

Interview with Ann Hayden

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Interviewer: Steve Leonard

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Leonard: Hello, today is Saturday, December 19, 2009. My name is Steve Leonard; I'm a volunteer with the Oral History program of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. I'm here today with Ann Hayden, and it will be my honor to interview her for the *Veterans Remember* Oral History collection. Ann was a civilian defense worker for the Boeing Company of Seattle, Washington, during World War II. Good morning, Ann.

Hayden: Good morning.

Leonard: Well, let's start out today with a little personal background about you.

Hayden: Oh, all right, that's fine.

Leonard: When were you born and where were you born?

Hayden: I was born August 8, 1917 in Victoria, Illinois.

Leonard: That's up near Galesburg, right?

Hayden: Yeah, near Galesburg, mm-hmm.

Leonard: And your parents' names were?

Hayden: George and Clara Secrist.

Leonard: Did you have brothers and sisters?

Hayden: I had two brothers, but they've both passed away now.

Leonard: Could you just tell us a little bit, did you live on a farm or did you live in the city?

Hayden: We lived on the farm.

Leonard: You did?

Hayden: Yes, we did.

Leonard: What were your chores? (both laugh)

Hayden: About as near nothing as I can—(both laugh). No, just to help with the chores. One thing I had to do was go get the cows at the pasture, get the cows and bring them home. That was one of my jobs.

Leonard: So, you raised cows and...?

Hayden: Just cattle, yeah. We didn't raise the cattle for a living, I mean, it was the milk and produce with it.

Leonard: Did you have chickens, or...?

Hayden: Oh, yeah, we had chickens and ducks and all the farm things.

Leonard: Well, that sounds interesting. So, you went to school in—

Hayden: In Victoria, yeah. Out in the country.

Leonard: And was it a one-room school, or was it...?

Hayden: Yes.

Leonard: Is **was** a one-room?

Hayden: Yes, mm-hmm.

Leonard: Well, I hear that one-room schools really produced good students; it was a good way to learn.

Hayden: Yeah. Then after a little while, I kind of graduated a little bit and I went in to Victoria and Williamsfield Grade School, there.

Leonard: Is that where you graduated from high school?

Hayden: Yeah, from high school.

Leonard: At Williamsfield?

Hayden: Yeah.

Leonard: So, a lot of kids; it was a bigger school?

Hayden: But I didn't go on any farther than high school.

Leonard: I understand. So, at this time, you graduated and then what did you do? Did you...?

Hayden: Got married.

Leonard: Got married, okay! (Interviewee laughs) That was my next question! (laughs)

Hayden: Yeah, well, I guess at that time, when I lived on the farm, there wasn't much... I didn't have any job or anything, but...

Leonard: So, you met your future husband.

Hayden: Met him, and this was how I come out!

Leonard: Was he from that area also?

Hayden: He was from Galva.

Leonard: He was from Galva?

Hayden: Yeah, that's where he was working at the Casket & Dixline hardware store, beginning when we met him. Got married, had our children there.

Leonard: Well, that's great. He was from the area that you were from, in that general area?

Hayden: Yeah, he was from Galva, and then I was—well, I say Victoria, but there's Williamsfield; they're two little towns.

Leonard: So, what were your children's names?

Hayden: One was Valarie, and one of them was Barbara. Two daughters.

Leonard: So, I always ask people what it was like during that time, as a young couple with two kids, prior to and during the start of World War II, do you remember what it was like, what were people thinking in the country at that time?

Hayden: Well, it was for sure, no one had much money because it was during the war, and there was not much going on.

Leonard: There really wasn't, was there? Economically, it was pretty depressed.

Hayden: Yeah, it really was.

Leonard: What did you feel like, though, was the mood of the country? Was there a sense of fear or not?

Hayden: Well, it was just like everyone in their own family, usually everybody had someone in the war, in the fight, and that was just a thing, you know. You just dreaded every day, wondering what was going to happen next.

Leonard: That's a good point because everybody was affected. Everybody, like you said, had someone they loved.

Hayden: Yeah, and there was just concern in the very same way, you know?

Leonard: So, in your case—and I think in a number of other people's cases during that time—you felt like you probably had a sense of duty and commitment to your country.

