

**Mrs. Ruth Nordstrom**

**Served as a WAAC in World War II**

**from 1943 to 1945**

**Served as a WAF during the Korean War**

**from 1951 to 1953**



## Ruth Nordstrom Interview

### Counter #

005       Graham: My name is Crystal Graham and I am a student at the University of Washington in Tacoma. I am researching local history and interviewing people in the community about their life history, and their opinions about local issues as a means of preserving the history of this area. Today's date is Feb 3, 1993. Ms Nordstrom, could you give me your full name please?

Nordstrom: Ruth Bernice Morgan Carpenter Nordstrom.

Graham: Which is your maiden name?

Nordstrom: My maiden name is Morgan.

025       Graham: Can you tell me when and where you were born?

Nordstrom: Astoria, Oregon in 1921.

030       Graham: Can you tell me a little about your family?

Nordstrom: When I was born my father was working in the lumber industry in Astoria, in a big mill and my mother was just a good housewife. She raised a family. My sister and I were both born in Astoria. Then I remember my father moved to another job, in the same lumber industry and we moved along with him.

048       Graham: Morgan, is that English?

Nordstrom: Welsh actually, but both my backgrounds are Welsh, English and Scots all mixed up together.

Graham: How did your family end up here on the west coast?

Nordstrom: They were all born in the United States, my father was born in Georgia and my mother was born in Astoria, Oregon.

Graham: So she was a hometown girl then?

Nordstrom: We were born in the same hospital she was born in.

Graham: So your Dad was a logger?

Nordstrom: No, he was in the sawmill, the lumber mill, he was a foreman.

Graham: And his job caused you to move.

Nordstrom: The mill burned down in Astoria and we had to move. So we moved to Geribaldi ... right on the coast. It's just a little, small community and that's where I started in grade school

060 Graham: What were the economic conditions of your family when you were growing up?

Nordstrom: They were always very good, except in the early '30s in the Depression. We knew there was a depression, but we didn't feel it ourselves. We had good food, mother kept us fed, we didn't have to deny ourselves too much. So she had to be very economical. Very frugal shall we say. So we never really felt it, except my father was on strike and he was given a little old Chevrolet coupe to go back and forth, because he was a foreman, he had to be there. This was down in Marshfield, Oregon. He went from the lumber mill in Gerabaldi, to North Bend and left my mother behind.

Graham: So you moved up and down the coast?

Nordstrom: Right.

078 Graham: What about you family relations? Extended family, anything like that.

Nordstrom: My father had five brothers and three sisters and they were mostly in the Northwest. We had a reunion every year. We always got together with them, we still continue our reunions.

Graham: That's with the Morgan's?

Nordstrom: Yes.

Graham: What about your mom?

Nordstrom: My mother had a sister that lived in Cannon Beach and my mother's mother died when I was in grade school. I don't know where she came from, someplace in the midwest. My grandmother settled in Astoria and that's where she ended her days.

Graham: Your grandmother came to Oregon, did she have any family or did she come by herself?

Nordstrom: She had family, but my mother never knew her grandfather or her father, he passed away. I don't know where and we don't have any record of that in the family history. Her mother passed away in Cannon Beach where my mother's sister lived. I have two cousins through that relationship. They don't communicate with us for some reason, I don't know why.

Graham: So you were pretty much absorbed into your Dad's family because it was larger and you had the contact?

Nordstrom: Yes.

Graham: You had brothers and sisters?

Nordstrom: Yes I had two sisters and a brother. My other sister is in Texas and the rest are still in the Northwest.

124 Graham: Could you tell me about your religion?

Nordstrom: Protestant and I was raised a Methodist.

Graham: Did religion have any bearing on you're upbringing?

Nordstrom: No, none at all.

133 Graham: Did you have any particular beliefs? Any strong beliefs that you feel had an impact on your growing up?

Nordstrom: As I got older, I was kind of a maverick. I was the first one to learn to drive, I was the first one to enter the service, all that kind of thing.

Graham: What birth order are you? Are you the oldest?

Nordstrom: No, I'm daughter number two, but I always wanted to do something on my own. But I got along fine with my sisters and brother.

Graham: But you were adventurous?

Nordstrom: I was adventurous, I guess that's what you would call it. I wanted to learn to drive and I pestered my parents to learn to drive.

Graham: So when did you first start driving?

Nordstrom: I was sixteen.

Graham: Wow! So we're talking early 40s or late 30s.

