

Wisconsin Veterans Museum
Research Center

Transcript of an
Oral History Interview with
DELORES FIX
Marine Corps, World War II
2008

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Fix, Delores, (1922-). Oral History Interview, 2008.

User Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 40 min.); analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Master Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 40 min.); analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Transcript: 0.1 linear ft. (1 folder).

Abstract:

Delores Fix, a Cross Plains, Wisconsin native, discusses her World War II service in the Marine Corps as post quartermaster and payroll officer. Fix states she joined the Marines out of a desire to travel, but that women didn't go overseas. She recalls the troop train breaking down outside of Chicago and describes being in one of the first groups to go to boot camp at Camp Lejeune (North Carolina). She talks about replacing a male serviceman as post quartermaster at Henderson Hall (Arlington, Virginia) and then taking classes to move into payroll. Fix discusses getting passes to go to Washington D.C., Newark (New Jersey), and New York City with friends during the weekends and speaks about playing softball and winning trophies with a bowling team. She speaks about a wall map marking Marine locations overseas, food, and uniforms. She describes marching in Franklin D. Roosevelt's funeral parade and mentions occasionally seeing Eleanor Roosevelt on the base. Fix states her captain collected money from other servicewomen after her father died so she could fly home and reports she got early discharge after the war to be with her mother. She expresses frustration at how long it took her brothers in the Army to receive word of their father's death through either mail or the Red Cross. She mentions doing public relations at the Capitol in Madison (Wisconsin) after the war and having positive experiences at the Middleton VA Hospital.

Interviewed by John Driscoll 2008.

Transcribed by Katy Marty, March 2009.

Transcript edited by Channing Welch, 2009.

Corrected by Katy Marty, 2009.

Abstract written by Susan Krueger, 2009.

Interview Transcript:

John: This is John Driscoll and today is March, and today is March 11th, 2008 and this is an oral history interview. I am John Driscoll with the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Archives and this is an interview with Dee Fix. Dee is a veteran of World War II. She served in the United States Marine Corps and this interview is taking place at Dee's home in Middleton. Dee thanks a lot for agreeing to the interview and why don't we start off with what and where were you born?

Dee: I was born in Cross Plains.

John: Okay.

Dee: July 2nd, 1922.

John: Okay.

Dee: And I was, well I had, it was a family of nine of us children.

John: Oh, okay.

Dee: And I had two sisters. They were the oldest and they were both married before I was born.

John: Okay.

Dee: So I grew up with six boys.

John: Oh, wow! Oh, rough. Okay, okay. How about school?

Dee: What?

John: School.

Dee: School. Oh, I went to a Catholic school for eight years and then Cross Plains had a two-year high school.

John: (unintelligible)

Dee: I went to Park High School for two years and then I went to Edgewood my last two years.

John: Oh, okay.

Dee: The town paid our tuition because they only had a high school for two years.

John: Oh, how great.

Dee: And --

John: Oh, I've never heard of that. That's great.

Dee: Uh huh.

John: And then --

Dee: That's where I graduated from, Edgewood.

John: Okay. What did you do after high school?

Dee: After high school I went for one semester at MATC and took business machines and --

John: Okay.

Dee: And then I went to work for the state Unemployment Compensation.

John: Okay.

Dee: And ah, I was a keypunch operator.

John: Oh, okay, all right.

Dee: And from there I --

John: Do you remember Pearl Harbor Day and can you tell me about that?

Dee: Not really, I don't. I don't remember much about it.

John: Okay. Okay. Ah, let's see, if you were born in '42 you were about --

Dee: Forty-three.

John: Forty-three, okay. Okay, then (Laughs) why and how did you go into the United States Marine Corps?

Dee: I wanted to go into the Army.

John: Okay.

Dee: Because they got to go overseas and I wanted to see the country.

John: Oh, okay.

Dee: But my dad said, “No.” I had two brothers in the Army already.

John: Okay.

Dee: And he said, “That’s enough.” So when I found out that there’s just the women and we couldn’t be sent overseas my dad let me go.

John: I see, I see. Okay. I didn’t know women Marines didn’t go overseas.

Dee: Not, no, no we didn’t.

John: I see. Okay okay.

Dee: That didn’t happen until, well, when it -- just about, before the war was over with some of them went to Hawaii.

