

**Interviewer:** Ok, alright, just tell me when you were born and where you were born at.

**Norma C. Richardson:** Well, my name is Norma Cletus Richardson. I was Norma Cletus Grander before I married. I was from a family of 13 children, I'm the 12<sup>th</sup> one. And I lived in the hard times, the depression times, we had to raise everything we eat, we raised our milk cows and everything, put our milk and butter in the spring house to keep cool, didn't have no electricity, just a hard working bunch of people, we earned our own, made our own way, wouldn't take welfare from nobody, my mother wouldn't take it, she said that we were suppose to earn our way, we all worked, everyone of us, we had a job to do, when we went to school, we would come in and we all had a little job to do, the boys worked in the woods and the women done just whatever they could, I had 6 brothers, 6 sisters and my father got bad health and he passed away when I was just a child, 4 or 5 years old.

**Interviewer:** 4 or 5 years old, so that was back when...?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Very young, and my brother just younger than me was the one that went to World War 2 and served his country. My other brothers didn't have to go they had families.

**Interviewer:** So how did you r mother, the way she used to take, took care of ya'll, have ya'll out cooking and raising crops?

**Norma C. Richardson:** We done all kinds of work that would make a little money, we chopped the grass out of corn and fields and picked blackberries and made apple and jensing, we had done everything to make a little money, earn a little money.

**Interviewer:** Where did ya'll live at?

**Norma C. Richardson:** We lived on Sanking Creek in Fair County, Tennessee, near Lyndon, little town of Lyndon. And we all worked real hard and we all knew what we had to do. We had a apple orchard and we had gather apples in, and fix them to eat and pick blackberries and can them up for food, make jelly and jam.

**Interviewer:** Did ya'll uh, did your brothers have any uh, any work, did they do any work, I mean, like in certain areas, or did they just stay home and raised crops?

**Norma C. Richardson:** They stayed help work at home, worked in timber land, worked timber.

**Interviewer:** Worked timber, do you remember how much they got paid doing that?

**Norma C. Richardson:** They didn't get paid much, I don't know what. But we got 50 cents a day, chopping out weeds out of corn fields. We picked peanuts in a pile and get 50 cents a sack. I believe it was 50 pound sack, and we would have to get it full to make 50 cents in a days time. And at night, we'd pick cotton, pick cotton seed out of cotton, my mother had a spinning wheel and she made her own thread to make the boys socks with for winter, knit them. I helped knit the socks and...

**Interviewer:** Did ya'll have any, did ya'll have to make your own shoes, or did you buy shoes?

**Norma C. Richardson:** We had, no we had shoes. But my mother spun many ball of thread and we, we would make sweaters out of it and socks to keep us warm in winter.

**Interviewer:** Do you remember anything, anything you used to do for fun back then?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Well, only thing we didn't have toys like kids do this day and time, we had to make our own toys, we had to get old horses shoes and play horse shoe game and we had marbles, we had a game on a board to play marbles with, and we didn't have a lot toys like kids do now, wasn't able to get them if we could have got them.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Did ya'll play, did ya'll play in sports back then?

**Norma C. Richardson:** We played some ball, softball and stuff like that, we had a softball team on Sanking Creek, it's just a little creek but a lot of people lived on that creek. We had a softball team, and we enjoyed that. And when we went to a game, there's a man had an old flat bed truck, we all rode on the back of that truck to get there. We was lucky to get to ride in a vehicle of any kind because there wasn't any rolling then, much.

**Interviewer:** Is that how ya'll got to school too or?

**Norma C. Richardson:** No, we walked to school about 2 miles every day, 2 miles there and 2 miles back. Had a one room school through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, in high school, my mother couldn't send us to high school because it cost 4 dollar and something a month and she wasn't able to pay for all of us, she wouldn't pay for any, so we didn't get to go to high school, just the elementary and we was all in the same room, same school house room and a church combined.

