

1 **Interview of Mary Tener Davidson Hall on her service**
2 **as an U.S. Air Force officer from 1951 to 1956**
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4

5Ruth Stewart: Mary Tener Davidson Hall is being interviewed today at Air Force Village
6 I, San Antonio, Texas, by Ruth Stewart. This is a project of the Women's
7 Overseas Service League and today is the, February 18, 2004. [0:20]
8 Mary, how about starting by telling us a little bit about your background,
9 where you were born and your early years, and then on up into getting into
10 the military?

11
12Mary Hall: I was born in Modesto, California, and I was raised, um, until the 4th
13 grade on a ranch between Modesto and Stockton. When I was 9 years old,
14 we moved to Stockton and I finished school at Saint Agnes Grammar
15 School, Saint Mary's High School, and then I went to the College of the
16 Pacific. I had a double major in English and history. I always wanted to
17 travel. I intended to go into foreign service. So after I graduated, I did
18 some post-graduate work at the University of California at Berkeley. And
19 then I taught for a year in Lodi, California, hoping to save money to go to
20 Foreign Trade School in Thunderbird Field in Arizona.

21
22Ruth Stewart: [1:19] What did you teach?

23
24Mary Hall: Uh, I taught the 5th and 6th grades. And, uh, then I, uh, the air force came
25 up with this offer that if you had a, a college degree and you had 3 years of
26 work experience you could go in as a second lieutenant, or if you had 5
27 years' experience you could go in as a first lieutenant. Well, I had worked
28 part-time while I was in college, so they gave me credit for 2 years. So the
29 2 years of part-time plus the 1 year of teaching, I qualified. So I entered
30 the air force as a second lieutenant.

31
32Ruth Stewart: [1:54] And what year was that?

33
34Mary Hall: That was in November of 1951.

35
36Ruth Stewart: [1:58] '51?

37
38Mary Hall: Mm-hm.

39
40Ruth Stewart: Okay.

41
42Mary Hall: And, uh, I attended Officer BMOC, Basic Officer Military Course at
43 Lack-...
44

1Ruth Stewart: BMO...
2
3Mary Hall: C.
4
5Ruth Stewart: C.
6
7Mary Hall: Mm-hm. Um, the – at Lackland, uh, Air Force Base in Te-, San Antonio,
8 Texas, for – it was a 3-month course. Um, there were mostly women there.
9 This was the second class that went through and, uh, there were maybe 10
10 men or so, but mostly women. And, uh, it was a very interesting
11 experience. I traveled all over Texas as much as I could on the weekends.
12 And, uh, we graduated in February of 1952. And from there I went to my
13 first assignment at Olmsted Air Force Base in Middletown, Pennsylvania.
14 And, uh, I was – I worked in non-appropriated funds as a services officer
15 and I replaced a first lieutenant who went to Korea. And, uh, that was the
16 beginning of my career. And, uh, we...
17
18Ruth Stewart: [3:24] And that was when then?
19
20Mary Hall: This was February of 1952.
21
22Ruth Stewart: '52.
23
24Mary Hall: And we oversaw all money-generating things like the BX, the
25 commissary, the officers' club, NCO club, housing, BOQs, anything that
26 generated money. And, uh, it was a great way to get acquainted with a lot
27 of various aspects of the Air Force. In May of 19-, well, '53, uh, I think it
28 was a rigged deal, they said they were going to do cross-training and so I
29 should cross-train into personnel. So I went up to personnel and my
30 assignment for that day was to, uh, see the new assignments that were
31 coming in. And as I pulled all these telegraphs and things off, I pulled off
32 my own assignment to Japan. And, uh, I think they had previously
33 arranged that. [chuckle] So I left for Japan in May of 1953, and traveled
34 across the United States. I started out, on the first day I went to
35 Pittsburgh, and then I backtracked and went to Niagara Falls, and then I
36 cut over through Canada and came down through Chicago, and finally got
37 to Cheyenne, Wyoming. And I had planned to go up to Yellowstone and
38 the, the car was snowed in under a couple feet of snow so I decided I'd go
39 south. So then I headed south and finally got home to California and, um,
40 Camp Stoneman. And I left from Camp Stoneman about 2 weeks later. I
41 was able to go home on weekends and see my parents in Stockton.
42
43 And so I arrived in Japan in the middle of May of 1953. And I was
44 supposed to be assigned to the officers' club, but they were short of supply

