"Speed Dating" with a Canadian Woman Psychologist

For this assignment, you will be asked to select one interview from a set of oral history interviews with Canadian women psychologists conducted by C. Roger Myers between 1962 and 1977 as part of a larger oral history project to help document the history of Canadian psychology. You will read the interview and collect any other information about the psychologist that you can find, then prepare a 1,000-word biographical sketch of the psychologist.

In the final class period of the course, we will have a "speed dating" event. For the first half of the event, you will "play" the psychologist that you have biographied, and members of the class will be the speed daters. They will have an opportunity to ask you about your life and career, in 3-4 minute intervals, so that about 5 or 6 different speed daters will interview you (30 minutes total). Then we will switch, and you will have an opportunity to be the speed dater while the other half of the class role plays their psychologist. At the end of the class, we will have a group discussion in which we will discuss the patterns and themes that have emerged in the experiences of this set of Canadian women psychologists. What contextual factors affected their careers? How do their experiences converge and diverge? We will also discuss the historiographic challenges and rewards of working with archival data. What did you learn from the oral history interviews that would not have been apparent in the published record? What were the weaknesses or limitations of the interview data?