

Janis Kozlowski: Ok. Did your Mom keep working at the Lockheed plant after the war?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Uh, no. She gave up, but I stayed and I worked until I got married.

Janis Kozlowski: And then your Father came back after the war as well and worked closer to home?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Well, he came back to live with us, my Mother and I. He was out in the desert all the time and on weekends he could come and see my Mother and I. But that was ... nothing until after the war because we have our whole family together.

Janis Kozlowski: You were all split up, your brother was in one place, your Father in the desert and it was just you and your Mom together.

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yes.

Janis Kozlowski: Now, do you.... I won't keep you too long because I know it's hard to talk for a long time but....

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Oh, no, I'm ok. I'm not doing anything important. [laughing]

Janis Kozlowski: Do you remember, there was this speech by Roosevelt, The Arsenal of Democracy speech in 1940 where he talked about how everybody needed to contribute to the war effort....

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Oh yes, oh yes, definitely and we were very true to it too. We really tried to do exactly what they wanted us to do because we were for our own government. We didn't want anything happening. We wanted it to be ... anything we could do for the government; we didn't want anything going wrong. No, we were not wanting anything to get out or leak out that shouldn't.

Janis Kozlowski: So that speech and posters and other things that they did for war bonds and that kind of thing was very influential at the time.

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yes, yes.

Janis Kozlowski: Because everybody wanted to do the right thing, right?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Oh, yes. It was very much so. It was very strict.

Janis Kozlowski: And what about rationing. Do you remember anything about that?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Oh yes, yes I do. [laughing] And I remember the white oleo. We didn't get colored margarine or anything. We had this white oleo with this little colored pack of die. We would mix it up with our hands and make it orange-yellow. [both laughing]

And then there was the meat--there were certain kind of meat, it looked like dog food. It was in cans [laughing] and they gave it to us, you know, we were rationed out--certain things. And I remember that looks like the dog food, but it wasn't, it was special meat. But it was meat and it was special because you couldn't just go pick it up off the shelf.

Janis Kozlowski: So you ... is it true that you couldn't really buy like cuts of meat like you ... you bought this meat that they had in cans instead?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yeah, it was rationed out. The meat that we got was all rationed. And it was cooked or canned and stuff like that. No, I don't remember ever being able to go to the store and being able to just pick up a steak or anything.

Janis Kozlowski: So, did you ... did the stores actually have it set out and you just ... you didn't like shop the shelves, you just went in and got whatever you were entitled to?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: You couldn't just go to the shelf and pick up stuff. I remember you had to have ... you get certain things. You were allowed certain things and you could buy those. It was sort of, um, ... sort of secretive. Well, some they couldn't get and, you know, it was just really, you couldn't get everything. There were certain things you can't ... couldn't get. They didn't have them, you couldn't get them. No, we were ... sugar and stuff like that [laughing]. You know, of course, tobacco and stuff like that didn't bother us, but you were limited to certain things and certain amounts. I remember it was very careful what you could have.

Janis Kozlowski: So you must have had to learn to cook differently?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yes, you had to ... you couldn't just have anything you want. You could have so much of a certain ... you were very careful too because you didn't know when the next one was gonna come, you know. It was very ... well, limited.

Janis Kozlowski: So, were you hungry sometimes? Did you get kind of skinny during that period?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Well, we didn't put on any weight, I remember that. [both laughing] We had enough to eat. I know we were very careful, what we had and how much we could get. You'd go down to the rationing board and things and see how much you could get, and what you could get, and you had to sign for it. It was ... it was kept under control.