YONGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

World War II: The Home Front

Personal Experiences

O.H. 1454

Charlotte Ebitz

Interviewed

By

Rebecca Smith

On

December 2, 1991

Charlotte Nock Ebitz

Charlotte Nock was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania November 20, 1925. Her father, an electrician for Duquesne Power Company, put the first electrical wires in the city of Pittsburgh. Being the oldest of seven children, Charlotte had a lot of responsibilities in helping around the house, but she also has fond memories of growing up in the 30's. Radio was their main form of entertainment: "Amos 'n Andy" and "Jack Benny" were her favorite shows. She also recalls hearing Oresn Wells' radio show on the "War of the Worlds," and the family's fear that they had actually been invaded by martins.

One of the biggest events of her childhood was the Pittsburgh flood in 1936. People were trapped for days without electricity, phones or transportation due to the city's flooding. Her grandfather was trapped in a downtown building until rescue teams came in rowboats to move the occupants out. At the time they did not know where he was or whether he was even sage until he was able to get home.

In those days, life was slower but pleasant. People learned local news from passing neighbors as they sat on their front porches. She remembers sweeping up ashes from neighbors' coal stoves for a nickel. A nickel could buy anything, including a movie ticket to see Flash Gordon serials.

At the outbreak of Would War II, Charlotte got a job working at the Duvoe Shipyards, where she covered pipes with canvas. Later she moved to American Bridge at Ambridge, Pennsylvania to become a welder at the shipyard. Charlotte was a classic example of "Rosie the Riveter" as she worked on the ships, welding stainless steel. The money was good, as was the experience, but Charlotte did not like the late shift work since she was often working alone. She and the other women were also subject to a lot of harassment, both sexual and work-related. Some men did not like the fact that women were competing for their jobs.

While working at America Bridge, Charlotte was chosen by a group of engineers to be their "pin-up girl." How disappointed they must have been when she presented them with a picture of herself in a dress rather than a swimsuit! The picture stayed up, thought, until the end of the war.

Charlotte also remembers the different aspects of fighting the war on the home front. The rationing, the bond drives, the blackouts, the stars in the windows for servicemen, and the such popular songs as "When the Lights Go On Again All Over the World," where a part of everyday life.

Charlotte married Michael Ebitz in 1947. They have three daughters, Charlotte Ann, Carol and Michelle. She is very active today in pursuing her hobbies of ceramics and dressmaking. She is also a member of the Pennsylvania Grange, the AARP, the Ladies Guild of the Lion's Club, and the Mid-Atlantic Clown Association. She is presently a member of the Keystone Clowns, a professional organization that travels around the area. With such a busy lifestyle, Charlotte still finds time to help her family and friends.

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Interviewee: CHARLOTTE AUDERY EBITZ

Interviewer: Rebecca Smith

Subject: World War II: The Home Front

Date: December 2, 1991

RS: Mrs. Ebitz could first give me a little bit of back ground about your family, where you where born?

CE: I was born in Pittsburgh on the North Side by Bell View; I went to school there. There were seven children in my family and I was the oldest of seven.

RS: What year was that?

CE: I was born in 1925.

RS: What did your father do?

CE: My father was an electrician he worked for Ducain. In fact he put up the first electrical wires that were strung on the north side of Pittsburgh, the first telegraph poles and wiring that were put in down here. We all went to school in the north side down off of Brighten Rd. I would say that I spent half of my time with my grandparents and they lived on Bentley Ave. on the north side.

RS: What do you remember about growing up there?

CE: Well, I remember various things. I remember in the winter time my grandfather made me a sled, we use to call it the cheese cutter because it was made out of a box that the cheese would come in at the stores. He made iron railing on the bottom of it and it was a solid piece, I can remember the exact shape and design, I don't know why it stuck with me, probably because at the time all the other kids would make fun of me and the sled I had, but I could go like the devil in.

RS: That was important wasn't it?

CE: That was important. We would go ice-skating at River View Park on the Pond, that park is still there today on the north side, but I think they call it Brighten Heights they gave it a ritzy name. We go there all the time to ice-skate and I remember that I fell in one time. It was late in the winter, like early spring, we figured that there was still enough ice to skate, but it was a little thin on the end and I fell in. That was about two miles or three miles from my house and I had to walk home soaking wet. That's one of the things I remember. Also, I remember ashes. We use to have to take ashes from the coal stoves and furnaces. In the wintertime we used our sled and in the summer we used a wagon. So, we would go around asking people if they wanted us to take their ashes for them. In the winter it was nice because we would take the ashes and throw them into the street and the side walks. As long as there was snow they were easy to get rid of, but other wise we had to take them somewhere else to get rid of them. And they always gave us a nickel or so and in that day it was a big deal to get a nickel, because you could go to the store and get a lot with a nickel. A nickel was really worth something. We use to go to the show for a nickel down to the nickelodeon. Down in Woods Run, in fact my grandmother and grandfather went down there. And they had what they call Peanut Heaven; they sat up in the balcony. And I can remember my grandfather talking about when it first opened up how great it was to go down there. Being the oldest of seven was quite a responsibility. My mother had five and then my two younger brothers I was almost eighteen years old when she had the one and then she had the other one when I was about twenty. So, my two youngest brothers were late.

RS: I guess so, gosh!

CE: But the other five, my other brother next to me he is two years younger then I am. He was born in September, and then my sister is three years younger then him. Then there was another little brother and thirteen mothers later my mother had another, a little girl. It was like having twins, because they were so close together.

RS: Being the oldest child what where some of your responsibilities?

CE: That was it; it was a lot of responsibility. At that time I felt like I had a lot. My mother seems to be sick a lot, I thought when I was a child. So, I had a learn how to cook and keep house, and do things and learn at an early age. I learned how to sow; I had an aunt that was a seamstress at Joseph Horns in Pittsburgh. She used to make all the clothing for Mrs. Horns. She taught me how to sow and make cloths and that was a big help because my mother couldn't sow a button on. I really enjoyed sowing and I do to this day. I make cloths; I've made all my daughters wedding dresses and bridesmaid's dresses. I've also sowed for other people. The train that I got at that time really did come in handy over the years. It was quite a chore growing up at that time. We didn't have no T.V of course and radio was a big thing to sit and listen to Amos and Andy. When the programs where on in the evening you sat and you did not make any noises, we weren't aloud to talk of play games or do nothing. You sat and listened to the radio cause that was it and nobody wanted to miss a word. I remember too when Orson Wells put that program on.

RS: Oh yes.

CE: Oh that was quite a thing. Everyone got so scared. I remember that.

RS: You remember that, you listened to that?

CE: Oh yes, we were listening to that.

RS: Did you think…?

CE: I didn't know what to make of it. I can remember my grandfather telling my grandmother it's just the radio, it's just the radio, and we got to wait until we hear official word. He was trying to keep her calm. In the process of trying to keep her calm I could see that he was getting all worked up and I did know what to think of do. I'll never forget that, that was quite a program. Jack Benny was quite a thing on the radio at that times too, him and Rochester. They were quite an item on the radio; people would just sit and listen to them just like people would sit and watch T.V. today. People would maybe sit and sow or do needle work while they sat and listen. My grandmother was great for embroidery and croqueting and she taught me how to do that. Like I was saying my mother she didn't know how to sow or croquet or do anything and I don't know why although she was the youngest of thirteen children. My grandmother had three sets of twins.

RS: Oh my goodness!

