

## **Irish Lubberts**

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## **Irish Lubberts**

### **Can you tell us your name?**

Irish Lubberts

### **Where did you grow up?**

I was born in Fort Worth, Texas. My father brought me back here to Missouri as an infant because he was going to get into WWI. And guess what? The war ended. So I was reared in Missouri and then went into the Navy.

### **Did you go into the Navy first? Or did you marry your husband?**

Oh no...no...I was teaching my first year when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. And that was such a shock. And the a...Yamato, who was a senior aviator trained in Newport, Rhode Island, but he advised the Japanese as they were marching down the...you know, nine years the Japanese had been involved in this war over there before they bombed Pearl Harbor. And he said go ahead and do what you have to do—they were right on the border of Austria—even taking Austria, BUT DON'T BOMB PEARL HARBOR! You will awaken a sleeping giant. And that's just what happened.

Cause there are three of my students, were seniors, didn't even go back to pick up their books...went right to the recruiting station. And everybody was involved in a full scale war. We were totally unprepared. We didn't have planes that would fly. My husband, wasn't my husband then, but a...he was a pilot. Fifty percent of his class did not survive one year, because of poor aircraft. But in six months we began to catch up.

### **What exact part did you play during the war? What did you do?**

Well, I was sitting at the television when I heard the news, and a...this was in December and I finished the year of teaching. And half of the class was gone...enlisted. And most of the young men teachers were gone, except a few old coaches with bad knees and weren't eligible. And so the military had already accepted women into the Marines and into the Army but not the Navy. The Navy was slow...they didn't know how they were going to rotate women to sea, and to shore, to sea like they did the men. Very slow to admit women.

But I heard when I was at Northwestern getting my Masters that the Navy was considering opening up the service. Of course, there was no draft for women. That was unheard of! Draft women, no! But they decided finally to let one class amid ship in. And so they...in the summer a

friend of mine went down to get some information, I wanted some pamphlets I wanted to see what the uniform was going to look that I was going to have to wear. And I wanted to know some important things. So I went down and the admiral there was very kind and answered all my questions, but I said, "What does the uniform look like? I'd liked to see." Well, it isn't produced yet Mainbocher in France...well Mainbocher in France didn't mean a thing to me. I wanted to see it but it wasn't made yet. So that took care of that question. Do we have to wear the uniform all the time, when we are off duty? The answer to that was, YES. My next question, how long am I signing up for? And he said oh that's easy, how long is the war going to last? None of this 2 years and go home. Or In Vietnam you served one year and they got back to rest and relaxation in Honolulu—there was none of that. You were in until the war was over.

So that was in the summer of '42 and I went down there as I said to get some pamphlets- something to read about and I think they would have had me holding my hand up (*she holds her hand up*)...cause I went in there...and while I was there you might as well take the aptitude test. Well...I...wasn't prepared...well...I just went in and took it. Don't know if I passed it or not. Then they took a physical and I passed the physical but I didn't have my birth certificate having been born in Texas. So I had a few days, so I called my dad and my brother was already a pilot in the Navy. Dad, what do you think? And he said, well you've been making up your own mind since you were three years old I'm not about to step in on this and advise you not to go. So...he was very glad I went, but my mother was a different case, but that ended that.

So In the fall of '42 I went to North Hampton for training for three months. It snowed in early October and that same snow was on the ground in May. It snowed...it was the coldest winter they'd ever had in North Hampton that's what they told us. But we had only three weeks or three months and were taught: ships and aircraft and a...communications and a...correspondence and naval history, were our four courses. And we were taught by Navy men...naval officers. In three months we were commissioned.

Well, I can never forget the day we were all in there in one room waiting for our orders. And they passed them out one at a time. And the three of us sat there and sat there and sat there and they never did give us orders. So we thought O...O...I've been bilged I'm going back to Missouri to tell him I flunked out. Cause I'd never been to the East Coast, I'd never been to the West Coast. I'd never seen an aircraft carrier. But anyway um...the last three people he said...the captain said...we have chosen them to replace officers to teach. Course I'd taught one year and to teach these subjects that I just passed was challenging.

