

Janis Kozlowski: So, then did you say that when he got back after the war ended did he go back to that same base there at UCLA?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: No, as soon as he could get out, he was out. He went home! [laughing]

Janis Kozlowski: Was he completely out of the...?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Oh, they had sent him down to Florida for part of something—I didn't know what for or anything, just that he was stationed down in Florida—something to do with the government of course. And then he got back up again and he came here but. They did take him away. We didn't know why or where—I mean the whole group, not just him. So, it was quite interesting and worrisome. We couldn't hardly wait to see him and he was allowed to write letters and then they would check them. We could see that they had opened them and stamped them that they'd been looked at.

Janis Kozlowski: So then when did he get out of the war and when did you get married?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Right away. [laughing]

Janis Kozlowski: Both were right away?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yes. Was it '45, I think? I think it was the year '45, wasn't it? Not sure on the time anymore but no, we didn't get married right away but we were getting plans to get ready for being married. We had planned on getting married before he went but that didn't work out. So, first thing we did was look forward to getting married.

Janis Kozlowski: And then did you stay in the Southern California area?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Oh, yeah. I got married in the Hollywood Presbyterian Church and then after I stayed and lived in Hollywood in the apartment with my Mother. Then we got married my husband and I went on our ... well, we went back to Ohio to visit his relatives and stuff. Then we got married, of course.

Janis Kozlowski: Then, he didn't stay in the Army Air Corp, did he?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Oh, no. He could hardly wait to get out. [both laughing] No, his main thing was to get out of the Army. Get out as soon as he could.

Janis Kozlowski: And what did he do then?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: He was a chemical ... he went into chemical engineering. So he was a chemist for what company? He worked with propellants, it was part of the Army I remember. It had to do with propellants and stuff that would blow things up. Because he was a chemist, he took up chemistry so he was needed in that line.

Janis Kozlowski: Do you remember what company he worked for?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Government. It was strictly the government.

Janis Kozlowski: Was it a civilian contractor?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: No, I think it was government.

Janis Kozlowski: It was actually government. Ok.

Eleanor Mae Cramer: It was government.

Janis Kozlowski: Well, just ... did you say that you started out in UCLA in chemistry also?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yeah. I signed up for Chemistry. Mine was mostly minor, you know. I could pick whatever I wanted to take but my main object ... my main subjects were chemistry and anything that had to do with that department.

Janis Kozlowski: Well, maybe that's partly why you two were attracted to each other, you were both chemists, it sounds like.

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yes, we were both interested in the same thing, very much so. We understood each other, understood the different terms and things. It was really ... well, we were suited and we were both interested in everything, of course, naturally. It was nice.

Janis Kozlowski: And what was life like after the war?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Everything was shut down practically, you couldn't just go out to the store and get what you wanted and do everything you wanted to do. It was all under control, under control.

Janis Kozlowski: So the rationing continued after the war?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: For awhile, yes. But most of it we got what we wanted but it was unusual stuff, I mean, you know, like I said, the meat was in a can. We thought it was dog food but it was really good meat [laughing].

Janis Kozlowski: It might have been pretty close to it.

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yes. [both laughing] It might have been even that.

Janis Kozlowski: Trying to stretch it.

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Then this butter that was white lard, looked like white lard. They give you these packages and then they'd give you a capsule that you had to put in a bowl and you'd kneed this colored yellow stuff to make it look like butter. [both laughing] Otherwise it looked like lard.

Janis Kozlowski: Did it ... how did it taste?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: We didn't ... it didn't bother us at all. Some of the canned meat, we felt we were eating dog food. It didn't taste good. I remember it wasn't anything exciting. It was, well, it was rations! And it was rationed products—what the government could allow, could give us.

Janis Kozlowski: We probably don't want to know what the recipe was for that meat in a can
[both laughing]

Eleanor Mae Cramer: No, I don't think so.

Janis Kozlowski: Or the oleo with the capsule either. [laughing]

Eleanor Mae Cramer: But we were ... you know, the funny part was we were very glad to have it. We were actually glad to have it. We didn't, you know, question it too much. We were just glad to have it.