CE: And being the youngest of thirteen I guess she was kind of spoiled, it was her problem was I guess. I don't know. But anyhow, it was an interesting time. Now I look back I think everything was so quiet and peaceful. On a Sunday you would go to church and the rest of the day outside of fixing something to eat you would spend the rest of the day on the front porch or going to the park or something like that. You could go swimming at the park and bicycling was a big thing. I remember the old streetcars; I'll never forget those.

RS: Oh really.

CE: I still have a coin from the last street car that I rode.

RS: Oh really

CE: Yeah, we use to call them boxcars. They were real drafty, the real old ones. I can remember going to down town Pittsburgh and you could count the cars on the street. My grandfather he work even after he retired as the superintendent of the Conistodada building in Pittsburgh. I'll never forget the flood of 1936 in Pittsburgh and nobody was aloud to use the McKee's Rock's bridge. Nobody was aloud on the bridge; it's the only time I can ever remember that bridge being closed. Nobody could walk on it and no cars

were aloud on it at all. Our electric was out for days and days we had to use lamps. I think that it was in March. It was cool, but there was no electric to cook.

RS: Was this the same time as the infamous Johnstown flood?

CE: No

RS: That was something different?

CE: That was different; this is completely different. This is was when they decided that Pittsburgh need flood walls, because the whole down town Pittsburgh was completely flooded out. Like I said it went down to the north side and all the way down to McKee's Rock's. The bottom of McKee's Rock was completely flooded out. All the homes down there were completely ruined. See where I lived on Brighten Road, you go down Brighten and cross... no I lived on Benton Ave is where my grandmother lived, that's were we lived. Benton Ave cross's Brighten Rd and Benton Ave ran this way and it would run all the way across California Ave and California Ave ran parallel to Brighten Rd. and go straight on down and come out to the river. And we weren't that far from the river.

RS: Was your house?

CE: We were up on a hill you see. It was just the lower ones down by the river that got flooded out and it come up California Ave, but it didn't come up any higher. That's way it didn't effect us, other then the fact that my grandfather was caught over there and the telephones were down naturally and there were no telephones. I'll never forget the old telephones either. They were something, but I wish I had kept one for a souvenir. But, the telephones were down and he was at work the day that the flood got bad. He was at work there and he was stuck at the building. He was not able to get out, but when the water got low enough they went around with row boats to the building and got the people out that were up in the upper floors of the buildings, they had to use the stairwells, because the naturally the elevators were not working.

RS: Did he have anyway of contacting you?

CE: No way at all. We had no idea if he was all right at the time or not.

RS: Now did people die in that flood?

CE: Yes there quite a few people that died in that flood and they were stuck and nobody knew until they were able to get the people out of the buildings that were stuck in down town. But there was no way even when they got them out until the people got home, because there was no way of getting in contact with people because there were no telephones. And in those days you either rode bicycles or walked or rode streetcars. Everybody didn't have cars back then like they do today. My grandfather had a car, but he believed that car was used only for rides and vacation. It was not a car that you used to go to the store in; no way did you use a car to go to the store.

RS: When you talk about drives are you talking about drives are you talking about Sunday drives?

CE: Right.

RS: Okay

CE: You didn't use a car and during the war with the gasoline being rationed that even made it worse. I thought nothing of the time to walk from down town Pittsburgh to wear I lived, not a second thought. Those days we walked everywhere it was something you did naturally. Not to get to far ahead, but my aunt she came to live with me. She was ninety-four years old when she died and she died about five year ago. The Doctor said that what kept her going was the fact that she spent so much time walking, he said that walking helped her. She had tuberculoses when she was a young woman in her twenty's; in fact she was at what they called a farm up near around in the middle of Pennsylvania. She was up there in the hospital and they didn't think that she was going to live because she had it so bad. Here she lived to be ninety-four years old and the strongest one you ever heard. So, you can never tell. It was quite a life, but like I said everything was at a lot slower pace then what it was today. There was no parents/mothers getting involved, they got involved to a certain point. They'd go to the church meeting and all, but they didn't have parent teacher's guilds as active as they do today and stuff like that, they just didn't have it then.

RS: But what was it like when the depression hit? How did that change it?

CE: My father was out of work I know that. He work up to a certain point and then he work partly, but it wasn't enough. He went on WPA.

RS: Oh did he? What did he do there?

CE: I really don't remember exactly what he did I really don't know. My grandfather I know that he worked over at the Conistodada building. Before that when he was younger he worked over in the still mills, my grandfather did. Down there by McKee's Rock's. Later then he went to work over at the Conistodada building and he work there most of his life. My grandmother and grandfather celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary around the year of '33 or '34, and they were hopping to lived to be married for 75 years, but they died when they were married I think 69 years. My grandmother died in October and after she died my grandfather all he did was run around the house calling her. And her name was Dora and he would just around the house calling "Dora where are you? What are you doing Dora?" and he wouldn't eat right he wouldn't do nothing right. He was constantly looking for her and he died in December. The doctor said that he just couldn't accept it after all those years that she was gone.

RS: Well, until your father got on WPA...?

CE: Yeah he was on the WPA during the war there? I remember him saying and I remember him talking about it, but I don't remember what he made on there as far as wages I don't know what he made.

RS: Well between jobs, between his job as...

CE: See he worked for Ducain as I said, he put the lights up and everything and the new wiring in him and a fellow named Pursy Pritchard. I remember him and his wife and I remember they had a son. They would come to our house. He worked with my father. Something happened there was a bad storm a real bad storm and I don't know how it happened or what but anyhow he almost got electrocuted, Pursy did. He lost his one arm and up into his shoulders. They had to cut it off, because of the accident. I don't know what happened exactly, but him and my father started drinking very heavily. They were very close friends. I think that my father lost his job at Ducain Light through his drinking, truthfully. I think is what happened.

RS: Oh, okay not because

CE: Because he was working there and then it just seemed like he wasn't working there anymore, but I know that he was drinking heavily. And him and Pursy would drink very heavily together. I can remember that.

RS: Without a job how did you get by during these times?

CE: During the depression like I said he was on the WPA and my mother I don't remember he doing anything. She couldn't sow anything so I know that she didn't take in any sowing and just whatever he made we lived on. My grandmother helped us a lot. That's the only thing I can figure because my mother didn't. As far as my father's parents his father died before he married my mother his father was died, I know. That's quite a story with him, because he was raised in a log cabin. I mean a real old log cabin with a dirt floor. I can remember that so well, going there to visit my grandmother. I thought that was quite a thing even at that day because nobody else that I knew of in the family lived in a log cabin. They had an outhouse, honest god and we had an outhouse in the fist placed we lived when I was a real small child. I'll tell you something else that we used we used *SEAR'S ROBUCK'S* catalogs for toilet paper. That's the God's truth. I have any aunt living in Pittsburgh that will tell you that. She's still living; my father's sister is still living. And she'll tell you " I can remember that so well all the old catalogs went in the outhouse, that's what you used for toilet paper you didn't buy toilet paper in those day's." People laugh they look at you then they laugh at you, and then they think what's she telling me? But it's the God's truth.

RS: Well, that's interesting to say the least. No *Charmin*, Uh?

CE: No. We had a spring in the basement for water. Otherwise we had to go out and pump our water. One of those old pumps in the kitchen we had one of those. That's something my grandmother had in her house they finally ran it into her house and that's

what she had in her kitchen. Up until the day that she died that's what she had I don't ever remember there being spickets in that house. There were never any spickets in that house.