**Interviewer:** So how do you remember school back then, do you remember your friends in school?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Yeah, we played basketball out on the grounds, that was our court, we played basketball out on the grounds, sometimes we would have a church service in our school, we would meet like we was having church, you know, we would have a little just church service. Just anything to entertain us and there was a big group of kids, we all had a lot of fun, we didn't know it was hard times.

**Interviewer:** Yep.

**Norma C. Richardson:** Didn't know.

**Interviewer:** So you remember who was uh, president back at that time?

**Norma C. Richardson:** I can't remember which one was president at that time, it seemed like it was Hoover.

**Interviewer:** Hoover?

**Norma C. Richardson:** I believe it was, but anyway it was hard times but we...

**Interviewer:** You remember uh, how, you said that, what did they use to call hard times when Hoover was president? They use to call it Hoover times.

**Norma C. Richardson:** They use to call it Hoover times back then but I didn't know no difference, wasn't no difference to any other president, as far as I was concerned.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Norma C. Richardson:** We raised all of our food we eat, we raised all of our beans and let them dry and put them away for winter food and raised our corn, made our cornbread out of the corn, lots of time we couldn't get enough flour for us all, and we had to eat cornbread for breakfast, which kids would really love now.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Norma C. Richardson:** Cornbread, but uh, we didn't mind it, we enjoyed living, had a good time, we had a string band, we made music nearly every night, most all of us could play some kind of instrument.

**Interviewer:** So did you play nay instruments?

**Norma C. Richardson:** And who couldn't play could dance, so they'd dance while we was making music a lot of the time, had pone brother that could really dance.

**Interviewer:** What was his name?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Llyod. Llyod was his name. Llyod Grander.

**Interviewer:** Llyod Grander.

**Norma C. Richardson:** And uh, he could really dance, we entertained the whole neighborhood that way, they would come at night to hear us make music and watch him dance.

**Interviewer:** You remember any...

**Norma C. Richardson:** And sometimes we would sing gospel songs, we had a quartet. We had a quartet in our own family, we'd sing gospel songs.

**Interviewer:** You remember any of your father at all?

**Norma C. Richardson:** I barely remember my father, he, well I just can't hardly remember him, seem like I was little, sitting in his lap on time and he made me a little necklace but I just can't remember him well at all, but I remember me and my brother wondered why we didn't have a

daddy like the other kids you know, we wished we had a daddy like other kids, we had him but he died. My little brother was younger than me.

**Interviewer:** So what kind of instrument did you use to play when you were young?

**Norma C. Richardson:** In the music line, I could pick the guitar, and pick the mandolin, and play the violin a little bit, but now I don't think I could play anything, I got away from that, just got away from it, but back then we done real well, we thought we did anyway, at least our neighbors thought we did.

**Interviewer:** So do you remember any of your brothers being long term unemployed or not having work anywhere, or ya'll pretty much worked for yourself?

**Norma C. Richardson:** We raised our own meat to eat too, I forgot to tell that, we raised that, raised our own meat hogs and everything, milk cows and after spring have to go get our milk and butter out for breakfast before daylight, it was truly scary times to start out the spring from a hill.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, you used to walk a long ways for certain things didn't you?

**Norma C. Richardson:** For what?

**Interviewer:** For certain things, you used to walk about 5 miles to town, remember that?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Oh yeah, about a mile to the store, we had a peddling truck come by and he wanted my mother to take some of this give away stuff that they give to people and she wouldn't take any of it, he said he would bring it to her from town but she wouldn't take any of it, she said we was supposed to work for our living, so she wouldn't take any and I'm proud she didn't now, because I see what going on now, seems like it's hurting the government, giving away so much, people don't try to have it. Me and my mother quilted, in fact we was quilting the day that, well we wasn't quilting the day they bombed Pearl Harbor because it was Sunday and we was quilting Monday, we had a radio, and we heard that and it just really did upset us, we just had a little radio that, we didn't know what a television was, if we would have seen one, we wouldn't have known it, what it was, and it told on that radio and we all got upset, the whole community got disturbed. They got to calling in boys to go, I had one brother had to go, he was single, living at home there with me and my mother, well one of my brothers lived there and had two children and his wife died and he was living there with us too. His wife died very young, left 2 small kids, 2 and 5 I believe. My mother raised them plus the 13 of her own.

