

Quick: My name is Elizabeth Quigg I was born in Huntsville Alabama February 27, 1921.

Interviewer: Okay and what did your dad do when you were born?

Quick: At that time he was working at a cotton mill it was a mill town.

Interviewer: Okay and tell us a little about the mill town how it was set up.

Quick: Well it was a village and it was really great and we knew each other and got along together and we just liked everybody. We lived close to the school house we had a side walk to walk on so we never missed a day going to school. It was just about a block.

Woman in the background: And did your whole family tell them about your family.

Quick: Well at that time everyone was poor but we didn't know we were poor because we were all just a like. We had plenty to eat my mother made a garden we had plenty of vegetables and we had fruit trees in the yard and we had fruit. And everybody had to be saving everybody stretched their dollar. Everything was cheap but we didn't make much money I went to the store and got a quart of butter milk for five cents and sweet milk was ten cents a quart and a loaf of bread five cents. But everybody was happy.

Interviewer: And were you close to your neighbors?

Quick: Yes we had a good time playing together. We did have skates and my friends and I skated on sidewalks I never had a girls bicycle I always had to ride my brothers beat up bikes boys bicycles. And we played ball out in the street we grew up having fun.

Interviewer: And did you have aunts and uncles and cousins that lived around you?

Quick: Oh yes my mother came from a family of 12 she had six brothers there were six boys and six girls. And most of them lived in Huntsville but some of them lived in other towns.

Interviewer: And do you have any special memories or anything that may have happened to you when you were younger?

Quick: Well we had a lot of cousin we played together and we had a good time together.

Woman in the background: And did you have a singing contest?

Quick: Oh when I was very small I must have been in about the second or third grade we had a singing contest at school and the teacher came and got me and said we want you to come and be in the contest. Of course I always just obeyed I went along. And I sang and to my utter surprise I won first place it was a five dollar gold piece.

Interviewer: What did you use your money on?

Quick: My mother and father took it downtown and got me a new winter coat.

Interviewer: And so what do you remember about the great depression about rationing and?

Quick: That was a hard time because if you were lucky enough to have a car your gas was rationed and you couldn't drive it just out for fun. And sugar, coffee was rationed and it was according to the size of your family and you had a little sticker showing how much you were allowed to buy. And hose was a big thing that was rationed first we got nylon hose then it got so bad all they had was cotton hose.

Woman in the background: And then what did you do if you tore your cotton hose?

Quick: Well you either wore them or you went bare legged.

Interviewer: Okay and then after high school what did you do?

Quick: Well I got married and that was July and in December the Japanese dropped a bomb on Pearl Harbor and the next day the president declared war.

Interviewer: Okay and what did your husband do during that time?

Quick: At that time he worked in the cotton mill.

Interviewer: And did you all ever were you part of the New Deal programs that President Roosevelt had?

Quick: There was only one that I remember it was a CCC Camp that was the president started to give people jobs to help out. I had one brother that worked there.

Interviewer: And how did you hear about the programs and things President Roosevelt

Quick: Well we heard it on the radio.

Interviewer: And did you all listen to the radio often?

Quick: Yes because that's the only way we got our news was through newspaper and radio. And then when we went to the movie they showed the new reel of the news about the war.

Interviewer: Did you ever think the US was going to be involved in the war?

Quick: It was just horrible to think about I just prayed that we never would.

Interviewer: And were supportive of President Roosevelt?

Quick: Yes he was a good president.

Interviewer: And after you got married and after Pearl Harbor did you start working in Huntsville or did you stay at home?

Quick: After Pearl Harbor well in my husband went into the Navy in 46 and he worked in a post office and this is a picture of him and all of his men and women too.

Woman in the background: But before he went into the Navy did you have a job in Huntsville?

Interviewer: At Red Stone.

Quick: Oh yes I did before Gary was born they were hiring women and some men at Red Stone Arsenal in Huntsville making bombs and I got a job there and worked for a while and I liked it a lot.

Interviewer: And what did you do there?

Quick: It was just pouring this liquid into the vials that went into the bomb.

Woman in the background: What part of the bomb was it?

Quick: I really don't know it was a booster they called it a booster bomb.

Interviewer: How did you get to work there?

Quick: Well I had a friend that had a car and he came around and picked us up, it was several women, and took us to work and brought us home.

Interviewer: And how long did you work at Red Stone?

Quick: It was just several months because I got pregnant and it was just necessary for me to stop.

Woman in the background: When you were working there did the job seem even though you had fun did it seem dangerous in any way?

Quick: Well we need to be very careful and I don't understand what the liquid was made of but I know I can remember everyone that worked there their skin had a yellowish tint and had men there to do certain jobs.

Interviewer: Do you know what the men did there?

Quick: Well when we would get these vials filled up they took them and stored them away.

Interviewer: So the men stored the vials after you all got them filled. Did everyone have that yellowish?

Quick: Yes

Interviewer: And how long did you have that after you left there?

Quick: Well after you leave there get away from it you soon clear up.

Interviewer: You soon clear up so did they ever did the doctors ever worry about you when you worked there and then got pregnant?

Quick: I guess not.

Interviewer: They never worried about that. Then what did you do after you left Huntsville?

Quick: My husband took a job in Clarksville Tennessee working for Sturchie Brothers.

Woman in the background: Did you go to did he join the Navy first after you left the Arsenal?

Quick: Yes he joined the Navy in 1943.

