

H) "If You Ask Me!"

Republic Aviation, 1942

Question: How do you like working with men in the shop?

Ann Boyles, Detail Assembly, is married and lives in Rockville Centre. "We all found Republic a good place to pitch in and turn out those P-47's. When I first came into this plant, I wondered whether I'd get the knack of this industry, but the men very graciously helped me over the tough spots."

Josephine Walz, Detail Inspector, of Lindenhurst. "The men with whom I have come into contact are courteous, helpful and encouraging. Their assistance means we will produce plenty of Thunderbolts."

Inge Gnieweck, Detail Assembly, lives in Hempstead. Her husband is a soldier. "My answer takes only two letters, O.K. Newcomers whose knowledge of rivet guns, drills, wrenches and other aircraft tools is only rudimentary, certainly appreciate help they get from the men. They're hard-working boys whose efforts are an inspiration to all of us."

Question: What was your girlhood ambition for a career, and what was your occupation before you came into the aviation shop?

Evelyn Walters: "I guess my ambition was to own a beauty parlor. . . . When the opportunity to attend aircraft school presented itself, I thought it would be something different and refreshing, in addition to being of value to the war effort. I'm certainly glad to have taken up aviation work."

Pauline Ordway: "One of my earliest ambitions was to be an egg candler, as I was very intrigued when my father examined the eggs. Actually though, I became a dental assistant. Later, I worked in the Republic cafeteria and when I had a chance to go to training school, you can bet I grabbed it. As a drill press operator, I find the work interesting, and after a day's work it makes me feel good that I have accomplished my small share in the drive to fill the skies with planes."

Agnes Nelson: "After I took a beauty culture course, I went to work in a beauty parlor. Then, when things didn't go too well, I went into the electrical assembly department of a company which manufactured permanent waving machinery. So although this work is not new to me, I'm happy that I'm helping build ships instead of waving equipment."

Questions:

- 1- What did you learn about these women from the interviews?
- 2- What else would you like to know about them?
- 3- Why do you think Republic Aviation printed these interviews in its company newspaper?
- 4- In your opinion, do these interviews challenge stereotypes about women? How?