1 officers, so I was moved to supply. The AFC numbers are very similar,
2 62, uh, 64324 and 6434, and so I became a supply officer. And I was what
3 was called a [planned 5:54] account officer. I was responsible for all
4 property offer-, uh, given to the different organizations like furniture,
5 office equipment, things like that, items that were authorized by the Table
6 of Allowances. And, uh, you were authorized so many things per number
7 of people in the squadron. And I had to keep track and make sure that
8 people got what they were authorized, and only got what they were
9 authorized, and that they accounted for it and returned it when they signed
10 it "officer departed."

11
12 And one of my most memorable experiences was, I was fairly new on the
13 job, and there was a terrible storm that night, and the chaplain was trying
14 to clear the base in order to leave the next morning. His supply records
15 were in terrible shape. And we were working at the, uh, supply building,
16 trying to straighten out his records and all the electricity went off and we
17 worked by the light of a candle. [chuckle] And he didn't get to leave the
18 next day like he wanted. He had to stay another day or two in order to
19 clear up his accounts, but he finally got them straightened and left. And it
20 was a very interesting job. I had accounts in several places in Japan. And
21 I was dating a pilot from [inaudible 7:29] Atami, down in Kyushu, and he
22 was flying F-94s. And every once in a while he would come up and pick
23 me up and take me to one of my supply accounts in Atami, or wherever it
24 happened to be. And, uh, so I have some pictures of myself in an F-94
25 that I flew around in. And I'm not sure just how authorized that was, but it
26 was a lot of fun. [chuckle]

27
28 And, uh, I had a supply account in Korea, and, uh, they were very hesitant
29 about letting me go there. And it made me unhappy because nurses and
30 civilian workers, women, were allowed to go, but not the Air Force
31 officers. And finally they relented and said I could go visit my account.
32 And that was very interesting. I was only there for a short time, but I do
33 remember that they had no water during the daytime. And the water
34 would come on at 3:00 in the morning and they'd sound an alarm so
35 everybody could get up and rush in and take showers. And then we would
36 go back to bed again until it was time to get up.

37
38 And, uh, then, let's see, oh, uh, th-, there was a lieutenant colonel was to
39 be court martialled for – I can't remember the charges now – but they
40 appointed me to the board. I kept insisting that I couldn't serve because I
41 wasn't his, of equal rank but they sent me to Niigata, and so I got to see
42 that part of Japan. And there were a couple other lieutenants on the board
43 with me and we found the lieutenant colonel guilty. But, of course, the

1 verdict was thrown out later because we, as I said, we were not equal rank.
2 But it was an interesting experience, and I got to see some more of Japan.

3
4 I used to travel as much as I possibly could. I went to Hoki [inaudible
5 9:38] Kyushu and to everywhere possible in, on Honshu. We'd go down
6 to Hamamatsu to go to the beach and we'd go to Kyoto and Nara and, of
7 course, Tokyo. They had an overnight train to Tokyo. And you'd get up –
8 get on it around midnight and go to sleep and the next morning they'd side
9 car the, side track the car that you were in and you could get up at your
10 leisure and go spend time in Tokyo and the same way coming home again.
11 And I liked that very much. And I also did as much traveling by plane as I
12 could. I'd hitch-hike rides to Okinawa, and Philippines, Taiwan, Hong
13 Kong. And one time another gal and I were doing this and she had driven
14 to the airport and in Japan we drove on the right-hand side, and we
15 alternated every place we went. And when we got back, after stopping in
16 4 different places where they drove on 4 different sides of the roads, we
17 couldn't – we sat in the car and we couldn't remember which side of the
18 road we were supposed to drive on. [chuckle] And we had to wait until
19 somebody drove by before it came back to us that in Japan we drove on
20 the right-hand side.

21
22 And let's see, then, um, [inaudible 11:10] about Japan. Oh, I went skiing
23 in Japan where they later held the Olympic games. I was not much of a
24 skier. I had not grown up in snow, but we could visit it once in a while.
25 But I remember going down one of the slopes and my ski came off, 1 ski
26 came off. And there I was in the middle of the slope with 1 ski on 1 leg,
27 and that was the last time I've ever been skiing. It probably will remain
28 the last time.

