

Chloe Book – WWII – November 25, 2000

Interviewer: I want to thank you so much

Book: You'll have to talk a little bit louder

Interviewer: Yes mamma – I'm sorry. Let me begin by asking you to tell me your full name and a little bit about yourself, when you were born & where, where you grew up and a little bit of that background information so that when folks have the chance to listen and see the video will know a little bit more about you grandma.

Book: My name is Lela Chole Book. I was born in Vern, Missouri, out on the farm from Vern, in Feb 2, 1913. Ah, went to school, well my parents name was Marian and Florence Mills. I went to a great school. There were 8 classes in this one room school with one teacher. (laughter) It was about ½ mile, we had to walk about ½ mile to the school. And I lived there till I married. (laughter)

Interviewer: And what year did ya'll marry?

Book: March 10, 1940.

Interviewer: And your husband's name?

Book: Was Homer Book. He grew up in Arkansas. Around Picket Arkansas. And uh, when we first married we went to Fort Worth, TX. He was working in Ft. Worth. But we didn't stay down there but about 6 months. We decided to try to go to Pontiac, Michigan where my sister lived and see if he could get a job in the factories. They paid more. But he didn't. When we got up there you had to have a birth certificate. And back in those days, you didn't automatically get one and they were problems to get. So it took him about a couple of months for his parents to get one. We stayed in, we stayed, we were over in Clint, Michigan where he had a temporary job. And that's where he was when he had to sign up for the Army. Sign up for service.

Interviewer: So ya'll were living in Michigan at the time of that. Huh. Let me ask you another question, that is where ya'll would have been when you actually got the news of Pearl Harbor bombing?

Book: No, ah, no we lived in Pontiac then, and that was after Sharon was born when we got the news about, no I'm wrong, that was before Sharon was born, but we lived in Pontiac at that time. But when he left for service he had to go back to Flint to leave.

Interviewer: Is that because he had signed up there?

Book: Yeah

Interviewer: OK, Well do you remember, let me see if I can ask this right, hum, do you recall where you were, when you heard the news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Book: Well, I was at home, we didn't hear it on Sunday because we had gone to Flint with some friends and, on Sunday afternoon, and then we went to a movie – I don't remember exactly the name, but it

was Abbott & Costello. (laughter) I remember that and we didn't get home until late and didn't turn on the radio and I hadn't had it on the next day. We lived in an apartment, upstairs, the man downstairs who owned it, told me we had, I think Roosevelt had already declared war then. Anyway, I didn't hear it until the next day.

Interviewer: OK. What was your reaction when you heard that.

Book: Well, of course we were – just amazed and worried, wondered what was going to happen next

Interviewer: Prior to that had there been any news cast that you had listened to over a period of time that made you wonder about the war going on in Europe or some of the activities of the Japanese.

Book: Oh we knew about that, but we wasn't involved. That's what brought us in to the war

Interviewer: Well hum, you've told me a little bit about your life prior to the war when you were sharing information about yourself and your life prior to the war. What I'm curious about, and would like to ask you next is how did your family's life change with the onset of the war?

Book: Well, ah, they changed, anything that could be changed over to make war goods they did. The government took over. If you were making clothing, then you made clothing for GI's. If you were, making, where Homer work, they made trucks, then they made Army trucks and Army vehicles and ah, whatever it was, if it could be re-tooled to make something for Service, then it was retooled, for the service. Things, that began to make things scarce for civilians. And finally, we went to be rationed. Now, they never did ration coals, except shoes where rationed. You just didn't, if you were lucky and found some (laughter). Stuff became scarce.

Interviewer: You told me some of the things that were rationed that your family had ration books, for particular items

Book: Yes, a lot of the food was rationed. Meats, canned vegetables, sugar, you had ration books for shoes, and for ah, groceries, they were different colors. If I remember right, we got new ones, new ration books and I was thinking last night, they must of come through the mail, I don't remember having to go get them. But each person got one, even a baby, see.

Interviewer: Wow

Book: So you had, everybody had one, one was issued for each person. But living on the farm, we didn't feel the effect of food, like you would have if you lived in the city. We raised gardens and we had our own meat, things. We didn't feel the pinch like you did.