Nordstrom: It was in the 30s because I graduated high school in '39. You couldn't get a license until you were sixteen.

Graham: I thought that was a new innovation, I didn't realize it had been around for a while. So, what did you drive first? What was your first car?

Nordstrom: It was the family car, a Pontiac, a 1936 Pontiac.

Graham: And you Dad let you out on your own with it?

Nordstrom: They trusted me, never had an accident.

Graham: Did it make you popular with the kids?

Nordstrom: Yes, only I didn't do a lot of thing with the kids. I would go to games, but there was nobody in the vicinity, except me and my younger family. I used to take my sisters up to North Bend, when we lived in Snoqualmie Falls. That's where I learned to drive.

Graham: So now you lived in Washington.



Nordstrom: Oh yes we moved up to Washington. I would take my two sisters up to North Bend to receive organ lessons, my mother couldn't drive them up there. ... I would write letters and read while they were having their organ lesson.

Graham: Why organ?

Nordstrom: They learned on the piano and they wanted to learn further, and my younger sister owns an organ in her home. My older sister does have a piano, but that's all. I was the one who did other things.

Graham: So you were the chauffeur?

Nordstrom: I was the chauffeur for my two sisters.

184 Graham: Can you tell me about your schooling? It sounds as though you bounced up and down the coast a lot.

Nordstrom: I started in Geribaldi, Oregon then we moved to Marshfield, but it's called Goosebay now. I was in the first two grades in Geribaldi, then we went to Marshfield and I continued my schooling there.

Graham: Where did you go to high school?

Nordstrom: Snoqualmie.

Graham: And that's where you graduated, did you ever go to college?

Nordstrom: Yes, I went one year up to Bellingham, it was called WWC then, Western Washington College of Education.

Graham: What were you taking?

Nordstrom: Just a bachelors of arts course, because I was only there one year and I came back to ... then I went to business college. Then I took the civil service exam and that's how I got started. I passed the civil service exam and I got an appointment in '42 and I worked for the Corp of Engineers (here in Washington, for 37 years) until I retired.

222 Graham: Did you feel there was anything different about you that caused you to enter the military?

Nordstrom: No, I was just like a lot of other women.

Graham: When did you actually go in.

Nordstrom: I went in in 1943.

Graham: During the war.

Nordstrom: At the beginning of the war, I had just started to work at my civil service job in 1942. Of course December 1941, December 7th was Pearl Harbor. So I said "Gee" ... when I found out that they were accepting women in the military, I gotta do this. So I went another year and in 1943, in February of '43 I went down to enlist, in Seattle.

Graham: What actually made you do it? Was there anything in the newspaper or in your family life or a boyfriend or anything that had any bearing?

Nordstrom: No, I was a Junior Volunteer Hostess, when I was working in Seattle and going to school in Seattle. They would bus us to the fort and they would have a chaperone there. I learned to dance and danced up a storm with the GI's.

Graham: This was Fort Steilacoom or Fort Lewis?

Nordstrom: Fort Lewis and also at Fort Lawton when it was there, but that was way back. I remember telling the men I danced with, the soldiers I danced with that I was going into the military and they tried very much to turn me against it. They tried to talk me out of it. "You don't need to be here ...". But I said "No, I'm going." I'd made up my mind I was going to be in the service and I was 21 so my parents couldn't say anything.

258 Graham: How did your family feel about your decision to go in?

Nordstrom: I just enlisted and told them later and they accepted it.

Graham: Did you have any brothers or sisters who went into the military

Nordstrom: I had a brother who went in later, yes, he was my younger brother.

Graham: Was he drafted or did he join?

Nordstrom: No, he enlisted, he left high school, he didn't quite finish his senior year, just the last semester. He enlisted in the Navy.

Graham: And this is what, about '44 or '45?

Nordstrom: Must have been about '44.

273 Graham: So, that was near the end of the war. Did you encounter any obstacles while you were in the military?

Nordstrom: No nothing, never. When you realize you're going into a military organization, if you use your (head), and think about it, that there's going to be regimentation, and your going to have to do things you didn't like to do, you just accepted this fact. So I had no problem.

Graham: Were there large numbers of women enlisting at that time? Where did you go when you enlisted? Where did you actually go to physically?

Nordstrom: I went to the Lloyd Building, it was a recruiting office in Seattle, right on Stuart and 6th Avenue.