29
30 Um, one of the interesting places in Nagoya was a little, tiny restaurant out
31 on the street and it was called Seven Stools. And it was extremely popular
32 with everybody. And there was always a waiting line to sit on one of the 7
33 stools. And about all you could eat was Kobe beef and fried rice. And the
34 chef, a little Japanese man, would toss the steaks up into the air and catch
35 them and it was really quite a sight to see and very, very popular. And
36 I've talked with many other people in Japan and they all seemed to
37 remember Seven Stools. It was a highlight.

38
39 Ruth Stewart: [12:29] Back then there were only 7 stools for customers? [chuckle]

40
41 Mary Hall: Only 7 stools. You had this little place and that was it.

42
43 And I had several Japanese people work for me. My secretary was, we
44 called her Baby San (I don't know what her real name was) and then there

1 was Junior. And they were both extremely nice people and took me to
2 their homes. Junior had just moved into a new home, he and his wife, and
3 they were so proud of it. And I guess I was one of the first visitors and
4 they showed me, showed it to me.

5
6Ruth Stewart: That's always special.

7
8Mary Hall: It was very nice. And, uh, it was a new area that had opened up. Nagoya
9 had been bombed very heavily and, um, I always wondered why the
10 buildings were so stretched out. We were in a supply building downtown,
11 and then the hospital was a couple of miles away, and the headquarters
12 was another way. And finally I saw a picture of Nagoya, and the thing
13 was we took every building that was standing. And they had shuttle buses
14 that ran through the different places. We were located where we were
15 because that was the only, those were the only available buildings. And
16 finally, toward the end of the tour, we had been doing extensive work out
17 at Komaki Air Base, which was outside of Nagoya, and we moved out to
18 there in a nice brand new supply building. And I remember ordering all
19 the furniture for the BOQ. And, oh, I was so proud of the BOQs when I
20 left. And they turned the base over to the Japanese within months after I
21 left and I kept wondering what happened to my beautiful furniture.
22 [chuckle] We lived in a hotel, all the women, the Chiyoda Hotel, and we
23 each had a room.

24
25Ruth Stewart: [14:27] What was that hotel?

26
27Mary Hall: Chiyoda, C-h-i, Chi, o-d, C-h-i. There's a y somewhere in there, I don't
28 know where. Chiyoda. I don't know. C-h-i-y-o-d-a maybe, Chiyoda.
29 And, um, the officers' club was in another building. And that's where the
30 men lived, in the officer's club. It was an old former hotel, a very nice
31 one, much more elegant than our Chiyoda. But, uh, we had a nice room
32 and there was a beauty shop there. And the maids did our laundry and
33 ironed our uniforms, which was a plus. So I thoroughly enj-, enjoyed my
34 tour there. There were at first I had a WAF Staff Sergeant who worked for
35 me, and then they sent all the enlisted WAF home. The officers stayed,
36 but no female enlisted people. I don't know why they did that. But, so
37 there were, must have been about, hm, maybe 30 WAF officers in the
38 hotel, maybe more than that. But we became quite close and had parties
39 and entertained and traveled a lot.

40
41 I left Japan in, uh, on new, uh, Halloween day, Halloween night, 1955.
42 And another WAF lieutenant, Lieutenant Edith Evans, and I had saved up
43 our leave and gotten permission to travel home by mean-, any means
44 available rather than take our scheduled flights back to the States. And we

1 had to have enough money to pay our way in case we got stuck anywhere.
2 But mostly we hitchhiked on embassy flights, the planes that were
3 regularly scheduled to fly from Japan all the way across Asia over to
4 Europe. So we – the hardest part to get a flight was from out of the
5 Philippines. That was a very busy place. We got from Tokyo to Manila
6 and then we had to wait a few days there, and we'd been there before.
7 And then we went from Manila to, um, Bangkok. We stayed there about a
8 week. We wanted to go to Angkor Wat, but we could never get 2
9 vacancies on the plane at the same time, there was only 1. So instead we
10 decided we'd go to Singapore.

