

AS-1, "WWII, Working at Singer's and Remington Arms"

Transcript: pp. 14-16

Text portions for pop-ups/audio alternative

**Time-Line: Decade V, Local and National Events,
1941-45, "US in WWII. War orders pour into Bridgeport"**

AS I worked in a polishing room I was more or less making, see in the polishing room they make a lot of grinding wheels and they used different grids of sand. And that was my job to make up the wheels for the polishers. In the meantime I worked on some assembly work which was piece work at the, it was more or less he had me on day work and sometimes when they were a little caught up they put me on piece work. So I averaged maybe \$20 a week 15 cents an hour working Singer's when I was there...

I got hired. John Vraholak, he told me they were looking for a handyman. I says, I'll be there tomorrow and I got hired right on the street. See, the hiring was on Barnum Avenue it was an old building there, that's all torn down it's an empty lot now. But what happened when I went there, this is an old man, his name was he was a hired hand I think it was Ian before I went in I met him at the doorway then I start talking to him. I introduce myself, I mention --John Vraholak, a neighbor, said there was a job opening in his department. He says, "You're the man I'm looking for." Like I says, that was only 40 cents an hour...

I was there let's see I was there about a year on that first assignment, then I quit I took a job at Remington Arms. What happened, at that time early 40's or so they had a draft World War II and Remington Arms was giving good bonuses if you were drafted from Remington Arms. They were giving, oh maybe 2 or 3 months bonus if you were going in the armed forces so I went there, that's how it is, I didn't get into the Army (chuckle).

I So that was, of course, that was a munitions factory?

AS Oh yeah, that was all, Barnum Avenue was all blocked off I worked in the bullet area, steel cores. And I was on, I was more or less a machine tender for about 20 girls. I used to feed them the material, I was like the stock handler for them.

I And did you have to get special training to do that?

AS No, no, it was all labor work, all heavy, it was heavy work then and my back still hurts me from then everything was like lead and all that it was all heavy. It was a job to keep those girls going and then...

I ...they were hiring a lot of people during the war?

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AS Yeah, the pay was about 90 cents an hour it was about 36 bucks a week then. That was considered not bad, you know, at that time. And then I quit...
At Remington Arms I had all girls they kept me jumping, (chuckle), I was going home, Andy! Andy! my ears was burning, I said I gotta get a, I got off of that job. They transferred me to the stock room down in the cellar.