So about one week I was in the classroom teaching and the girls would march through the door and sit down and not a sound came out of them. But I learned very quickly to make the lectures last. The Navy was very, very precise about what you were going to instruct. And So that...but my skill was to wait till the doorbell rang because if anybody asked a question I would

be wiped out particularly in Naval law cause we had girls there who had ten years' experience in judge advocates general's office in Washington D.C. as students so teaching Naval Law, all I taught was the four kinds of court marshals and so forth. But QUESTIONS (*she laughs*) when the bell rang they were dismissed. Well that went on and on and on.

I heard the other girls orders to glamorous places like Corpus Christi, Texas, and San Diego, California and Florida, and a...anyplace out of North Hampton and I was going to be stuck there for two years. But it was a wonderful experience. The navy was smart enough after we had taught for a couple three months to get us out on the field to talk to the girls to see what did you learn that was a waste of time and what did you learn that was valuable. Almost to a person, they agreed the naval history, very valuable, ships and aircraft, great. Because they were just like me, they were from all over and had never seen an aircraft carrier and didn't know what a destroyer looked like and so forth. But Communications, forget it! Because what we...everyday was changing, it was just like our computers today are dated in six months. Well, they could not bring the secret devices to the campus to teach us, so we just had to tell them about it; to be ever so careful and a mistake cost their life or a ship. But they said that's a waste of time because they can learn on the job when they had the computer right there.

So for two years every time we'd fill out a fitness report I'd put at the end of the report the choice of the next duty station: overseas duty. Well, good heavens, we could not go overseas, that was unheard of. Well, in two years we had enough waves back in the department in Washington they got that changed. And they allowed us to go to Honolulu.

So I was in the first class to get to go to Honolulu; and I went to a little town right out of San Francisco, where the ship was. We were going on the Matsonia and I had never had any experience "hup two, three-ing" girls, you know because my experience was in the classroom. Well, I was given this platoon of 20 girls each. There were 20 wave officers in that first group to go and we each had about 20 enlisted women below us and we had to march them down the ship. And so then I found the one girl that had experience and so I let her lead the troop down. We got aboard the Matsonia. And it was so great. It's in dry dock now, but it was the number one...it's where all the millionaires went to France and places...and so I was so emphatic with these girls you don't know how lucky you are to get to go on this ship and I want you to look sharp I want you to...your ties to be tied, and your uniforms just great and your hair to look great because I'm going to be down here at the end of the stairway to inspect you as you come into the dining room.

I didn't even last until the Golden Gate Bridge, I was so sea sick. Everybody on that ship was sea sick, even the captain was sea sick for the first time in his life and two thirds of the crew. They had removed a large swimming pool that they had in the middle of the...they didn't remove the pool, they removed the water and left the hole. But then they filled it up with bunks, we went

up to Seattle and picked up 3000 troops and they were in there. But something about that had destroyed the seaworthiness of that ship and anyway, I thought I'd die. Anybody that could come down that gangway had my blessings if they even got as far as the cafeteria. But, went to Honolulu.

The war of course was drawing to an end, but that was in the very peak of our losses of men. And I have a picture here of the...I think I do...yes, to realize the greatness of this country we went over to Honolulu and dredged out a seaplane runway now that took a lot of dredging so we could land these big seaplanes and we would go down to the beach and watch those seaplanes land 24 hours a day with wounded to go to Iwo Jima to be treated. But I've always treasured that picture for that reason, because that was such a sight to see.

**Could you turn it around so we could get a good look?**

Oh you probably can't see it. *(Shows picture to the room and one interviewer takes the picture)*

And so the war was beginning, not to end, but we could see the end of it. And the waves of course couldn't get married. Oh if you got married, psst, you were out the next day like a bad conduct discharge. Well, the navy was losing too many of their high trained women, they brought them in and got them trained...a man could graduate from the same college with the same degree and they could have the same job in the military; and they got married, the woman's out but the man isn't and that just never seemed fair to me way back then. Things have changed today of course.