John: Okay, okay.

Dee: Yeah.

John: Okay. And you went through boot camp—oh wait, before we get to that. Where did you enlist?

Dee: Well, I had to go down to Milwaukee for my tests.

John: To Milwaukee, okay.

Dee: And I passed the tests so they swore us in right there.

John: Right there.

Dee: That was in um, May, May 3rd.

John: Okay.

Dee: Yeah, when we, well, the end of the day they swore us into the Marine Corps.

John: Okay.

- Dee: And then we had to go home and wait to be called. And at that time the women Marines were training at Hunter College in New York.
- John: Okay.
- Dee: And they were closing that up so I was delayed. I was because they didn't want to start a new group because they were closing. So then I was with the first group to go to Camp Lejeune.
- John: Okay.
- Dee: They call, they send you a letter and tell you what to bring and clothes and stuff and I had to go down to Chicago. I know my dad took me to the train and I had to go down to Chicago and catch the troop train.
- John: Okay.
- Dee: And that's where we all met, from all parts of the states and ah --
- John: How large a group, how many?
- Dee: It was a couple, a couple – oh, quite a, I would say quite a group.
- John: Okay. Okay. That's a long trip.
- Dee: Some came from the East though, too, you know.
- John: Uh huh, uh huh.
- Dee: But this is from the West and stuff. And well, the trip, we got a little ways out of Chicago. Well, it was about midnight when we got on the train and we got out of Chicago and the engine broke down.
- John: Oh, heavens, oh!
- Dee: And we sat there for hours.
- John: Oh.
- Dee: And we finally got going and then we, of course we were so we ran out of food so we had to stop and we stopped at Rocky Mount, North Carolina.
- John: Yup, yeah.
- Dee: And ah, they fed us there in a big hall. Then we got to camp Lejeune.

John: (laughs) What was camp Lejeune like then?

Dee: Well, it wasn't bad. The only – no, It was all right. I mean we had nice barracks.

John: You had – okay, there were barracks.

Dee: Well, they were not quite done yet. I mean they still had some finishing touches when we got there, but otherwise. No, it was – we had bunks and, ah, we did a lot. We did everything. We did drilling. We did oxygen masks and everything else, the training.

John: Were there other women Marines that were training you?

Dee: (laughs) Yes. Men.

John: Men?

Dee: And hard drill, drill ins -- drill sergeant, he was not a happy camper.

John: (laughs) Ha, ha, ha, ha.

Dee: He was a little redhead and he just hated drilling us and I don't blame him.

John: (laughs)

Dee: He didn't enter the service just to be teaching the women, that's for sure.

John: Oh, boy.

Dee: But we got over that and --

John: Yeah, and then after basic training, after boot camp --

Dee: After boot camp

John: Where did you go?

Dee: Then I was shipped to Arlington, Virginia.

John: Arlington, okay.

Dee: And I worked, I was in headquarters there. The Navy building, the Marines --

John: Was that Henderson Hall?

Dee: Yup.

John: Okay.

Dee: Henderson Hall was our favorite base, yeah.

John: Okay.

Dee: Yeah.

John: Okay.

Dee: And that was not finished when we moved into the barracks. Well, we had to go into a place we could (unintelligible), there were things to be done yet. Some doors weren't on and, anyhow, we managed.

John: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Dee: And that's where I stayed up the whole term (??).

John: What did you do there?

Dee: I, well, first I worked -- they put me in Post Quartersmaster and I was issuing the men their clothes. (laughs)

John: (laughs)

Dee: Which was, you know, it was interesting.

John: Yeah, it was -- yeah.

Dee: I was doing my job.

John: Uh huh.

Dee: And then I got into the big office and I was in supplies.

John: Okay. Did you eventually get into payroll?

Dee: Oh, that was about a year later. They wanted me to transfer to payroll but I had to go to school first,

John: Okay.

Dee: And had classes. The only thing bad about it was I was up to, I was a corporal at the time.

John: Oh, okay.

Dee: And I had to go back to private.

John: Geez (??).

Dee: To go to that class but I got a rating back every month.

John: Okay. Okay.

Dee: Yeah.

John: Okay.

Dee: And then I got to --

John: Now did you go to school there?

Dee: What?

John: Did you go to school there?

