

1. During World War II women filled in at jobs in the factories, gas stations and other jobs traditionally reserved for men.

2. My recollection of Rosie the Riveter was a picture of a woman in a shirt-sleeved work dress with a riveting gun in her hands. These posters were on telephone and light poles along with being plastered on the sides of buildings.

3. I had an Aunt who worked in a rubber factory where they made rubber flaps and other items needed in inclement weather.

4. I really don't know what their responsibilities were at work.

5. I don't remember any other events except the knowledge

that America was producing munitions and equipment which were being shipped to England in the Lend Lease agreement we had with England.

6. Many women returned home because their jobs were filled by returning "G. I's", others stayed and started careers outside of the home.

7. Women became empowered by these changes. Some women became financially independent. Many women soon realized that they were being discriminated against (less pay than men for the same job) and the only way to guarantee equality in pay and benefits was to unionize.

During the war years we had rationing. Butter, sugar and gas were the items I remember being controlled. It was also at this time that women

started to wear slacks. The rationing was controlled by stamps needed to buy sugar, butter and gas. It was during this time that people purchased War Bonds at work. The costs were deducted from their pay. Everyone was reminded to write letters to servicemen to help with morale. V.S.O. clubs were everywhere.

V.S.O. - were clubs where servicemen could eat, and socialize without having any cash. A serviceman received a very small paycheck - Most Americans felt that it was their duty to support the servicemen. Families had small flags in their windows with a star to represent the serviceman, if it was a gold star it meant the serviceman had been killed.

Thank you for the opportunity to communicate with you. Sincerely,
Margaret Steben