11
12 So we took a train down to Singapore, and, um, there were a few troops on
13 the train and we didn't think anything about it until we entered Penang.
14 And we stayed at Penang overnight, and the next morning when we left
15 Penang, the train was absolutely filled with armed, armed, uh, forces and
16 troops and out in front of the train was this little carriage that preceded the
17 engine. And we asked, of course, what was going on. And they said,
18 well, the little carriage was to blow up any bombs that were in the train
19 tracks, and the troops were to repel any troops or any of the communist
20 guerillas that came down out of the hillside and attacked the train. We had
21 a wonderful time in Singapore, but we decided we'd fly back. [chuckle]
22 And while we were there, we met this British correspondent for, I guess,
23 the London Times. And he took us all over Singapore, and in boats out to
24 the various islands. And we got to see the area around Singapore. And I
25 really liked Singapore. It was clean and neat and well laid out and it's
26 probably my favorite Asian city. Um, from Singapore we went to Vi-,
27 um, no. We went back to Bangkok, and then we went to Vietnam very
28 briefly. So I got to Vietnam in '55 and, uh...

29
30 Ruth Stewart: [18:52] That was just visiting?

31
32 Mary Hall: Just visiting. A very short visit to – gosh, what the heck. We went to Tan
33 Son Nhut Airport and just to Saigon very briefly. And then we went over,
34 we flew over Burma, couldn't land there, and went to Bangladesh and
35 were there for a couple of days, and then on to, uh, India. And, uh, and we
36 stayed in India for about 2 weeks, and we toured all around the central part
37 of India, um, of course, Agra and the Taj Mahal, and Delhi, and Red Fort,
38 and Jaipur. And, um, I always remember that Jackie Kennedy rode an
39 elephant from one spot up to the, I believe it was the abandoned city of
40 Fatehpur, Sikri. And I rode that elephant before she did, or one of the
41 same elephants. But that was a deserted city in beautiful condition, but
42 they ran out of water. And it was just a wonderful glimpse, a look into the
43 past to see how the wealthy people had lived. The area was filled with
44 palaces. And we stayed in a palace one night. It was now a hotel, but it

1 had belonged to a rajah, and, uh, we stayed there. And we went on to
2 Jaipur and saw all the pink palaces.

3
4 We tried to go to Kashmir. We went to the, I guess the State Department
5 several times and tried to get visas to go to Kashmir. And we became
6 such a fixture that finally one of the workers who was there came to our
7 hotel at night and said, "You might as well give up on going to Kashmir.
8 They're never going to give you permission. They think you're spies."
9 [chuckle] So we never did get to Kashmir. From India we went to Iran –
10 oh, no. We went to Pakistan first and were there for a few day then on to
11 Iran and Kahran, and then to Saudi Arabia and Dhahran. And then we, uh,
12 we stayed in these places no more than maybe 2 or 3 days.

13
14 And then we went to Egypt and we went to Alexandria and then down to
15 Cairo. And we, we were there must have been about a week or so and we
16 really explored everything that we possibly could. We went to the largest
17 mosque in Cairo. I always remember the stone work, how they formed
18 these mammoth arches, the beautiful stone work that they did. And we
19 went to King Farouk's place. He had recently been overthrown. I think it
20 was the year before, 2 years. And, of course, to the pyramids and to the
21 Sphinx, and to the underground temples or storage places where they had
22 lots of bulls mummified. And we thoroughly enjoyed Cai-, um, Egypt.
23 And I rode a camel for the first time there. And from Egypt we went to
24 Libya, went to Wheelus Air Force Base. And we were only there a couple
25 of days, but we did get into town and – Tripoli I believe it was.

26
27 And then we took an air evac plane up to Italy and it went to Naples and
28 we stayed in Naples for several days and went to Capri and lounged
29 around in the sunshine. It was so nice. Somewhere in here we had been
30 carrying 2 suitcases. One was summer clothes which we had worn until
31 we left Egypt. And then we had winter clothes which we put on as soon
32 as we got to Italy. And we shipped the summer clothes back to the States
33 at that time so we didn't have to carry the extra suitcase. And we had a
34 wonderful time in Naples. And then we took an Italian bus up to Rome
35 and we met some Navy pilots there. And they took us sightseeing all over
36 Rome on little motor scooters. And we saw all the regular sights, the
37 Colosseum, the Vatican, the Forum, just everything we could possibly see.
38 And we went around town on those little scooters. I don't think I'd do it
39 today. [chuckle] But it was fun.