**Interviewer:** What were the, do you remember their names?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Betty June Grander and Betty Ward Grander, was their names and they was awful sweet kids and they still are very near to me because I was there with them when they was raised up, the same year.

**Interviewer:** So were you aware of the events going on back when you were growing up, in the world or you remember when uh...?

**Norma C. Richardson:** I don't think I ever went to town but once or twice a year and that way we had to walk part of the way and ride on the wagon the rest of the way to town, to get to town just once or twice a year, my mother raised chickens and she sold her hens once a year, and bought us all a pair of Sunday shoes to wear to church, and we all lined up, all of us little ones on the same pew, everyone of us sat on the same church seat. We was always so proud to get them new shoes, clippers to wear to church.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, you remember how church was then, when you were going?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Then what?

**Interviewer:** Do you remember how it was then, going, how the service was, things like that?

**Norma C. Richardson:** We had big crowds at church then, it's not like it is now, you don't have any large crowd at all, in these little country churches but we had a house most all the time and that little country church is the same church we went to school in, used it all for the same building.

**Interviewer:** So you remember any of the events going on when uh, when Roosevelt was president? No.

**Norma C. Richardson:** In school, we would have ice cream supper, that's the only time we ever got any ice cream, when we could manage a little nickel to get us a cone of ice cream, some way or another, it was a big gathering up there at the school, and a good time.

**Interviewer:** You said how much did it cost again, how much did it cost for ice cream?

**Norma C. Richardson:** I believe ice cream was 5 cents a cone, but we could hardly get enough to go around with us kids.

**Interviewer:** And you don't remember your grandfather's right?

**Norma C. Richardson:** I had 2 grandfathers that was, that was in the war back, the Civil War, William Grander and one of them was William Ally, I can't remember them much or any.

**Interviewer:** Did you ever hear anything about them?

**Norma C. Richardson:** I've heard a lot about them, I've heard about my grandpa Ally, about being such a good person, he was a mason too and he was such a good person they all said and he deeded some land off for a family cemetery so that's where my family is buried, the cemetery, he deeded that off to the people to be buried in, it's pretty near full now.

**Interviewer:** Yeah.

**Norma C. Richardson:** It's been a long time, he deeded it off in 1923, him and grandma signed it before they passed away. So we haven't had no problem with that, it's done signed and put on record.

**Interviewer:** So do you remember uh, back when you started uh, in end of your school, did you uh, you couldn't go to school after 8<sup>th</sup> grade you said, well how come you couldn't go to school then?

**Norma C. Richardson:** We just got to go to 8<sup>th</sup> grade there where I went to school, had to pay 5 dollars to ride the bus and we didn't have the 5 dollars to pay so we didn't get the high school education.

**Interviewer:** What did ya'll do after then?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Most of my brothers and sisters got married after, around 18, 20 I guess, I don't know, just about 18, 20, had a family of their own and started their life.

**Interviewer:** They were 18 and 20 years old right?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Yeah so.

**Norma C. Richardson:** I had to, I had a nephew older than me and uh 2 or 3 nieces almost as old as me, so we all growed up together and they were more like sisters and brothers really.

**Interviewer:** Did they stay here or did they move on somewhere else?

**Norma C. Richardson:** These nieces and nephews would come visit often you know, and we would just sleep all over the place, we didn't have beds for everybody, we would just lay on floors and never did nobody complain about their bed.