Interviewer: Okay and do you have any pictures of him?

Quick: Yes I have a picture of him.

Interviewer: And that's him in Pensacola Florida?

Quick: In Pensacola.

Interviewer: And he worked for the post office you said.

Quick: Yes he worked for the post office.

Interviewer: And what did you do while you were down there?

Quick: I took care of this little boy.

Interviewer: Okay

Quick: And then I had another little boy while we were there. He was discharged in 46 in 44 I had a little boy and he was born in Pensacola Hospital in the Navy Hospital.

Interviewer: And did you get to know a lot of the military families that were around you?

Quick: No we were pretty much scattered out. But we did live close to a lady that had a car and we went to church with them.

Woman in the background: When you were living there did they have big apartment? What were the living quarters I mean apartments like?

Quick: I don't know you just had to it was hard to find a place and later we found a house a two room house with a bath we were tickled to death to have that much room. And we had a big yard for Gary to play in.

Woman in the background: But what was it like when you first got there?

Interviewer: Did the military provide housing for you?

Quick: No we had to find a place that's when we lived in one room with this nurse and her father was a fisherman and he just caught all kind of sea food and he made his living that was.

Interviewer: And you just rented a room in their house in the beginning?

Quick: Uh huh

Interviewer: And did you know any of the people that participated in the star program that put the stars on the windows?

Quick: Yes I did I knew them.

Interviewer: And did you know any of the people who maybe lost service members in the war?

Quick: Yes yes I did.

Interviewer: Okay and during that time they did a lot of scrap drives like collecting metal scrap metal and things like that did you participate in any of the drives?

Quick: Everyone saved aluminum foil I can remember that.

Interviewer: Okay and what about the bonds?

Quick: Oh yes even when my children were in school we would give them money each week to buy the stamps to put in a book and when they had bought up \$18 and I think 75 cents then they got a bond worth \$25 when it matured.

Woman in the background: Did one of your sons use the bonds for something special?

Quick: Oh it was years later and he was older he used his money to buy a motorcycle.

Interviewer: Okay and then after your husband got out of the Navy in 1946 what did you all do then?

Quick: He went to work for a furniture store.

Interviewer: In Pensacola?

Quick: No that was after we came back to Huntsville.

Interviewer: After Huntsville and he worked there. And then you all came to Clarksville?

Quick: And then yes well and then he went to work in the post office he went there and I guess that's why they put him in the post office in the Navy. He worked there for three years almost three years.

Interviewer: So he served his time at in Pensacola working at the post office for the military. And then got out and moved back to Huntsville?

Quick: Right

Interviewer: And at that time what did you do?

Quick: At that time he worked in the post office.

Interviewer: And did you stay home or did you work?

Quick: No I didn't work.

Interviewer: You didn't work. And after the war did you all still do a lot of rationing or what happened after the war ended?

Quick: Well we just learned how to be very careful with the money we knew how to be real saving.

Interviewer: And did you buy a house or did you buy a car?

Quick: After the war?

Interviewer: After the war was over.

Quick: Yes we bought a house.

Interviewer: In Huntsville or?

Quick: In Huntsville.

Interviewer: And then later you moved to Clarksville?

Quick: My husband went to work for Sturchie Bothers Furniture that's why we came to Huntsville.

Interviewer: And eventually you went on to work at Leslie Barnett Instruments.

Quick: Yes I worked there for about 20 years.

Interviewer: And what did you do there?

Quick: Made parts for electrical equipment.

Interviewer: And did you work with mainly women or men?

Quick: It was mostly women some men worked there.

Interviewer: Some men.

Quick: It was we had a lot of fun a lot of good friends there.

Interviewer: And during a lot of the time a lot of people look over the WWII era as being the best time in history how do you feel about that?

Quick: Yes I feel like I've heard so many times that that was the greatest men bunch of men that served their country at that time there ever was.

Interviewer: And what about the difference in your neighbors and your community compared to that time to say today?

Quick: Well of course there's a lot of difference now people young people that I knew got married moved away we didn't see each other and everything was just different.

Interviewer: Would you say there was more of a sense of community during that time?

Quick: Oh yeh everyone knew each other everyone helped each other.

Woman in the background: Did you feel safer?

Quick: Huh

Woman in the background: Did you feel safer then than you do now?

Quick: oh yes much safer you did have locked doors you didn't have to worry about that.

Woman in the background: DO you have to lock doors now?

Quick: Even in the daytime.

Interviewer: Well thank you did you have anything else you wanted to add?

Quick: this is when William was in the Navy he worked in the post office (showing the interviewer a photograph)

Interviewer: And where's he at in that picture?

Quick: This is him right here (pointing to a man).

Interviewer: And do you know about when that picture was taken?

Quick: It had to be about 1942 somewhere along there. This one is when he first I went down there to be with him.

Interviewer: Okay and that's him in where's he at in this picture? In Pensacola?

Quick: In Pensacola. And this is when I first for down there to be with him.

Interviewer: And who all's in the picture?

Quick: That's my husband William Quick and me and the baby Gary.

Interviewer: Gary and that's your first son?

Quick: First son.

Interviewer: Okay and

Quick: And I managed to hold on to the what do you call it dog tag (showing it to the interviewer).

Interviewer: And that's his dog tag from when he was in the Navy.

Woman in the background: It's that amazing that she still has that.

Interviewer: That is amazing okay anything else.

Quick: No thank you a lot.

Interviewer: Thank you