Graham: So you went down there and signed up, went home and told your parents and then what happened?

Nordstrom: Then I got my orders and I went to Des Moines, Iowa to my basic training.

Graham: And what career field were you put into?

Nordstrom: Because of my experience, being an office worker, I was put in an office. I wasn't put in the bakers or cooks or things like that.

Graham: So you were administrative?

Nordstrom: Administrative, strictly administrative because I had office experience and they said well you'd better work in an office.

300 Graham: Where were you stationed?

Nordstrom: I went to Des Moines for my basic training. From there I was assigned to a Basic Flying Training School in the U.S. Army Air Corp, Gardnerfield, California. Just about 30 miles south of Bakersfield, and (during) the basic flying training you go to sleep with all these planes in your ear. There were two classes of cadets training at Gardnerfield.

Graham: So they were flying all the time?

Nordstrom: Sure, so we went to sleep with night trainers all the time, but you get used to it.

Graham: So you didn't receive any training other than the secretarial training you received in business college and your civilian experience when you went in. So did they just put you in a uniform, set you at a desk and tell you to go to work?

Nordstrom: I had a few instructions of course, but in Gardner field I worked in the classification office ... for whatever your career field was. I was a 405 (number used by the military to designate what career field you work in) as a clerk/typist, I don't know what it was later in the Air Force. Then I was assigned, I asked for overseas duty, I got it.

Graham: Where did you go?

343 Nordstrom: To England in the Potteries, mid-England. There was what they called a repple-depot, a replacement depot. There was a big staff of women there and also men. I went over on the Queen Elizabeth and came back on the Queen Mary, they were troop ships.

Graham: When did you actually go to England?

Nordstrom: I arrived on D-Day, June the 6th, 1944.

Graham: And then you caught what, a train?

Nordstrom: A train down to our station. Of course the Queen couldn't go in too, so we had other boats to take us into shore. Then we boarded the train and went to our station, and there we were.

Graham: Tell me about the boat. Did they have a large number of women going on the ship?

Nordstrom: We did, but we were on the main deck or right below the main deck. We had a lovely cabin, we had hammocks, there were about twelve of us in one small cabin, but we had a port hole.

Graham: So you were on an outside wall.

Nordstrom: And we had just a certain place to eat.

Graham: So you were segregated as far as sleeping. Was there any fraternization with the men on the ship at all?

Nordstrom: You couldn't do it very well. You could but they were very strict about keeping to your own little part of the ship. There were big divisions of men that were in the hold part of the ship. Of course we couldn't even venture outside of our assigned space.

Graham: What was your rank at this time, when you went over?

Nordstrom: Private.

Graham: So, you were still a private.

Nordstrom: In six months I was a PFC, and six months later, I was a Corporal.

Graham: When you got to England, what was your rank then?

Nordstrom: Private.

Graham: You were still a private, so the time you spent in California wasn't that long then, before you were shipped overseas.

Nordstrom: Nine months.

Graham: How long was the crossing?

Nordstrom: A little over five days, because we had a zig-zag course. But we could go faster and we had no scares from submarines. It was wartime then, I was surprised that we didn't, that it didn't happen to us.

Graham: What did your family think about you going overseas?

Nordstrom: They just accepted it.

Graham: You just went over, just went?

Nordstrom: Yes and I enjoyed it because you meet a lot of friends, we were always together and I got along, everybody got along, we didn't have any trouble at all, I didn't have any trouble. But I'm easy to get along with I think.

Graham: OK, you get to England, onto the train and go to your new duty station. What base were you at?

Nordstrom: The 70th RD, it's a replacement depot ... I worked on the staff in a troop movement control office on the base. I was assigned a bicycle, so I had to distribute this information they got in from headquarters to the different billets.

Graham: So you did the Distribution Run?

Nordstrom: Yes, on a bicycle.

Graham: What kind of uniform were you wearing, were you wearing a skirt?

Nordstrom: Oh yes, always wore a skirt.

Graham: So was it a women's bicycle then?

Nordstrom: Oh yes. But it was painted OD, or whatever they call it.

Graham: We still call it OD.

Nordstrom: It was kind of a brown OD, but whenever anything went wrong, we took it to a place and got it fixed.

Graham: So there was a bicycle repair shop on the base.

Nordstrom: Yes.

Graham: Where were you billeted, where did you live?

Nordstrom: We lived in the barracks of course.

Graham: On base?

