

From Imogene (Golinger) Tibbetts, presentation at FDA, 6 March 2000:

I remember being sworn in by Commissioner Lerrick. I even have the picture here. I had my hair in a bee-hive hair-do and I had the A-line dress that was popular with Jackie Kennedy—the A-line that was the look. And we certainly did wear white gloves and a hat to work in the New York District. That's how you came to work.

But, then we had a change, we had to go out in the field. The big concern was what we were going to look like when we got out there. I remember the Chief Inspector, Weems Clevenger, and my boss Bill Logan and a couple of the other supervisory inspectors gathered around Weems' office. While I tried on the first, I was the first woman to put on cover-alls. And they were very concerned because they didn't want me to wear anything under the cover-alls, but you could see my underwear through the slits in the sides of the cover-alls, and I had to turn around looking to see what they could see through the slits in the cover-alls and this was—I had a lot of thoughts about that! What are we going to do? What are we going to do? I don't know how—I think we showed them my special cover-alls, and they were sewed closed, these slits!

And I did have my famous shopping cart because we had all this, all this inspectional equipment. We had black lights and all the different tools, sieves and all, then go out to inspect bakeries and whatever, and it was just a lot to carry. So I had a shopping wagon, it's not a cart, I don't know if you've seen them today, it's a collapsible, a shopping wagon, and I put it in the back seat of my car. Aw you know the men really looked at that. But a couple of years later, a couple of years later a couple of the guys got the carts, in New York District, yes they did.