**Interviewer:** You ever had...

**Norma C. Richardson:** We was just glad to get to lay down anywhere.

**Interviewer:** So what was your house like when you were growing up in there?

**Norma C. Richardson:** We grew up in a pretty open house, sometimes a snow would get in the cracks of the walls.

**Interviewer:** Do ya'll remember anything...

**Norma C. Richardson:** One time, it came a flash flood and it just came down all at once, and almost washed our house away and me and my mother was there and we waded out the back

door and went to the barn, then they built the new house which was a little better, for us to live in, a little bigger, we thought we was really doing good, we had a new house.

**Interviewer:** So did ya'll, do you remember where ya'll, did ya'll stay in like, sleep in the same room as your brothers and sisters, or did ya'll have different rooms?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Well, the boys had a room and the girls had a room to sleep in, that's the way it was. Then uh, when the war started up, my brother had to go, and some more boys there had to go, so we decided to fix them up a goody box and send them all, and that's how I got my husband, I reckon, was through my cooking, I sent him one, wasn't even going with him them and he got to writing and got to come and see me and we got pretty close and uh, he seemed like a good boy and he, so if he was we had planned to get married while he was in the Army and I went to work in Nashville, the ..... and we planned to get married and he couldn't get a leave home so he wanted me to come where he was at and let's get married so that's what we was planning on doing and he shipped out and wrote me a letter that he was shipped out overseas and for me to not come because he wouldn't be there and I know why he wouldn't be there then so we had to wait until after the war, after he got wounded to get married, he got wounded February the 7<sup>th</sup> 1945, at Zigzag Pass in the Philippines and then he went back to the evacuation hospital at Luzon and he having made uh, he was in the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Hospital, East Indies, after he got wounded. He stayed there and he went to the and he came back to the United States April 15<sup>th</sup> 1945. Arrived in the States in April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1945 to General hospital in New Orleans.

**Interviewer:** Do you remember uh, did ya'll....

**Norma C. Richardson:** He got a 30 day leave, he got a 30 day leave April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1945 and he got come to Nashville where I was working, so me and him rode the bus to get home, it was about 5 or 6 miles where the bud route was, to our home, my home, some good friends met us there on the road so he wouldn't have to walk, and he couldn't hardly walk, they met us and carried me home and carried him to his sisters, so that night or the next night we began making plans to get married, I was marrying a sick man, but I promised him I would marry him and I wasn't going to let him down, anyway he had to stay in the hospital then, several more months after we married, but he didn't want me to keep my, he didn't want me to keep my job, he didn't want to stay in Nashville, so I give up my job, work my notice out and they told me any time I want to come back, I had a job, we made, helped make airplanes wings, me and uh, a girl worked together and she's still my friend, she lives in Louisville, Kentucky. She's in a nursing home but she's still my friend, me and her worked together we enjoyed each other.

**Interviewer:** Did ya'll uh, did you remember, you remember when Pearl Harbor as bombed right, originally, you remember where you were then at that time?

**Norma C. Richardson:** When Pearl Harbor was bombed I was at home, I hadn't gotten nowhere you see, then I went out to seek a job then, trying to help with the war. I thought I was getting

good pay, I got 89 cents an hour, I thought that was real good pay, which anybody wasn't even thinking about working for that now.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah. What was the name of the company, you remember where you worked for, the name of the airplane factory?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Consolidate Vulty.

**Interviewer:** Was it Vulty?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Yeah, it was close to Murfreesboro I think.

**Interviewer:** Oh ok, did ya'll ever what ya'll used to do on the weekends there?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Well, on the weekends I would go visit the Children's Hospital, I had a little boy there that lived close to us, that was in a junior league hospital, I would go visit him one weekend, go home the next weekend. On the last airplane we made, we made them P38's that helped end the war.

**Interviewer:** So you remember your time working in the factory?

**Norma C. Richardson:** I don't remember how many years, I mean how many months I worked there. I worked there a year or more, I guess but I don't know I can't remember.