Hayden: That's right, and when they were going to take Ray [Ann's husband] in service—because at that time they were drafting people, see—whether you wanted to go or not, you went. When he was drafted and had to leave our job, our home, and we had the two daughters—that's when we decided to put our house—it was a two-story house—so we put all of our furniture in the top part, stored it there, and took off for Seattle. You know, that's where this all came up.

Leonard: That's where we're going, yeah. Did you rent your house?

Hayden: Yeah.

Leonard: You did rent it?

Hayden: Yeah, and when we decided to come home... It just was no place to try to raise two daughters; that's why we left, because there was a prison camp right next to us, and it was all men taking charge. It was just time for us to leave.

Leonard: Well, Ann, that was my next question. You and your husband decided at the off-set—in about 1941—you decided to move?

Hayden: I think it was probably about that.

Leonard: To Seattle, right?

Hayden: Oh, to Seattle?

Leonard: Yes. You decided to move with your family?

Hayden: From Galva.

Leonard: Tell me about the move and your planning. How did you hear about—

Hayden: About Boeing?

Leonard: Yeah, how did you?

Hayden: Well, it was just all over the world, I mean, it was a war, you know. Boeing Aircraft was a big, big thing, and everything was targeted to Boeing because of all the airplanes, and people would get them to fight, see. That's why everybody didn't want them to make them anymore.

Leonard: Sure, but you heard about Boeing. It was in Illinois—did you see advertisements for working?

Hayden: Oh, yeah. It was all over, you know. Everybody dreaded it so, and then when war came, that Ray was being drafted, well, that got pretty close to home, so that's when we decided to get rid of things. They said to bring your own home.

Leonard: And that's what you did.

Hayden: We went to Peoria. I can't think of his name, you know, but they had homes, and you had new ones; that's what we wanted, was a new trailer home to take him. I got to all more kids and a mother-in-law and everything!

Leonard: So, you packed up.

Hayden: We packed up, we rented our house to the people, and when we come back, they moved, just from... Yeah, we put our furniture in the upstairs of our home, there.

Leonard: Well, tell me about the trip, then. You bought your trailer and you put it behind your car and you took off, right?

Hayden: And took off, yeah.

Leonard: How long did that take you, without having any interstates, or any...?

Hayden: Lord...I just don't have a clue. I don't remember.

Leonard: It must have taken a good week or two.

Hayden: Oh, I would think so because at night we would stop, you know, and get situated again. The kids was just talking the other day about when we went out there. We drove through the mountains with the trailer, you know, and the

kids were scared to death. (Interviewer laughs) They spent a lot of the time on the floor because they didn't want to look out. (laughs)

Leonard: It was probably pretty scary, wasn't it, going through the mountains?

Hayden: Oh, yeah, because we went through the mountains with that trailer, see.

Leonard: And at that time, you probably had just two-lane roads, right?

Hayden: Yeah, wasn't too much.

Leonard: Well now, Ann, did you camp on the side of the road on the way out?

Hayden: Yeah, yeah.

Leonard: Did you just pull the trailer over?

Hayden: Yeah. And we had to stop and refuel and get the groceries, sort of thing...

Leonard: It was an adventure, it sounds like.

Hayden: Oh, yeah. But the kids were so good; they just was troopers because Ray—we mentioned a lot of times about how they would scream and get down on the floor because there they would be right between these mountain things.

Leonard: Sure, I'd probably be down there, too. I don't like heights. (both laugh) Was Seattle a boom town at this time?

Hayden: Oh, it was a wonderful place. If you ever wanted to buy an umbrella or raincoat, don't go there because you can't buy them. (laughs)

Leonard: It rains all the time.

Hayden: It rains all the time! But when we were there, we tried to buy, you know, an umbrella or raincoat, and you can't buy them!

Leonard: You can't buy them?

Hayden: No, so they said, "You'll dry." (laughs)

Leonard: You'll dry out eventually, right?

Hayden: You'll dry out. (both laugh) But it was a funny thing, when you couldn't buy the equipment you need because they were so used to it, they didn't want it, see.

Leonard: So, you entered Seattle and you didn't know where you were going, but—

Hayden: That's right.

Leonard: Tell me about how you found the plant.