**Just to clarify something, when you were talking about how you were in charge of all these women and everything. It wasn't integrated men and women was it? It was just your men were here and women were here?**

Oh yes, just women. Just women, yeah.

So we got to Honolulu and I worked in the Judge Advocate General's office, because of my vast experience with naval law. Ha! Anyway, that was an interesting job and the war was drawing to a close. And women were allowed to marry, but you had to marry in uniform. And so I went to my best friend's wedding (went back to Boca Raton, Florida this year to her 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary which was great) and she was married in uniform. Well, by fall—then 1945, they had done away with that restriction. So I was married to a pilot, but I got to wear a dress. It was difficult to get a dress in Honolulu after the war. My daughter says all these pictures I see you in you have the same dress on, I said well, I only have three. It was difficult to get a dress. And when I got married, I got out of the military but I went right back to work the next day: the same job, but twice the pay.

## **Really, how did you do that?**

Well, just the way they paid civil service people versus military. It think our pay was maybe \$220 a month, is what hangs...Mr. Lubberts got paid \$50 more for flight pay for combat flying: \$250 a month. And so, then I got out of the military finally and worked there for six months and...but Mr. Lubberts was regular military so then we came back we had short trips like from Honolulu to the east coast, where he was in lions school and from the East coast back to California; from California to Seattle; from Seattle to Florida; from Florida to North Carolina.

And Mr. Lubberts was in the Korean War, my first child was 2 months old when he went to Korea. And then when we got to Olathe in 1958, Mr. Lubberts was in Argentina we flew a due line there it was during the cold war remember. And a...I was left with the children in North Carolina and he called, he said be sure you have all their shots current because you are coming up here in September, so we were all...the day I brought the last kid home from the dispensary with the last shot, he called, he said delay all that—we are going to Olathe Kansas. And I thought, now, where is Olathe Kansas?

We came here in 1958 and the road from Leavenworth to Olathe was just a gravel road and Santa Fe was a two lane strip. And my children were three and six and eight. So we started school in Westview School. And to give you an idea of the change in the population, um, when the military moved to Olathe it meant a big influx of people but we all...many of the people lived in the west section of Olathe and that's when it built it up. We bought a house out there, although we were going to be one year that was the only place to live. We ended up staying because Mr. Lubberts got out of the military in Olathe and went to work for TWA. Which meant we could travel everywhere, so that was a nice life.

And I went back to teaching in 1965. And my son was in high school, it had just been opened three years; six hundred kids in the school. When I left Olathe North to go to South, it was 1600 they could build new rooms, new additions but the halls were just the same. When the bell would ring to get through the hall from Social Science to English, or to...was just impossible. And they split the school and the...a...principal at North decided to go to South and he split the staff just about in half. He took half of the staff to North over to South. And all the kids say Mrs. Lubberts what's this I hear? You're a traitor? You're going over to South to teach? You won't have anybody to teach but Nazarenes. Oh well, you could do worse. There were just 600 kids in Olathe South, before the year was over Olathe had built a wing onto that school. And that is the story of Olathe is growth: growth, growth...it has never stopped.

When the old military base folded and the military moved out of here, Mr. Lubberts retired and stayed, but they thought, uh...that will be the end of Olathe. Well, it slowed the traffic down a little bit until the Olathe military who owned homes here had to sell their house and that was a

problem. But growth, and you've got to...I know that our civic administration has made some mistakes in the past...how can you keep from...this place was growing. And we were considered the bedroom community, people worked in Kansas City, paid taxes in Missouri on the income earned in Missouri and came back to Kansas, to Olathe to live so we didn't have much resource.

And the school board was so determined that they were going to try to keep Olathe North from being thought of as the inner city school, there is no inner city in Olathe... but the old school. And so Olathe South had a 1000 seat theater...you know so they built one here and then they built the new gym....and built, built, built, built. I couldn't believe last year, I was invited to, what we used to call home economics, but that's so politically incorrect you'd be ridden out of town on a rail I guess, I don't know what they call it now.