40
41 And from Rome we flew up to Frankfurt and visited a lot of WAF friends
42 up in that area that we knew, and took a train over to Paris and we met
43 some more Air Force Officers over there. And I know we went to all
44 check into this one hotel and we wanted 2 rooms, Edie and I and the other

1 2 male officers. And when we, we got to the rooms, the hotel people had
2 put one man's luggage and one woman's luggage in one room and the
3 same in the other one. [chuckle] So we had to straighten that out. And,
4 oh, we saw all the sights of Paris. And the thing I'm afraid that we
5 remember most is we were taking a taxi and it was noontime and we were
6 in the middle of crossing a square and the taxi driver pulled to a sudden
7 halt and he said, "Get out." And we said, "Well, this isn't where we were
8 going. We want to..." I think we were on our way to the Louvre. And he
9 said, "Well, it's lunchtime and I have to go eat." So we had to get out of
10 the cab, [chuckle] flag down another cab, and continue on our way. And
11 by this time it's cold, it's December, and very dark in the mornings. I
12 remember waking up in Paris at like 8:00 in the morning and it would be
13 pitch black.

14
15 And, uh, but then we returned to Germany. We didn't get to see an awful
16 lot of Germany outside of Frankfurt and Wiesbaden, but, uh, so we left
17 Germany. We had saved up 75 days' leave, but my – at the last minute
18 my new assignment said that I had to report in on the 1st of January and
19 that was – so we had to cut out 15 days. We had visas to go down to
20 Australia and New Zealand, but we had to eliminate that part. But, uh, so
21 it was getting, it was now getting close to Christmas, so we left Germany
22 and started off to the U.S. And we took different planes because Edith had
23 more time than I did. I had to get back.

24
25 And so our plane landed at the Azores and we had brake trouble. We
26 started leaving a couple of times and the plane would return for additional
27 work on the brakes. And finally they said, well, we're just going to stay
28 here for a day or so. So we all got disembarked and got settled in the
29 BOQ. I went up to the officers' club. And when I'd been in Olmsted, it
30 was an AMC base and the Portuguese officers from the Azores used to fly
31 in to get their B-17s worked on and so I became acquainted with several of
32 them then. I used to lend them my car. And so when we arrived at the
33 Azores and I went into the club, lo and behold, there was one of my old
34 friends who was now the base commander so, uh.

35
36 Ruth Stewart: Real serendipity.

37
38 Mary Hall: It was – yeah. It was wonderful. And so he introduced me to his family
39 and I spent the evening with them and we had a wonderful time
40 celebrating Christmas Eve Portuguese style. We sang lots of songs and
41 ate and danced. It was wonderful. And so then I guess it was Christmas.
42 No, it must have been the day after that. It was the 26th, I think. We left
43 and we got back to the States on the 27th. And so I stayed in – I went to
44 New York for a couple of days to see my aunt and then I went down to

1 Eglin, Florida, and reported in I think on the 1st of January. And they said,
2 "Oh. We didn't expect you until next week." I was very unhappy.
3 [chuckle]
4
5 Ruth Stewart: [27:58] Where, now, where was that?
6
7 Mary Hall: Eglin Air Force Base.
8
9 Ruth Stewart: Eglin.
10
11 Mary Hall: In Florida.
12
13 Ruth Stewart: [28:10] Still as a supply officer?
14
15 Mary Hall: Mm-hm.
16
17 Ruth Stewart: Okay.
18
19 Mary Hall: So I was a squadron supply officer now, and I was supposed to take over
20 as adjutant when the present adjutant left, which was going to be 3 or 4
21 months down the road. And after I was there about 3 months, um, I was
22 sent to Squadron Officer School in Montgomery, Alabama, at Maxwell
23 Air Force Base. And I was 1 of 5 women and 597 men, and that was a
24 wonderful experience. I thoroughly – I like school anyhow, and I
25 thoroughly enjoyed all the lectures and assignments and...
26
27 Ruth Stewart: [28:54] Did you say that was Maxwell?
28
29 Mary Hall: Maxwell, mm-hm. Um, I met a lieutenant, a first lieutenant. I outranked
30 him by six weeks. When we'd go out on dates he'd give me second
31 lieutenant bars to wear so he would be in charge, but – Lieutenant William
32 Davidson. And by the time school ended, we had decided to get married.
33 And we got married the day after graduation so all of our classmates could
34 attend. And one of the other girls became engaged while she, we were
35 there so we depleted the ranks there. And so after we, our honeymoon in
36 Florida and Bill returned to Clovis, New Mexico, where he was a fighter
37 pilot at Cannon Air Force Base. And I went back to Eglin and he would
38 fly in every weekend or so. And lo and behold, I became pregnant. And
39 so I was – I stayed in 3 months, the required 3 months, and then I was
40 discharged and thus ended my...
41
42 Ruth Stewart: [30:14] That was a requirement at that time?
43