Hayden: Well, we would always drive as much in the daytime as we had to to stop, to cut the time of travels down, but it was pretty late at night when we drove off the side of the road. We didn't have a clue; We knew we were in Seattle, Washington someplace, but we didn't know where, we didn't know where Boeing was, or anything. But we finally decided to stop for the night, and that's when we got over to the side of the road, got everybody settled and stayed the night there. Then, when we woke up the next morning, lo and behold, I think it was about two miles from the Boeing entrance, to their place.

Leonard: You didn't realize it, but you were pretty close, right? (both laugh)

Hayden: Yeah, we didn't realize it, but we sure was along it. That's our trailer park, it was the work of God here for us; well, that trailer park was right there, and the entrance to that thing was just not very far away.

Leonard: Well, how big was it? Did that hold how many people, do you think, or trailers did that trailer park hold at that time?

Hayden: What did you say?

Leonard: How many trailers do you think that trailer park—

Hayden: Oh, my! (laughter)

Leonard: A lot.

Hayden: A lot, because that's how everybody were told to bring their own homes because there was no place to live out there, and then everybody brought their trailer, so...

Leonard: So, they all...

Hayden: That's how people—back here in my family and Ray's family—found out they could get a job and make some money, that's when they came out and that's when we would buy and get them a trailer. (laughs)

Leonard: Really? So, tell me about that, Ann. So, you and your husband and your two young girls and your mother-in-law traveled to Seattle, and then other family members came out also. Tell me about that.

Hayden: Yes. Imogene, this girl, he had a picture of her here—it'd be my niece. But anyway, first of all, I'm trying to figure out whichever of everybody was first to come, but I kind of think it was my dad and mother that was the first one that came out there. Because they could make good money, you know, and my parents didn't have any money much.

Leonard: Well, especially during this time when you said it was depressed.

Hayden: So, they would come, Ray would take one of them or both of them uptown, and everybody got a job and went to work. There was a trailer there, you know, right by somebody, and they get their stuff there, and they had a place to live and they had a job. I had this niece; she graduated from high school and she came out there to live by us. In fact, she was so close to us that one of our daughters slept over with them because it was so crowded, you know, so she would sleep nights with Imogene and eat with us. That's how we worked that out.

Leonard: So, you had a family grouping there. That's really amazing.

Hayden: Yeah, and then my nephew and his wife, Donny—she was pregnant so one of their children was born out there—so it was just our own home, and that was that.

Leonard: That's interesting. So, you decided to work there. Did you think you would work?

Hayden: When I went out there?

Leonard: Yeah.

Hayden: No, that was the farthest from my mind because I'd always kept house, you know. But I tell you, it was actually the first day of June and there I was, all alone because Ray and everybody went to work, and I was in that trailer. The girls were, like, in grade school, and there I was, nothing to do. So, this is the day that I decided, Today I'm just going to take off here and do something. I went out to the edge of the trailer park; there was a bus stop thing, and I didn't have a clue where I was at or where I was going, but I knew I was going to get uptown somehow! (both laugh)

Leonard: So, you did.

Hayden: I went uptown that day and inquired around to find a place that I could buy—you had to wear coveralls and bandanna scarves for your hair, you know, around your head so your hair wouldn't show or get caught. So, I went and I got—I suppose with pennies or whatever—and got those clothes, two pair of coveralls. I can just see those, and the bandannas, you know. I took and got back on the bus and went home, (laughs) and when my husband got home, he found me—**“I had a job!”** And he said that was the first thing I did, was say, **“I had a job!”** (both laugh)

Leonard: You were excited too, weren't you?

Hayden: Oh, yeah. I wanted to go because I had been bored to **tears** because I didn't have anything to do. But I soon found something to do.

Leonard: Did you go to the Boeing plant to ask about work?

Hayden: No, you didn't have to. But after that, after you have to go and they have different departments. You didn't get a choice of what you wanted to do. There was just jobs there and you took one of them or didn't, you know.

Leonard: Did they tell you, you needed to get overalls?

Hayden: Oh, yeah, everybody had to wear them, and your hair—it was all bandanna'd up. When I went to work that first morning—you have to go through a tunnel from where you live to get to work—everybody went to work through a tunnel. That day, I warrant I was scared to death because I didn't know where I was or **why** I was there, but I knew I was going to make some money or do something.