### **Family and consumer science.**

Well, we were invited to a high British tea, and I thought now that'll be an experience...in Olathe. I'll tell you, the leader, the man, the head of the department, he was about 6'4" from South Africa and all the people waiting tables...boys. So I finally asked him what percentage of your entire department is male? Because when I was teaching here there was not one male that took home economics there wasn't a girl who ever took auto mechanics. But, oh he said, Over 50 percent of the total student body are men; and they go right down to Jo Co and take two semesters in Jo Co and they can get a job anywhere in Johnson County for 65 thousand starting as chefs. So I was impressed with that department.

But Olathe, the school board, I know you probably think they have made a lot of mistakes but they've had a real battle trying to keep up with the tremendous growth. And it hasn't ended. They built Olathe Northwest, and before it was totally occupied they'd already bought the land to build Olathe number 5 on, high school number 5. I couldn't believe that. But anyway, they'll have to have another bond election and that will cost money. But there are at least...now we have a lot of industries in town in the beginning there was no industry it was just the people living here and all the tax had to come from them. Two years since I've been here Olathe school tax has gone down if you can believe it. There are so many industries coming in and lots of people in Olathe object to the idea of industries giving...being given 10 years tax freedom, like, oh that big development out at 119<sup>th</sup> street...Oh, Bass Pro, giving them a tax free...I don't know for how long. But, when the tax free periods over they are taxed! And that's why Olathe schools have grown. And there's no end.

I'll leave this here in case you'd like to have it. I thought I had my glasses if I plan to read...But this is a state of Olathe, it's just unreal, it's still growing. How many of you kids are anxious to get out of Olathe? I bet all of you. Where do you want to go? Well you want to go to school somewhere? Where?

## Texas, Ohio State

Just for school?

**I've got some family up there too.**

Well Olathe is not through growing and I expect Olathe high school number five before too long.

**(Reading from the paper)** "The traffic flow is a problem" You all know that. But remember what it was when we were 9,000 people and we've gone from 9,000 to what? 110,000? How many of you kids drive to school? Okay.

Lots of changes, I know Jeff, my son, when he was in high school he said you had one choice for lunch either sweet milk or sour. And it just had the regular lunch for everybody that went through. But when I came here in elementary school there was no lunch, kids took their lunch with them. Westview is a little school, anybody know where it is? Over in West Olathe. That's where we lived at first. There was not one single minority child in that school. There was a black teacher, Mrs. Nutter, but not one single minority. I read in the paper last year that 75 percent of the kids take English as a second language. Gives you an idea how the population has changed. The Chicanos are really moving into West Olathe and changing the schools.

**(Reading again from the paper)** Big numbers, staggering Olathe in the last five years, 32,000 jobs have come to Olathe in the last 5 years. 1400 were created last year alone, result of 97 million dollars in investments. Nearly 2 million square feet of retail construction in five years. That's why the schools are multiplying so fast. More than 1 million square feet of office construction in five years, 254 million value of commercial economic investments. Two thousand members of the Olathe chamber of commerce now there is 350 new ones. Nine hundred members of city employment, that's not of interest to you kids. But the new possibilities: Brotherhood of Boilermakers Bank, Bass Pro Shop going in, 250 million dollars, well, to build that plant out there, have you seen it? They've dug that big hole, there's a lot of work out there. It's going to cost 270 million dollars; well, that represents wealth for Olathe: jobs, possibilities. Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Brotherhood Bank's new headquarters going to bring 50 million investment; 600 jobs to Olathe. Farmers insurance new regional call center will add 800 new jobs totaling 1600 now employed here. The city has doubled sales tax revenues in the last five years. The number of trail miles and parks have nearly doubled. Santa Fe Street will soon get a new facelift...that's long, long overdue. I'll leave you that, it might be of interest to you. Now questions?



**I just want to know, what subject did you teach when you were teaching here at Olathe High?**

I taught Speech and Debate, was the debate coach, and taught social science. Then when the school split into modular scheduling, do you remember that day?