RS: What do you remember about school?

CE: Going to school? I always enjoyed going to school. The teachers, well, I went to Catholic school okay, they were very strict. I was left-handed and they were determined to break me.

RS: Are you kidding?

CE: No, I had my knuckles cracked more then you could believe. So, that's why I write like I do. I devised in my mind to have my paper facing this way a certain way and I figured that way she will not know that I am not writing; that I am writing with my left hand. But when I would go to the black board I would have to write with my right hand. So, to this day I can write with left and right both, but I write the best on a black board with my right hand not my left and on paper I write the best with my left hand. Does that make sense?

RS: No

CE: But that's the truth. I can go to a black board and write with my right hand, but with my left hand its like I am writing upside down.

RS: What was the reason?

CE: Well, in those day's they believed in breaking you. There was not to be any left-handed people. You had to write with the right hand. They had penmanship and you would spend a lot of time doing penmanship and you had to write with your right hand. Everybody was going to use their right hand and I was very artistic and I did a lot of drawings and they were more determined to get me to use my right hand. But when I went to the board I knew I had a use my right hand, because I didn't want her to know that I was using my left hand. So, when I went up the board I learned how, I made myself practice at home with chalk until I would know how to write with my right hand on the board. And I did. On the board I would write with my right hand, but as soon as I went back to my desk I couldn't write with my right hand on paper. I couldn't figure that one out.

RS: What do you remember about going to school during the depression?

CE: You didn't worry about; kids and them didn't worry about how they dressed for one thing. We didn't worry about clothing nobody was really interesting in that unless, you happened to be a family that really had a lot of money and there wasn't that many families around there. The ones that were their kids went to a private school more or less, they didn't go to. Even though I went to a Catholic school it was considered a public

school; more then it was a private school, because it was the neighborhood catholic school was what it was. There was a public school and it was called John Marrow's. My great aunt, my grandmother's sister had a little candy store right next store John Marrow's. In fact I think that store is still there. She no longer owns it, when she died her son sold it, but she owned a candy store and we use to think that was great to go visit her cause she would give each one of us a free piece of candy. And then she would give us an ice cream cone and that was great to get an ice cream cone in those days that was something big. The public school was possible a couple miles from where we lived, but I was practically on top of the Catholic school I only lived a few blocks from the Catholic school. The majority of the kids went to that school and the kids that lived near the John Marrows area went to John Marrows. There was another Catholic school called St. Francis that wasn't too far it was down on California Avenue at what we called the lower end of California Avenue and the majority of the kids went to there. My mother moved from where we were living in the one area and she moved down there and I went to there for at that Catholic school for about a year, but I never went to John Marrow's. They were all considered public; they weren't considered as much in fact I founded the biggest problem with religion when I moved to New Castle.

RS: Really?

CE: I never run up across anything at all because in our neighborhood it was an all white neighborhood except for one colored family who lived in my grandmother's neighborhood. They lived there because they had a little house next to the main house and they were caretakers for this family. Generation from generation worked for the same family. That's how they came to be there and so they went to public school, they went to John Marrow's school they did not go to our school for some reason I don't remember, but still there was nothing said about you being black, white, nigger, or anything else. In those day's I even went to work for a Jewish family to baby-sit. I said to my grandmother that she said something I couldn't understand and my grandmother said "Oh their Jewish, but that's alright their the same as you are, everybody is the same" that was my grandmothers attitude everybody was the same. You don't say anything about this person because of what religion they are or what color they are, because people are people to her. That was it was.

So, I thought that I grew up in a good time. Between her, my grandparents, and my uncle (my mothers brother). Uncle Walt was the kindest gentlest person that I ever knew. It was during the depression and he worked got a job here or at the airport wherever he could or do, little odd jobs. My aunt his wife, that's the one that died in my house when she was ninety-four, she would make quilts and sell them and she was a beautiful seamstress and she went to work over at the building where my grandfather was. He would get her, they had regular women that would come in and clean the offices, and well when somebody was off he would call her. That would give her a few dollars extra. So, every time he needed somebody he would call her and she would go and fill in for whomever and that would give her extra money.

I remember one time when we were out he was talking to this one guy, he knew everybody he was the type person would talk to everybody he knew everybody, we stopped at this fruit stand and we were talking there and the fellow gave me a banana. I

thought that was great I had a banana all to myself. We were walking down the street and I thought that I'll wait until we get back home cause I was visiting with him, I went to visit in the summer time with them a lot they lived on the north side by the park, we were walking down the street and we came across these people that he knew that were sitting out and they had a little kid there and I don't remember if it was a boy or a girl, but there was a little kid there. And he said to me, he use to call me steamboat that was my favorite nickname he called me, Steamboat he got share your banana with her. I didn't want to share my banana with her or him whatever it was; I wanted that banana all to myself. So, I just held it tight and kind of ignored him like I didn't hear him. He said Steamboat give her half of your banana. Of course they went in the house and got a knife and came out and cut it in half. Oh that was horrible. But yeah know latter on, that was the way that he was no matter what you had you shared it with somebody else that was his philosophy not matter what you always share, and when I got older I think about that and then I realize that was what he was really teaching me at the time that you should always share your stuff. Its funny how things stick with you like that over the years. I use really enjoy going there in the summer time. When there was no school I would go visit them and stay with them, they never had no children of their own. Like I said he called my Steamboat and how I got the Steamboat name was they use to have steamboats in Pittsburgh patrolling down the rivers and everything and there was one boat there, and I forget the name of it, that you could take rides on it. That was a big thing in the summer to take rides on the boat and go down the river and back up again. You would pack a basket and take your food along and have a nice picnic on the boat that was a Sunday afternoon. The first time I ever went on there and they blew the whistle I just jumped like mad, I guess, and he said okay Steamboat. So, he just called me Steamboat and everybody just called me Steamboat it just kind of stuck with me.

RS: How old were you when the United States got involved in World War II?

CE: I don't remember exactly to be truthful with you, but I do remember that when I went to work at the Rose shipyard I lied about my age. I was a year younger then what I should have been to get in there to work. So, I told them I was a year older then what I actually was in order to get the job. Because my girlfriend was older then I was and she said their not going to hire you cause your no old enough. I said well I'll just make myself look like I am old enough and if they can hire you they can hire me. I made up my mind that I was going to get hired and so I did, I just lied about my age and they excepted it and I got the job. But then when I went to American Bridge then I just told them because I think it was one year that's all I needed, I think I was seventeen or eighteen; somewhere around there.

RS: Had your family talked very much about the events leading up to the war, what was going on in Europe or with Japan before Pearl Harbor?

CE: Yes, I can remember saying that they didn't trust the Japanese for one thing and Hitler they were just horrified at Hitler; they called him the paperhanger. That's what they always referred to him as the paperhanger.

RS: What did they know about Hitler?

CE: They thought that it was horrible what he was doing over there and what he was doing to the people and they felt that it was awful that he could think that he could run a country and go in other countries over. They kept saying that he was going to come into the United States that was one of the biggest things. That they would be coming over here to fight that he would try to come over to the country to fight. That was on of the biggest things that they talked about at the time.

RS: Okay, so do you remember December 7, 1941?

CE: Yeah

RS: Okay, what were you doing? And what was your reaction when you heard that we had been attacked?

CE: We just couldn't believe it. You know that it was...

RS: Where were you when you heard the news?