Nordstrom: On base, there were four halls. We were billeted in Howard Hall, a little building all by itself. We had our own beauty shop, our own cleaners, laundry and you were assigned a ration, once a month. And we got our own sanitary things from our supply sergeant, she received all that, because we had to have that stuff. It was no big deal really.

Graham: What about social activities, what were your working hours, like 9 to 5, 8 to 4?

Nordstrom: I don't know what the hours were, just a regular 9 hours. We had a service club there and we had many other things. We did meet some flight officers and we went to town somewhere, so they picked us up by car and took us, we had a very nice time. Then they took us back and they went back to their base. But they were flight officers, do you remember what flight officers wore during the war?

Graham: Yes.

Nordstrom: Sort of like the warrant officer, it was blue. We met some very nice fellows and they treated us very nice.

Graham: Did you have a WAC First Sergeant who took care of you?

Nordstrom: Oh yes, we had a Commander.

Graham: A WAC Commander and WAC First Sergeant?

Nordstrom: I think it was a Company Commander and she was a Scandinavian, she had blond hair, she had a braid, she was our CO.

Graham: Did you have curfews?

Nordstrom: Yes, but I can't remember what it was, it was so long ago.

Graham: What's your strongest memory of being there? How long were you actually stationed there?

Nordstrom: About 18 months.

Graham: That's a pretty good length of time. Did you get to go off the base and around to the local areas? Did they have tours and that kind of thing out to the local areas?

Nordstrom: You could always get a ride into the local town, which was a brewery, a little town Stoneham, England. And we weren't very far from Hamley or Stoke-on-Trent, if you've heard about them. We were very close to that. We could have a bicycle and at night, we'd go "pubbing" on a moonlight night. A whole bunch of us would go to the pub and have a good time and come back. We could go to town anytime, we had to get a pass to do this. And we had to get a pass anytime we went to London. I went to London on the train several times.

Graham: What about the USO, did they do anything for you?

Nordstrom: Yes, they had a USO, every Red Cross had a USO that we called a "Donut Dugout" and they served coffee and fresh donuts. We could go there if we wanted to, it was a kind of hangout I suppose. Like a club, it was run by the Red Cross.

Graham: I see, were there any relations between the WAC and the dependent wives, were there any dependent wives?

Nordstrom: To my knowledge, there were no dependent wives there at all, there were just the civilians there that worked on the base. Of course, some of the men had to have their girlfriends.

Graham: What did you do for boyfriends then?

Nordstrom: We didn't have any steadies, we would just go and have a good time.

Graham: Sort of like being in college.

Nordstrom: Yes, essentially. But I didn't intend to find somebody and get married over there. Some of the girls were married over there, but their husbands were close by and they could get a pass to leave the compound. And if they would get pregnant, they would just be discharged and go home, they'd stay with their husbands until they got out.

Graham: Do you have any particular memory of that assignment that sticks with you through the years, anything in particular?

Nordstrom: Well, I used to, once in a while work nights, and I met some telephone operators on the base in the military. I'd always go and have something with them, donuts or something, whenever they worked. We'd leave after their hours and go to wherever we could until we had to go home, until curfew. I met some nice young men, but I didn't keep in touch with them, though.

Graham: You were in England right after D-Day, what was the mood in the country? I mean, things were being rationed. Were you ever bombed or were you too far north?

Nordstrom: We were too far north. But I didn't know until years and years after, that right close, within miles of where our base was, there was a munitions factory. It was so camouflaged, it looked like the English countryside, the Germans or nobody ever bothered it.

Graham: And it would have been a primary target.

Nordstrom: Right, a primary target. But it was so camouflaged, it looked just like a part of the English countryside, and I didn't know that until we left England. But it was interesting to know that. My strongest memory of England is the black people speaking with an English accent, I'm so used to black people speaking with Southern accents. That was the first thing that stuck in my mind. Of course they could have been from Africa or some other place that was a British country. But that was the first thing that struck me very, very differently. I figured they belonged there, they were citizens.

Graham: How were you as an American servicewoman treated by the British?

Nordstrom: Fine, we were allowed to go to their homes if we brought canned fruit, canned meat, or something we got from our mess hall. We were given that if we were going to stay over night. And we would always bring something, so we wouldn't have to eat all theirs.

Graham: Contribute to the pot?