Leonard: Boy, I tell you, that shows a lot of moxie, I guess; you decided you're going to do this and you did it.

Hayden: Yeah. (both laugh) I went home and told them—well, I told Ray's mother first because she was home there all day long. She was so upset because I took a job; she thought that wasn't the right place for me to be. I said, "Right or not, I'm going."

Leonard: (laughs) You're going to do it!

Hayden: Done did it!

Leonard: Ann, was the term "Rosie the Riveter" used then, or was that something came later? I've often wondered about that.

Hayden: About what?

Leonard: The term "Rosie the Riveter," you know? Have you heard that term, what women were called that worked in the defense plants during World War II? Does that term...?

Hayden: I didn't understand you.

Leonard: Rosie the Riveter, do you know...?

Hayden: Oh, how I got that job?

Leonard: Do you remember that term being used back, during this time?

Hayden: No.¹

¹ Hayden must have entered the Boeing workforce very early during the WWII crisis. Soon Rosie the Riveter became an icon, urging women to come from their homes and enter the workforce to replace the men who were

- Leonard: That's something maybe that future generations thought of, I guess. (laughs)
So, you bought two overalls, two heavy denim overalls?
- Hayden: Yeah, they were just denim coveralls, normal coveralls, you know? Covered with it... Well, you know what coveralls are...they're one-piece thing.
- Leonard: Right, and that's what they said you needed, and a bandanna.
- Hayden: You had to be covered, yeah, and your hair had to be covered. Yeah.
- Leonard: So, tell me: what job did you get?
- Hayden: That morning as I got in, they called the ship—that's what they called the thing—and so you went in. I was scared to death because it was so noisy. See, each section of the ship, is on big, high things. You know, you had to go up to get in them. I remember that first morning, I was so scared because it was so noisy and everything, you know, (laughs) and I didn't know what anybody was doing. But he said I was going to buck rivets, and I said, "Okay!" (laughs)
- Leonard: He said you were going to buck rivets?
- Hayden: Yeah.
- Leonard: Now, tell me about that. First of all, the galley² of the plane was called a ship, right?
- Hayden: Yeah.
- Leonard: So, you were working in what they called the ship, right?
- Hayden: Yeah.
- Leonard: Well, tell me about bucking rivets. What was that? What did that consist of?
- Hayden: Well, I suppose you know where the hole is, what you hold up against the...
- Leonard: The inside of the galley.
- Hayden: Yeah. It was somebody on the outside with a rivet gun, and he would put the rivet down in the hole—it had, you know, everything together there—and put that rivet through there, and like, I would be underneath and hold this bar up against that rivet; then he would pound it down and I would hold it. That was why I was “bucking the bar”, so that it would have to make a rivet.
- Leonard: So, that was your specific job?

leaving industrial jobs to go into the Armed Forces. There were many “Rosie” posters, and even a song by a famous band, heard often on the radio. Rosie was always pictured in overalls, with hair tied up in a bandanna.

² Galley: the main long section of the plane, also referred to as the fuselage.

- Hayden: Yeah. The thing that this bar would get, it would be the rib of the plane—they called it the rib.
- Leonard: And that's what the rivets were going into, right, to hold the fabric—
- Hayden: To hold it together, yeah.
- Leonard: Right, to the support beams.
- Hayden: And there was just so much noise...
- Leonard: Well, I was going to ask you about that. Did you have ear coverings for you?
- Hayden: No. All the cover we had was those bandannas, you know.
- Leonard: To cover your hair, your head.
- Hayden: Yeah.
- Leonard: Boy, they would not allow that today, would they? (both laugh)
- Hayden: No.
- Leonard: You'd have to have ear cover and everything.
- Hayden: Oh, yeah. But it's a wonder there isn't a lot of people really deaf from that.
- Leonard: Well, that's true. That's true, because along with the person that you were holding the bar for, there were probably hundreds of other riveters in there, too, at that point in time.
- Hayden: Oh, yeah, they were all over! Different places needed different-sized rivets. It was just different noises and everything, you know. But it got to the place, you just didn't hear them hardly.
- Leonard: I'm sure you didn't. How long would be one of your shifts, Ann? Did you come to work at what time, do you remember?
- Hayden: We went to first shift; it was like seven in the morning, to like, I think it's four o'clock in the evening or something, I don't know. We took that because of our family, you know; we didn't want to be gone night. If we'd have had to do it, we would have, but we didn't have to.
- Leonard: You could choose?
- Hayden: Yeah, because they were desperate for people, they'd take them.
- Leonard: Now, Ann, did they work all night?