Interviewer: You told me in an earlier conversation that you had lived in the city, in Pontiac and that you had also gone home to Missouri

Book: Yes the farm. I went back and lived with my parents cause Sharon was 10 months old when Homer left for service.

Interviewer: So you could really then, take a look and see the definite advantage of living on a farm

Book: Yes

Interviewer: Being able to grow your own crops

Book: The thing is my dad had, he farmed about 200 acres, it was left up to him and he was getting up in years cause my brother, was drafted. So he was the farmer, but we were at an advantage, as far as food was concerned. You got an amount of food, I don't recall the beans and things like that rationed. Mostly it was canned goods and meat and sugar. Sugar, I believe, we got 5 lbs a person for a month.

Interviewer: Wow

Book: I know one year we canned some strawberries, for some reason, white Karo syrup was available so we used part syrup to supplement our sugar (laughter). You got by. And I don't know how, there were people, I guess if you knew the right people you could get things like candy, cigarettes and even tires for your car, and stuff like that. They were very scarce. I don't know how the people got them to sell (laughter)

Interviewer: So there was a black market operation

Book: Back in those days, just about everybody, men smoked. But cigarettes, the Army get them, they didn't have to pay hardly anything for them, but ah, tobacco was available, but you had to buy it in tin cans (laughter) I don't know if you ever saw Prince Albert in the Red, have you ever seen those cans.

Interviewer: Yes mamma. Then you had to buy the rolling papers.

Book: And you had your own rolled cigarettes or smoked a pipe and they also had it in bags. Little bags with drawstrings, that was usually tobacco that was strong, older, lot older men that smoked pipes used that. So, but ah, candy was sparse. Any kind of candy was just hard to find.

Interviewer: Well, had told me grandma about a place that people were able to acquire some things that were harder to find. (laughter) you mention something about some snickers bars

Book: Well, one Christmas, we found, we heard a little store near us had some Snicker bars and we were able to buy a box of 24

Interviewer: Oh wow

Book: For Christmas. As I say, living on a farm we fared a lot better. We would share our meat stamps with my sister that lived in Pontiac.

Interviewer: Wow

Book: So, but it was difficult.

Interviewer: That really shows right there that it seemed, that our perception that everyone pulled together really as a nation, that everyone had

Book: Yes,

Interviewer: An important role

Book: Yes, we, everyone was willing to do everything they could to help. I never heard anybody grumble about being, having to scrounge for things or do without them. Glad to do it. It was a time when the whole nation pulled together.

Interviewer: Really did

Book: It's terrible that it takes a war like that to do it. It was amazing how quickly they turned around from making, ah, products for civilians and turned it into war, ah, things that was needed to win the war.

Interviewer: But that was fascinating to see that rapid move toward that. The transition must have been incredible.

Book: It was incredible, it was. They just, you know, whatever they was making if they could change it a little bit to make something for the service men, they got.

Interviewer: You said earlier, that you husband had gone from making, did he work for the Ford Corporation?

Book: No, he worked for General Motors.

Interviewer: General Motors

Book: It was called General Motors Yellow, they made cabs, buses too. But he worked in the division part that made trucks.

Interviewer: So you actually, he had the experience of going from making the pre-war vehicles to making machinery for

Book: Yeah

Interviewer: The war effort.

Book: I'm not sure but they may of made Jeeps there too, for the war. They didn't have to do, they were already making the trucks so they didn't have to do...they could just change that over to make the Army vehicles.

Interviewer: Let me transition to ask about, a little bit about your husband and how ah, how he went from working in a manufacturing plant that was going toward the war effort to being enlisted and, ah, ending up going into the Army.