**Interviewer:** Ok, you remember uh...

**Norma C. Richardson:** But I give a good job up, when I got married because my husband didn't want to live, he wanted to live out in Fair County, he had been gone long enough he said so I give a job up and come back, his brother, his name was William J Richardson and his brother was Ollie D. Richardson. Ollie D. Richardson got killed on D-Day, June the 6<sup>th</sup> in 44', I think, he got killed on the day, he was in the Ranger outfit.

**Interviewer:** Do you remember when they brought his, they brought his body back after that right?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Yeah, they brought his body back to bury him and uh, family cemetery, and I, me and William J., my husband, we met the body and his wife met the body in Waynesburg, Tennessee.

**Interviewer:** Do ya'll, did you remember uh, how...

**Norma C. Richardson:** It was an awful thing to go through with, something like that, I've never witnessed it before.

**Interviewer:** And what was his name again, what was his name that was killed, what was his name?



**Norma C. Richardson:** Ollie D. Richardson, it was so sad to think about it, and they offered to let us see his body if we wanted to but they advised us to not because they didn't think we'd be happy. They brought his billfold along with it, it was full of sandy stuff and had his pictures and things in it, what he had in his billfold.

**Interviewer:** Did you know him really well before he uh, he went into the service?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Who?

**Interviewer:** Ollie?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Yeah, I knowed Ollie D. Richardson before I married William J. Richardson, I knowed his brother, knowed his brother really better than I knowed him, for a while there.

**Interviewer:** Where did you meet him at?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Anyway, he come back and wasn't able to work, 100 percent disability, he got wounded in 2 places, in his hip and his lungs and he had a buddy that was with him, that the only reason he got to come back was on the count of this buddy, his buddy heard, he come visit us and told us, he heard the medic say that they wasn't going to take him in because he was going to die anyway, he was waiting it on his lungs, and this buddy heard that and he told them said there will be some medics stretched out here dead if you don't take this boy in, so they took him in. That's the only reason that I've got my family now.

**Interviewer:** So where did you meet your husband at?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Well, I just met him here and there til finally I danced with him one night I think, didn't think nothing about it you know, before we got to going together, I reckon that food is what must have been what brought him to me, he always did brag on my food, he said I got it so good. He wouldn't eat nowhere else, hardly. He said my food was better than anybody's. Well, when he got a little bit better, after several months of being at home well he bought us a little place in Waynesburg, right out of Waynesburg, Tennessee and he built us a house there, that was our first home and we thought it was a really nice home and it was good, it's still good, I pass by to see it now. It was our first home, and he wasn't happy with Wayne County so we came back to Perry County where he was raised, we bought us a place down here and he built us a home down here and that's where, and then we sold this home and built us another one on the same place, our family got bigger, we had children then and we built us a bigger home, and then he got kindly able to work on school houses and things and they cut his disability down to 50 or 60 percent but they let him work, but he didn't work many days unless he took an easy tablet sometimes. He helped build school houses, and lots of things but he really did enjoy it, carpentry work and plumbing and electric, he wired our house and everything, he was good on all of it, he got good on all of it. In his later years thought he got to where he come

down with, his disability brought him back down and, so they raised his disability, he had to quit work, he worked at a factory for a while and done their plumbing and wiring and stuff that they needed done, manics and that. But in later years he got to where he wasn't able to work, and he had to give his job up because he couldn't put in a day's work, so they brought his disability back up and it just got worse and worse as the years went on and, I was thankful he done as well as he did because he couldn't hardly walk when he first come home out of the war, he just couldn't hardly walk at all.

**Interviewer:** How is uh, where did you see him when he came back, do you remember where you saw him?

**Norma C. Richardson:** He come back to Nashville, when he come back for us to get married, he come back to Nashville where I was at and we come back on the bus, we had to, we 2 boys and 2 girls, we had 2 boys and 2 girls one of the little boys passed away when he was about 9 year old and we got children and great grand children now that we are proud of and we wouldn't have had them if it hadn't of been for this friend of his.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, what was his friends name?

