

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Betty Wrigley

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Oral History project

Interview # FM-V-L-2018-054

Betty Wrigley, a Rosie Riveter during World War II and participant in both the World War II and Family Memories projects, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Family Memories* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Sep 26, 2018 Location: Betty Wrigley home in Collinsville, Illinois

Date: Oct 25, 2018 Location: IL Information Service studio, Springfield, IL

Date: Nov 30, 2018 Location: Betty Wrigley home in Collinsville, Illinois

Date: Jan 8, 2019 Location: Betty Wrigley home in Collinsville, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio (Session 02 as Digital video)

Interviewer: Kathryn Wrigley, ALPL volunteer

Technical Support: Mark Suszko, Tony Bateman and Justin Davsko, IIS
videographers

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:15 + 1:02 + 1:41 + 1:49 / 1.25 + 1.03 + 1.68 +
1.82 = 5.78 hrs.

Session 1: Betty's childhood and early life in St. Louis

Session 2: Betty's wartime experiences at the Bremerton WA shipyards

Session 3: More WW II experiences at Bremerton's Puget Sound Navy Yard

Session 4: Betty's marriage in 1947 and post-war life in Collinsville, IL

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on April 17,
2019.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in
Springfield, Illinois.

Abstract

Betty Wrigley, *Family Memories*, FM-V-L-2018-054

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Betty Ann Fuetsch Wrigley was born in Collinsville, Illinois on June 29, 1927 to Coreda Langenwaller Fuetsch and Anton Fuetsch. After a challenging childhood in the Soulard neighborhood of St. Louis, Missouri during the Depression, she moved to Bremerton, Washington at age fifteen. She joined her cousin's family there (Harold and Eleanor Goebel) and worked in the Puget Sound Navy Yard as a shipfitter's helper from 1943 to 1946, having to lie about her age in order to work there.

After the war, Betty returned briefly to St. Louis, then married Arvil William Wrigley on April 19, 1947 and moved to Collinsville, Illinois. She had a long career with the Illinois Bell Telephone Company, raised twins Robert and Kathryn, traveled throughout the United States on memorable vacations, which she always described in her notebooks, and devoted years to volunteering in her community. She retired from AT&T in 1983. Betty was Collinsville History Museum Volunteer of the Year in 2009, did fundraising for the restoration of the Brooks Catsup Bottle Water Tower and served many hours for Downtown Collinsville.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Rosie the Riveter; life during World War II; Bremerton, Washington; Puget Sound Navy Yard; Collinsville, Illinois; St. Louis, Missouri; Soulard neighborhood of St. Louis, Missouri; Great Depression; St. John's United Church of Christ in Collinsville, IL; Illinois Bell Telephone Company

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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