

1 **Interview of Margaret Goodrich on her twenty-four year civil service career in the U.S.**
2 **Army Library Service**

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5Marjorie Brown: [0:01] What is your name?

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7Margaret Goodrich: My name is Margaret Goodrich.

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9Marjorie Brown: [0:05] Do you remember when you joined the Denver Unit of WOSL?

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11Margaret Goodrich: I believe it was 1976 or '77, when I had come back from Vietnam, in
12 Texas.

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14Marjorie Brown: [0:18] Um, where you in the Service?

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16Margaret Goodrich: Yes. I was an army librarian under Special Services, uh, for several years.

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18Marjorie Brown: [0:26] Why did you come in the service?

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20Margaret Goodrich: Well I was [tapping] a librarian and the Army Library Service opened up
21 in 1941, so it was a – I was ready for a change in position and, uh, it
22 looked like a good opportunity, so I joined the Army Library Service.

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24Marjorie Brown: [0:46] Before you came into the – into the library service, what did you
25 do?

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27Margaret Goodrich: Well I was a librarian in Rawlins, Wyoming.

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29Marjorie Brown: [0:55] What were your, what were your principal duties when you were in
30 the service?

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32Margaret Goodrich: The Army Library Service, uh, maintained libraries for the use of the
33 American military personnel in the United States, and then after World
34 War II, we were sent, those who applied, were sent over to Europe, and,
35 uh, later of course into, uh, the Asiatic Theater as well as the European
36 Theater.

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38Marjorie Brown: [1:26] How long are you – were you in the library service?

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40Margaret Goodrich: Uh, I retired after 24 years in the army.

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42Marjorie Brown: [1:33] Was your status as a librarian military or were you a civilian, uh, on
43 duty with the military?

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1Margaret Goodrich: It was, uh, civilian service, um, [throat clearing] uh, I can't even think of
2 the name. [chuckle] The civil service.
3

4Marjorie Brown: Oh co-, Civil Service. Okay. [1:54] Where did your travels take you when
5 you were in your civil service job?
6

7Margaret Goodrich: Well I was in the United States at Fort Warren, Wyoming, and then went
8 to Germany. Uh, I was the first or second army librarian in Germany after
9 World War II, landing in Munich on Friday, July 13, 1945. I was over
10 there for 2 years and a half. Then came back and, uh, terminated my
11 service after that 6 years then. Went into a civilian job. And then when the
12 Korean situation developed, I was asked to come back into the service and
13 went to Fort Dix. I was there for 4 years and terminated and was in the
14 civilian libraries. Then, um, was asked if I would like to come back as
15 librarian at Fitzsimons. I had moved to Denver in the meantime. So I was
16 librarian at Fitzsimons Army Hospital here in Denver from 1962 'til '66.
17 Then was asked to go to San Antonio to Fort Sam Houston, and then from
18 there I went to Vietnam in 1968, and, uh, was there for 2 years and a half
19 until May '71, then returned to the United States after 2 tours of duty and
20 was at Fort Polk, Louisiana; uh, Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Hood, Texas.
21 Then, uh, came back to Denver as a post librarian at Fitzsimons where I
22 returned in 1975.
23

24Marjorie Brown: [3:38] When you were in Vietnam, where were you stationed?
25

26Margaret Goodrich: We – our headquarters were in Saigon, uh, at the, uh, sp-, uh, the, um,
27 [tsk] [sigh] term-, terminal there where we, uh, distributed the r-, reading
28 material [at 3:58] army headquarters, uh, to the – all the men, and my
29 particular job was to take care of the distribution of the paperback books
30 and [throat clearing] magazines, and for the – all the time I was there, we
31 distributed about a million paperback books per month throughout the
32 area. This – we didn't actually, uh, distribute the books. We maintained
33 the mailing list, which, uh, distributed the books and materials to the units
34 in the field.
35

36Marjorie Brown: [4:37] Did you – were you – was m-, was army medical care available to
37 you or were you on your own as far as seeking medical care when you
38 were a, a librarian with the military?
39

40Margaret Goodrich: Overseas we were, uh, taken care of by the military, but of course, in the
41 States, we were actually on our own.
42

43Marjorie Brown: [4:55] Did you have to wear a uniform?
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1Margaret Goodrich: Oh, yes. We had the blue, uh, 3-piece uniform, the skirt and blouse and – a
2 skirt and jacket and white blouse. Then, uh, in the ‘60s, uh, slacks were
3 included, and also, of course, in Germany, uh, slacks were available. But it
4 was the light-blue uniform with cap.
5