**Norma C. Richardson:** That made them medics take him in and treat him.

**Interviewer:** What was his friend's name?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Hershel Helms from Indiana...

**Interviewer:** Indiana.

**Norma C. Richardson:** ...was his friend, and he still has uh, still had a daughter-in-law, a step daughter-in-law, that I hear from often but all the rest of his friends up there is gone, everyone of them passed away I reckon. We have been to a lot of reunions in Indiana but they've all passed on now and I was thankful that he lived 86 years, he wasn't well all that time, he picked up malaria while he was over there and had the hard chills for about 20 year, then the doctor said about 20 years they'd stop having them, and so he did.

**Interviewer:** This is uh, this is your husband right?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Yeah, William J., my husband, that's the one who had the chills and he lived to be 86 year old and we lived together 54 years so we had a good life together and I'm thankful for that.

**Interviewer:** Did you ever get a raise working in the airplane factory?

**Norma C. Richardson:** No.

**Interviewer:** No. Do you remember when you had breaks during that time when you were working on the airplanes?

**Norma C. Richardson:** No.

**Interviewer:** Ya'll have like a lunch break?

**Norma C. Richardson:** No, getting back to the airplane factory well, me and this girl that was my friend and still is my friend, I was talking about in Louisville, Kentucky.

**Interviewer:** What was her name?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Marie Cherry was her name then but she married, no Marie Marlins was her name then but she married a Cherry. She's a Cherry now, so me and her didn't have any problem making production on our job and when I quit they told me I had a job anytime I wanted to come back but I never did go back to get it because I reckon there was too much going on here on Perry County.

**Interviewer:** So what made you, what made you go into the airplane factory, why did you want to get a job there?

**Norma C. Richardson:** I went into the airplane factory, I wanted to help with the war effort you know, and I thought I was making good money too, but wasn't making much but I thought I was. Met some good people there, had some good friends from Perry County working there to where I worked.

**Interviewer:** Do you remember your boss there?

**Norma C. Richardson:** I don't remember it, Bill was my boss's name but I don't know what the last name was. He was a very tall man, he just looked so scary looking, he set up in an office there, he first put me to working with a little girl, she doesn't want to work and he called her up to the office and he fired her and he called me then, I thought he was going to fire me. He called me to the office and I said, he I'm not going to fire you, I'm going to, said I'm going to keep you, said you are a worker if you got somebody to work with you, I know that, he was sitting up where he could see us work, so he put me with this women I'm talking about in Louisville, Kentucky and met her and worked together from then on. She's a good worker.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, you remember what you had to do on the airplanes, how you had to work on them, you remember what you specific job was?

**Norma C. Richardson:** My job on the planes was working and riveting, me and her took turns, we would work a while and then we would rivet a while, then we would change when we got tired. On this wings on the airplane and they cautioned us so many times to be very careful about how we put them in, try to get them in as perfect as we could on that count that it might cause

some boys to lose their lives, we hardly ever did get a red mark. A lot of them just get their red marks all over them.

**Interviewer:** How many...

**Norma C. Richardson:** We felt sorry for them but we just caught on to it right quick how to do it, I had to go to school about 6 weeks before I got on, working.

**Interviewer:** How many hours a day did you have to work?

**Norma C. Richardson:** 8, 8 hours a day.

**Interviewer:** 8 hours? So what did you used to do when you would come home from work?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Nothing. But we had to go back the next day, get my clothes ready and everything to go back the next day, I stayed at, me and my 2 nieces had a plan over there, we had rooms together, with an old lady there in Nashville and we rode with a lady that had a new car, that was something, something but she wouldn't let us comb our hair, like a lot of people now start out combing their hair in the car, she wouldn't let us do that in her car.