1Mary Hall: Yes, uh-huh. Thus ended my air force career, but I wasn't away from the
2 air force because my husband remained in for another 25 years and we
3 traveled a lot. We, uh...
4

5Ruth Stewart: [30:33] What year were, were you discharged?
6

7Mary Hall: 1956. November of 1956. I was 11 days short of five years, I think.
8

9Ruth Stewart: Okay.
10

11Mary Hall: Now what?
12

13Ruth Stewart: Okay. Then, since then you, you remained an air force wife and..
14

15Mary Hall: Mm-hm.
16

17Ruth Stewart: [31:01] Uh, did you stay then involved in any kind of veteran or air force
18 related activities?
19

20Mary Hall: Well, um, at one point I used to. My husband was Student Squadron
21 Commander at Enid Air Force Base and I used to address all the y-, young
22 incoming wives and tell them about the air force and what they could
23 expect. And I found that the best way to get them acquainted was to ask
24 them how they met their husbands, and the fabulous stories that they used
25 to tell. And they'd find out that they came from the same school or the
26 same area of the country and so it was really an ice breaker. They got to
27 know each other as well as becoming more acquainted with me. So that
28 was very good. And then I volunteered in family services, the thrift shop,
29 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, the libraries.
30

31 I went back to school in, well, I started back in 1959 to get my master's in
32 history at Eastern New Mexico University, but my husband was in Taiwan
33 at the time. But when he came back home we went to Germany so I lost
34 all those credits, but I did get some of the paperwork out that I didn't have
35 to repeat again. And then I didn't get back to school again until 1972, and
36 I went to Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas, and I
37 got my master's in library science. And I then – we went to – I was
38 lacking about 4 units, 8 units I guess. We went to Columbus, Mississippi,
39 and I took the last 8 units there at Mississippi University for Women. And
40 I transferred those back and so I got my master's from Our Lady of the
41 Lake in 1974, I guess, officially.
42

43 And then, while I was – when my husband was attending Command and
44 Staff at Maxwell Air Force Base, I started working again. I had 3 children

1 and the youngest was then in the 1st grade, so I worked part-time in the
2 educational office. And from that time on I usually tried to work part-time
3 somewhere. I volunteered in libraries a lot, um, in, let's see, Enid, and in
4 Wichita Falls, and Kaiserslautern, and everywhere I went I volunteered in
5 the libraries. When I was in Turkey, my husband was the base
6 commander at Balgat at Ankara, Turkey, and the librarian there suddenly
7 left and so I took over the library for 3 months until they got a
8 replacement. I couldn't be hired because my husband was the base
9 commander, that would be nepotism, but it was a lot of fun working there.

10
11 And one of the things I'm proudest of is that while I was in Ankara I used
12 to go to these schools with the Turkish women. We'd go visit 3 little
13 Turkish schools each week, every other week, and take them books. And I
14 became acquainted with some of the, the profe-, uh, professor's wife of the
15 head of the University in Ankara, [inaudible 34:54]. And they were, we
16 were not on the most friendly terms with Turkey at the time. We couldn't
17 receive packages except during December, and we couldn't send things
18 out. So we had all these extra books from the schools and from the library
19 that they wanted to dispose of and so, about 10,000 books. And I made
20 arrangements with the Turkish American Association to have the books
21 distributed to all the schools in Turkey, or in Ankara rather, that spoke
22 English, from kindergarten on up through the universities. So we gave
23 them about 10,000 books and they were most appreciative of them. And
24 they put a plaque up in the university thanking Balgat for contributing the
25 books.

