

## Delores Godfrey

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**Question:** Now, first of all, do you want to tell us about any strapping young man in uniform that you were ogling while somebody was over in Hawaii ogling? (laughs)

**Answer:** I had my boyfriends though.

**Question:** What -- so where were you -- do you remember where you were when Pearl Harbor got bombed?

**Answer:** I was in Sioux City, Iowa.

**Question:** And how did you find out that we were at war?

**Answer:** Through the radio and newspaper.

**Question:** What did you think. Do you remember what --

**Answer:** Oh, I thought it was awful.

**Question:** But did you -- so --

**Answer:** So I did my duty. I went -- after I graduated, I went to a defense factory in Sioux City, Iowa and we made -- oh gosh I can't even think. Gun cleaners.

**Question:** Oh, really.

**Answer:** For the servicemen.

**Question:** So was it all women?

**Answer:** No, there was boys there too.

**Question:** Oh there was.

**Answer:** Hm-hmm. It was kind of a big factory. And I worked on a lathe that made a hole in the -- in the gun cleaner.

**Question:** Oh, wow. So in your did you in your wildest imagination, ever imagine -- so you just had graduated from high school, right?

**Answer:** I didn't want to go to college.

**Question:** Didn't want to go to college.

**Answer:** So my girlfriend and I went and worked at the defense factory, to give our part to the servicemen.

**Question:** Did -- so how much did life change in Sioux City when the war started? Did you have rationing?

**Answer:** Oh, yes, we had rationing.

**Question:** So how did that work? I mean what got rationed, food?

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**Answer:** Food and oh, some clothing you couldn't buy. And my dad was a railroad man so he brought oranges home for us kids.

**Question:** And so where did he get the oranges from?

**Answer:** I don't know to this day but he brought them home anyway. He worked on the Milwaukee railroad, in the parts of Iowa -- he got them in Iowa somewhere, I think.

**Question:** So how did the rationing work? Did you have to go stand in line or --

**Answer:** Well, for sugar and stuff like that we did. Hm-hmm.

**Question:** Is that because the food and all was being sent over to -- to all of our military people or --

**Answer:** I don't think so. They just didn't want to run out of food. And some of the grocery stores didn't -- closed up. And we knew the war was going on.

**Question:** Did you have -- I talked to Norma earlier and she talked about air raid drills.

**Answer:** Yeah, we had air raid drills, too.

**Question:** So what did that involve?

**Answer:** Well, that involved going down the basement of the house. Then talked about it and then went back upstairs.

**Question:** That's right. It wouldn't have been until after World War II and Korea when people started building bomb shelters.

**Answer:** Hm-hmm.

**Question:** What about -- did you have to do black outs and things like that in Sioux City?

**Answer:** I don't recall any black outs.

**Question:** Because you're -- Iowa's kind of in the middle of the country. You're going to know they're coming before they get there, I think. So the fear of -- of all that happening -- did you have, oh, like USO clubs or anything like that?

**Answer:** Oh, yes. Yes, we had USO clubs but I didn't participate in them because I was working at the defense factory.

**Question:** So you were too young to go down and --

**Answer:** Well, no, not too young. I was 19 when I went to the defense factory. So, but I'd rather do that than go to the USO clubs.

**Question:** Did -- it sounds like a lot of women ended up running the country while the men went off -- did you see that -- did you see women in different jobs?

**Answer:** Yeah, hm-hmm, a lot of them.

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**Question:** Now did you have any brothers or sisters --

**Answer:** Yeah, they're younger than I was. They were still going to school.

**Question:** So nobody enlisted, had to go in the service?

**Answer:** No, no, no.

**Question:** Did you have -- Norma talked about if you had a son or a daughter in the military, that you had a flag you could hang in your window.

**Answer:** Hm-hmm. Q Did that happen in Iowa too?

**Answer:** Oh, yes, a lot of them, yeah, hm-hmm. I had an uncle that was in the service and so we hung a flag for him.

**Question:** What about your classmates? Did a lot of your classmates go in the service?

**Answer:** Yes, there was two or three boys after school joined the service and see I graduated in '43. And a lot of my classmates went -- got out of school and went into the service and three of them didn't make it home. They were over in -- oh, I don't remember where they were. Let's see. They weren't over at Iwo Jima. I don't remember where they were.

**Question:** There were 48 different battles --

**Answer:** Yeah, yeah.

**Question:** So they didn't make -- did you stay in touch with any of them while they were in the service? Did you get letters or anything like that?

**Answer:** No. I think the school did, though.

**Question:** Did -- did you feel, while all the rationing was going on, did you end up having enough of everything you wanted?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** So it didn't really --

**Answer:** It didn't bother me, no.

**Question:** Now do you remember where you were when you heard that the war was over?

**Answer:** Probably working when they told us.

**Question:** So again it was no --

**Answer:** No. And let's see. There was some people coming in from the war but I didn't get to see them.

**Question:** It's interesting, I've talked to people that were in Washington and California and on the coast --

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**Answer:** They saw a lot of them, didn't they?

**Question:** Yeah. And the fear, too, during the war of being attacked. Where it sounds like that you being so far inland, that there wasn't a fear of the war, per se.

**Answer:** No, not as much as it would in the bigger cities and stuff.

**Question:** And then once you -- did you meet Robert after the war?

**Answer:** After the war, yeah. Yeah, I worked at the defense factory about oh, five or six months after the war. And then I had a girlfriend in Sioux City, I mean in Seattle, Washington, that wanted me to come out. So I went out and I just stayed and then I got a job at Boeing and that's where I met him. (laughs)

**Question:** Post-war --

**Answer:** I worked in the accounts receivable office.

**Question:** And so how long have the two of you been married now?

**Answer:** Forty-five? Forty-five --

OCM: Forty-seven.

**Answer:** Forty-seven, yeah. Doesn't seem that long.

**Question:** Well that's good.