**Interviewer:** What was her name?

**Norma C. Richardson:** I don't know what her name was, she wouldn't let us do that.

**Interviewer:** Well how come she wouldn't let you comb your hair?

**Norma C. Richardson:** She didn't want no hairs in her car, you know. When we didn't ride that we had to ride a bus.

**Interviewer:** Did you have a car back then?

**Norma C. Richardson:** No.

**Interviewer:** No?

**Norma C. Richardson:** There was very few cars then, few people had car then, very few.

**Interviewer:** So did ya'll, you said you worked 8 hours a day so ya'll had some breaks during that time though?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Yeah, we had a break at dinner, 2 breaks one in the morning and one in the evening I don't know how, how, what time we had the breaks but I guess we had an hour off for lunch but I don't know.

**Interviewer:** Did ya'll ever go out for lunch at all?

**Norma C. Richardson:** We always carried lunch and they had to check it every day to see if nothing was in there to damage the factory, you know. They checked our lunch every day and our clothes too, our pockets, purses and everything.

**Interviewer:** What kind of tools did you use to use when you were working?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Had a little hammer with the tools I bought, had a little hammer and a little wrecking bar, and a little chiseling tool to chisel them out if we didn't do them again.

**Interviewer:** How hard was it chiseling all those pieces out for the parts?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Now what?

**Interviewer:** I said how difficult was it to chisel those pieces out?

**Norma C. Richardson:** It wasn't no small pieces, you know it was all on the wreck together, them wings and things.

**Interviewer:** What did it feel like when you were drilling those riveting in those parts?

**Norma C. Richardson:** The holes was all they drilled, we would rivet in to see that it was good and straight and perfect. Part of the time I would do the rucking, part of the time she would, we would switch them out.

**Interviewer:** Did you have any other helpers?

**Norma C. Richardson:** We were rucking, had a rucking machine and had a rucking bar.

**Interviewer:** Did ya'll do anything else, did ya'll work on anything else any other parts of the plane? Do you remember what the environment was when you walked in, how it felt like or the inside of a factory was like?

**Norma C. Richardson:** It seemed like you was walking into a big place when you walked in there, just seemed funny. It was really nice, it was a nice place to work.

**Interviewer:** How big was the place, you remember?

**Norma C. Richardson:** I don't know how big it was. It was a great big factory though but later when the war was over they sold it to something else, they made something else out of it.

**Interviewer:** You remember...

**Norma C. Richardson:** But I still had a job there if I wanted it because they told me I could come back anytime. I think I could have had a job there but I didn't want it, I was ready to settle down and raise a family, did what I wanted to do.

**Interviewer:** Do you remember the people you use to work with back then?

**Norma C. Richardson:** I don't remember any of their names now.

**Interviewer:** Did you meet any new people when you were up there working?

**Norma C. Richardson:** There was many of them that did but I didn't know many, they were just from all around.

**Interviewer:** What about your boss, what kind of man was he, did you remember him, was he...?

**Norma C. Richardson:** My little boss was just a little man, but this head over the thing was, he was a great tall man, I can see him right now, nearly how he looked, but I think his name was Bill or Bob one but I can't think of his last name.

**Interviewer:** Was he an older man or was he a middle aged man?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Nah, he wasn't an old man, he was a young man.

**Interviewer:** Was he, uh, did he, was he real strict in any way or did he make ya'll, or was he...?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Well, he would stand up there and watch everybody, what they was doing, see if they was doing things they ought not to be doing and that stuff. That's about all I know, about all I can remember.

**Interviewer:** So you worked there for about 2 or 3 years?

**Norma C. Richardson:** No I didn't work there much over a year.

**Interviewer:** Oh. So when did you come back to Perry County?

**Norma C. Richardson:** I come back when I got married, 1945. We come back the 28<sup>th</sup> of April and him visit when he come in from the hospital and then I stayed at home and uh, he went, had to go back to the hospital for about 5 months before they discharged him.

**Interviewer:** So he had...

**Norma C. Richardson:** So he got discharged then and...

**Interviewer:** So when did ya'll get married?

**Norma C. Richardson:** We got married April the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Interviewer:** What year was that?

