

Interview with Rhoda McKay

13a-009 Rhoda: We left the farm and came down here...

13a-024 Rhoda: I started in the assembly line and it was riveting and drilling holes and stuff like that, I wasn't a riveter, I was preparing the long wing for the riveter...You would have a template and it would show you where to drill the holes and then you would drill these holes, then you were given a can of yellow guck which was stuff you had to poke into the holes and that was the job I worked on....

13a-036 Rhoda: Well the inspection would be all the parts. The rest of them were small boxes of rivets and washers, and different couplings, they had gages that you used ...when they said you had to have them a certain size, you had to know your mathematics, well I never went beyond grade eight by correspondence, but I would have my lead girl would set them up for me....

13a-071 Rhoda: The men were on the bigger jobs, I would say probably five or six men and seven or eight women.

13a-085 Rhoda: There were blue prints for everything. So they would show the part you were working on, what size it had to be...

13a-103 Rhoda (lead woman): Timonen she was a Finnish lady..

13a-130 Rhoda: But I know when I went to the view room I figured I had been there a long time without a raise and it was time I had one so I made a lot of trips to the managers office to see if I could get one but I can't remember if I got one.

13a-134 Rhoda: Everyone belonged to the union...it was pretty strong.

13a- 161 Rhoda: We were instrumental, the union was, in bond drives....

13a-234 Rhoda: A lot of those people were brought in, never worked outside of the home before, first job they ever had... and if you had never

worked before and weren't interested in politics and what was going on, you would never realize there was such a thing as a union and that was probably what it was...

13a-244 Rhoda: The fellow that I rode with to work everyday was in the office union and I'll tell you we had politics preached all the way to work and all the way home. Union and politics.

13a-268 Rhoda: Like any average union meeting. Hot and heavy and Ya they used to get good turn outs at the meetings

13a-294 Rhoda: There were a lot of women there yes, Dorothy Wardel was one of the very strong women (now lives in Surrey bc - very active in union) Olga Horochuck

14-007 Rhoda: (Kelly reads - inspectors at work in view room inspecting heavy forgings and castings...) It was a weight machine that they would put these castings in and the ones that I was watching they were required to put between 36,000 lbs weight on them to test them for any faulty parts (what would happen) it would bang.. You could hear it all the way through the plant. It was loud. It would scare you.. And the fellow would stand back and laugh...

14-029 Rhoda: You'd get a big box and that was what you had to go through, ones that didn't come up to size were culled..next time you'd get a box a different stuff ...and it got boring

14-042 Rhoda : you were there for a job and the job had to be done.

14-066 Rhoda: At the end of the war I had to get out and look for another job, the job I got was to drive the truck... then had to scrub the plant out.

14-079 Rhoda: Felt lost. Really felt lost. Because I came here and didn't know anybody then got into the Canada Car and was able to meet many people, socialized with and worked with all the time and when the plant

closed I was lost absolutely lost...didn't know where to turn. Kept up some of the friendships, then they went there way and I went my way...

14-154 Rhoda : It was an experience, course the wearing of overalls come natural to me cause that's what we wore on the farm all the time, that was my first job, eh.

14-237 Rhoda: I know I use to hate the 12 o'clock shift, I'd hate that. You'd used to just get used to working one shift and then you had to get on another... it was pretty hectic, then you had a morning shift from 8 til 4 then the other from 4 til midnight we all got rides home everybody had to bunch together to save on the gas...

14- 282 Rhoda: I know the girl I worked with, she was a beggar to go and I know the lead man would come by and said look you'd better slow up cause were going to be out of work pretty soon, we were caught up with the manufacturing ...with Murial that bothered her..it bothered her very much...you had a pace you had to work.

14-303Rhoda: (Kelly: If somebody set a box of that stuff in front of you would you know what to do with it?) I'm pretty well sure I'd know how to do it. Any of it. I'd know how to do it. I wouldn't have a lead hand to tell me how to set my gage...

14-345 Rhoda: It really was a great experience, learning how to work with people..

14-353 Rhoda:The way that people piled in money into those victory bonds....

14-378 Rhoda: Presented to Rhoda wise as a war bond worker(Kelly so the workers weren't just building things for the war they were financing the war – talk about the blood drives over a half a million dollars raised with one bond drive after VE day,)

14-397 Rhoda: reads description of bond drive...

14-422 Rhoda: I was asked to speak for the unions in front of the public... I was pushed into it I got up there ...when I got through I didn't remember one thing of it... (437)..Miss Rhoda Wise...-(reads about her speech), we were all donors then, when you were the eighth...that's right, it was a great thing. It was the people behind it to the committees..

14-465 Rhoda: you had to have a pass from management to go out of the plant, had to open your lunch box..