**Oh yes, oh yes.**

A...they moved me to English because they had an accelerated program where they selected 40 students from each junior high for one class and they had modular scheduling, so I taught English that year. And then I taught social science classes from then on, and when I went to south I was in Psychology and current history...which was the most fun course to teach. We had no textbook, our textbook was time magazine. I would select certain articles for everybody to read and we'd discuss, it was fun. Kids got interested in history today. To get them interested in WW2, WW1...or you know. Today's history is of interest to you guys and that's easy to understand. What other questions do you have?

**I have a question, you talk about the high schools when you came there was just Olathe high school when you came and you talked a little about Westview, what was the setup with the elementary schools and the junior highs? Which ones were there and where were they located?**

When Olathe high school first started, they had junior high down at the old building down by the library, what's that called?

**Millcreek? It's a fine arts building I think now**

Yeah, that's where they junior high was and there were only five elementary schools: Westview, Washington, Central...they had just closed the black school when we came a Lincoln school and the schools were integrated there were very, very few black students as I recall and they were in...mostly in Westview school because they lived a good many in that part of Olathe. But now when I went to Olathe South we had not many black students but the football quarterback was black and I remember his grade dropped one...it was the last grade, I think World History as a matter of fact, and it dropped from a 'B' to a 'C' and his dad was up there the next day wanting to know why. And he said well, he'll bring that grade up or he'll drop football. Well, of course that got everybody excited. But he was very, very much interested in him achieving scholastically and then the complexion of that school was also changed.

**Can you tell us a little bit about urban renewal? And your thoughts and feelings and what that looked like? When they redid the courthouse and town square.**

Well, everything of course costs money. And Olathe was always faced with: when we've got kids bulging out the windows of every schools we need five new schools, we need a new

courthouse we need this, we need that; there were priorities established. It was not until oh, maybe the 80s or 90s that urban renewal really got started in Olathe, I'm guessing. And I don't know too much about it except the parks and so forth.

**You mentioned that you taught debate and speech, how long did you do that?**

I taught for three years, and I loved it. But it was taking me away, every weekend, the more we won, the more we went out, of course. And the third year I was gone from my family just about every weekend. And the more we won...we would be down in Wichita and I remember we had to drive to Manhattan, we'd have to leave at 4 or 5 in the morning to get there to debate at 8 o'clock and it was just too much with three kids. So I dropped out of that.

**So I'm taking it your team did really well.**

Oh yes

**Did you ever win state? Nationals?**

No, we competed though I think we got in second one year at state.

**A lot of those trophies are still in the (inaudible) trophy cases...**

**In your time in Olathe, can you think of a couple of events or things that happened that you think most changed Olathe? What kind of things do you look back to as being watershed moments that changed Olathe from a small community to a very large community?**

Well, I can see one particular...I remember when it burned down. When Olathe burned down.

**Can you tell us about that?**

Well that big section burned there, across from the jewelry store there. It didn't really change Olathe that much because they built it right back.

**Can you describe in detail what happened? Or do you remember?**

Well, I don't know where it started. It was on the south side, you know where Hannon's jewelry is...across the street from there. It burned from there to the corner. The library, I remember when the library was moved from where it was to the new library. That was a big deal to me, it meant the town was growing up now, they admitted they had a library.

Um...earth shake, shaking events...when the navy left Olathe that was so suddenly that's the way the navy did things, okay we'll close the base and it will be a week from Wednesday and everybody had to leave and go to other homes. That made a big impact on Olathe when it was

9,000 people but it recovered I would say in a year. Olathe did not stop growing and from then on the growth has been steady.