Book: Yep, yeah. Well he went in August of 43. Sharon was 10 months old, and he was on a troop train going to OR on his 30th birthday (laughter) and they didn't draft people over 30 at that time. And ah, but he was that near. He also worked for something that was necessary for service. You could get deferment for that, but he didn't try to get deferment. He was shipped to Cavallas, OR. It was called, ah, oh, can't think of it now, but he was shipped out there for training and he was there until the following July. Ah, they shipped the whole, I'm not sure there were troops and regiments, and

battalions and divisions. I forgot how they go. I think troop goes first, but I know he was called, I think the 76th regiment – Trailblazers. And their patch, they wore on their arm was ah, ah, showed a pine tree and an ax on it. (laughter) I believe that was the 75th division – I was going to look that up, but I didn't do it yet. And ah, he was out there. And Sharon and I decided, they didn't really want family with, they didn't tell you not too, but they didn't make it handy for you to be there to be with your husband (laughter). A lot of them was young boys, some of them got married after they went into service and their wives didn't have children. Now Sharon, is she had been a month or 2 older she would have counted as a dependent but as it was, you know, if you had a dependent you wasn't drafted either – I mean a child. But she wasn't old enough to qualify for that. We decided we'd go out there (laughter)

Interviewer: All the way to Oregon (laughter)

Book: All the way to Oregon (laughter), my mom said, Sharon was about a year and a half old and she'd had pneumonia that Christmas

Interviewer: Oh

Book: We thought we were going to lose it. We had spoiled her pretty good (laughter) my mom said. (laughter) you will never, you can't, handle that on a long train. But my brother in law had ah, a hardware store, he was going to go to St. Louis to buy supplies, so we were, we decided we'd go to St. Louis, to get on the train with him. We left my mom's at 12:00 on a Wed morning and got to OR at 6:00 Saturday afternoon.

Interviewer: Wow, whew

Book: (laughter) we, but we had to spend a whole day, station, we had to stay there until late in the afternoon to get a train out. Servicemen had first choice, they could get on first. And then they were seats for civilians. Of course with gas being the way it was you didn't go a lot. But anyway, I got me a red cap and I told him I wanted on that train. Sharon and I were one of the first people on that train and

Interviewer: Wow (laughter)

Book: What I, think, what did they call. Most trains were steam locomotives but this was one of the new ones.

Interviewer: Oh wow

Book: You know like we have now

Interviewer: Well I guess they're diesel engines maybe

Book: These, yeah, yeah, this was one of them. By the time that train got loaded every isle was standing full. Soldiers and the whole thing, I mean the whole thing was full, of course I had to hold Sharon and ah, but, hum, we stopped someplace along, enough got off that it kind of thinned out. And, ah, then we went to Denver. We crossed the mountains during the night and ended up in Denver the next day, I spent a whole day in Denver and caught a train, this one was the old steam engine train.

Went to Portland OR and had to spend a whole day there to get a train to Corvallis where Homer was. So that Saturday.

Interviewer: What a trip (laughter)

Book: And Sharon never cried a whimper

Interviewer: Ahhh

Book: She was the best thing. Finally, the train thinned out and I was able to have a seat here she could play and I had stuff for her to play with but we made it. Then we were out there from March till the very last of June. Homer was eligible for a furlough and ah, so he came back with us. He knew he was going to be shipped out and we didn't know where. We lived in, there was a tourist camp on the banks of the Lamarough River. In those days, the tourist camp was cabins. You know separate cabins. (laughter) We had one big room with a bed and 2-3 little, cane back chairs, little kitchen and ah, big enough bathroom for a commode and shower. (laughter) that we lived in. We didn't have a car but some of other men did and he'd catch ride in and come home most night. He might go off and say "well we're going on" I think they called them bedwacks, probably be out in the field 3-4 days. I know one time he told me that and so Sharon and I would get out and walk around some. When we came home, he was home. Changed plans. But he might also say, "see you tonight" and we might not see him for 3 days. The Army was very secretive about things. Your life wasn't your own. We didn't even have him when he come home. At first when we went out there I didn't take a clock. Of course he hadn't needed one and we didn't have an alarm clock for him to get up. But one of the guys lived next to us. He wired it so he could get us up (laughter) When he was shipped out somewhere else, they sold us their clock. You couldn't buy an alarm clock.

Interviewer: Really?