Dee: Right in the building there.

John: Okay. Okay.

Dee: Yeah, mm hmm.

John: And then you made sergeant?

Dee: Then I made sergeant.

John: Great, okay.

Dee: Yup, and then I was in payroll.

John: They're the ones that actually make the Marine Corps work, (laughs) the sergeants.

Dee: (laughs) They were surprised I was a sergeant. (Laughs) Because I don't think --

John: What was day to day living like? How was the food?

Dee: Food. Sometimes *very* good. When they had mutton we didn't go to the mess hall.

John: (laughs)

Dee: You walked onto the (unintelligible). See, Henderson Hall was right across the street from them, and we'd have to march over and back and stuff, but, oh when you'd come back and you'd smell that spoiled (??) --

John: (laughs)

Dee: It, ah, it was -- I can't say I didn't enjoy it, I did.

John: Yeah, okay.

Dee: Yes.

John: How were the other women to get along with?

Dee: Super.

John: Super?

Dee: Yes, yes definitely.

John: Okay.

Dee: We had a, well we, had a little clique. (laughs) There were about five or six of us that hung around together. We, see, we had Saturdays and Sundays off.

John: Okay.

Dee: And we would go down into Washington, D.C.

John: Oh, okay.

Dee: Go down by the Capitol or, you know, get a --

John: Yeah. Could you get out in uniform?

Dee: You could get -- not out of uniform.

John: You had to be in uniform?

Dee: Yup. But you could get a pass to go out of, out of, away from camp but you had to apply for a pass, and if they felt you were going to be gone too far too long (??) you didn't get the pass.

John: Yeah, okay.

Dee: We used to go up to – my bunkmate was from Newark, New Jersey.

John: Oh, okay, sure.

Dee: Her folks lived there and we used to go up to her house on weekends.

John: Take the train?

Dee: Take the train, yup.

John: Good, good.

Dee: We had everything. I mean we had a big auditorium and we'd have movies a couple nights a week and we had a softball team I played on.

John: Oh, okay.

Dee: And, -- ah --

John: Great, great.

Dee: Yes, we had a good softball team. We won second place.

John: That's great.

Dee: We played in the oh, for cripes sakes, Washington, D.C. league, ladies league.

John: Okay. Okay. Great, yeah, yeah.

Dee: In fact I got a ball.

John: I can see it right there.

Dee: It's all autographed.

John: Aw, that's great, that's great.

Dee: And ah, we'd go up there and then we'd go into New York. We were at New York when, New Year's Eve when the ball dropped.

John: Oh, yeah?

Dee: We were there for that.

John: Okay.

Dee: We went to a ball game once and --

John: Oh, great. That's good.

Dee: We, you know --

John: That's good. Did you -- could you keep up with what was happening in the Pacific?

Dee: One thing I'll tell you I was very proud of the Marine Corps for this. You come into the building, it's the entrance way. The back wall, a great big wall, they had a big map.

John: Oh, okay.

Dee: And on that they'd put markers as to where the Marines were.

John: Okay, okay.

Dee: So we knew all the time where our Marines were.

John: Great, okay.

Dee: I think that was very --

John: Yes, yeah.

Dee: Very interesting.

John: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Dee: And then down the hall was where the guys were.

John: Any discipline problems? Did you have any problems gettin' along with the orders and the powers that be and all that kind of stuff?

Dee: No, I only got mad once.

John: (laughs) What was that?

Dee: See, when you got a pass, you went up, wanted to go in town for the evening --

John: Yeah.

Dee: You'd have to get a pass. Okay. I applied for a pass. I got a pass. Then we decided not to go and I forgot to turn my pass in.

John: Okay.

Dee: I didn't use it but I forgot to turn it in and then when they took bed. (unintelligible) The middle of the night your bed would be all checked to see that you were in bed.

John: Yeah, oh yeah, yeah.

Dee: And I was in bed and so I got punished for not turning in my pass. (laughs) I had to do windows.

John: (laughs)

Dee: That was all right, I mean, you know, that was only once. But, ah

John: Yeah, yeah. Okay. Did any of the other people (coughs), excuse me, have trouble getting along or working with the system --

Dee: We never had any trouble. I mean our barracks, I mean the wing was I bet ya there was at least sixty of us up in a wing.