CE: That's just what I was trying to think. I was thinking of that the other day too and I thought about that and was trying to think were it was. I can't remember where I was. It will probably come to me that's what I do. I can't think of something right when I want it and it will bug the devil out of me, and then all the sudden it will hit me like.

RS: Oh that's okay.

CE: I just can't think, but I do remember that at the time everybody was talking about who was going to go to war and who was going to have to go and the draft. That this was going to be scares and that was going to be scares. And they were talking about possibly food rationing even before it actually hit Pearl Harbor. And I think it was because of the fact like I said what was going on over in Germany with Hitler and that, because there was so much talk about that. I always thought it was funny when I was a kid when they referred to somebody that was running a country as a paperhanger.

RS: What or how did this war directly affect your family, were any family member drafted?

CE: My cousin went to war, my brother was not old enough to go, and my father was too old to go. I did have another Uncle that went on my father's side and he was killed over there.

RS: Oh really, where about?

CE: I don't remember exactly, where it was that he was killed over there, but I do remember them saying that he was killed over there. And he had a brother that was in

World War I; I remember that his brother George was killed in World War I. He had a younger brother I think that was Herbert; no Herbert died after that. Anyhow, I remember him saying that he had a brother, but I don't remember which one that was. I remember Herbert he was the very youngest one. But I remember they said that one died in World War I and I remember there being George because they made such a big fuss over it and my brother was named George, my one brother was named George after him.

RS: Well, what changes accrued in everyday life once we entered into war.

CE: I remember food rationing: sugar, coffee, and up till that time we always drank a lot of sugar in our tea, but after that my grandmother said no more sugar and nobody was aloud to have sugar for there tea and that's when I learned how to drink tea with sugar and so to this day I do not use any sugar in my tea. No sugar at all, sugar was not aloud. Everything was rationed. In fact, its funny because I just come a crossed my Aunt she died about six years ago, she died before my other aunt, and we were up in her attic and we found these old books from the war. We found them the ration books with the stamps. I was looking for them and I think that I gave them to my daughter up in New Hampshire, because she collects she has quite a collection of old stuff, she collects stuff like that.

RS: Oh does she?

CE: Yeah, she collects stuff like that and I think that I gave them to her. Cause my cousin was going to throw them out, so I am pretty sure that I gave them to her cause I was sure that I had taken them and I think that I must have gave them to her and she had them up there. But they would be interesting to look at

RS: Oh yes.

CE: Their unbelievable there's the dates and names on them everybody had their name on them and everything. You were aloud any so much sugar and you were only aloud to get them in five pound bags I remember that and the coffee was that way, course I am never a coffee drinker and I am still not, but it was a big thing for the people that drank a lot of coffee. There were other foods that were hard to get and hard to purchase. There was a gasoline ration too and that made it hard for getting around. There were more people that were walking again. And when I would go out like I said my fathers aunt, I was great for visiting, my father's aunt they had a big farm out Lowier's Run out there off of 19. Out in Mount Nebo and they had a big farm out there and they had horses and we use to go and ride the horses. I would just go out there and stay for two weeks in the summer time with them I liked them. I like to go around and visit my relatives, I was the only one in the family that did, and I don't know why the other kids didn't.

RS: What was the hardest thing for you to get that you remember?

CE: To get?
RS: I guess what did you miss the most?

RS: Okay with the rationing what was it that you missed the most?

CE: You couldn't get stocking. Nylon stockings or silk stockings it was silk stockings at this time. If you could get them it was considered the black market.

RS: Oh really?

CE: They had black market for this and that and tires for cars were very hard to get. There was a lot of different clothing and stuff was very hard to get. So, you just more or less made due with what you had and a lot of hand me downs. That's where my aunt that was a seamstress for Horn's came in handy. She could make anything over she could take your clothes and make them into cloths for Rosa.

RS: Really?

CE: Yeah, no problem at all.

RS: What did you do for entertainment during the war?

CE: Well, we had the jukeboxes in various restaurants they had jukeboxes. We went roller-skating; I liked to roller-skate that was a big thing. They would hold dances at the school and that. Listened to the radio.

RS: Who were your hero's?

CE: Sitting on the front porch. That's how you got to know everybody, everybody would stop and talk and tell them all their woes and what was going on in their family and that's how everybody knew everybody. Today people don't do that anymore. Or get in their car and go somewhere. People don't walk like they use to people use to walk up and down the street and go to the baker's shop, we had a baker's shop three block's down on main street and the grocery store and that, so, they'd pass our house coming and going. If anybody was there they would say hello and if they wanted to talk they stood and talked. That's how you knew what was going on in the neighborhood and all that.

RS: Who were your hero's?

CE: My hero's? Going to the movies was a big thing too and that really upset us! We use to go for a nickel then they raised the price to ten cents. A whole dime and we thought that was horrible. They raised it to a dime and then a new theater opened up, but it was a dime and we thought it was... it was offal hard to get a dime to go to the movies in those day's, I am not kidding it was very hard. I'd get seven cents and then I would have to go around do things for people and get a penny here and a penny there until I could get ten cents. Then we'd go to the movies and then all of the sudden they deiced that they were going to put a tax on it, I can remember they put a tax on and they charged one cent tax, which meant it was eleven cents and I had a pick up another penny to go to the movies. I

remember Shirley Temple, but that was later. Then I remembered James Cagny he was great, Spencer Tracy and Jane Harlow.

RS: Oh really?

CE: And what's his name... Charlie Chaplin. Gordon, Flash Gordon they would show a chapter a week, that's another reason we had to go to the movies. That was a big thing to go to the movies on a weekend on Saturday and Sunday they would show Flash Gordon a chapter a week. It wouldn't end so you just had to go to see if he was going to be saved or not, it was a big thing I will never forget Flash Gordon.

RS: Okay, well you worked during the war right?

CE: Yes.

RS: Okay, you are I understand the true blue Rosie the Riveter. Okay, explain your job and how you got it.

CE: I first worked at the Rose Ship Yard, down on Duvoe. I was just trying to remember how to spell the darn thing and would believe it I can't remember and none of the names are not written on any of my things that I've kept, you think they would put names on them.

RS: Duvoe Shipyard?

CE: Duvoe Shipyard is where I worked. The first job I had in the shipyards was there. What they did was they trained us there to take canvas; they had a crew going around and they put this corrugated cardboard I called it, they formed it around in a shape of a pipe. They put it on the pipe and then we went around with canvas and we took the canvas and they gave us big buckets of paste that looked like wall paper paste and we would take and put the canvas in that dip it in that then take it out of that and wrap it around the pipes. Then you would have to cut it to fit and on the corners you would have to whip stitch and sow it. You had to sow it together because they didn't want and it was very hard to sow because you had all that goop on it, but they wanted it sowed because they didn't want it coming apart they wanted that to stay on there. You had to whip stitch a seam along to show that it was sowed and everything and that it wouldn't come apart.

RS: What was that for?

CE: That was all the pipes on the boat.