Book: So he sold us their clock (laughter). But he came home with me, came back to Missouri with me. I thought, we've got it made this time because he's a serviceman. But they would let him go on and carry Sharon but I couldn't go on then.

Interviewer: Oh wow

Book: I got red caps at both places and I had no problem what's so ever getting on

Interviewer: Grandma what where the red caps that you're talking about?

Book: (laughter) wasn't that lucky. The porters you know they worked, carried stuff, luggage.

Interviewer: Oh, so they were called red caps.

You, they wore red caps and uniforms

Interviewer: I'm sorry (laughter)

(laughter) you tipped them. I would find one, tip him pretty good and he'd make sure I was on both times – I changed in St. Louis and Portland

Interviewer: You knew how to deal with those fellows (laughter)

I'd never traveled on a train before in my life...no, yeah, I had, I take that back But certainly not anything like that, that distance. No, not by myself with a child. We had come to Missouri one time on a train but ah, I just found one, tipped him pretty good and they saw to it that I got on the train when, with my luggage and everything.

Interviewer: So ya'll came back to Missouri then. So how long were you able to be together as a family before

I think he had a two weeks furlough and ah, then he went back to Corvallis. He wasn't there more than a week, when they shipped the whole outfit, I don't know what they were called, troops

Interviewer: That's a good term, an outfit

I don't remember what the term was but they shipped to Ft. Linwood, Missouri and that was, ah, must have been the very last of July. They were there then from July till, I don't remember where they went, seems like it was on the East Coast. From there they shipped out.

Interviewer: So they used Ft. Linwood as a station area and then they moved to the East Coast?

Yeah, he was there until December. So about, 4-5 months. He was able to catch a bus that came from Ft. Leavenworth to Poplar Bluff and he got to come home while he was there before he shipped out.

Interviewer: Oh? When you said home, were you at that time back home with your mom and dad?

Yes, I was living back on the farm with mom & dad.

Interviewer: OK. Let me stop at this moment and ask what it was like to be living, the town you were living on, and what particular things were going on in your home town that made it interesting during the war.

Well, of course we lived 7 miles out in the country. Didn't go to town much you know. (laughter) Weekly trip, if you did that, especially later on. We, were busy, life, living on the farm, gardens, animals to take care of, we had chickens, hogs and cows. And ah, we had our own milk, eggs, and meat.

Interviewer: That goes back to it being a lot easier being on the farm, having resources like that. Well grandma, you had told me that Malden Missouri, that was the town close by, 7 miles away from you.

No that was Bernie.

Interviewer: Oh Bernie, ok

This is about 10-12 miles to Malden. We didn't come to Maldie. If we went to a larger town we went to Drexler.

Interviewer: Ok

Drexler, was about 16 miles.

Interviewer: The unique thing you shared about Malden was that it was an airfield town during the war.

Oh yes, yes, they bought, I think, the Army, the Air Force bought it. It must be about 640 acres, anyway, they bought it and built an airport, and ah

Those hangers and everything are still visible today. They're privately owned, I guess by different people

Yes, They finally sold it to the city of Malden for a \$1. Malden's city now owns what was the airport but they had trooper carrier planes, station here and there were a lot of barracks. It was sealed off, you had to go through, you know, you had to have business, you had to have a pass to get in.

Interviewer: So you saw a lot of the training activity going on?

Yeah, we saw a lot of it. They had a glider base where they hooked on to those troop transports.

Interviewer: Interesting. So you got to see them utilizing, learning how fly and land the gliders

Yeah, I guess that was the idea.

Interviewer: You mention seeing one that came over the farm at one point, would you share a little bit of that with us.

(laughter) yeah, well we, they would fly in formation, or one behind the other, and we were out watching. Of course it was something to see when you see, especially when they had 2 gliders on the back. We were watching them and one came loose and it would have been about 4-5 miles before it came down. Word was that they said it didn't hurt it much (laughter) and during that time one of those transport planes, ah, hit, I think they hit some trees, anyway, they ended up in the field not far from where we lived.