26
27 And so I've, I've also volunteered in the American Research Institute in
28 T-, in Turkey which was an archeological institute. And I set up their
29 magazine systems and cataloged their books. I had to have the
30 archeologist translate the titles because most of them were in foreign
31 languages. But I would volunteer there 2 afternoons a week, and that was
32 really a fabulous experience. The archeologist would take me out to the
33 digs sometime to Gordion and Sardis and Aphrodisias, and I really
34 enjoyed that. Turkey was by far my favorite tour of anywhere that we
35 went. The people were so friendly and they liked the Americans and there
36 was so much to see. I'm a history buff and I really enjoyed everything
37 from the Hittites through the Crusaders to the Ottomans up to present day
38 Turkey.

39
40 And we returned to the States in – we went back to Germany again, our
41 second tour in Germany. My youngest son had been born there in 1961.
42 And we, we left Germany and came back to Wichita Falls, Sheppard Air
43 Force Base, and he was the base commander there. And we – I, by this
44 time I had been playing golf off and on for 20 years, I guess. And we

1 played a lot of golf and I thoroughly enjoyed life. I ran the thrift shop
2 there and I managed to keep busy. And I went back to school and took
3 real estate courses. And so after my husband retired in 1982, we went to
4 Austin, Texas, and I started in real estate and that was, that was good just
5 before the crash, like I think it was '85. And then I went into property
6 management and leasing and I did that for the next 10 years or so, um,
7 usually part-time. And my husband died in 1991 and...
8
9Ruth Stewart: [38:20] He retired in, at Wichita Falls?
10
11Mary Hall: Yes.
12
13Ruth Stewart: Okay. [38:23] And that was in?
14
15Mary Hall: 1982.
16
17Ruth Stewart: 1982. Okay.
18
19Mary Hall: February. Well, I guess the official date was March the 1st or something of
20 1982. Mm-hm.
21
22Ruth Stewart: Okay.
23
24Mary Hall: We moved to Austin in April of '82 and we – I stayed there until '95 and
25 he had died in '91. And in '95 I moved to Air Force Village II and I met
26 my soon-to-be second husband there and we got married in '97.
27
28Ruth Stewart: [39:12] Now when was it you moved to Air Force Village?
29
30Mary Hall: '95. August of '95.
31
32Ruth Stewart: Okay.
33
34Mary Hall: Mm-hm.
35
36Ruth Stewart: Okay.
37
38Mary Hall: Are you done?
39
40Ruth Stewart: Okay. So you, you, have had a very, very interesting life and made the
41 most of the opportunities you've had.
42
43Mary Hall: Mm-hm.
44

1Ruth Stewart: It's been very, very interesting to hear all this. [39:40] Is there anything
2 that you'd like to add to this, in terms of your special memories?
3

4Mary Hall: Well, I just like to keep busy. I read to the children at Saint Louis School
5 now 1 day a week. And I volunteer in the library down at the Institute of
6 Texan Cultures in their archives down there. And I've been taking classes,
7 I'm not doing it this semester. But ever since I arrived, I usually take
8 spring and fall classes down at the ALIR they call it, Adult Learning in
9 Retirement, down there. And I've taken anything from geology and art
10 appreciation to computer science and lots of history courses, Texas and
11 World War II and Indians and things like that. Just keep busy. And I've
12 been active in the AFWOA, Air Force Women Officers Association, for
13 the last 15 years or so. And I belong to the Women's Overseas Service
14 League.
15

16Ruth Stewart: Which is why we're here today together.
17

18Mary Hall: Mm-hm, mm-hm.
19

20Ruth Stewart: So.
21

22Mary Hall: That's it.
23

24Ruth Stewart: Um, I really appreciate your taking the time to do this. This is a
25 wonderful story that we have here. And we'll be getting back to you later,
26 but this will go to the Library of Congress.
27

28Mary Hall: Okay.
29
30
31/mlc