RS: Oh

CE: The pipes, their water lines and steam lines and that, they all had to be covered, because they said because of the pressure and the rattling and everything they all had to be insulated. We would do those. If you would get to work up on the officer's quarters or

the captain's quarters we thought that was great on a ship. That was really something up there. That's when I go in the habit of swearing because I noticed some of the men they talk about women harassment now they should have been back then. I'll tell you men were really something some of them were really smarty's that worked there. They either wanted to date you or something you'd be busy working and they'd come up to you and they'd feel that they could hit you or whatever. They felt that that was there privilege. I thought that that was quite a job that was an interesting job. I showed them how, and I think it was through my sowing ability, to go around a better way to go around corners and angles like at a forty-five angle with the canvas and how to sow it better then what they were doing. They gave me an award for that, they thought that was great that I knew how to do it and to me it just seemed when I was doing it and I told the fellows it didn't seem right to be doing it that way and I was going to do mine a different way and he got upset. I said you see it first and then you tell me and I'll go back and do it the way you want it and he did and he approved of it. Wait until I get my boss in and we'll see what he say's and they came in and they thought that was great. They wanted to know why I thought of that and I said well I sow and that's the only reason I could think of. I did enjoy that job to a point except it was offal messy because of all that goop that you had to put on. And a lot of the men and women swore a lot and I made up my mind that I was not going to swear. I thought what am I going to do so I started saying shooting' crackers became my favorite swear word or else I would say go fly a kite. That was my two favorite sayings in the shipping yard. Some of them really got a kick out of the fact that I would not swear that I would say shooting crackers or go fly a kite. I worked on LST.

RS: What is a LST?

CE: LST is a name of a ship. That's what they called the boats. We also worked on a small like a destroyer, I can't remember the name of it but if I heard it I could tell you.

RS: Was it a gunboat?

CE: It was a small one, kind of yeah it was a gunboat but it was small they were not as big as the LST's. For some reason or another Duvoe's quit making LST's they were having a hard time because it was a small shipyard. It's a shipyard, but they did not handle real large boats. They did have one, I remember the one they asked me if I wanted to go on it when they would hit the blocks out from under neither it, have you ever been on a boat when it's being launched?

RS: No

CE: It's quite an experience. They were launching this one and they wanted to know if I wanted to be on it and I said no. After I had seen that one, I'd seen a couple of them launched each on hit the water differently for some reason or another, and this one it hit the water and it came way down. The edge of the boat was at water level it was like this in the water and I thought boy I am I glade I wasn't on that one. After that it seem like they decided that they were just going to make the smaller boats they weren't making the LST's there, they quite making the LST's there is what they did. That was the largest

one. The knocked the block they had them up on dry dock and they would come over and knock all these blocks out. They had a certain way that they had to be done in order to have that boat go the way they wanted it to go into the water. It would slide down the rails right into the water. They only allowed so many people on the boat when it was launched, but I said no I'd pass. I lost that job there and I went down, they were hiring down at American Bridge. For some reason or anything I must have either lost my social security card or something, but anyhow I went and applied for another social security card at that time and I bet you I know what it was because I didn't have a social security card for the other and I lied about my age I went and go one and put me at my right age and got this at American Bridge. I bet you that's what it was.

RS: Okay and how did you get your job at American Bridge?

CE: Okay, they had an application in the paper that they were hiring so, I went down and I thought possibly I would get the same type of job as what I had before at the Duvoe's. So, they took my application and they asked me what I'd like to do? And I said well to cover pipes and they said they didn't have an opening at that time for that, but that they were looking for welders. They asked me if I'd like to be a welder and I said that I'd give it a try what do I have I got to lose. So, they said we'd send you to school and I went to school for three weeks. They said at the end of three weeks we will give you a test and when I was in school I remember the fellow told me your doing good would you like to go into stainless. I said what's that? He said well its just welding with different rods only is regular steel and the other is a stainless steel. He said when we're working stainless steel; see the upper bridges and decks all had to be down in stainless steel.

RS: Of the ship?

CE: Of the ship, all the upper deck, the officer's quarters, and all had to be done with stainless steel. All the gunneries surround had to be done with stainless steel. For some reason or other they had to be done in stainless. Probably because they were topside I guess I don't know, but the quarters were closed in, but still they had to be done in stainless anyhow. I said I'll give a crack at it. So, I did and I tried it and I didn't have any problems with it because most people had a problem with it because your rod would stick and if you got to close it would automatically grab stainless steel grabs right like that. It's like a magnet so you had a watch how you welded with it. I didn't seem to have any trouble with it so I said okay and I became a stainless steel welder that is what I became. So, the first test you take is your horizontal line is the first test you take and I passed it and they put me out in the shipyards. I was out there the only thing I didn't like about it was you work three shifts, I didn't mind working the three shifts, but being a stainless steel welder meant I would have to be out there at nighttime. I was out there a lot of times on that deck by myself.

RS: Oh really?

CE: Yeah, That's the only thing I didn't like about it. When your welding and you have that thing down over your face you can't see. Anybody can walk up behind you.

RS: Was it a danger?

CE: Well, not really. I don't know it just that sometimes some of the men that I knew was working on other parts of the ship they just gave me a weird feeling. I always felt like what if one of them would come up and grab me?

RS: Yeah.

CE: What would you do?

RS: Speaking of that, was there much harassment?

CE: No, but during the day there was a lot of harassment at that time, women were harassed a lot, but it was never talked about it was never considered. Oh, and I was the pin up girls of the Engineers down at American Bridge.

RS: Hold it, back up a minute. I want to get back to this. Was it sexual harassment or was it like a jealousy because women were taking men's jobs?

CE: In a way it was that, but it was a combination of both.

RS: Okay.

CE: It was both is what it was.

RS: Okay, right. Now lets get back to the pin up girl. What's the story behind this?

CE: Okay, I was working down at American Bridge for a while and the fellows come up to me. A lot of the older fellows were nice the majority of them were nice and were very friendly and kind. They talked nice to you and everything. The engineers came up to me one day and said we would like to know if you would be interested in be our pin up girl? I said Oh, they said yeah we're having a little contest I forget how many girls they picked that were working there and they said we're going to take a vote and we decided we want a picture of you though and we'll tell then who you are, and I said okay. I used the name Charlie as a nickname when I worked and that was what was written on the back of my welding jacket was Charlie. They said say Charlie so that everybody will know. They come and told me Oh you won. I said I don't believe it. They said yeah you won we want to have your picture up in our locker room. They said we have to have a picture you won. I said okay, I'll get you one. From then until the time I quit it was there.

RS: Do you mind if I ask you what kind of a picture was it?

CE: It was just a regular picture in my dress. It wasn't even a bathing suit; I thought they wanted one with a bathing suit. They wanted a picture and I didn't even thing whether they wanted one of me in a bathing suit or not. So, when I gave him the picture I could

tell that he was expecting one in a bathing suit or maybe shorts or something. I just had a picture taken at a studio and gave him that. They kept it and they kept it up until I left and when I left they gave it to me. Welding, it was interesting like I said I worked on different parts on. I worked mainly on the top decks. The gunneries were very; you had to watch how you welded them, where all the gunneries were. They had all these racks, these big iron thing or steel thing that curved and round and they had all these place along here and you had a weld all that on the sheet of steel and then all that had to be welded down onto the ship too. And every once in a while they would send an inspector and they would come out and inspect your welding to make sure that were up to par. Because if it wasn't it would have to be taken out re-burned out and re-welded. So, you had to watch the work that you did to make sure it was up to par. And another thing I didn't like about it was that you had to sit down on the steel, so I tried to carry a pad with me, steel is especially cold and uncomfortable to sit on. That was one thing most of the welding was down sitting down even if you did vertical there was some overhead, but not that much a lot of it was standing or lower. Especially when you got into the officers quarters and that and around that area. I liked it better and had more fun then the piping.

RS: Well, how long did you work here?

CE: I can't remember how long I worked there.