Interviewer: Wow. I bet it was certainly a hub of activity around

Oh it was, it was, I don't know how many, people were station over there but we had a real good friend, that ended up, he was a friend to us, then he married my best friend in Michigan. He ended up stationed there

Interviewer: I bet he was glad to be close to some friends.

(laughter)

Interviewer: Let me ask, let's go back to Grandpa Book and how his time had gone. He ended up at Ft. Levenwood, then ended up moving to the East Coast before he ended up being moved, shipped out overseas.

Yeah

Interviewer: If we could go back there and pick up, I'd love to hear a little bit more about that. Let me think what you told me yesterday, you said something in our previous conversation about, about he would have arrived in Europe in December, is that right?

Yeah, right around Christmas, they were on the battle field. He was in the Battle of Bulge, and they ah, arrived and went into action right at Christmas time.

Interviewer: Wow

So, ah, ah, it makes you wonder, they shipped that whole outfit from the West Coast to the East to leave. There was Japan...that war going on, but...it looks like it would have been....maybe better...but yeah...he was, he was, when the war was over they had, he had to have so many points to come home, he didn't have quite enough ...I don't remember just how they work, but it seems like you got more for being overseas, but anyway, he ended in the war occupation and stayed on.

Interviewer: OK, so he was in the Occupied Army Force then

Yeah

Interviewer: The post-war

Yeah, they left a bunch of them over there you know for I assume to be sure, they didn't break out again. They called it the Army of Occupation. So he didn't come home till – the war ended in summer and he didn't come home till Feb of that year.

Interviewer: So he spent that later part of his tour in that Occupying Force in Germany then?

I don't know, I don't remember if it was Germany or France...I don't know where ever they ended up. I just don't remember. I think he was in France & Germany both during his time over there.

Interviewer: Well let's see, I'm trying to think of a couple of things you shared with me. One, was what his job again, his training?

He was called a "high-speed radio operator" He was mostly stationed behind the main fighting lines. And I suppose, I don't know if the people moved out, I suppose they did, but they were usually, set up in a house. Somebody, I take it, he never talked much about it, I assume, that they found a house that was empty and set up in it. Of course, he had a jeep. I don't know if they could operate out of that or not. I know he did have a jeep and moved around in. He never talked about it very much

Interviewer: Could you tell, and this may be a very personal question to ask and I haven't, we didn't talk about this when we had our conversation yesterday, but I was curious, did, now Grandpa Book was obviously a grown man when he went into the military he was 30 years old on his birthday when he went out to OR, I guess my question, to simplify it, could you tell a difference or a change in grandpa when he came home from the war? Was there anything different? I know you said he didn't talk about his experiences, he didn't share those

Of course, he was...there was a difference but not too greathe was lucky. He wasn't one of the men that walked and did the shooting. He was close enough to be in danger sometime from rockets and things. He was lucky that he wasn't a foot soldier and ah I'm sure didn't see and experience what a lot of them did. But I imagine that there was that dread all the time, he said you could tell when they were coming in, where they were close enough to be concerned. He was close enough to ah...

Interviewer: His job was certainly a very important one, keeping communications up between

They used codes of course, staying in touch with whoever they needed to.

Interviewer: Well, I, thank you for letting me ask that questions, I was before, I was just curious, I know Grandpa was a very deeply religious man, a very faithful Christian. What was it like, he and 2 brothers, they were all 3 in the service at the same time.

Well at first one of his brothers, just went through the original training. He had some health problems, ah...he wasn't in service very long. Then he had another brother who was station in India

Interviewer: Wow

He really wasn't in the battles either, they were supply. Had something to do with loading ships I think, I'm not sure what his brother did, he was in service longer, he got out just a week before Homer and he was in service a year or more before Homer went. So...

Interviewer: Was it uncommon, or was it common, let me ask you this, I'm sorry, Was it common place that a community would have many families that had ah...sons, fathers, or brothers...

Oh yeah, it was a rare family that didn't have someone

Interviewer: Someone? What was, ah...that must have been interesting, ah, ah, was the church ya'll went to, what was it like during this time, would there be a prayer?

Sure...