John: Oh. Okay.

Dee: We had double beds, double decker.

John: Oh yeah.

Dee: And, you know, I think we all, I mean, you know, it --

John: That, that's so very seldom. Everybody seemed to be willing to do what had to be done --

Dee: Yup, right.

John: You know, to get along and to put up with late trains that were sitting there broken down and barracks that weren't furnished. That was just --

Dee: Part of it.

John: Part of it, yeah.

Dee: Yeah. We were glad, I mean, they were getting doing it for us so –

John: Yeah. What happened when you heard about V-J Day, the war over? How did that go over?

Dee: Oh, it, we knew we were out then, you know, we were going to be able to go home.

John: Yup.

Dee: That's about it.

John: Yeah.

Dee: What was more impressing was when Roosevelt died.

John: Oh, yeah, sure. What was that like when you heard about that?

Dee: That was something. We had – we were at work and we got the message and we all went downtown. Got on the bus and went down to the White House and watched the what went on down there and stuff, and I had the privilege of being chosen to march –

John: Oh, yeah?

Dee: In his funeral parade. Our platoon was right behind the casket.

John: Okay.

Dee: Uh huh.

John: Okay. Wow, that's a memory.

Dee: But that was a *long* march.

John: Oh, I'll bet, yeah.

Dee: From Grand Central Station down to the White House.

John: Yes, yes.

Dee: And your slow cadence. It, ah, but it was a big honor. I was third row, right guard. (laughs) I have pictures of it and stuff.

John: I was talking to Tony Earl, the governor.

Dee: Uh huh.

John: Who was a Navy officer who was in MacArthur's funeral procession.

Dee: Oh.

John: And (laughs) I said, "Why did they have a Navy officer in an army general's procession?" He said, "They lined us up and I was exactly the right height."

Dee: (laughs) Oh, ha, ha, ha.

John: (laughs) They didn't care who you were, they just wanted you all the same height.

Dee: That's true.

John: That's great that, you know, that's an honor. That's a memory --

Dee: It was a big honor to be chosen.

John: Mm hmm.

Dee: We had to go down --

John: Because everybody just, you know, he was, he was the United States. He was --

Dee: His wife was super.

John: Yeah. Yeah. Did you ever meet her?

Dee: Yes. Oh, she used to come maybe about once a month. She used to come at noon and have lunch in the cafeteria.

John: Ahh, super. Oh, that's great.

Dee: And do mail call.

John: That's great.

Dee: Yes, in fact I've got a picture of her.

John: Oh, great.

Dee: In our, you know –

John: Yeah.

Dee: She'd come and visit with us.

John: Yeah. Ah, what about --

Dee: Because our base was right next to Arlington Cemetery.

John: Yeah, yeah.

Dee: Just the walls separated us.

John: Yes, yeah, I've been there, yeah. How about getting out then? How soon after V-J Day?

Dee: I got out a month or two early.

John: Did you?

Dee: For the simple reason that when I was there my father passed away.

John: Oh, okay.

Dee: And ah, I had three brothers in the Army. Two of them were in the South Pacific --

John: Oh, wow.

Dee: At the time. My twin brothers were in the South Pacific.

John: Yeah.

Dee: And my mother was alone and I requested an early discharge so I could go and be at home with her.

John: Yeah, okay, okay.

Dee: Yeah.

John: Okay. Then --

Dee: So right after the war they got me out fast, yeah.

John: Any problems adjusting to civilian life?

Dee: No, not really.

John: What did you do after service?

Dee: Then I worked at the Capitol. I got a job at the Capitol.

John: Oh, okay.

Dee: And I worked up there at the Public relations.

John: Uh huh.

Dee: Yup.

John: That's great. That's a -- yeah, we're doin' real fine. That's, that's -- You know, each of these stories is just, is just so, so real.

Dee: Uh huh.

John: You can get a book and you can read about women Marines in World War II. But here's a story now of someone, someone who was a right guide in Roosevelt's funeral procession.

Dee: Uh huh.

John: Now that to me, that's real.

Dee: Yes.

John: What some professor somewhere writes about it isn't so.

Dee: It was a big honor.

John: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah, yeah.

