

HM2 – Helen Mott-Mench, "Benefits of UE union at GE"

**Time-Line: Decade V, Labor History Time Line, 1946,
"Bridgeport UE Workers at GE"**

Transcript: pp. 7, 10-11

I: How did things change when the union came in? Or did they change?

HM: Beautiful. Because we got a lot of results, and advantages we got, and the grievances were solved, like they were under-paid or they weren't getting paid for the jobs that they were performing, and all this. Because I know when I went to those union meetings for grievances, I didn't know whether I was going to win or lose. But there's a lot of people that I meet now all over town. They all know me by Helen Mench. They come up to me -- I don't know them. They say, "Oh, yes, you do, Helen. You were our steward." [laughs]

HM: One day I went to the picket line and I said, "I'm crossing the picket line." So they said, "Helen, you're not." I said, "Oh, yes, I am." I went right through the line. I went into the shop, and I'm going to everybody, "Scab, scab, scab." My boss came -- the one I worked for. He said, "Helen, we're going to call the police if you don't get out of the shop." I said, "I came for my shoes. I can't walk the picket line with the shoes I have on!" [laughs]
Oh, I was a terror in those times! How many times I almost went to jail!