(suddenly video changes from one view to another with different date on screen)

Interviewer: I appreciate it the opportunity to do a little bit more and finish up our interview and finish up. Thank you once again for taking the time to share your story with us. Ah, I guess to begin, I'd like to ask you a little bit about what it was like in keeping with communication, letter writing and ...you mentioned it earlier in our conversation, what was it like ah, keeping in touch with your husband

Well, I wrote him about every day that I could mail it. He was good to write, we wrote practically every day but the mail might come in bunches for me and for him. It might go 4-5 days without getting a letter and then I might get several. Of course it was that way with him too. The mail didn't always get right to them but we communicated real well and ah...ah, I didn't know anything about what they were doing, cause they were allowed, their letters were censored and read but I only got one that had a couple of words snipped out of it.

Interviewer: So they actually cut the words out of the letter?

Yeah, he evidently said something that they thought might give, an enemy got hold of it, might give them, but otherwise, he, that didn't happen. Of course, when I didn't get a letter for a while, you'd wonder, but ah...I, we, wrote each other regularly. As I say, I wrote every day.

Interviewer: Now you had said something about sending photographs to him, of yours, of, was your daughter about a year, little over a year old when ya'll were starting the letter writing.

Well, he went into service when she was 10 months old

Interviewer: She's 10 months old...

She was over a year old when he went overseas. And, yes, I tried to, they use to have places you get your picture taken on little set up in booths in towns. I'd take those and send them to him. Ah, she had her own picture of him. She'd tell him good night when she went to bed. Of course, at her age she didn't remember him when he came back. It took a few days, for her to recognize. And he wasn't in uniform any more either so (laughter)

Interviewer: Had she been accustom to seeing him....

(laughter) it made a difference in his appearance I guess to her. It took a while, he had to, you know....it took her a while who he was and that he was going to be around (laughter)

Interviewer: Oh Wow. Do you remember how he felt when he came back and having missed the opportunity of seeing her grow? I guess she kind of grow fast, I hear younger's do that

Yeah, yes, he missed that but that was just part of it. We were not the only ones. Some of them had children born after they went overseas...and ah...and had never seen them. Probably some of them never saw them because they didn't come back. But ah, it was different and it you know, it took a while for, after the war was over before we could get back to get things.

Interviewer: So it was a while before things evened out, being able to get groceries and things like that?

Well, yeah, ah....that didn't take so long, but things, like, we went back to Pontiac when he came home and bought a house and you couldn't buy a stove. Someone loaned us a oven and we had a hot plate. So, ah, my sister, lived in Detroit and she found out a store that had electric stoves so she called me, I said buy it. So she bought it and brought, we didn't even see it till....that's the way you did...ah...it took ...it was a year from the time, it would have been a year from the time when the war was over and we got back and were trying tobuy this...get things set. I don't remember how long it took before you could buy a car because they had to re-tool all those....

Interviewer: Machinery, factories and all?

Yeah, refrigerators, anything.

Interviewer: So they really had to re-structure industry.

Yes

Interviewer: Let me ask you this grandma, did ya'll, you said your family went back to Pontiac and he started back, did he go back to work for the GM Corp

Yes he went back to work for them.

Interviewer: Prior to the war he had worked in the manufacturing of trucks, buses and caps?

Yes, but he worked on the trucks, on the truck line.

Interviewer: He had, we talked earlier, that he had seen the transition from making civilian vehicles to the manufacturing of....war machines

Yes I think they had done that, before he, after the war started and before he went into service. They were already making vehicles for the Army.

Interviewer: Well interesting. Is there anything in particular, let me see if I have asked the questions that I needed to....one thing we should share with our folks is maybe the photography of your husband. Looks like he was a brand new recruit at the time...we were noticing earlier, that he didn't have any of his medals or anything on his uniform.

This is when he first went into the service...shortly after...just a plain old private....in this picture (laughter). Because he hadn't been in service, I don't know, a month or so.

Interviewer: Just a month or so, well.

Yeah, did you get it?

Interviewer: Let's see that would have been in 1943?