RS: Well, did you continue after the war?

CE: I worked there until they quite making ships and I don't remember how soon after the war it was when they quit making. They cut down to what they called a skeleton crew they had a big lay-off and then they gave us our choice: either you work here in this particular spot doing this job or your out. And then they put you on a shift you either had straight midnight or straight day's there was no more they got rid of the working three shifts. Another thing they did too was even though they still needed individual welders they brought in these welding machines, these high tech welding machines that somebody invented they brought those in. And these big sheets that we use to weld by hand they started doing them by machine, they were fascinating to watch, but I was a little leery of them. Of working in the shop and that because you had these big cranes moving stuff over your head constantly and there were accidents. They would build so many small parts inside the building and then they would transport them out to the boats that were in dry dock.

RS: I am assuming that the war over with?

CE: Yes

RS: Did you feel like you were forced out because you were a woman on the job?

CE: Not necessarily it's just that they had, they weren't making ships they didn't need the ships. So, they just cut. They said were not producing any, we're going to finish what we've got. Then they were still going to build boats, but they didn't need those ships.

Now they did LST's and another ship down there at American Bridge. I am trying to remember what the other ship was, but they built LST's down there, but I can't remember. I worked on dry dock.

RS: Did this kind of work do you think this changed your attitude or about your self or about working women?

CE: Well, I didn't think that men were fair.

RS: Okay. How was that?

CE: Well, they just seemed to think that they should have the best jobs and they should always make the most money and they should always be considered first no matter who good you were at your job or what you do that they should always be considered first.

RS: Did you get equal pay for the same job?

CE: As far as I can remember at American Bridge I did

RS: Okay

CE: Until, like I said they came out one day and said this is what we're going to do and we all had to take a cut in pay.

RS: Oh gees! When they laid off, you mean?

CE: The ones that they were holding had to take a cut in pay.

RS: You didn't have any union to protect you then?

CE: No, I really don't remember the union at all. There might have been a union, but I don't remember. I don't think there was a union the only time I remember there being a union I worked for *Nabisco* and I think I still have that card too. I worked out at *Nabisco* bakery that puts out *Nabisco* crackers in East Liberty, Pittsburgh. I worked out there for a while. That's must have been were I went after I got done in the shipyard and we had to join the Bakery union. We didn't have a choice that was the only time I worked in a union, oh no I worked down at McKinney Hinge I was in a union down at McKinney Hinge. That's were I worked after I got married no that was before I got married I worked at McKinney Hinge that was after *Nabisco* and I didn't care for the job at *Nabisco*. What I did was, they had these big things carts on casters like wheels that we pushed around. What we did was we filled them you would get a list of what the truck was going to take out the next day. We would have to fill the cart with all the stuff for that particular truck; sometimes it would take more then one or whatever how many carts it needed to fill that truck. Then you helped load that truck up. There were three of us were women, the many that hired me at *Nabisco* he told me afterwards that one girl and me were hired many for your looks rather then for your qualifications for the job. I figured that you could

probably do the job, but he said I liked your looks. He tried to date everybody and he was married and his wife came in one day and I met her and I remember her real well she was a little on the chubby side, but she was very pretty person and a very nice personality. I know that he cheated on her. He dated anybody in there that he could date and he was in charge of personal so the only way you could get in there was though him. I thought that was, but anyhow. And that's why I said that their saying now about harassment, it's not now its something that's been going on for years and years and years.

RS: Yeah, okay. Living in Pittsburgh do you remember blackout drills?

CE: Oh yes! My aunt that I told you died that was ninety-four she was a warden.

RS: Was she?

CE: In fact I even have I don't know if I throw them out or kept them, but she was an air raid warden. She had a band that she wore on her arm that said Warden and she had a hat that they wore. She would carry a flashlight with her. Oh yeah, we had to have all the blinds down at night and we weren't aloud to have any light showing from the outside.

RS: Was this just during the drill?

CE: Yes. I completely forgot about that.

RS: Now were you married during the war, or were you dating your husband?

CE: No, but I knew him. I knew him for years. He ran around with the same crowd that I did from West View. He used to go out to West View park see they had a roller-skating ring and all the rides out there too and the Dip's was my favorite. It killed me when they took the Dip's out. West View park we would ride out and meet at West View a group and we'd go roller-skating and ride the rides and dance and play the radio real loud.

RS: Well, did you write to any service men?

CE: I wasn't much of a writer as far as writing. Now talking is one thing, but writing is another.

RS: Well, other then working at the shipyard or were there any events from World War II that stand out in your mind?

CE: Other then the rations and the things that we would ride the bus to and from the shipyard, I remember they had special buses that would pick up at certain spots the people and take you to and from work. I got to the point where I could stand up and sleep standing up.

RS: Oh gosh!

CE: Cause sometimes we would work overtime and I got to the point where I could stand up and sleep.

RS: Did you have restrictions working at the shipyard, because of the war?

CE: We weren't aloud to talk about what we were doing or what was going on at the shipyard.

RS: Oh really?

CE: We were not to talk about what was going on or what we were doing or what was there. That's the only time were I came across the problem and I probably shouldn't even mention it but was when I was working at the shipyard in the locker room there we had a girl there that went after other women.

RS: Oh really?

CE: She kept coming up to me and at first I thought she was just being friendly, you know wanted to be friends and then couple of the women motioned me to stay away from her and they wouldn't tell me why and I kept asking why? She come up and I was change, because it was just one large locker room everybody would come in there and change their cloths, and you hardly ever went out on the street with your working cloths on, so I had to change in the locker room there all the time. She would come up and touch me and I would push her away. Finally, which was odd to me because I ran into somebody that was related to her when I was out with some people. I had mentioned her name and they said Oh that's a relative of mine. Then he told me to stay away from her and he told me what she was and I got flipped. But that's the only time in my life I've run across that. I thought it was odd that they would have somebody in there like that, but she had just as much right to work as anybody else.

RS: Did the government feel talking about your work would hinder the war effort?

CE: I suppose so, because they told us that we were not to talk about what we were doing and were not to say what boats we were working on although I thought it was common knowledge. I guess it was because I worked there, so I thought it was common knowledge and the fact that I was so young at the time I just couldn't comprehend why and who around me that's going to do this or that. And how, they told that we were not to, it was better not to discuss what was going on or anything. If you saw any papers or anything you were not to repeat what you had seen or talk about it to any strangers.

RS: Was there any case that you knew of sabotages?

CE: There was a few things that happened that they figured that somebody did purposely.

RS: Oh really?

CE: Like I said at the time I didn't take it as serious as I should have. To me it just didn't seem like, I knew it was something that was serious, but I didn't feel like it was something that concerned me because I didn't feel that I was doing anything wrong. I knew that I wasn't doing anything wrong, but there were things that happened that caused accidents. When I was working in Ambridge there was a fellow there and that he was there working and there was a bad accident that happened. That's what made me decide that I definitely would not go inside and work because of that crane overhead. Those guy's that worked those cranes could do anything and if you didn't see that steel flying around you'd move. There was an accident that happened there and after that I never saw that fellow there again. There was talk that they thought he was a Commie and that he had done something.

RS: Living in Pittsburgh did you know of any German Americans, or people living there from Germany, or Japan?

CE: I know people from Germany living there. In fact my mother came over from Germany she spoke very fluent German and they come from Austria. That's were there from, Austria.

RS: What was the attitude towards these people?

