

YONGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Women In the Mills During World War II

Personal Experiences

O.H. 1376

Louise Liste

Interviewed By

Joseph Lambert Jr.

On

October 27, 1990

Louise Liste

Mrs. Louise Liste was born in 1916 in a Pennsylvania coal town. After four years of working in a mine, her father decided it was enough and moved his family to Niles, Ohio. Where he was assured of a job at Republic Steel.

Living in Niles was nice but not necessarily what the family expected. The Liste family, like other Italian-Catholics, was subject to discrimination by the resurgent Ku Klux Klan. Mrs. Liste can recall as a child hiding with her brothers on the floor November 24, 1924. This was the day of an infamous bloody riot between the Klan and Italian-Catholics in Niles.

Mrs. Liste was married in the midst of the Depression at the age of 17 to her husband Joseph. The couple settled in Niles. After a few years the couple moved to Warren, Ohio that was closer to the Republic Steel Plant where her husband was employed.

In 1942, Mrs. Liste got a job at Ohio Core Gating due to the patriotic fervor that swept the country during World War II. In 1944, with the help of her husband, she got a job at Republic Steel. She followed the events of the war like the rest of the employees of the plant for she did have relatives in the armed forces. When the war ended many females in defense plants lost their jobs to the returning soldiers. However, those women in the Sorting Department of Republic did not lose their jobs.

Mrs. Liste has two children, Mary and Patrick M. In 1964, Mrs. Liste retired after 20 years of employment at Republic. The immediate years after retiring were spent doing light traveling with her husband. She now lives in a Niles apartment where she still keeps in touch with some of the many friends from her Republic Steel days. Her children and grandchildren likewise keep her busy.

Mrs. Liste is a member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish and the Mall Walkers at the Eastwood Mall. She enjoys football, baseball, and spending time with her great-grand children.

Youngstown State University

Oral History Program

Women In The Mills During World War II.

O.H. # 1376

Interviewee: LOUISE LISTE

Interviewer: Joseph Lambert, Jr.

Subject: Women in the Mills During World War II.

Date: October 27, 1990.

Joseph Lambert, Jr.: This is an interview with Louise Liste for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program dealing with women's experiences in the mill during World War II, by Joseph Lambert. At 1836 Belle Terre Apartment 6 Niles, Ohio on October 27 at one pm.

JL: Okay, Mrs. Liste can you tell me when and where you were born?

LL: I was born in Oliphant, Pa. 1916 at that time that was one of the mining places for coal and that and my father used to work in the mines.

JL: How long did he work there?

LL: He worked there for about four years and then we moved over here to Niles. He got a job at Republic Steel.

JL: Did he move to Niles for this job?

LL: We did all move to Niles then.

JL: Did he ever tell you any stories about working in the coalmines?

LL: Yes, he said it was real cold and damp and as years went by he began to spit up real black stuff. That was the problem for the mining place.

JL: Did he move to Niles to get a job at Republic?

LL: Yes.

JL: Okay.

LL: Because they were hiring at that time.

JL: What do you remember about growing up in Niles?

LL: Well, I remember I used to play on the front porch a lot and I played around the backyard with my girlfriends and we had a lot of fun together. My sister when she got married she'd bring her little boy over to play with my brother and he would stay with us for about a week or two. Then she would come and pick up the following week or so. We would talk about the fun they had my brother and his cousin were having a lot of fun playing around there. Then we had next store there were a mechanic garage, and its still there up till today its still there and there are men working there. They used to fix my dad's old car. Now, I call it old because it was old fashioned. It seemed like they never fixed it right every time you would go to work in the morning it wouldn't start. He would bring it back; course we didn't have to go far it was right across the street. Then there's Mosquito Creek down there and I used to swim a lot in the creek. They had a platform, a wooden platform that you could jump off and just go right into the creek. It was clean then, but now when you go by there it's not as clean as it used to be they don't have that place to jump in the water anymore.