**Why did the navy pull out?**

Um...the war was over and they did training out there and there were better bases for training: longer runways and so forth. They needed fewer training areas. I remember a kamikaze, do you know what a kamikaze pilot is, you've heard of them? Well, an unsuccessful kamikaze pilot, he was never asked to make the supreme sacrifice, he was trained as a kamikaze pilot. He was out at Olathe on duty, taking a course out there to fly this new aircraft they had out there. And so Mr. Lubberts had him to dinner one night, and this was a big deal for the boys, oh, a real life Japanese was coming and they had millions of questions. And he was great, he wrote for them you know each one of them wrote in Japanese and that was great. The dinner was progressing nicely everything was going smoothly until Skipper, he was always my maverick, he said well, I just have one question that I'd like to know, why did you Japs bomb Pearl Harbor? *(Laughs)* And I thought, now how is he going to answer this? It got very quiet and Lub didn't have a word to say and neither did I; and he said, well, I was in the military and we did what we were told to do and that was a decision made way high up the chain of command from me. I thought he got out of it very...and that was the end of it, and "okay" said Skipper.

**After the naval air base, if you know this, can you tell us when it opened what its function was, what kind of things went on there, why they placed it in Olathe, just general things about the naval air base that you can tell us?**

Well, I don't know except it was flat out there at Gardner—easy to build long...a runways and they needed some stretch room from western Kansas where they had air stations. Why it was built in Olathe, I don't know, if it was a political thing, but probably because of the low amount of money the navy could get the land for, I'll bet in 1940.

**If you look into your crystal ball what do you see for Olathe's future. I know you are very optimistic about Olathe.**

Well, just reading that...I just

**Do you see a mega (?) all the way out from Kansas City right to Olathe someday?**

I think the road will be south and west and north towards Lawrence, but I don't know. It will not be like Overland Park. Everybody says oh, we're building all those schools we'll have to close them down when Olathe gets older. But Olathe can expand its borders and Overland Park can't. They're sort of hemmed in and the families that live there and built there and built the new

schools and had such an excellent, and still do, school district, um...they've gone, they're older if they are still there.

But Olathe, good heavens, I went out here to look at a...as a matter of curiosity I don't go to home shows much, but I wanted to see what a half million dollar condo looks like. Well, I went out there just a little ways from Olathe and million dollar homes right down the lane, both sides, half of them sold, well this was the most beautiful place it had bedrooms, had Hollywood king-sized beds that opened in the middle great big...fireplace in both bedrooms, two baths with Jacuzzi baths in both bathrooms, but the kitchen was the thing that astounded me the woodworking in the kitchen was like fine furniture and I thought who in the world is going to buy this they're shirley downsizing from a house, a million dollar house, downsizing, who is going to spend any time in the kitchen? I sure wouldn't, but it was a gorgeous, gorgeous place.

**Is there anything else that we haven't covered with you that you'd like to tell us about Olathe or your experiences?**

Well, both of my boys stayed here, but, they were like you, they were going to get out. They both went to college, Skipper went into the military for four years, and a...Jeff went to finish college and came right back to where? Olathe! He lives in Overland Park, but he came to this area. Skipper works for Ford Motor Company in Missouri, and Monique's in New York.

**You and Mr. Lubberts lived in many exotic places obviously California, Seattle, Honolulu and then you came back to Olathe and I know it was because of the job with the TWA, but you stayed here.**

Yeah we did,

**Mr. Lubberts stayed here also, and I just...**

Well, he stayed here because he was working for TWA until 1978, I think he retired from TWA and went to work for hospice. And he worked for hospice until he died, he died four years ago, 9/11.

**9/11?**

Yeah, he saw that plane hit the tower and says that's no accident and of course everybody assumed that it was. Yeah, why would a four motored plane in a beautiful day like this fly in to a building, he says that's no accident. He knew, and then of course the second one hit and we all knew.

**I see you brought pictures, what are all those pictures of?**

Oh this is just military. This is interesting to me, I hold this up to class to see if anybody recognizes... *(Shows the room a picture of Eisenhower)*

**Is that Eisenhower?**

Eisenhower, *(she laughs)* I have an autograph, he came through Honolulu. But I held that up the other day at a junior high...kids, no one recognized him. But, he was a general at that time and came to our base.