CE: There wasn't much, my father his parents were from Germany. There was no I don't remember there being anything said about them. There was more said about the Japanese then there was the German's, once they hit Pearl Harbor. There was no Japanese in our area, but when I was in the shipyard that was a different story. You'd hear people talk, but there were none working there in the shipyard, but you'd hear people talk.

RS: About Japanese?

CE: Yeah about Japanese, because in the shipyards they come from all around the different areas.

RS: Do you remember?

CE: But like I said, my grandmother was a person that just felt and I when they would say something about the Germans with the real accent. Some of your Germans depending on where they come from what area on what and how they talk, because there are so many dialects over there. They would make remarks about them, but I just didn't think it was right, but I did think it was horrible about the Jap's. It seemed to me I was more against them then I was and the quicker then I was about the Germans. I couldn't see how one paper hanger could do so much, so much and why they ever let a person like that get the power, as much power as he had. How could one person with all the education and the background that he had how could he become so powerful a person?

RS: During this time, speaking of Hitler, did you where you ever aware of the persecution of the Jews? Did you ever see anything like that on newsreels?

CE: Yes, they talked about that too and we thought that was and a lot of people couldn't believe that it really, really happening even though you would see it. Newsreels were a big thing, especially in the movies. Newsreels were big things at the movies. Did you ever watch channel 2, you don't get channel 2. Every once in awhile they go back on channel 2 and show the old newsreels and on AMC. They show a lot of the old movie newsreels. I'll see them and I thing boy I can remember when they showed that. I liked Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

RS: Did you?

CE: I liked him everybody thought he was great. I think the fact that he came out with WPA I think that was a very good idea and I think that's something they should have now, maybe I am wrong I don't know, but I think its better then putting people on relief. At least your doing something, I believe in working and doing something for what you get I don't believe in just hand people. I know of people that I feel have no right to be on relief. The only reason why they want relief is because they get free medical and everything and they don't have to do a thing for it.

RS: Do you remember VE Day, Victory over Europe?

CE: Oh VE Day, Yeah. I was home at the time. My grandmother had a huge big old home and the third floor was my bedroom, I took over the whole third floor.

RS: Oh really?

CE: I remember that I was upstairs listening to the radio at the time and I couldn't believe it. People started coming out on the streets and they were hollering and knocking on everybody's doors just to make sure that everybody knew. People went wild.

RS: What did you do?

CE: I staid home, I didn't do anything special I just talked to everybody and all. It was just such a feeling of relief and you felt good and you felt relief and you felt like you wanted to shout. It was also like, you'd start think about over there, the ones that fought in the war, and the ones that died that you knew, and it was a combination of feelings. To me it was anyhow.

RS: Do you remember when we dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima?

CE: Yeah.

RS: What was your feeling towards that?

CE: I didn't, I felt that Jap's deserved it, but I felt that there were people that were going to be hurt that didn't have no, like children, I felt children I felt that some how they

should have, but in war what can you do. That was the only thing I thought about was the children and what there feelings were and how they the ones that did come through it how they were scared and when they grew up how they would feel and what they would. That's why today I have that feeling that the Japanese are the type of people that never forget, there like elephants they say they never forget. Everything has been tradition over there they have always passed down from generation to generation, they've staid within their own race basically the Japanese have over years and centuries. I feel that they are out to take back what they lost and that they do want, the ones from the war that are old enough still feel that they should and I think that's why they have invaded the business world.

RS: Okay this is continuant of the interview with Charlotte Ebitz. We were talking about the atomic bomb dropping on Hiroshima and your feelings for the Japanese, is there anything else that you want to add about that?

CE: Nothing that I can think of at the moment...

RS: Were you aware... I am sorry I didn't mean to interrupt you

CE: No go ahead

RS: Were you aware of the Japanese interments on the West Coast at the time of the war?

CE: Yes.

RS: What was your feeling then?

CE: It was kind of at the time we felt that, as far if they spent so much time in this country then they shouldn't be held responsible for the people over in Japan, because there were so many generations that were in America and had staid in America. So, we felt that those were being persecuted wrongly, because they were hereditary were Japanese, but there probably was spy's. But it was basically people thought that when they hit Pearl Harbor, okay, people were very upset with Japan period. And then as the war started, they heard about these people were imprisoned and they took their property off of them they took everything off of them they stripped them completely, okay. There were probably people there, which had nothing to do with the war at all, but yet they were completely stripped and we felt bad for them.

RS: Is there anything else about the war years that you can think of?

CE: I am surprised that I remember as much as I do. It wasn't what you call a happy time; it was a time when everybody had a watch what they said and did and everything. You just didn't feel free or comfortable except for around people that you were always with and even then sometimes they would come out and say something and you would wonder why did they say that? Why do they feel that way? It would make you wonder and make suspicious of people and things, which wouldn't have ordinary of been.

RS: Do you support Roosevelt's decision to enter the war?

CE: Yes, I felt that it could have been in a different way

RS: Different then the atomic bomb?

CE: Yes, but

RS: What were your biggest fears during this time?

CE: I think that biggest fear was you always thought well, what would happen if they come over here? To this country what would we do, what would we have, what would they do to us? It just made you think what would happen, what it would be like if we would actually have the fighting in this country rather then in other countries?

RS: Who did you fear the most?

CE: That was kind of a toss up, because I think Japan and Hitler and in a way I think Hitler was worse then the Japanese, when it came right down to it. From what we hear at the time it was just a regular war, but then you heard about all these horrible things Hitler was doing to people. People that didn't even really have to come in contact with or have to have anything to do with. Also, the fact that he is conquering all these countries and why did he have to pick out the Jewish people, why does he have to pick on certain people, and why did he have to do all this and kill people and treat them the way that he did? Another thing was that people often wondered when they said that he was killed whether he was even killed or not? Whether he really died at the time that he did died.

RS: Did you think that the Nazi's should have been tried for the War Crimes?

CE: I think that they should be, the ones that did all the work with him, his officers that did, he was the one that ordered them more or less, but their the ones that did. They didn't have to they could have said no.

RS: What about today?

CE: Today, I think that Nazism is building up.

RS: Do you think that they should still be tried today?

CE: The ones that are living?

RS: Yes

CE: Tried today, well, they should be tried but I can't see where we're going to gain anything by trying them today after all this time. I mean at their age, the ones that are

living, what are you going to gain by it. Other then to make it known who they are; I think that fact to make it know who they are and where they are would be sufficient. But, of course then you get some of these kukus that go out and take things in their own hands today you find so many kukus shooting people for no reason.

RS: That's true

CE: There are things that happened years ago like that, but they happened just so seldom or it could be that they happened but you just didn't hear about them like you do today. You have so much that is more known that is going on today, because of TV and that.

RS: Did you go out with any Service Men or know any Service Men during the war?

CE: Yes, I knew some of them. There were a couple in my neighborhood and I did date a couple.

RS: What did you talk about? Did you talk about the war?

CE: We talked about the war some, but they didn't always want to talk about the war. That's something they really didn't want to talk about.

RS: What did they talk about?

CE: They wanted to talk about more or less when the war would be over what they were going to do or what they did before the war. Or what was going on in their own neighborhood. Or what was going on at home at the time, not what was going on over seas.

RS: How did Pittsburgh show support for the war or for the boy's?

CE: They were very supportive. They made bandages; they collected different things to send over seas like money and cigarettes, all kind of things and all for the service men. They would get people to send letters and cards and I'd send cards, because I thought I don't mind cards because there's not a lot of writing.