I lost my mother when I was ten years old and my sisters both got married at that time and I was left with two brothers, Frankie and Willy and we just raised each other. Then after I got married my father got married and I said when I needed a mother he didn't get married, but I did okay. I helped with the house and everything. I really had a work hard, because in those days there weren't washers like we have now. In fact I had a to wash a lot of clothes by hand. Then we did a lot of canning we had our own garden with tomatoes and peppers and I canned the tomatoes and peppers and we had that for the winter. Then our special meal on Sunday's was spaghetti and meatballs. But I had a lot of fun even though I was tied down with the house. I played baseball and I was about fifteen years old and I was a pitcher and I think, it was in the newspaper, they still might have it about our team.

JL: Where did you play baseball at?

LL: At _____ Niles. GE is there now. We did play at _____ field that GE is across the street from that, that's where they play football, you know the Red Dragons. Right a long there near the creek. Anne Papanick she's an old timer she's in _____ now, she was our coach. She was really proud of us, because we really played good. That was a lot of fun too you know we would go and practice and then there would be times when we would have weenie roasts if we'd win and stuff like that. She was really good with us she made us feel like playing.

JL: What can you recall about growing up during the Depression?

LL: Well, that was really bad. Everybody was hard up at that time, but thank god we didn't have to go to the soup line. We did it the best that we could. I baked bread and we had rice and beans, macaroni and beans, it was always almost the same thing, but it was

pretty bad. We would see people walking in the soup line and would tell my father thank God were not in that line.

JL: Did you father work during the Depression?

LL: No he didn't he was off too.

JL: When did you get married?

LL: I got married 1924, I think.

JL: Can you tell me a little bit about your husband?

LL: He worked at the Stanley Works when I married him. He was working steady and getting _____, his mother was a widow when I married him. He had to help her out a little bit too. He finally got discussed and went to Republic Steel and they hired him. First he started out sweeping although the superintendent really liked him and made him a foreman later on. So, he became a foreman in 1929 until he retired.

JL: What can you tell me about the Klu Klux Klan in Niles?

LL: They used to go from house to house and they would try to tell us to if we had guns in our house they were going to take them away from them. One day there was a real big fight. The people that they torment and then they put a cross and burned the cross. My fathers and all our neighbors and they went to face them and my mother went with my father. She said she raised one of the hoods and it was the grocer that we used to buy groceries. We were so frightened we hid underneath, we had a big round old fashioned table, us kids hid underneath that table we thought that was going to keep us from seeing everything, but we heard all the shooting and everything. There was shooting, shooting and fire and everything else. When my mother and father came back home they was crying they said that everything was over and that all the neighbors got together and they scared them. They thought that they would be afraid to appear, but they did they all stuck together. That really frightened them then.

JL: Was it over then?

LL: Yes, it was over. There wasn't anything after that there was never anything like that ever again. That was really a bad day.

JL: Were there a lot of cross burnings? Do you remember that?

LL: No just one big cross that they had constantly burning.

JL: Can you tell me your feelings about President Roosevelt?

LL: Oh we loved him. We really loved him. My father always said he was one of the presidents that really stuck with the people and he cared about us. That was when my brother got a job with what do you call that anyhow it was because of the war, he could help us raise his brother and sister, so he would send home fifteen or twenty dollars a month and that helped us with the brothers and sister. I had two of my own and I raised the five of them. We used to bake bread and they would help me, they tried to help me as much as they could because they saw I was home with my own two children and they tried to help me as much as they could. Especially my sister-in-law she would come down and help me. That was a real big help because I was alone doing all that work. I was so glad that she was that way about it, she felt as if she should help too and she stayed with me for twenty-one years. Until she got married and the same with my other brother-in-law too, he was with me until he got married and even then they staid until they had their first child and then they moved. We were nice and happy; even though it was hard times we were all happy. The beer garden across the street from us was Jenny's and there was people coming out at two or three o'clock in the morning come out and screaming and then there was a murder right in front of our telephone poll, Marty Flask, I don't know if you remember hearing your parents talking about him. We saw the whole thing and after that my husband said we're not going to live around here were going to have to find somewhere to live away from this place. So, we finally found one and then his older brother stayed there and he got married and they lived there for a while, but I guess she got fed up too, because they bought a house up here on Bentley. So, we moved to Warren and that's where the kids went to school, they liked it there. At one time in Niles they had a chicken coup and it was on Mason St. ... one of the boys went on roof of the next roof it's a brick building and people lived in there, but he went up on their roof and I was hanging clothes and the sudden I heard something whiz past my ear, and I looked up and he was shooting and he killed our rooster. I said oh my gosh this is terrible living here. That's why we moved, I couldn't even hang clothes out because there he was shooting at the chickens I guess cause he got the rooster. Then we had a big garden back then and grape vine and we had all kinds of grapes down there.