Dee: And then, well, I was up for platoon sergeant. That's when --

John: Oh, yeah? (laughs)

Dee: When I (laughs) --

John: (laughs) Oh, great.

Dee: When I had to leave.

John: Yeah, yeah. That's great.

Dee: Now that was funny, though too. Agnes, my bunkmate, --

John: Yeah.

Dee: She's the one that lived in Newark. Her folks lived in Newark. We do a lot of things together, and I was at, we were at her house. Once in awhile we would fake our pass. You had to tell where you were going to go.

John: Okay.

Dee: And we thought we wouldn't be able to go if we asked for Newark that weekend.

John: Newark. Okay.

Dee: So we, she had a friend in Washington, D.C. so we used that address.

John: (laughs) Okay, then you scooted up to Newark.

Dee: But this weekend, that weekend we gave them the right address, Aggie's folks. Sunday morning I got a telephone call. My dad had passed away.

John: Oh wow, oh.

Dee: So I had to get on a train, Newark, go down to the camp.

John: Yup.

Dee: And my captain had already collected enough to pay for my plane fare home.

John: Oh, how nice.

Dee: From the, from the --

John: Oh, yeah.

Dee: Gals because it was a Sunday and the bank was closed. I couldn't get into the bank to get my money.

John: Yeah, that's true. Okay.

Dee: They all pitched in.

John: Oh, that's great.

Dee: To pay for my flight home.

John: That's great.

Dee: Oh, and it was bad. We hit Chicago and it was nasty. No planes were flying so I went out and got on a bus and I went down. I thought I'll catch a train to Madison. Got down there, no train was going.

John: (laughs) Oh, wow.

Dee: So I went back to the airport and they put me on the mail plane.

John: (laughs)

Dee: And I flew this home here.

John: Oh, okay, okay.

Dee: Yeah, it was, it was sad, but –

John: Yeah.

Dee: Yeah.

John: That's somethin'. Do you still get together with other women Marines?

Dee: The one -- that bear there.

John: The, ah?

Dee: Green Bay Packer bear.

John: Oh, okay.

Dee: That is my roommate Aggie, the one that lived in Newark. We stayed friends for years afterward.

John: Okay.

Dee: She married the Army Band director.

John: Oh.

Dee: What's -- for god sakes, what's his name? I know it.

John: Huh.

Dee: Anyhow, I would be invited out –

John: Yeah.

Dee: They lived right outside of Washington, D.C. in Oakton and ah --

John: Sure.

Dee: I would go out and visit with her and stuff. We stayed friends only, I mean, about eight years ago she spent Christmas with me here.

John: Great.

Dee: And she had that. She knew I was a Packer fan.

John: (Laughs)

Dee: She had that lady knit that sweater.

John: Yeah. Oh, great.

Dee: Now she passed away.

John: Yeah, yeah.

Dee: So I don't have her anymore.

John: I didn't stay with, in touch with anyone until this past summer. Ah, I got an e-mail saying, "Are you the John Driscoll from 2nd Angelico?" Our outfit was and I said, "Yeah." That's Ed Nunn in Denver. So I, you know we kept in touch and then he, I don't know how he, he found Lou Sandidge in Austin, Texas and late October the three of us got together in Austin.

Dee: Oh, how nice!

John: Fifty years, we just never stayed in touch but now they're coming up here next summer.

Dee: Oh, great.

John: I tried to say, "Come up in the winter." But Sandridge said he's not leaving Texas for Wisconsin in the winter, no.

Dee: (laughs) (unintelligible).

John: Yeah. Oh, that's great. That's a tremendous story (??).

Dee: Yeah, no, I don't -- nobody else anymore, no.

John: Yeah, yeah.

Dee: They're --

John: Now Dee, did you have the GI Bill when you got out?

Dee: No.

John: You didn't. Was that because women Marines didn't get it, or --

Dee: I didn't even know about it I don't think.

John: Okay. Okay. Education --

Dee: Oh, wait, did I? No, I didn't because I didn't go to any. I was done with schooling and stuff. No, I didn't, but I go to the VA Hospital now.

John: What do you think of the VA Hospital?

Dee: They are super.

John: (Laughs) you know I haven't, and for all of the ex-service people I've talked to, I've never heard a bad comment on this VA hospital.

Dee: You know, I, they treat me royally up there. I've been going there for years now.

