

Daniel Windham
Transcription
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DW: Do you just want to start off by giving you name?

JR: Okay. My name is Jenny Raabe and I am the evening worker at Jackson Library and I tend to work in three departments while I'm here. The reference desk, the circulation desk and when I have some free time off the desk, in cataloging.

DW: So. That makes you a jack of all trades for the library?

JR: Yes. I learned in Library School that is was very advantageous to be generalists.

DW: So you can diversify in the long run and you know, guarantee a job.

JR: Yes

DW: As opposed to just knowing one thing. Which sometimes you know, library science students, we get into one thing, we don't study other aspects. You came to Germany, to the United States in what year?

JR: In 1969.

DW: In 1969.

JR: During the Cold War, yes.

DW: Have you been in Greensboro the entire time?

JR: in the general area. Yes,

DW: Okay. That's good. Now I understand before you got your library science degree. You went ahead and had some other degrees is that correct?

JR: Yes I have a degree in German. A BA in German and Political Science and philosophy and I also have a Master's degree in History, and almost a Master's degree in German. So, you could call me a lifelong student.

DW: Yeah. During all those degrees what. At what point did you decide your going to peruse Library Science?

JR: At the point of getting the degree in philosophy. Which I enjoyed very, very much. But other than standing on the street corner, it would not provide me with much of a job.

DW: So being a taxi driver wasn't a long term career interest?

JR: Exactly and I've all ways loved libraries in particular Jackson Library. Since I have studied so much here over the years for my degrees. I have all ways loved this library and it's all ways been a secret wish of mine, oh if I could just get a job in this library, that would be wonderful.

DW: Do you have a favorite position in the library that you work?

JR: I can't really say. I love them all three departments.

DW: For different reasons?

JR: For different reasons. I love the public service desks. Both in reference and circulation desk. Because I love working with the students and helping people and I am an extrovert by nature I love people and being with people. But then at times, it's also nice to catalog the German books. It's a little nostalgic for me. It's wonderful to keep up with the latest German books coming in and I get to use my analytical skills which I have. I do have those and I like to get things perfect. So, it's a nice balance.

DW: So. As you have your masters in history, I'd figured I'd ask you our last question before we wrap up, in less you have anything you feel you would really like to add. To your time here on the screen. Who is your favorite historical figure and why?

JR: Okay I just happen to be cataloging a biography of this man and he's all ways been. I can't say he is my, my most favorite.

DW: One, your very positive

JR: On the top. On the top Gandhi for one. But this man is called Willie Brandt and he was the Chancellor in Germany at the time of the Cold War. At the time that The Wall was built in Berlin and I am from Berlin. And I saw whereas the Soviets had said, the city was divided. You can't call your relatives you can't send them anything you can't go across the wall and visit neither this way nor that way. Neither East or West. It was Willie Brandt as Chancellor and he received the Nobel Peace Prize for this. That bit by bit brought that Berlin Wall down. Before it actually came down. All those years he would like send a millions [Deutsch]marks, West marks to the east and say: "Okay we give you this money; let the people call each other on the phone." And they say: "let the people come visit each other at Easter." Another million [Deutsch]marks. So he, he really helped the tragic situation of the Berlin Wall and I to had family in the East and it was nice. It was all thanks to Willie Brandt.

DW: Wow that's....

JR: And his policies.

DW: That's amazing. Because I, just as a historian the person who tends to get the most credit hear in the US is Helmut Kohl. So it's very interesting you enlightened me and I guess obviously other people to Willie Brandt.

[Credits]

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