JL: Did you like living in Warren?

LL: Yeah I liked it. Only thing was it was too far to go to work when I started to work. My husband got me a used car and it wasn't too bad then.

JL: Is that the first time you started driving, did you have to learn how to drive?

LL: I had to learn all over again because I wasn't driving until then. My husband used to do all our driving, but I did pretty good.

JL: Can you recall your emotions after Pearl Harbor was attacked?

LL: Well, we just all felt bad we just didn't know what to think. We know there was tiers and then when the war was over they all came to our place and we had like almost a party there everybody was drinking and having the time of their life because the war was over. I thought that was nice they all came to our place we had a lot of fun then, we celebrated.

JL: Were you working?

LL: Yes. I started in 1944 at Republic.

JL: Did you work anywhere before that?

LL: Yeah, at Ohio Corrugated Tube.

JL: Can you tell me what it was like working there?

LL: I liked it, they had the cutting lines that was where my husband worked and my brother was a pliers there and then they had an operator and they would bring the coils on there and then they would put them through the cutting lines and they'd have a girl with her hand on the button, when they see rejects they would push their hand down and the rejects would come back. Those were the ones we'd sort. Take all the rejects out and save the good sheets, they had cracked edges and they had wavy edges, menders. The cracked edges we'd put on one bench cause a slitter would cut them off and then they'd have a good sheet of tin then, but they weren't supposed to be any bigger than two inches or it would be too much that they would have to trim off. So, they used to call those cut downs, we used to call the menders the _____ bench we said the _____ bench and that was for that. Then we had the ones that weren't good at all we used to call them scrap and we had a scrap bench and they would get rid of that all together. But they used to save as much as they could on the cut downs. Then we had a representative count our tin after we sort it. They would make money on that just counting the sheets. The tractor driver would bring in our stacks and then we would have long tables, they would be like 14 or 15 inches high and I was sort of short so I'd get a platform and I would stand on it. We had a women boss and she didn't mind me standing there as long as I would be careful when I would step down.

JL: Were there many other women that worked there?

LL: Yes there was about 35 or 40, a lot of women. Then every once in a while we would get laid off, but during the war we work very good.

JL: Why did you get a job there?

LL: Well, my husband was working, but my sister got me in. She worked 35 years there. So, she got me in. It was so dirty and smelly, that solution they put on to wash it with, it was real smell, but I took it for two years, then my husband got me in at Republic.

JL: Did you go to work with your husband then?

LL: We worked turns, but when he worked day turn I would go with him, then afternoon and midnight I would drive myself.

JL: Did you like working midnight turn?

LL: I didn't like him working midnight turns. I didn't work turns I worked steady day turn. The only time I worked turns was when somebody was sick on the cutting lines and they would ask me to go over there and sit on the stool and press the buttons when I'd see those defects. That was hard on your eyes just going steady and real fast. As soon as you'd see cracked edges you would push the button down and then the light sheet and heavy sheets and there was a needle that indicated that, when it was heavy the needle would go that way when it was light the needle would go the other way then we would have to press our hand on the button and catch those. You had to keep an eye on that and the needle going back and forth. But I liked it though because you didn't have to lift like we did, we lifted so much. Keep lifting because there were a lot of defects in that tin, that's why we called them rejects, but we saved a few from each one. _____

JL: Were you intimidated when you first started working there?