*(Shows another picture of several women in uniform)* I saw at Old Settlers, that's a fun place for me to go cause I see some of my old students. Ms. Lubberts is that you? And I said yes, well what happened to your black hair? And I said well, since you brought the subject up the same thing that's happening to your hair except mine isn't falling out. I thought he brought the subject of hair up.

Here's Mr. Lubberts...now here we are in our wave uniforms in Honolulu, things were not as strict there, nobody cared if you had hose on; you could not buy hose during the war. Silk hose were Japan and you had to wear lisle Hose. And I noticed these two officers have on military school shoes, but I don't, and the skirt maybe was a little too short, I don't know. I can't imagine my waist ever being that size, but...

*(Shows another picture of her in her waves uniform it's a head shot)* But the interesting thing about...we only had one hat, if something happened to that hat you were in big trouble. I'll never forget I tripped over the poly one day on a jeep carrier just about lost my hat.

*(Shows one last picture of a vintage car)* And this is that old car. My wave officers, five of us went together, it cost \$50 a piece, that was a lot of money cause we only made two hundred...two hundred and ten as officers. And we all cashed in our \$50 a piece and bought that car. Do you know what kind of a car that is?

**Model T?**

No.

**Is it a Ford?**

**Cadillac?**

Oh, no.

I showed it to some old fellows out at Aberdeen and um...one of them thought it was an old Dodge, it was a...19 oh, maybe 38. And it had four tires, not five. If you had a flat you were in deep serious...course we never went out of town, but on Friday night we had class until 4 o'clock, and the train to New York left at four. So we just had time to get in that car and skin down there and the conductor would wait for us if you can imagine that, and we could be in New York to see the shows. And I saw the opening night of Oklahoma, 1942, but that old car took us lots of places.

**What kind of car did you say it was?**

An Oldsmobile. Do they even build Olds now?

**No, they're done.**

Some friends of mine had the last olds. Only been two years hadn't it?

**About Two years mm hmm.**

**You were in the first class of...?**

The first mid-shipment class.

**Wow, and you just saw the opportunity and took it?**

My daughter says you were an early libber and didn't know it. Well, I didn't know about...everybody...umm...kids your age want to know did you experience any discrimination? And I said well, we probably did but we were interested in one thing...getting the war over. And once the waves were out on the job, the men were glad we were there because we relieved them for duty that they wanted to do. I know that in Honolulu there was an old fellow, oh my goodness, he must have been 45. **(Laughing)** But he was old in my thinking at that time. But, he was a twenty year man, but he was enlisted warrant officer in the navy and he didn't like these young whipper-snapper women and he...after a few drinks at the bar he'd spout off. As far as job discrimination, no. Now after the war it was a different story, when the war ended the women that worked at factories: had good jobs for the first time in their lives were *(noise)* off to make room for the men.

If you were a teacher, I never had that experience, but if you got married, you couldn't teach. When I came Olathe in '58 and started to teach in the 60s, men got more pay than women. That lasted three years. I was on the council, it was just so unfair. You could have two men graduate from the same college, come to work the same day, work the same load and they got \$100 more pay. The idea was to attract more men to the profession. I said with \$100? Be reasonable, so they changed that.

**You taught in the navy, what other kinds of jobs did the waves do in the navy?**

Oh, jobs, everything! We were trained as communicators we had to...we had great big books, book about that thick, (*shows how big*) it had lead in the backs, so if it was thrown over the side during an attack from a ship it would sink. And that's what we taught out of, but we were only supposed to be in communications and out on the field they encoded messages and so forth. But once they got out there they were put wherever they...and the men realized very quickly that in communications work so many jobs women were just naturally faster. Now I'm not one of these women that think women can do anything that men can do, I don't think that's true. But face it: that drudgery of looking up in that book and encoding, women were just better at it and the men recognized that very quickly and were glad to give you their seat they could go fight the war. But, the differences today, the number one and number two graduates at the air force academy last year, women. And one woman was in the paper...I have a big long list of articles that I tear out and keep. A woman that has had two tours in Iraq and she's now commander of 60 men under her. Lot of changes.