**Norma C. Richardson:** We went to Corinth, Mississippi, we went to Corinth, Mississippi to get married, because you can get married quicker there, you didn't have to take a blood test and uh

his sister-in-law went with us, the one who's husband got killed, she went with us to witness it the wedding.

**Interviewer:** Well what year was that, do you remember what year?

**Norma C. Richardson:** That was 45'.

**Interviewer:** 45'.

**Norma C. Richardson:** We rode a bus down to Corinth and then rode it back and somebody carried for us and somebody met us when we got back so mean while he was recuperating, getting ready to go to work so my neighbor down the road from where I lived, he wanted him to drive the school bus for him.

**Interviewer:** What was his name?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Mr. Llyod Tatum.

**Interviewer:** Llyod Tatum.

**Norma C. Richardson:** He wanted him to drive the school bus for him for a while and he drove it for a year or two before we could find us a place to live. My mother needed me anyway to help with them kids, and help with everything so he just happy to be staying there, just happy to be back home. He drove that school bus, got a dollar a day for driving that.

**Interviewer:** So what did ya'll uh, when ya'll got to Corinth, how did uh, how long, what was the wedding like when you were there? Do you remember the wedding?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Well, when we got to Corinth to get married uh, everybody around there knowed there was somebody there to get married so they got together and thought they would get to see the wedding but they didn't.

**Interviewer:** So you...

**Norma C. Richardson:** I've been back to Corinth one time since I got married, but one of the kids met my husband back, one time is all we ever got to go back.

**Interviewer:** So your mother was with you, right during that time? No?

**Norma C. Richardson:** As he got older his mind got to wondering back to the war and he got to, got to imagining that the Japanese was in here one night trying to kill me and our children, you know, and he got after me with a walking stick when his mind got bad and he got real bad health, he got back to the war and he was fighting the Japanese, he thought he was and he was about to hit me with that walking stick and he said you're not coming in here to kill my wife and children now, you're not going to do it, you Japanese. Said you Japanese and he had his mind on them and he settled down pretty soon and went to sleep, just kept on getting worse about that,

he'd see the television sometimes and he would think that that was a somebody trying to hurt us, he was in fear of everything, just before he passed away, just afraid of everything. Not a lot to him.

**Interviewer:** So did he ever talk about his experiences in the war?

**Norma C. Richardson:** He never did talk about his experiences during the war much, he didn't like to talk about it.

**Interviewer:** Right.

**Norma C. Richardson:** Some of the young children asked him one time if he ever killed anybody and he said I guess I have, I have been made to shoot them guns you know them big guns, but he couldn't help it, it just really got to him as he got older.

**Interviewer:** And you said he was wounded, right, he was wounded at uh, and where was he wounded at?

**Norma C. Richardson:** He got wounded twice.

**Interviewer:** Was it at Zig Zag Pass?

**Norma C. Richardson:** Yeah, at Luzon, yeah Zig Zag Pass, he got wounded in hip and that bothered him all his life some but and then in his lungs, got part of his lungs shot out.

**Interviewer:** Was he able to uh, was he able...

**Norma C. Richardson:** He never could use this arm over by his lungs, where he got his lungs shot he could never use his right arm to throw a ball to the boy or nothing, you know, his son, he just never could use that arm to play with him none like that but he was a good father and a good husband.

**Interviewer:** So how is he uh, rescued after he was wounded, who, you said...?

**Norma C. Richardson:** That buddy of his brought him in, made them take him in and treat him. While he was there he got the expert Infantry Man Badge, got it June the 16<sup>th</sup> 1944 and a Combat Infantry Badge February the 26<sup>th</sup> 1945, and Decoration and Citation Pacific Theatre Medal, he got that and Philippine Liberation Medal, he got that, and a Good Combat Medal, and a Purple Heart Medal, he got that. He spent 2 years and 4 months in the state, spent 1 year 3 months, and 18 days overseas, that's another thing.....(cut tape).....