LL: What do you mean by that?

JL: For instance how did the men treat you?

LL: Well, they were all good to us. They were very good. There were only three or four men in our department anyhow. Mostly on the cutting line and on the other end there were men, but in our department there were just a few, just the man on the splitter machine and that's all.

JL: Were there any restrictions on women?

LL: We weren't aloud to talk to the men, if they came through our department we weren't aloud to talk to them. The boss would see my husband talk to me said would let us go for a little bit. See me husband knew how she was so we didn't talk too long. He would go back to his job. They were very strict. We had fifteen minutes for breakfast a half hour for lunch, and just when you had to go to the rest room and that was it. We weren't aloud to go around and fool around and talk to each other. The only time was at lunchtime, when we finished eating then we could talk for a while. She was very strict, then when the new girls came and we were older they didn't pay attention to the boss. She began to cry and she said they were nothing like us. I felt that's her, she was very strict with us, why couldn't she be strict with them? But she couldn't they wouldn't listen to her and we listened. There was a difference between us and the new girls that came in. We put out like 50-60 inches a day and they'd only put out 15 that's a lot of stacks that we went through. If we put 50-60 inches out that was a lot, because you have to look at each sheet and flop it over. We had to wear gloves and long sleeves so we didn't get cut and we had to wear an apron... and it had to be a straight pile because if it wasn't straight we'd have to go all over it again and make it straight. So, she had to put up with the new girls on a lot of that stuff. In one way I felt sorry for her and the other way she was very strict with us, but she did good.

JL: Did she try to discipline these new girls?

LL: She tried, but they wouldn't listen to her, the one girl told her to go to hell, and I think they left her go.

JL: You were talking about wearing gloves, could you tell me a little bit more about the clothes you had to wear?

LL: Well, we had uniforms a blue dress, a certain color, but it had to be plain, and a little belt around it, if you didn't have a belt then it had to be form fitting and blue sleeves, so we were all dressed a like. The uniforms were just plain, no pleats or anything.

JL: They weren't men's clothes were they?

LL: No.

JL: Did you have to wear safety goggles?

LL: No, we didn't have to wear safety goggles. But on the cutting lines you had to wear the hats, the helmets that they wore that were made out of steel and that. That's the only thing I didn't like about that job out there I didn't like to wear anything on my head.

JL: Did you have to keep your hair up?

LL: No. We didn't have to. That was another thing I thought we would have to because when you soak the tin up you have to put your head down you could get hurt. But we didn't have to.

JL: Were there any dangers surrounding your job at all?

LL: When I tractor driver would come to pick up our tin up on the table we had to step way over because in case some of those would slid over. Those new girls they didn't pay attention and one she wouldn't listen they picked up a couple of sheets and a couple of them fell over and she almost got her leg cut real bad, that's when boss told her I know you don't want to listen, you have to step way a side when that tractor driver comes in. Even the girl right next to us had to step a side too.

JL: Did you ever feel like quitting because of the dangers there?

LL: No, the only time I quit was when I was getting sever headaches. Nothing bothered me about the work. The girls they were all friendly, just when the new girls came in it was a little rough. But that still didn't bother me, but I started getting sever headaches and then I couldn't stand it anymore. I think all that noise from the cutting lines.

JL: I was going to say was it real noisy in there?

LL: Oh, very noisy.

JL: Did you have earplugs or anything to wear?

LL: No.

JL: Did it smell in there? Can you describe it?

LL: Yeah. Whatever, they put on that tin, I don't know what that was but it smelled. Because I have a sister-in-law that has leukemia and they asked her those questions about what chemicals and stuff they used on it. Because she said that she worked there for 30 years. After the war she got a management job and that's the time I couldn't work anymore because of my headaches. But, she got a nice job out of it, now she's sick with leukemia and they wondered if that was from the chemicals and stuff she said she didn't think so. So, she didn't think that was it at all.

JL: Did you feel patriotic working during the war?

LL: Oh yes.

JL: Is that one of the reasons you got a job?

