

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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