Hayden: Yeah.

Leonard: The plant worked all night and day?

Hayden: Yes, all night long.

Leonard: Do you have any idea how many planes you worked on during your time?
(laughs)

Hayden: Oh, heavens. No.

Leonard: No, I'm sure you didn't. So, you worked there...

Hayden: How long did I work there?

Leonard: Three years, I guess.

Hayden: Yeah. Yeah, probably.

Leonard: So, you probably made a **lot** of planes. (laughs)

Hayden: Yeah!

Leonard: And due to your hard work, you probably produced a number—and your workers, too.

Hayden: Yeah.

Leonard: So, did you work five days a week? Was that about five?

Hayden: Seven days a week.

Leonard: Oh, seven days! Gee!

Hayden: Well, not every day, but a lot of the time I worked around seven days a week because there was nothing for me to do at home, and they needed somebody to do these things. And when you live out there and see everything that goes on, see the people, you **want** to do it. Yeah.

Leonard: You want to be a part of this, right?

Hayden: You want to be a part of it.

Leonard: As a civilian of this country, you felt you were contributing, right?

Hayden: Yeah, that's right.

Leonard: That's neat. Now, Ann, did you buck rivets for three years, or did you do other things during that time?

Hayden: Well, I was just thinking, I'm pretty sure that I worked on some brakes or something at one time, but I don't know what it was—something about the brakes, but...

Leonard: Of the plane?

Hayden: Yeah. But I can't tell you what it was.

Leonard: Well, that's fine, that's fine. But it was quite an experience for a young lady to... (laughs) Did you feel safe there, I mean, in the—

Hayden: Yeah.

Leonard: You never got hurt or anything?

Hayden: No, it just seemed like that was one thing we never talked about at home—about how the safety is. We never talked about it at all.

Leonard: You just did your job?

Hayden: That was our job, yeah.

Leonard: That was your job and you did it, and you didn't think about it.

Hayden: No. And when they needed, like, for women to do some certain thing, I was always available because that was what I was there for.

Leonard: Sure, you decided that's what you're going to do, and...

Hayden: That's why on the seventh day, when they needed people for seven days a week, I did it.

Leonard: I'm sure you were pretty tired at the end of the day, weren't you? (laughs)

Hayden: Oh, yeah! When you talk about that, I can't even imagine what it was like.

Leonard: Now?

Hayden: Yeah.

Leonard: (laughs) Well, you must have done a good job!

Hayden: Well, I don't know, but they kept me. (laughs)

Leonard: I had a question about the rivets: were they hot or not?

Hayden: Were they what?

Leonard: Were they heated?

- Hayden: I don't know. I don't know, but all I seen was the bar up against them.
- Leonard: And that's what you held so that it would—
- Hayden: It just went from one right on to the other.
- Leonard: How long did it take, Ann—do you remember—to actually rivet one rivet?
- Hayden: Well, you see, you didn't stay with one plane all the time until it was done—you went to different sections.
- Leonard: Did you have a foreman that would tell you where to go and what to do at different times?
- Hayden: Oh, yeah. Yeah. But it seemed like everything went so smooth or something, I think they had people that really knew what was going on, and everybody wanted to do their very level best, you know, to do it right.
- Leonard: Were you with a group of workers?
- Hayden: No, it was kind of on your own; wherever they needed somebody, that's where you were. At one time, I was what they called a skin-fitter. The outside of the plane is called the skin. One time they needed a skin-fitter, somebody that would go up and help cut to fit different places, you know? I did that for a while.
- Leonard: So, you cut the outside of the plane to fit in—
- Hayden: To fit a certain area.
- Leonard: Now, what did you specifically do there? Did you—
- Hayden: Just wherever they needed somebody to help cut the skin to fit a certain place.
- Leonard: So, would you help put it in place?
- Hayden: Yeah.
- Leonard: Would you cut it yourself?
- Hayden: Well, I don't know if we'd say I cut it because it was a whole lot of people. I knew how it was done. (laughs)
- Leonard: That's interesting. Were there other things like that you...
- Hayden: Well, they'd have things—all the planes had brakes—they'd had certain things they done with the brakes, but I don't know what that was. But I know sometimes you would be working on brakes.