LL: Yes. I remember that President Kennedy was shot; we all cried we were on the job. The boss came in and told us and she told us to go in the room for a couple of minutes, we were in there for about 3-4 minutes and we all said a prayer and we were all crying. We all went back to our jobs and it seemed like we were all feeling emptiness inside of us. That's what we kept telling each other, we were sad all that day.

JL: Did you have any relatives that were in the war?

LL: Yes, my brother and my brother-in-laws. Weren't you in the war for a little while Pat in the war? No you went in '57. My brother-in-laws were and especially my brother, he would send me these real nice letters, where he was and it would make me so sad when I would read it, but thank God they came home, because they did see a lot of things that went on around them. My brother-in-law saw a kid get his head blown right off. Just seeing those things is bad.

JL: Did you work a lot of overtime during the war?

LL: Yes, ten hours for about almost two years.

JL: Was that common? Did you work ten hours a lot?

LL: No, just during the war it was eight hours normally.

JL: Did you work five day a week or six?

LL: Five. Then on holidays we weren't work. If it was a workday they would ask you if you wanted to stay and get double time and if you wanted to go home, most of the time I would go home, because I wanted to cook Thanksgiving dinner and that.

JL: Did you ever have to work the weekends?

LL: No, once in a great while we would work on a Saturday, but I hardly ever worked on Saturday I was just on the five days.

JL: What was life like at home with you and your husband both working?

LL: Well, it was real hard at first, but then we all got together and they knew what they were supposed to do, who'd wash the dishes and wipe them, and my sister-in-law would help me go down the basement and help me put clothes in the washer. So, they all did something, it wasn't that bad. We all organized and I thought that was very good of all of them. My daughter and my son would help they would do their duties too.

JL: Did you get to see your family much or do you feel cheated little bit?

LL: Yes a little bit. Especially the first time I went to work, I left both of my kids and the one was like eight and the other was ten or something like that. Those made me feel bad. I wondered what they were doing in school, I always wondered if they were sick of something, and there not home.

JL: How did they feel when you were going off to work?

LL: They didn't say anything. They just took it; I guess just the way that they felt we needed that extra money. Especially raising they other children, I needed that extra money.

JL: Were you tired at the end of the day?

LL: Oh yes, at first I wasn't, until I started getting those bad headaches then I would get real tired, but I was really strong then. For me being small and all I worked very good. Then I would come home and do the work at home and it didn't bother me, until up to the eighteenth year I started feeling it.

JL: Was there a lot of rationing during the war?

LL: Yes, certain foods and that.

JL: Were you and your husband both driving to work during the war?

LL: Yes.

JL: Was it hard to buy gasoline for both of the cars?

LL: I didn't think it was that bad.

JL: Did you bring and other women to work with you?

LL: My sister-in-law, I brought her until she got married.

JL: Were you following the progress of the war?

LL: Yes.

JL: Did you miss many days during the war?

LL: No, I didn't. I didn't miss hardly any days. I was pretty good at that time.

JL: Did you feel like your efforts were contributing towards the war efforts?

LL: Yes, I did.

JL: Is that typical of all the workers up there?

LL: Well, I think it was with us older women. We were really proud that we could do that. I think that if they were hiring and there hadn't been a war that I wouldn't have been hired, because I was short. Because reaching up from the floor to the table like that and look up and turning the sheet over, you have to be able to see the top of the sheet and the bottom. So, your eyes have to go like that, and I don't think I would have been hired.

JL: But the day you were hired they didn't, they put any type of qualifications for test you at all? Or did they just say you're hired?

LL: They hired you, but they did check your eyes and everything. But they didn't say anything about my height.

JL: No.

LL: No and I just said that now, because I was thinking back and I didn't think I would have been hired if it wasn't during the war.

JL: So, there was a need for workers?

LL: Yes, there was a need for workers. There was a lot of women that didn't like that job and said they would never do that job, they always told us that, that they'd never do this job.

JL: Why was that?

LL: They thought it was repetitive.

JL: Did you?

