

Video Recording Log
Veteran Linda Weber

Name of Donor/Interviewer: Harriet Williamson

Name of Veteran/Civilian: Linda Weber

Birth Date: 03/11/1926

Recording format

VIDEO type: Mini DVD

Estimated length of recording (in minutes): 45

Date of recording: 09/19/07

Location of recording: WILL AM-FM-TV, 300 N. Goodwin Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

Recording log:

00:00 Introduction

00:57 Background, early life—Columbia, MO, Boonville, MO—father school teacher in high school—eldest brother in the Army, West Point

02:18 Family and Great Depression—house payments—lost house 1929-1930, moved to Boonville, MO—no money, teachers not paid well—had to rent—Dust Bowl

03:45 First hints of War—didn't know much

04:30 Remembers attack on Pearl Harbor

04:45 School not effected

05:20 A lot of German farmers around town—people would write mean things on their barns

05:56 Small town, not conscientious of outsiders, town totally segregated—doesn't remember knowing anything about Jewish people

06:35 Parents did not talk about war besides attack on Pearl Harbor

06:53 War effected family—gas, food rationing a problem, especially later [shows and explains ration book and how it was used]

08:20 Working at grocery store at the end of the war

09:25 Life as a result of war—it flipped

09:50 Went to college one year—sent to Purdue by Curtis Right who built airplanes—trained and went to work at war plant in Columbus, OH

- 10:10 Mother got sick, had to move home
- 10:18 Had to go on a list to get a car—family was #3,000 on list in Saint Louis—could not get appliances, either
- 10:50 Getting message from government—girls did not go to war, families did not go to war, father was too old—had to do whatever they could do to help
- 11:30 Collected gum wrappers and scrap metal for drives at school
- 12:20 When war ended, had been trained to work on airplanes with over 500 other girls, after war ended was discharged—okay with her but some girls were upset because it was a good job
- 13:08 Mother got sick—war in Japan still going on—could not get a release to go home, which meant that later could not get a job when she went back to Saint Louis
- 13:40 Ended up working in grocery store because mother had a friend at the store
- 13:45 Was more difficult for girls that stayed until the very end of the war—didn't want to leave
- 14:10 High school—had to have one year of college—went to Culver-Stockton in Canton, MO—small private school
- 14:35 Purdue—all kinds of military training—50 men for every 1 girl—training military men
- 15:13 Recruited in 1944, 18 years old—father found ad in newspaper for one free year at Purdue for this training program with Curtis Right
- 16:15 Studying Aeronautical Engineering, Physics, Calculus—wind tunnels, mock airplanes, regular professors—very sped up and intense
- 17:20 Social activities—bands, sports
- 17:35 Columbus, OH—drafting with linen and ink—promoted to being a checker—one friend got very good at it and stayed at company after the war, but all other women left
- 18:28 Mother got pregnant, said she was “sick,” embarrassed
- 19:28 Hard to give up job
- 19:35 Hill Diver airplane—fighter planes—saw one at Midway Airport years later
- 20:22 About 35 girls at Purdue, lived in fraternity house, all the men were gone—got very close—had reunions later

- 21:10 All girls went to Columbus, OH—some went to other universities—big plant, no men to do the drawings
- 21:40 Adolescence when war started—not getting a lot of dates—had boyfriend on campus—accepted things in wartime, just had a lot of girl friends
- 23:00 Accepted a lot of things she would not accept to day
- 23:30 Returning to old way after war ended fine at the time—goal in life had been to get married and have 4 children
- 24:10 Since the war became active feminist and anti-war groups—thinks war is an ugly and bad thing
- 24:45 Father was coach at school—one of his players killed in South Pacific
- 25:15 Having fun at Purdue—50 to 1 ratio of men to women—foundation for women’s friendships
- 25:50 Accepting conditions, no protest
- 26:15 Correspondence with boyfriends and male friends—everyone wrote letters
- 27:12 Does not remember how she felt about Germans and Japanese during and after war
- 28:05 A lot of friends were German—a lot of people in town had immigrant families—only barn incidents, no saying things or acts of violence
- 28:45 Some high school boys resented farm exemptions
- 29:11 Segregated schools—father’s team played black high school’s team—very separated
- 29:54 Working at grocery store—rationing—signed list to get car in Saint Louis, MO
- 30:30 Got last piece of satin in Saint Louis for wedding dress—after war, still could not get nylon—women painted their legs with brown goop
- 31:23 Grocery store, rationing—put goods under counter for good customers—chocolate, coffee
- 32:40 Black market
- 32:50 Senator, Vice President, President Truman from MO
- 33:50 President Roosevelt
- 34:08 First atomic bomb—in Japan in 1980 for peace exchange—Hiroshima peace exchange

- 36:00 Stores about Hiroshima damage and aftermath, survivors—horrible thing
- 38:23 Anti-war, anti-racism—Th.D. in Peace and Justice from Bethany Seminary
- 40:35 Husband's correspondence, marriage, children
- 42:50 Wrap-up
- 43:38 [Silence]