [author of *The Feminine Mystique*, 1963] and other leading feminists there
Went to informal meeting in Betty Friedan's room
We knew we were just setting the stage for young women of the future.

40 min

MR Experiences change you?

NS Realization that had always been there in my mind, but you didn't speak it
That's the way it is
Arkansas Gazette and *Arkansas Democrat* offered job in women's section—I declined that
Before Ken and I married, I came back from Washington to care for father in Harrison
Worked as reporter for *Harrison Daily Times*
The editor let me write the full scope, I wrote sports.

Describes experience trying to work as a woman sports reporter, called basketball coach—he was horrified, got desperate and name-dropped father-in-law to be. Won the coach over by hanging in there and writing the basketball games.

Kind of remarkable of him to let me do that

MR Having journalism experience outside of school help see low wages? Knowing what it's like to write for a newspaper?

NS Experience far better than a large town newspaper—did everything
When the editor was out of town, I got to be the editor, the best low paid job of my life
Women working there, but not on news staff

45 min

Recalls time interviewing a man that had been struck by lightning
Learned on the job
Thought *Gazette* would hire, because of the experience, but did not

MR Being a woman, hard time in this time period? Different to maneuver thru all these fields?

NS Work for government, always start in clerical job—“If you show an aptitude in this job, then we’ll move you to a professional job.”
Had to show them as female
Reached high level in federal government

Describes experience in Washington D.C. watching Congress pass Civil Rights legislation in 1957, JFK mistaken meeting, saw and talked to Richard Nixon.

50 min

Describes interviewing Liz Carpenter [Texas journalist, feminist, political aide to President Lyndon Jonson] later, writing paper on women in power for graduate work and Title IX. Another interview with Gwen Gregory [attorney in HEW Office of Civil Rights, charged with clarification of Title IX in 1970s], about Title IX and implementation, great resistance, asked “What’s it like?”—“I feel like a ball being batted back and forth between the NCAA [National Collegiate Athletic Association] and the National Organization for Women.”

Resistance on part of men hurtful
Office for Civil Rights, Title IX generated lots correspondence
Went to Washington to do consulting

55 min

Real battle, kind of enjoyed it
Won some victories—Title IX

MR Opportunity to fight?

NS Feminists support from conferences, not from home
International Women’s Year Conference in 1977—Barbara Jordan [Texas lawyer, educator, member of Congress]
Talking about opposition, “Just tell them they lie and move on.”
More backlash, more determined
Government protected, freer—not women in small companies, places like Arkansas

MR Roberta Fulbright book? What lead to?

NS Journalist—need to write a book
Went to Arkansas Women’s History Institute
Noticed no books about women
Want to write about AR women
Dorothy—knew Roberta Fulbright, had booklet of columns
Went to Fayetteville Archives [Special Collections, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville], interview Sen. Fulbright

Discussed Roberta’s life, influence, impacts, and life achievements---why wrote book, wonderful story
Took 5 yrs to write
Looked at every column ever wrote—long time
University of Arkansas Press published, sold well, got award, very proud

65 min

Twofold purpose
Wanted to inspire other authors to write about AR women, happened to some degree
Other book from childhood of WWII [World War II]
WWII was whole life, knew which battles fought, how U.S. was doing—too young to understand
Dorothy's brother—WWII letters home, write re-cap for parents.
“There's a book here can I write it?”
Second book, *Letters Home*, his story

MR Void in women's history? In Arkansas?

NS Prior to book, guilty as everyone else
All knew Hattie Caraway—other than that did not who were
Education for us
On board of the Arkansas Women's History Institute
Still serving on board at SMU of the Archives of the Women of the South

70 min

Describes project—trying to be the archival source for individual and women's organizations throughout southwest, gather papers, difficult because want to see some stay in Arkansas

SMU—stronger women's committee than AR, good to see
Women in more important positions
Not historian, writer
Writing non-fiction more difficult
Santa Barbara Writers' Conference after just written 3 chapters—went to all non-fiction workshops, found out were doing it wrong, got to start over
Conf. single reason able to write and publish
Texarkana book signing, Roberta Fulbright's granddaughter “This is my grandmother.”
Sen. Fulbright—died before published

75 min

Story about dedication of new dining hall named after Roberta Fulbright on University of Arkansas campus, attended dedication---will be remembered

MR Reflections on what has come out of life, how view self?

NS Example—description of relationship to Hillary Clinton, invited to live in White House and help with correspondence, thought of when looking at White House from back fence, now looking from White House

80 min

Don't realize that would have all these experiences
Promise to not just do one thing accidentally lead to these
Showing gall to try these things, lead to many adventures