LL: No. I didn't think that. Maybe because I worked hard at the Ohio Plant I thought that was the way I'd have to work too. My sister-in-law that got the man's job said boy this is easy.

JL: Oh really.

LL: Yeah. She said she got so much more money too.

JL: Oh really. Were you getting paid the same as men?

LL: No, we got lower wages.

JL: Do you remember what your wages were?

LL: We got 78 cents and hour.

JL: Did you feel cheated were you mad about that?

LL: No.

JL: No.

LL: Not at that time I wasn't, because I figured they were more experienced at their job and I didn't think we be able to go up there and be an operator and a pliers. My brother was a pliers and I wondered how he every did that, because those sheet just go up at that and they have to shut them off at a certain height. They have to shut the conveyer off. Some times those sheets can ride up and hit you right in the face. I don't think that women would have been experienced enough to do that, but the cranes women worked on cranes.

JL: Did they?

LL: Yes. I didn't want that job.

JL: Did they offer that to you?

LL: Yes. I didn't want it.

JL: Did they do okay with that job?

LL: Yes, those women did well.

JL: Were you aloud to go anywhere in the mill that you wanted to?

LL: No. We were just in our department; we weren't aloud to go in any other department at all. They were really strict with that.

JL: Did you get many raises during that war years?

LL: No, when I quit I was still getting 78 cents an hour.

JL: Where you in a union?

LL: Yes.

JL: Did the union recruit you immediately or did were they reluctant to take women into the union?

LL: Well, they wanted us to be in. They told us to come to the meetings and everything.

JL: Did you go?

LL: I did a couple times.

JL: What kind of things did they discuss about?

LL: They would discuss about the safety parts of it and everything.

JL: Did you have to go through some type of training for your job?

LL: No. The floorwalker she came beside me and showed me what to do and how to do it and what to look for. They did that with us for about two days and then they'd leave us alone.

JL: Were you confidante that you could do it after that?

LL: Yeah, we were aloud to call them any time we them any time if we were wondering if we should pass a sheet with a light spot, as long as it wasn't bigger then the size of a dime to pass it. What they showed us was the defects and what to look for.

JL: Was it cold in the wintertime?

LL: Yeah, when they opened the shipping door. See they had the shippers bundle the tin, then they have the tractor driver bring it to the truck and while they were waiting for the truck they would open the big door and all that wind would come in on our backs and everything. Especially on that one corner we worked on in the wintertime.

JL: What about in the summertime?

LL: It was hot, very hot.

JL: I wanted to ask you about safety shoes. Did you have to wear safety shoes?

LL: Yes, not safety shoes it was as long as they were Oxfords, not any opening or anything on them and they had to be a good shoe.

JL: Where they steel toed shoes?

LL: No, we didn't have to wear the steeled toe, like the men did I would guess.

JL: When you were talking about your work uniform, did you have to buy that?

LL: No, I had a women make it for me.

JL: Oh really. But you had to supply it yourself?

LL: Yes, we had to supply that ourselves, the gloves and everything. The only thing they gave us, they would give us some tape, and you know how it would wear out on your fingers they would get the tape and we were aloud to put that on so that we wouldn't get cut, that was the only thing they supplied. We had to buy everything.

JL: Did the company sell these things that you could buy them there?

LL: No they didn't. We had to make sure we knew a woman that could make them or that they were in the stores. I had mine sewed.

JL: Were you able to save a lot of money working?

LL: Well, we saved a little bit we tried to. In fact when my daughter was going to get married that came in handy with my paycheck to buy her dress and everything. I helped buy other stuff and it helped to have the wedding for her. With him alone working it would have been very hard. I noticed that, that it was very helpful with the groceries and bills. Every once in a while we could save a bit.

JL: How long did you work at Republic?

LL: 20 years.

JL: When the war was coming to an end was your job in jeopardy?

LL: No.

JL: No.

LL: No, in fact we worked pretty good after that too.

JL: How did you feel when the war was over?

LL: I felt great; I thought it was great for the boy's to come home. I did feel sorry for the mothers and fathers that lost their sons. I was glad it was over.