- Leonard: So, at this time, your husband was going to be drafted, right?
- Hayden: Yes, he was.
- Leonard: He was working in the plant, too, wasn't he, at this time?
- Hayden: Oh, yeah. Yeah.
- Leonard: Tell me about your husband, Ray; what was he doing?
- Hayden: He was an inspector. That's where I seen all the R-Hs and things., I'd say, Boy, he's been so busy.
- Leonard: You thought his initials were—(laughs)
- Hayden: Yeah, I thought his initials, R-H! Dumb. (laughs)
- Leonard: Ray Hayden. So, you thought he'd been real busy with all those stamped R-Hs?
- Hayden: Really, really busy! (both laugh) You know—not for a long time, but for awhile—he let me go on thinking that, too. Knowing him, he would do that. (both laugh)
- Leonard: Oh, that's funny! So, he was able to work there along with you, doing different things, of course.
- Hayden: Well, I never did work close by him though because he was always in a different section doing different jobs, you know. And he was always there, when I was getting almost done, to be the inspector, see.
- Leonard: Oh, yeah, I guess he would be. So, he was seeing what you—
- Hayden: See what I'd done and see what kind of job I'd done. (both laugh)
- Leonard: So, you guys lived there and worked there for three years. Then you decided that...
- Hayden: That's when we decided it was time to get our daughters home, away from all of that, because we could **not** find a home. We could **not find** anything for them to live in. With the prison camps and everything right close by, it was dangerous for to leave those two girls.
- Leonard: Well, Ann, what kind of prison camp was it? Was it a prisoner of war camp?
- Hayden: Yes.
- Leonard: It was?

Hayden: Yes.

Leonard: For German POWs?

Hayden: I don't know. But it was there, and you never knew from one time to the next, you know, what was going to happen.

Leonard: No, I can see you wouldn't.

Hayden: That's the main reason we left, because we could not find a place for our kids to live, see.

Leonard: And housing was so short there—a shortage of housing.

Hayden: Oh, my. And so when we decided we had to leave—we **had** to leave, you know—that we decided to go home, so we put our trailer up for sale, and it wasn't taking long until somebody wanted to buy it, so we got packed some of our stuff that couldn't come home in the car or anything and shipped it back to Galva, our home, for our house. And then that day that the people were to come and take our trailer away, we had everything packed and gone, and we're sitting out in the yard, (both laugh) waiting for them to come and take our house away. We were all sitting out there when they come and took our trailer.

Leonard: Well, it sounds like you and your husband are very good planners.

Hayden: Yeah.

Leonard: I mean, it really does. Throughout this whole experience, you really planned well for it.

Hayden: Well, he did. (laughs) Mostly.

Leonard: Well, I'm sure you did, too. You had to. But you were a good team.

Hayden: Yeah. We did all right. But when any business needed to be done, it was... (laughs).

Leonard: He was a good—yeah. So, you decided to, in 1944, I think—

Hayden: About '44, or...

Leonard: You decided to move back.

Hayden: These years, I might be telling you wrong on this.

Leonard: No, that's fine. You're fine. We're fine with this.

Hayden: Because that's been so long ago.

Leonard: Tell me about moving back. So, you decided to come back to Illinois. Did you go back to your home area of Victoria and Galva, or did you...?

Hayden: Well, you see, we had rented our house to somebody, but when we found out we were going to come home, these people had to leave out of our house. They came and rented just half of the house when we went, so we had all of our furniture stored in that one part of it. When we decided to come home, these people had to move. We took all of our furniture out of the upstairs part; we had our home already, all our stuff was right there.

Leonard: Good planners!

Hayden: Yeah, that's right! And our kids—our school for them was right there, so it just worked out fine.

Leonard: Well, that's great. But you and your husband, it sounds like, always wanted to have your own business. Isn't that right?