RS: Oh that's right you didn't like to write, I forgot.

CE: Cards I didn't mind, because there were ones over there that would never hear from anybody at home. I felt that they should have some kind of communication.

RS: During the Gulf War last year a lot of people had yellow ribbons signifying their support for the war, was there anything like that done?

CE: The only thing that we did, we had these flags, little flags that we would put in our windows and if you had someone in the service you would put stars on them to represent

the ones in the service. I remember seeing all those little flags in windows and stars on them.

RS: Was there anything different done if there was a casualty in the home?

CE: Yes there was, what did we do? I think they draped them with black if there was, but they kept the flags in the windows with the stars. That was a very big thing during the war.
RS: Really

CE: Yes, you knew any home that had anybody in the service when you saw those stars on the little flags in the windows. I was trying to think of what songs were popular at that time. Oh, When the Lights go on again all over the world that was one of the most popular ones.

RS: Oh really

CE: Oh that was very, very popular. And we use to sing some of the World War One songs too; the Marine song was popular too. There was another thing too about the war at the time the Merchant Marines; people had something against the Merchant Marines. The Merchant Marines were looked down on more or less for some reason; probably because they were the ones that carried supplies, but still that's no reason. I don't know. My husband was in the service he might even be able to tell you. But the Merchant Marines it seem like somebody would tell you that they were in the Merchant Marines and the other person would groan.

RS: Could it have been because they could be considered draft dodgers?

CE: Maybe, I don't know. I could be, I never thought about that as being draft dodgers. I figured that they were do service of some kind, I never thought of that; because I guess the Merchant Marines or not considered a real actually one of the services. Maybe that is why. But they always looked down on the Merchant Marines; if they were in the Merchant Marines people thought we don't want to bother with him, why bother him. That just seemed to be their attitude towards them.

RS: I don't think I have anything else, I can't think of anything else to ask you.

CE: You covered everything?

RS: I think I covered everything; I'll go home and probably remember something that I wanted to ask you. Before I end this interview can you real quick think of anything else?

CE: No I can't. There's probably a lot of things, but I just can't. I am just trying to think if they did put the street lights out during the black outs. Yeah they did. I was thinking cause I remember we had to pull down the blinds and close the drapes, if you had any drapes you had a close them and pulled down the blinds and made sure that have any

light that was by a window; because if you did the air raid warden would come knocking on your door and tell you about it. He would remind you that you had lights on and you were not to be out on the street. If you were out on the street and you weren't supposed to be then they arrested you.

RS: Really?

CE: Yeah, they had hours and you were not to be out on the street during those hours. And if you were on the street they had to know why and if you didn't have a good reason for being on the street at that time they had to arrest you.

RS: Why is that?

CE: They did that for security reason, I don't know. It was during the black outs, when they had black outs you were not to be out on the street. You had a to have a reason to be on the street. All you see basically was the warden or like somebody that was going on their way to work or something for some reason or another. There was nobody on the streets, which I thought odd at the time. I remember that. Boy my aunt when she was living she sure could tell you a lot. Like I said she was very active and she did all kind of things: she worked for the Red Cross, and did things there, and they had a canteen for the service men in Pittsburgh, and if there were any that came in and wanted to go home, but didn't have to money or the transportation they would see that they got to their families. I can't think of anything else.

RS: Okay, well I certainly thank you for you giving me your time.

CE: I was going to go into the service.

RS: Oh were you?

CE: Yeah, I wanted to go into the service cause some of the girls in my neighborhood were going into the service, but for one thing in the beginning I was too young, okay, and another thing I went and had a physical cause I was going to be pilot.

RS: Oh really?

CE: Yeah, and I can't fly because I had a bad ear when I was a child, three years old I put beads in my ear and it broke my ear drum.

RS: Key's?

CE: Beads, I seen my aunt put ear rings on and I was going to put ear rings on and I couldn't figure out, I put plain old beads in my ear, and they kept falling out. They weren't supposed to fall off, so I started pushing them in my ear.

RS: Oh gosh.

CE: I put one in and pushed it in and couldn't see it so I pushed another. I looked in the mirror and couldn't see. So, I can remember that distinctly.

RS: Would you have been aloud to fly?

CE: They had some of the women did do a certain part. I don't know if they come in actual, I think the only part that they plaid in as far as the flying was in transporting. They did learn how to fly.

RS: When you talked about going into the Service to fly did you ever or imagine being in combat.

CE: No, it was just the thrill of going into the service, all we thought about at the time was the big thing to go into the service and learn how to fly a plane. That's all we thought about at the time, we didn't think about what actually come to it, because it was the beginning of the war it was the very beginning. When your young that way you don't think of all the consequences until you get into it. And as the war went on and we seen what happened what was happening to the fellows, and the planes, and the ships, and all in a way you wished glade I mean that you were a girl and not a boy over there fighting. My brother was in the Korean War he missed World War Two, but he was in the Korean War. He went over on a boat and he's scared to death of water. He said that he had the most horrible time of his life, because he was on that boat. He was in the army, but they transported them in boats.

RS: When did you meet your husband?

CE: Like I said I met him when I was in high school, I met him when I was about in the eighth grade. He was with a group of kids that I knew I knew some they were from West view and I was from the Brighton area. Then there was a Bell view group; you know we all had our own little towns and schools. He went to the schools in West view and I went here.

RS: So, when did you start dating?

CE: We dated on and off and what he did was went and married a girl. When he came home on leave once and married a girl. And I knew her; she was in the drum majorette with me.

RS: Oh yeah?

CE: Yeah, she was a drum majorette, and was in the corps with me. He came home and married her. I wasn't not going to get married during the war, I had made my mind up that I was not going to get married during the war. And I dated several fellows that I had grown up with that had been in the service. He married her and went over seas and while he was over seas, he was in the Navy, and while he was out in a boat somewhere here she

started running around with somebody else and she got pregnant by this other guy. When he came home she had a baby that wasn't his. Those things go on all the time, not just today. That's why I said when they say this things that go one today, I say its not just today its been nature, its been history, it repeats itself every generation. That's the way it is, that's life. So, he got a divorce from her right a way and he called me and we started dating. I told him that I didn't want to get married and I didn't. I didn't really want to get married at that time. I just thought when ever we're ready, I just didn't want to pressure or push anybody. I liked the way it was going. I was satisfied. I was working at the time at McKinney Hinge down in Manchester and I had a lot of new friends. I was satisfied with my life the way that it was. I went roller-skating; I always had fun roller-skating. I just didn't want to get married. So, we started going together and he kept coming around and coming around and I kept telling him go away, go away and he just kept coming back like a bad penny bounce back. I was going with another fellow and the other fellow started pressuring me to get married. He said we'll go to Hawaii on our honeymoon and I thought oh that sounds good, but then I thought no I don't want to go what do I want to go to Hawaii for. I am not going to get married. Well, we'll still go together for a while and I went with a couple of other fellow, and that's the way it went on for awhile. And he kept saying we're going to get married and I kept saying no we're not. He said yes we are I said no we're not. Then I said okay if we get married though it has to be in June. He say's well I wanted to wait a couple of years I say's well, then I am not getting engaged. I didn't believe in long engagements; his brother was engaged for four years before he got married.

RS: Oh my gosh.

CE: I said no way, that's not for me.

RS: So, we've gotten a little off track here.

CE: Yeah

RS: Thank you again for giving me your time and this concludes my time with Charlotte Ebitz.