Nordstrom: Contribute to the pot, yes. We didn't have to eat off their slim pickings, if you want to call it that. I didn't see anything real, real bad in my area. Of course, when we went to London, there were some ruins. We took a tour of London and I remember the great big crater in St. Paul's Cathedral, the bomb went right through it.

Graham: You really went right to the ruins?

Nordstrom: Yes, I wish I had a picture of that. Anyway, I went back a year ago. I went back to England, and it hasn't changed that much, it really hasn't. It doesn't change, even the terrain, even the buildings.

Graham: But St. Paul's looked a lot better.

Nordstrom: Yes I went and its a beautiful, big thing and I didn't realize it was quite as big as that when I went before. We just took a short tour of charred London and that kind of thing, I'm really glad I did.

Graham: OK, it's 1947 now and you came back?



Nordstrom: No, I came back in 1945 on the Queen Mary. We landed in New Jersey, I guess and Camp Kilmore was the place we were held until we were assigned to come west. And United Airlines, the government had contracted with United Airlines pilots to fly C-47's with all the troops that went to the west coast. We had bucket seats then.

Graham: Were you considered part of the demobilization of the forces or was this just a normal assignment when you came back over?

Nordstrom: Well I think it was part of the demobilization, I sure it had a lot to do with it, the war was over essentially. And I wasn't a part of the part that stayed over there, the Army of the United States they called it then you know.

Graham: No, I didn't.

Nordstrom: Yes, the AUS, the Army of the United States, that was a temporary thing in wartime. I could have stayed in if I wanted, but I didn't care to, I wanted to get out. I came back and I was discharged in Camp Beale, California.

Graham: What time was this?

Nordstrom: In 1945.

Graham: In the summertime?

Nordstrom: November.

Graham: So you were coming up on winter.

Nordstrom: And the discharge was the 18th of November, 1945, then we were bussed home. My mother and father met me in Seattle at the bus depot. I returned to the Corp of Engineers in 1946.

Graham: Did they give you credit for being in the military?

Nordstrom: Yes, they gave me credit for all my military time and when I enlisted in Korea, so that was part of my retirement. Everybody got the military credit, credited to their service years.

Graham: Really you were in and out in about 2 or 3 years?

Nordstrom: Yes, but I was in the Reserve when I came back to Seattle. I went back to the Corp of Engineers and got my old job back. (But) There had been a lot of reorganization and I worked for the equipment section again, the plant section they call it now. I worked in the office and I had fun. It was very interesting.

Graham: And that was in Seattle or down here?

Nordstrom: In Seattle, then I had a chance to transfer to Oregon, so I went down there for a while, that only lasted for six or seven months, then I went to Spokane. Fairchild Air Force Base as a civilian for the Corp of Engineers.

Graham: Were you married at this point, that your moving around so much?

Nordstrom: No.

Graham: So your still foot loose and fancy free and still traveling?

Nordstrom: Yes, I married in upstate New York.

Graham: New York?

Nordstrom: I was stationed in Rome, New York.

Graham: Now you were in Spokane, where did you go from there?

Nordstrom: How did I get to Rome, New York? I know, it was my Reserve group, it was the Air Force, see this is later.

Graham: OK, now we're in Spokane, what year is this?

Nordstrom: 1950, wait a minute, it had to be in 1960. I was down in Portland for maybe a year and I took a trip to Texas to see my sister, then I came back. I had to drive up to Spokane from Portland to report for my new assignment in Spokane.

Graham: In the Army Corp of Engineers?

Nordstrom: Yes, at Fairchild Air Force Base.

Graham: And this was when?

Nordstrom: In 1960, I guess it was early May or June. I don't remember how I got back to Seattle. Then I was in the Air Force Reserve and some of the engineers in the Seattle district said there was an opening for a woman in their Air Force Reserve group, because I had been an ex-servicewoman, so they approached me first.

Graham: Now, was this an active opening in the Reserve or was it a Weekend Warrior?

Nordstrom: A Weekend Warrior type stuff, we met one weekend a month.

Graham: Right, and two week a year.

Nordstrom: And we got paid for it. I took military leave down to Hill (Air Force Base, Utah) one time and I got military leave from my job, which was interesting.

Graham: When you were working in the Reserves, were you working as a secretary all the time?

Nordstrom: I worked in the payroll department ... in the Air Force Reserve in Seattle ... I was recalled to active duty in 1951, so I'm a veteran of two wars. My whole unit was recalled to active duty and I was sent to Griffith AFB in Rome, New York, the rest of my unit was sent to France. ... I was recalled for 21 months and I worked as the Chief Clerk of the Dental Clinic.