John: Yeah.

Dee: In fact I broke my leg and I went to -- was it the VA? When I broke it I went to another, Meriter Hospital, and we got talking and I said "You know, I was in the service." They said "Well, you can have your leg fixed there." So they called the hospital --

John: Oh, oh.

Dee: And sent me down to the VA and that's what started me going there. And they put my leg in a cast, and – but I've had to go there – well, just there last week.

John: Yeah, oh yeah. That's a great place, and as I say, I've talked to a hundred people and I just haven't had a --

Dee: I have, I have -- they are so nice to me.

John: Yeah.

Dee: They're so good to me, really, you know.

John: Oh that's great. That's good.

Dee: Yes I -- oh, I can't complain.

John: Yeah

Dee: No, none at all.

John: Well, what do you -- looking back on it, what do you feel? You're a young woman, just getting started in life and then this terrible thing happened and (clears throat), excuse me, and you said you wanted to go but still your life was interrupted. What do you think about the whole thing? How do you feel about the whole experience?

Dee: I'm very glad I went.

John: Are you?

Dee: Very much so, yes. I was dating a Air Force guy and he was being sent overseas.

John: Uh huh.

Dee: And that ended that.

John: (Laughs) Yeah, it will, yeah.

Dee: But, I mean, you know, he was in the service and I couldn't be with him so --

John: Yeah.

- Dee: I don't know, I just -- you know, when I was younger we used to go to people, to fortune tellers?
- John: Yeah.
- Dee: And I never forget. A fortune teller told me that someday I would be in uniform.
- John: Wow.
- Dee: And I figured it was gonna be a nurse. (laughs)
- John: Yeah, yeah.
- Dee: Yeah.
- John: I'll be darned. But that must have been --
- Dee: That was a lady that had a little shop on State Street that we went to.
- John: Uh huh.
- Dee: I and another girl from Edgewood. We went there and had our fortune told. I was gonna be in uniform.
- John: I've got a good friend, he just passed away, the writer Stephen Ambrose and he was talking to a bunch of veterans at the Historical Society a few years ago before he died, and he was saying what great things everyone had done and most of the people were saying, you know, I did my job, but I didn't do anything great. Of course he was very dramatic. He could do this but he said, "You saved this world. No matter what you did you were a part of saving this world and you were. This world was in very bad shape." And I repeat that every time because that was true.
- Dee: Uh huh.
- John: Every single, even people that issued ping pong balls at weather stations in Idaho that was all part of this tremendous effort that pulled us out of the brink, yeah. Yeah, yeah.
- Dee: Well, we were there to replace men and we did. I mean when I went into Post Quartermaster there was a veteran, I mean, a Marine there --
- John: Yeah.

Dee: A man Marine, and I took his place, and he gave me his picture and everything.

John: (laughs) Great, that's great.

Dee: To think that I have his picture that I say I replaced him.

John: Were you in that group that was photographed here just awhile back, the women Marines, that was in the paper?

Dee: Yeah, we celebrated sixty-five years.

John: Yeah, isn't that great?

Dee: You bet.

John: That's wonderful. Yeah, yeah. That's super.

Dee: But you know what? It gives our age out.

John: (laughs)

Dee: It does because sixty-five, add sixty-five and you had to be twenty years old to get on –

John: Yup, okay.

Dee: To get in. (laughs)

John: (laughs) so –

Dee: So they all know. No, I do have, did you see a copy of it?

John: Yes. Oh, yeah, yeah.

Dee: You got a – do you need a copy?

John: No, no, they've got a copy – in fact they've got a black and white glossy copy at the Vet's, at the archives. That's an important picture.

Dee: Oh, I've got some. I, you know, I've got--

John: Oh, Dee, they asked me if I would, now I don't want to get into this, but I said I would pass this, oh darn it, I didn't bring those. They said that you might have some things you'd be willing to donate to the museum.

Dee: Well, I don't know what. I mean, I got a lot of clothes and stuff, but I wanted to tell you a lady, man and wife I haven't seen in about a year –

John: Uh huh.

Dee: Sent me a copy of that, and this is what she wrote.

John: Oh. Isn't that great?

Dee: Doesn't – oh, that just made, just gave me chills.

John: Yes (laughs). That's great.

Dee: I think somebody would, you know.