Hayden: Yeah. Finally, I was working on brakes there, and that's when I made the most money. You couldn't spend your money there because you couldn't buy gasoline, so you was just there, you know?

Leonard: So you could save money.

Hayden: You could save money, and we did. We wanted this merchandise store—it was Gamble's. I don't think my kids know anything about it either, but they had Gambel's store in Galva and different places. My husband, he's the one that noticed all this; you know, he was a good businessman. We finally decided—because it was my money, but I never would let him down about that being my money, you know. (laughs)

Leonard: But actually, you told me earlier that you were able to save.

Hayden: We saved his money and my money because I had them both, yeah. Saved our money—one of us did—

Leonard: And lived on one salary?

Hayden: i—and had that in mind to open up this store.

Leonard: Well, it sounds like Gamble's was kind of like a general merchandise?

Hayden: Like Ray always said, if we didn't have it, we'd get it, you know what I mean? But you could buy, I don't know... Valarie Diana used to work at our store at one time, and she was...

Leonard: Well, it sounds like it was like an early type of Wal-Mart, Gamble's.

Hayden: It could be, yeah.

Leonard: Something like that.

Hayden: We sold lawnmowers, we sold bicycles, we sold furniture, and we had a toy department for year-round. Anything you could want, we had it, and that's how we got our money.

Leonard: Tell me about your husband deciding on where to settle down, in Petersburg.

Hayden: Well, after we had lived there all these years, we knew every little town and big town, and what they had and what they didn't. We did a lot of traveling where they didn't have these Gamble' stores; we had them in mind. We went there, and checked it out, this one that we settled in. We went there and stayed all night with some people to be there to see what went on. They were looking for somebody like Ray to open a store there. So we enquired about staff and checked out the amount of money was located in that area, you know? And decided that's what we wanted to try, in Galva, there, to get this store, and we did. It went on like fire; it just went on really good.

Leonard: And then you finally moved to Petersburg, right?

Hayden: Moved to Petersburg, yeah.

Leonard: And had a store there?

Hayden: He stayed all night there, both times, checking out the thing, you know? But it was there; we decided to try. And it was so good. There was a lot of farmers around Petersburg, and they bought a lot of stuff, you know, like we had. That's one of the reasons we went there because the merchandise place was really good there.

Leonard: In Petersburg?

Hayden: In Petersburg.

Leonard: In the surrounding area. So, you had a successful store from 1945 to 1973?

Hayden: Well, I think so because I think he had figured out one time that we would have been there for thirty-one years. Does that add up to you?

Leonard: Pretty close, pretty close.

Hayden: Yeah. But thirty-one years.

Leonard: Well, it sounds like he was a very good business man, and you were also.

Hayden: He was. Oh, I just sort of hopped around.

Leonard: Well, you complemented him, for sure.

Hayden: Yeah, I think so. I helped him.

Leonard: Well, I want to thank you for this interview. Is there anything else about working in Seattle that you would like to talk about that we didn't talk about?

Hayden: No, I think we did it.

Leonard: Did we cover everything?

Hayden: I would think so because that was the whole idea of the thing, you know, was to build—they called them ships there, out there, you know.

Leonard: And to do your part.

Hayden: We did our part. That's why I decided this one day to go get involved and get me some clothes. (both laugh) And my husband said that that's just me all over again, anything to get some new clothes! (both laugh)

Leonard: Those weren't the most fashionable, were they?

Hayden: No they weren't. No, not really.

Leonard: Well, Ann, it's been a pleasure to talk with you.

Hayden: If I can help, I'm glad.

Leonard: You have helped. It's great to hear how women supported the country during this time.

Hayden: Yeah, there was a lot of that going on. Even when I quit, my mom, as old as she was, she did a good job like that.

Leonard: I bet she did. Well, it took the whole country didn't it, to win this war?

Hayden: Yes, it did. It took it all. And when you stop and think, I think when you live out there and see some of the battle scars and things that went on, you appreciate more and more.

Leonard: I do too, I do too. Well, thank you for your work.

Hayden: Well, thank you for coming!

Leonard: Yes; it's good to talk with you. Thanks, Ann.

Hayden: You're welcome.

Leonard: Bye.

Ann Hayden

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(end of interview)