

EJ2 – Elizabeth Josephson, "Women as Managers"

Time-Line: Decade VI, Local and National Events, Points of National Interest, 1957, "Civil Rights Act"

Transcript: pp. 10-11

- EJ: Well, after a while, my uncle separated from the partner, and the partner eventually died, and he had to turn over the business, and I inherited the business that way.
- I: How were you prepared for it?
- EJ: I was always interested in the customers and interested in the product. I learned from the beginning. I was always in the shop, learning how they sewed the product or what kind of thread they had to use, how the thing was made. I had to make sure I had people I could delegate work to.
- I: That's true. So you had been learning.
- EJ: I didn't know how to sew myself. So I had people who knew more than I did.
- I: [laughs] How did your employees respond to you, once you moved into your managerial position?
- EJ: They all accepted it, except some of the men. They were always a little bit jealous.
- I: Really?
- EJ: Really.
- I: Did you have any stories -- anything in particular?
- EJ: Well, they always thought they knew more than I did, which they actually did in the sewing end of it. But not in the managerial -- they didn't know how to manage. They didn't understand the proper business, how time meant money.
- I: So did you have a hard time holding your ground?
- EJ: No. I just went along with the tide. [laughs]

I: [laughs] Sounds like the smart thing to do.

EJ: Well, you couldn't fight City Hall, like they always used to say. You had to pull the punches.