

A. A Family That Works Together

Republic Aviation, November, 1942

Mom, Pop, Sis, Brother - Whole Gang Here Now

Airplane building is becoming more and more a family enterprise, judging by one of the trends at Republic Aviation, where almost every conceivable type of family relationship is in evidence. Fathers and daughters, mothers and sons, husbands and wives, sisters, and other family ties have cropped up now that the Company's accelerated hiring program has assimilated more than 1,000 women ranging from teenage girls to grandmothers.

Frequently, members of the same family work in teams, on operations where such a combination is possible. One of the riveting teams in the Wing Shop is William Kennedy of Smithtown and his wife, Stella. He has been at Republic for almost two years and slightly more than six months ago, when employment opportunities at the plant were expanded for women, he agreed when she expressed desire to take a training course.

Mrs. Kennedy says, "Every rivet we sink brings a closer bond between us. It's wonderful."

Mrs. Mary Rambars of Bay Shore doesn't have to wonder what her son and daughter are doing all day, and how they're getting along. She works at Republic with daughter, Isabella and son, Edward. All three are doing their share in producing the Thunderbolt fighter plane

Wives of night shift workers lead, in many cases a topsy-turvy life. Some of them complain and ask their husbands to request transfers to the day side, but that's not the way Ruth Diehl of Bay Shore handled the situation. She completed a training course and asked to be put on the night shift. With both of them living this upside-down way, there actually should be little difference.

Republic Aviation, 1943

Husbands, Wives on Same Shifts

Husbands and wives who both shoulder the war task of helping to produce the P-47 Thunderbolts here are being placed on the same shift whenever it is possible. The plan applies to people already in the plant, as well as those who will be hired for production jobs in the future, it was said by J. Sawyer Wilson, employment manager.

"Under this change, it will be possible for a man and his wife to lead a normal life, and still contribute to the war effort," Wilson remarked. "Whether they are both on the day shift or both on the night side, they still will be able to spend their non-working hours together."

Questions:

1. How is family life changing during the war?
2. Do you agree with the statement by Mrs. Kennedy? Why?
3. Would you want to work on the same shift or the same team as your husband or wife? Why?
4. In your opinion, how will working together affect family relationships?