

Q. Did you work in the war plants, though?

A. Yes

Q. Where did you live?

A. Lived in Hebardsville, Kentucky.

Q. Why did you come to work here?

A. There wasn't any work in Kentucky then, for me to work and I came to Chrysler to work.

Q. How did you get back and forth though?

A. A I rode with a lady and about fourteen others in a truck.

Q. Sounds like fun! What was the life like here?

A. Well it wasn't bad. We left home about four o'clock in the morning and got to work, had to be at work at seven and got off from work about four o'clock.

Q. Did it take you about two hours to get back and forth?

A. Yes! About two hours.

Q. And were the roads good or bad?

A. The roads were real good at that time.

Q. For then?

A. For then.

Q. Probably better than now. The housing conditions here, or even in Kentucky, were they comfortable?

A. Well, in Kentucky they were just not too good.

Q. Just any where though, more or less, they were kind of bad, not just here or there.

A. No.

Q. That's just everywhere. What about race relations during the war and in the plants?

A. Well, there wasn't any colored people that worked in my department at all, that time.

Q. Were there any troubles . . .

A. No. No troubles at all.

Q. None at all at that time?

A. No.

Q. What about the labor unions?

A. Well, I don't think that they had the union then, or if they did I didn't belong to it.

Q. What was your pay scale?

A. I can't remember that, but I know I made about \$50, fifty to fifty-five dollars a week.

Q. And was that good or bad, because, like could you . . .

A. Well that was good at that time, because food was cheap and rent was reasonable.

- Q. What were the hours, was there a lot of overtime or was it a straight. . .
- A. No, just eight hours was all I'd ever worked.
- Q. Were there, like in the rest of the plant, was that how it was run too, or was this just in your department?
- A. Well, they had eight hour shifts all over the plant, day and night.
- Q. In other words they had three shifts?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you stay on one shift pretty well all the time?
- A. Yes, I stayed on one shift, in the shells.
- Q. Shells? You made bullets?
- A. No they were the casings and we inspected them.
- Q. Oh, big ones, little ones?
- A. Well, they were just about medium.
- Q. It was like an inspection line?
- A. No, we'd sit at tables, and the men would bring the bullets, the casings to us and then we'd take a little pan and pick them up and then we'd shake them and we could see if they was bad or had any defects on them, we had to pick them out and you had better not let any bad ones go through either.
- Q. Oh, Is that all that you did then was just inspect?
- A. Yes, that's all I did when I was there.
- Q. How long did you work?
- A. Well, let me see now, I guess I worked about a year, because my husband died while was working there, he was in the service.
- Q. Where was he?
- A. In Camp Chaffy, Arkansas.
- Q. Oh, I didn't know that.
- A. Yes, died with a heart attack.
- Q. How old was he?
- A. Pardon?
- Q. How old was he?
- A. Thirty-five.
- Q. Was there mostly women, you said men brought the shells. . .
- A. Yes, there were mostly women though, all women at the tables; but we had a lot of men working cause they had to bring the shells to us, we didn't have to go after them, they brought them and set them beside us.
- Q. The heavier work was for them then?
- A. The heavier work was for the men.
- Q. Now was that in all departments, like did any of the women have to do a lot of the heavy work?
- A. Well, that I don't because we weren't allowed to go out of our department.

Q. Why?

A. We weren't allowed to go out of our department.

Q. At all?

A. No, because they had guards all over the place.

Q. What for?

A. I guess to keep from anything happening.

Q. Security?

A. Yes, but we had guards all time.

Q. What was your social life, like when you'd get home were you too tired to do anything else or was there anything else to do?

A. Well really there wasn't anything else to do and I was ready to go to bed when I got home and took a bath.

Q. From four to six I would imagine, that's long hours. What other things were done in the plant besides the inspection of shells?

A. Well now there was everything in the plant; because I know one time I could have gone over to where they put the powder in them. But you had to pass a physical and I didn't pass it so I couldn't go over.

Q. Oh, so they made the bullets, the whole thing there?

A. Yes.

Q. Did they make, like bullets, and not the big shells?

A. No I don't think they made the big ones, I think they, if they did they made them in another department and as I said we weren't allowed to go only in our department.

Q. Is that all that they did there during the war was make shells?

A. As far as I know that's all they did.

Q. How long did the plant stay here as that, do you know?

A. I guess about a year after the war was over.

Q. How did you get the job there?

A. I just went over and applied for it and passed the physical and got on.

Q. There were a lot of people from Kentucky?

A. Oh yeah, a lot of people from Kentucky.

Q. Around your area there were, did you say, fourteen?

A. Well fourteen rode with us, and then a lot of people came in their cars and they came from Morganfield and Hopkinsville and Owensboro and Rockport.

Q. Were a lot of these women's husbands in the war?

A. Well some of them were and a lot of them their husbands worked there in the plant.

Q. Oh they all worked together?

A. Well the women worked in the department where I worked and the men would maybe be in some other department.

Q. Were the majority of the people from Evansville or were they from like, Kentucky and that area?

- A. Well not the majority, because they just came from every place to work there.
- Q. Just to get work?
- A. Yes. All down through Vincennes and all down through there, Princeton, and every place.
- Q. Well, Evansville was like an industrial center at the time?
- A. That's right.
- Q. Were there a lot of plants doing about the same thing here or do you know?
- A. I don't know, I think Chrysler that made the bullets. Now there was another place but they made the air planes.
- Q. Oh yeah, but I don't know what the name of it was.
- A. I can't remember now either. I can't remember the name of that place.
- C. It's been so long.
- A. Yeah, thirty years, a long time.
- C. An awful long time.
- A. Yes.
- Q. You said the work really wasn't very hard?
- A. No it wasn't hard, it was just tedious, you had to watch that's where I had to start wearing glasses because my eyes, I got to where I couldn't see and the lights were so bright right down over us you see it shining on those shells.
- Q. How many, how was it set up? Like were there five--six women at a table?
- A. No! We were in rows and each one of us had a table and it was, you know about this deep and then men just poured those shells, those in there.
- Q. A tray-like table?
- A. Yes. Tray-like table. And they'd just pour them in there and we had this little pan about like that and we'd just dip them up and not too many in there and just shake them until we could see all over them.
- Q. And then dump them in the bins?
- A. Then dump them in the bins and then the men come by and pick them up and take them to another department.
- Q. What was a defective shell?
- A. Well some of them would be a little bit bent, some of them would have a cress in them, and on the end maybe they not be perfect. And you had to shake them to see all around them and in the ends.
- C. Well, thank you very much.
- C. Thank you.