Yeah

Interviewer: Sometime after August

Yeah, he went in in August, somewhere around the 21st. I'm not sure of the exact day, because his birthday on the 24th and he was on a troop train on his way to OR on his birthday, 30th birthday. So it would have been long about that time.

Interviewer: Well, it looked like when we were looking through his record that he served....do you have that written down, his unit and all?

Do you want he was in Regimental Headquarters, 215 and 275th infantry in 70th division and he arrived in Europe December 6, 1944. He remained over there to sometime in January of '46 because he came home in Feb of 1946.

Interviewer: What was his job grandma?

He was a high speed radio operator. His, he stayed mostly behind the lines and communicated, I don't know exactly how it went but that was his job, sending code

Interviewer: Codes, OK. There was something else I wanted to ask you about grandma, when we were looking through everything, it looks like grandpa got 2 Bronze Stars for his service medals.

Well he, had some medals, he ended up a technical sergeant. I don't know how many stripes he had (laughter) He didn't talk too much about it and I had forgotten that he was a technical sergeant.

Interviewer: It's neat that you remember that to share with us. Let's see, something else I wanted to ask you, I'm sorry I'm asking all these questions all here at once, but one of the other things I was wondering like, we talked about, we had mentioned church somewhere along the line. During the time he was in service, his father, was his father the pastor of ya'll church.

Yeah, his father was the pastor of the church I went to, Bethany.

Interviewer: Did ya'll share, like, would church of been a place you would have gotten a communication circle where you shared with one another and found out how one another's family members were faring.

Oh yes, of course

Interviewer: Was there a lot of prayer in the church offered up for the...

Yes, everybody had somebody, most had somebody close in service. A lot of them were overseas and some of them were wounded.

Interviewer: Did you see a lot of them come back? Did a lot of the boys come back wounded in the area and were able to...that's not what I need to ask....how was it for Grandpa when he came back? Did he go right back to work? Did he make an easy transition into civilian life.

Well, we visited his folks. It was about a couple of weeks. See cars were just...if you had one you were alright but if you didn't....I had, my dad had gotten where he couldn't see to drive and ah...for the 3 years I lived with them, I did the driving. So he decided he would let us have his, sell us his car, and ah, so they would work it over before we went out to Michigan. (laughter) His brother Otis had just gotten out of service a few days before he did and ah, so he also went to Michigan same time we did. We were around a couple of weeks at least before we went back.

Of course, they were assured their job.

Interviewer: The thing I asked earlier, did they go back to the same jobs they had before at the same companies?

Well, he went back, I don't know if he did the same job in the plant but he worked for the same plant. General Motors Truck Company, that he'd worked for before. I assumed they took all of them for the employees back who ask for it.

Interviewer: I bet they were proud to have them back to (laughter)

Yeah, yes, I don't know that women worked in the plant before the war but they had hired women.

Interviewer: Did you know of any around, personally, from your time in Michigan that went into the factories and started working when the men were leaving?

Well, yeah, I had some friends that worked there.

Interviewer: Interesting, did they fit that description of "Rosie the Riveter"?

(laughter)well I don't know exactly what they did, all the able body men were in service and they had to have these products. I imagine that's when women started working, I mean they may have worked in the offices, but I mean started working on the line...and doing the actual construction of the vehicles.

Interviewer: That's interesting that you had some friends that were actively involved in working in the plants. I know we read a lot about that, some of those ladies and their sacrifices and their efforts. It's really unique that you know some of them. Did you ever, ever talk with any of them after the war, what that experience was like?

No, I don't recall that I did.

Interviewer: Well Grandma, I want to thank you so very much for taking the time to share your story and grandpa's story with us And I really appreciate that and I know it will be helpful to folks who want to know about the time prior to WWII and during and what it was like from your point of view having a husband overseas and having a young child, just that whole experience. I just want to thank you

I was one of the fortunate ones. My parents wanted me to come home and live with them. So I didn't have to work and make a living and have someone take care of her while I worked. So I was very fortunate. I'm very thankful for that.

Interviewer: Thank you so much

You're more than welcome. Glad to help if I can

Interviewer: Well you sure did, I appreciate it.