John: Yes. Yes. That-- do you have any documents or uniforms or anything from –

Dee: Oh, they're all downstairs in storage.

John: I'll tell you what. I had this. They sent me some forms to give you that tells you what they're looking for and how they take care of it and that. Let me put those in the mail to you, okay? They're on my kitchen table. I had them out and –

Dee: I have a couple of caps. Of course, I've had like the grade school came and borrowed my caps one time. I don't know what they used them for.

John: Oh, yeah, yeah.

Dee: Sauk Trail did, yeah.

John: Yeah, they, they've got a great collection down there, and personal things, letters, notes, diaries, those kinds of things.

Dee: I have every letter I sent to my mother and dad.

John: You know, those –

Dee: My mother kept 'em.

John: They could, they would –

Dee: It's a box like this.

John: See, if they have those, if you're willing to give them up, and I, I don't take them. Those would be protected and they'd be microfilmed and they'd be available for people to research into – yeah, when I get back home I will get those forms together.

Dee: And I have, I have uniforms, and I have caps and I have our bag, our purse.

John: Yup, yup.

Dee: And, ah --

John: Yeah. What was, what was it like going from being a young woman working who could have clothes and that going into to uniform? Any problems with the –

Dee: No, none at all.

John: No?

[End of tape 1, side A]

John: This has got a little leader on it. Okay. You were saying on the other side you were there in August.

Dee: Yeah, we there in August. They issued our clothes and they had cotton stockings and they were so hot. We had to drill --

John: (laughs, coughs)

Dee: It was so hot that you wanted (unintelligible) for your knees and stuff.

John: Yeah, yeah.

Dee: We all sent them home for garters.

John: Had you mentioned about bowling?

Dee: Oh, yeah, we had a bowling team and um, the Marines bought our uniforms --

John: Okay.

Dee: I mean our shirts –

John: Uh huh.

Dee: Which had Henderson Hall on them.

John: (laughs) great!

Dee: And we bowled in Arlington and we bowled in the compound there. And in fact, I didn't -- well, we bowled -- when I got home I got a box and I had won three trophies, one our league won first place --

John: Oh, great.

Dee: And I had high average and I had highest single game.

John: That's great. That's great.

Dee: So I still have those.

John: Yeah.

Dee: That was fun (??).

John: Yeah.

Dee: And our softball, we had nice uniforms for that, too and we won second place in the league there. And I've got group pictures of that.

John: Good.

Dee: Yup.

John: That's great, that's great. You know you, you've got great memories there. Those are something that will stay with you, for you know --

Dee: All my life.

John: Yup. Yeah.

Dee: Yeah.

John: Yeah. I was fortunate to get to travel. I got from one end of Turkey to China and from --

Dee: And that's what I wanted to do but I couldn't.

John: Arctic Norway to the South Pacific. It was a lot of travel. The accommodations weren't all that good (laughs).

Dee: No, right.

John: A troop ship –

Dee: Right, yeah, right you had to put up with a lot of –

John: Ah, but that's all, that's all part of it. Well, this is great, this is a tremendous story.

Dee: I'm very happy I went in. I really am.

John: Good, and I can -- I take it you're proud of it.

Dee: Yup.

John: Pretty proud –

Dee: Yes.

John: It's something to be proud of, definitely.

Dee: Yup.

John: Yeah.

Dee: I think I'm the first one from Cross Plains to go into the service.

John: Are you?

Dee: Red Cross would not be considered a branch of the service would they?

John: I don't think so, but I'm not sure. I don't think so. They were there all over the place.

Dee: Yeah. Because we had a gal from Cross Plains that worked. She was overseas.

John: Uh huh.

Dee: And she died overseas.

John: Ooh!

Dee: Maxine Bauer (??). And she was with the Red Cross.

John: Uh huh.

Dee: And ah, he just died not too long ago and they said something about him that there was four, four in the family that was in the service. I thought well, my family is just as good because --

John: Yes. Absolutely.

Dee: There's four of us.

John: Four.

Dee: Yup. Oh, and the Red Cross. I probably shouldn't say this but I was down on them.