Graham: What was your rank?

Nordstrom: I was a Corporal at first, then I met a nine man promotion board and got my third stripe, so I was an Airman First Class. My orders read Airman First Class (Female), that's how they did them then. I met an officer there and we got married, but I was out of the service at the time. I had been discharged, but I stayed in New York, he was a radar calibration officer, he was gone a lot. ... Things didn't work out, so he got a divorce and I went back to my parents in Enumclaw.

Graham: Did you work for the Corps of Engineers again? Were you still in the Reserves?

Nordstrom: No, when I knew I was going to be married, I applied for a discharge and it came through. I was never recalled after that.

Side 2  
034  
family?

Graham: Has serving in the military affected your relationships with friends and family?

Nordstrom: No it didn't.

Graham: Because it was wartime, they just accepted it?

Nordstrom: My parents knew I had made up my mind and they just went along with it.

Graham: What about friendships?

Nordstrom: I still have a friend I made in upstate New York. And other friends have passed away over the years. ... When I got out of the service in 1945, in Seattle, I was approached about forming an American Legion Post. So we formed one in Seattle, it's still going strong and I'm a charter member, in two years, we'll have been organized for 50 years. It's the only, all women, American Legion Post.

Graham: Then you're also considered eligible for VFW?

Nordstrom: Yes. I have a friend, also a veteran. Who lives here in Tacoma, in Lakewood, she volunteers out here. She brought me out and introduced me to Barbara [Barbara Hatred, the Chief of Volunteer Services at American Lake VA Medical Center], I signed up and have been [volunteering here] ever since. That's been for 11 years.

Graham: Can you tell me, from the time when you were on active duty during the second World War. To the time when you were on active duty during the Korean War. Did you see changes in the way women were utilized, the way they were treated, the way they felt about themselves?

Nordstrom: For one thing, they had barracks that were for men and women.

Graham: Integration?

Nordstrom: Integration was the thing.

Graham: During the Korean War, they were integrated?

Nordstrom: I don't think so.

Graham: So you still have your segregation, with your WAF Squadron Commander and WAF First Sergeant.

Nordstrom: Yes, since then they have had the integration. I'm kind of glad I wasn't in the service at that time. I don't know if I could have accepted it. ... But we had no trouble with the race, in any of my times.

Graham: Were you in integrated units?

Nordstrom: We were, yes.

Graham: Both wars?

Nordstrom: No, when I took my Basic Training, we had one very sharp, black company. They did the drill team, but they were not integrated in our barracks group. And when I came back from England, we were in staging waiting for the boat to go back. Some of the girls didn't like to go into the same shower room. We had one big, open shower room with little units. Some of the girls didn't want to go in and take a shower with a black girl in there. This were some of the girls from the South, but it didn't bother me a bit.

Graham: What about in your Reserve group, over the years? Was that integrated?

Nordstrom: I had no black's in our Reserve group, our little weekend thing in Seattle.

Graham: What about Asians, Indians, any other races?

Nordstrom: No, there were some in there, but I had no contact with them. When I was at Griffith AFB, we had several black ladies. They were very intelligent, they kept their place, they didn't overstep anything. I was quite surprised, they were very good people, I became friends with them. When you were a Retread [meaning you have been in Service before] , you were a Barracks Chief.

Graham: Right.

Nordstrom: I had to make sure peopled did what they were supposed to. Bay Orderly [keeping the barracks common areas clean], and all that. On Friday night, it was GI night [barracks cleaning party], before you could go out with your boyfriend.

Graham: Did you see a difference in the women serving during the Korean War?

Nordstrom: I think so, they were more career minded in the military, than we ever thought of in World War II.

111 Graham: What led to your being here at the American Lake VA Medical Center?

Nordstrom: When I transferred from Seattle with the Corps of Engineers to Fort Lew+is. My friend [who volunteered already] brought me out here. ... I'm very active in the American Legion and the Women's Army Corp Veteran's Association.

257 Graham: Do you feel that women are being adequately treated here at the VA Medical Center?

Nordstrom: Most of the women veterans now, don't know what their benefits are. They don't realize that just like the men, they are entitled to service connected disability care. ... There aren't enough who come here.

510 Graham: Is there anything you would like to add?

Nordstrom: I feel that the VA Center here is doing a very good job.

(END OF INTERVIEW)