JL: Did a lot of these men come back to work at Republic?

LL: Yes.

JL: Did any of the other women lose their jobs because of this?

LL: No they didn't. The new girls were the ones they laid off.

JL: Were there a lot of celebrations going on when the war was over?

LL: Oh yes.

JL: Did your position; did you advance at all over these 20 years?

LL: No. The only time I got extra money was when I worked the cutting lines if somebody was sick, and they would ask me and I would go. I'd get a little extra money then. They made better money than us, because they were inspectors.

JL: What other positions did you hold?

LL: That's it.

JL: That's it? Did you do that same job for 20 years?

LL: The same thing.

JL: Did you get tired of that at all?

LL: No, I seemed to like it. I liked it because I knew what I was doing. I would stop when I got tired and lean up against the table for a while and then I'd start all over again. Just like I said at that time I was really strong. I think I got that strong from doing housework and things when my mother passed away and that kind of kept me in good shape.

JL: Over that 20-year period did you always work the day turn shift?

LL: Yes, just when I worked on the cutting lines to fill in I would work afternoon and midnight. I did do that I couple times; well a few times I filled in.

JL: Did you go to work with your husband then sometimes?

LL: Yes.

JL: What year did you retire?

LL: I think it was '67.

JL: Were you looking forward to that retirement?

LL: Well, when I started getting my headaches I said gee I can't work on the job anymore. When I did retire my husband and I did go on vacations and that kind of helped me forget that I had a job.

JL: Did you keep in touch with your friends from there?

LL: Oh yes. They'd have Christmas parties and still ask me to go to their parties.

JL: When did your husband retire?

LL: Well, lets see he was I think 60 years old when he retired. I can't tell you what the date would be though. He retired shortly after I was sick and I quit. I can't remember the date though.

JL: Did you enjoy the new time off that you had?

LL: Well, it was nice. I just seemed like I wondered how I did all that work when I was working. Cause I couldn't even get it done in one day like I used to do.

JL: Did you miss work?

LL: At times I did. When I would talk to the women that were working. They kept saying Louise you shouldn't have quit because you could have got a better job. I said I can't help it I couldn't stay anymore. I was getting migraines headaches; they weren't just the regular headaches those were migraines that had me in bed a couple of days. Those were real bad.

JL: Were you taking a lot of days off?

LL: Well, in the last year I was. So, I think it was working there.

JL: Did a doctor recommend that you...?

LL: Well, he said, the doctor thought with all the days I was taking off, he thought it would be better if I retired.

JL: Over all did you enjoy working?

LL: Oh yes. I enjoyed it.

JL: Lot of fond memories?

LL: Yes.

JL: Is there anything else that you would like to talk about working at Republic?

LL: That's all I can think of now. I told you about when I was single playing ball. My husband was in helping coach cause we started liking each other when I was playing.

JL: What else did you do for recreation while you were working? Just on the weekends.

LL: Well, anniversaries and all the friends and relations and all the in-laws would invite us over and we'd invite them over and my husband and I would take off to Las Vegas for a week. We would take the kids different places too, when they were small. We'd go on picnics with the family. That was a lot of fun too get all the families together and used to take them up to the park and have a day like that. All the weddings that would come up we were really tied up with stuff like that and that was a lot of fun. Because he liked to dance and I liked to dance and we did real well when we were invited to dances and weddings.

JL: Were there any ballrooms in the area that you used to go dancing at?

LL: There were ballrooms, but we never cared about going to them. My women friends would go with their husbands they became very good dancers. I could tell at weddings and they were dancing they did very well. We'd go to football games, he liked football and I liked football. We used to go to football games in the fall weather and we'd even go when it snowed. We liked it so well we'd bundle up and go.

JL: Who did you go see play?

LL: The dragons would play. You know Warren and Howland and Massillon at that time would play and a few others. They used to play a lot of games and we'd go eat after words. We'd go to the restaurant and we'd have fun with our friends. We really enjoyed that.

JL: Well, Mrs. Liste thank you very much.

LL: Okay.