6Marjorie Brown: [5:21] Do you have any special, exciting or fa-, funny or sad experiences
7 that, uh, you could relate to me?
8

9Margaret Goodrich: Well, no particular sad experiences. I've had some interesting ones. The
10 one that comes to mind right now was on my return trip to Vietnam in
11 1969.
12

13 I had been with the military, of course, many years and was not too
14 accustomed to seeing men in shocking-pink shirts. When I got on the
15 plane in, uh, Los Angeles – San Francisco, I guess it was, I noticed this
16 man with a shocking-pink shirt, and he came onto the troop plane, sat
17 behind me so I didn't see anything of him. Then when we got to Saigon,
18 Tan Son Nhut Air Base, uh, I had cabled that I was coming on that
19 particular flight, and, uh, the sergeant, whom I, of course, had known in
20 my previous tour passed me and said oh, hello Miss Goodrich; I'll pick
21 you up later. So he passed me and pretty soon [inaudible 6:28] backseat of
22 the van, and the man in the shirt took the seat next to the driver. Well as
23 we were leaving the Tan Son Nhut Air Base, at midnight this was, the
24 driver said, "Hit the deck!" Well by the time he got the word hit out, I was
25 underneath the front seat, and [chuckle] he said to the man in the front
26 seat, "God dammit, man, I said hit the deck!" and he gave him a shove and
27 he went down under, and sure enough, there came some shots across the
28 hood of the car. I discovered later, shortly thereafter, that the man in the
29 shocking-pink shirt was James Franciscus who was on his way for a USO
30 tour. That I think is one of the most interesting experiences I've ever had.
31

32 [background noise]
33

34Marjorie Brown: [7:20] Uh, when you decided to, uh, join the military as a librarian, were
35 there any particular adjustments that you had to make that, uh, that you'd
36 care to relate?
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38Margaret Goodrich: Uh, adjustments. Well, of course, the, uh, military regime, um, working
39 from 7 in the morning until 10 at night, this, of course, was in 1941 in
40 April before things started. Uh, then, of course, the tremendous amount of
41 paperwork that we had to, uh, produce, [tsk] it was most interesting to
42 have, um, 5,000 books for about 15,000 men, and the men really used the
43 libraries. They were hardback libraries, uh, a little bit of everything that
44 w-, they wanted. We discovered that the mysteries and westerns and

1 science fiction, which the civilian people who purchased the books had not
2 realized that, uh, the men were interested in other things, such as
3 psychology and science and mathematics and history and biography, so
4 that the libraries then as well as now are general small public libraries,
5 which was interesting. Then, of course, another thing that the army
6 libraries instituted was the, uh, possibility and permission of smoking in
7 libraries. The civilian libraries in those days did not allow smoking. Of
8 course, now m-, most of them do, but they discovered that when the men
9 came back from their tours of duty, they had been accustomed to smoking
10 in libraries and wanted to do so, so that's one of the reasons smoking
11 rooms were instituted into the l-, libraries.
12

13Marjorie Brown: [9:23] After you left the service, what did you do?
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15Margaret Goodrich: Uh, I, um, became a volunteer at the Denver Art Museum, Native Arts
16 Department Library called the Frederic H. Douglas Memorial Library
17 because, uh, he donated it to the Denver Art Museum. Uh, when I got
18 down there, they had just moved or recently moved into their new
19 building, and the books, which had been packed up for 5 or 6 years had
20 [throat clearing] just been practically thrown on the shelves. So that – I
21 said that I would like very much to – or to reorganize – organize and, uh,
22 process that collection. Then also, uh, I was introduced to Marie
23 Wormington, the very famous archeologist here in Denver, who, uh,
24 needed some secretarial work and reference work on the book that she was
25 doing, so I, uh, worked with her for many years. So that my retirement
26 became a continuation. But I, uh, had those 2 possibilities, which gave me
27 a impetus to retire.
28

29Marjorie Brown: [10:39] What has being a member of WOSL meant to you?
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31Margaret Goodrich: Mainly being with delightful people, uh, learning of their experiences and,
32 uh, habits and being [as 10:53] socially a-, acquainted with such
33 delightful, charming, experienced people of my own age generally.
34

35Marjorie Brown: Okay. Thank you very much.
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