John: I know. (Laughs)

Dee: Well, my dad died and I got home, and after the funeral my twin brothers were in the South Pacific and I sat down and wrote them a letter. And the letter consists -- I put everything in the letter what went on and about dad and who was there that they knew and everything like that. And that was in January. My brothers not, didn't get that letter. Well, then I had my older brother go to the Red Cross and tell them to contact them Ray (??) and Fritz.

John: Yeah, yeah.

Dee: Let them know that their dad had passed away. Well, they got my letter three months later and they didn't know dad had died.

John: Oh, that's awful.

Dee: And my one brother went berserk I guess they practically had to beat him up to calm him down.

John: Wow.

Dee: Yup.

John: Now, I've heard, I've had some experiences myself like that and I've heard a lot of stories like that.

Dee: I just assumed that the Red Cross followed through. I never checked, you know. (Unintelligible).

John: Yeah, that, that --

Dee: It was sad.

John: Yeah, sure. Your brothers made it back okay?

Dee: Yup, they did.

John: Good, good.

Dee: But they're all gone. I'm the only one left.

John: Yeah, yeah, so am I.

Dee: Of nine children.

John: Okay. (Laughs) This is a remarkable story. It's just -- this is just great. Well, as I said I'll take it back and we'll get it transcribed and they'll send you a copy of the transcript and I'll tell them to add a copy of the tape. They can just run those --

Dee: Okay.

John: And then this will be on record. If you have a chance to look through those things that you say are in storage --

Dee: Now I have a couple of pictures of the softball team.

John: Oh yeah? Now, that would be great. That would be great.

Dee: I can give you that right now if you want to.

John: Sure. I don't collect the items like that but I'll be glad to take that down and give it to them. I'm going down there right away.
[Approx. 30 sec. pause]

Dee: Sam Laboda, that's his name.

John: Okay.

Dee: The Army Band.

John: Okay, okay.

Dee: Vander -- Roosevelt.

John: Oh, yes. Oh, yeah. Oh yeah. Is this?

Dee: The Panama –

John: Is this Vandergrift?

Dee: Uh huh.

John: Yeah.

Dee: And this, this came right from headquarters.

John: Oh. That's the -- for the tape I'll say that's the flag rising on Iwo Jima. Yeah.

Dee: Yeah, right.

John: Yes.

Dee: But I mean, I had, we met, got friendly with the --

John: Oh, those are great pictures. Great photographs.

Dee: There's the parade.

John: Yup, yeah. Roosevelt's parade, yup.

Dee: That's our colonel.

John: Uh huh.

Dee: Where's that? There's one.

John: Oh, yeah, oh yeah. Oh, what a great picture of the softball team and the dog, the mascot. Oh, that is great.

Dee: See, we had uniforms.

John: Oh, here, this is --

Dee: Are there two of 'em?

John: This is two, yeah. Oh, that's great. With the dog, with the mascot.

Dee: Yup, we had a mascot (Laughs)

John: Oh, this is super.

Dee: And there's Roosevelt, Mrs. Roosevelt.

John: Oh yes, Eleanor, yeah. Oh, great.

Dee: And he's the one I replaced. (laughs)

John: Okay. (laughs) Okay. Oh, this is, this is super.

Dee: Yup.

John: Well, I can take this? This is an extra copy?

Dee: Yes.

John: Okay and it's got everything on the back that they would need. Okay and I'll send you those forms to tell ya what they like to get and all that kind of neat stuff. And oh yeah, you got the group marching in formation there. That's a good shot, photo.

Dee: But this has got the stamp on the back of the --

John: Oh, okay.

Dee: One of the original ones.

John: Okay. Oh, yeah. Oh, wow. What a fantastic photograph, yeah.

Dee: But see that, we got -- they were right in there right across from where I was in Post Quartermaster and they were just right around the corner.

John: Yeah.

Dee: And the photographers and stuff.

John: Yeah. Four Marines and a sailor. There's a corpsmen in that group. Bradley, from Antigo.

Dee: Raymond, Raymond Jacob was the last one.

John: Yeah.

Dee: Uh huh.

John: Yeah, that's a remarkable photograph, yeah. Okay, well listen, I will take this with me and I'll turn this in right when I get there this morning. That's

an incredible photograph and all the names on it. We need to, I'm going to shut this off, but if you think of anything tell me and I'll just turn it right back on.

[End of Interview, total time ca. 40 min.]