

MS-1, "Description of Safety Gear for Women"

Transcript: p. 24

Text portion for pop-up/audio alternative

Time-Line: Decade V, Local and National Events

1942, "War Industries in Bridgeport hire more women"

MS: I didn't operate any machines.

I: No machines?

MS: No machines. I was there -- if they were really on a dangerous job and had long hair, I would have to apologize and say, "I'm sorry, but for your own sake, you've got to put a cap on. It's easier than losing your whole scalp." And they would. It was harder on the shoes because nobody wanted to wear the shoes. But if they were on a job, all it took was one person to be injured, and then everybody would wear it. The women had to wear the coveralls that I had on.

MW: Like in the picture?

MS: Yes. Because if you had loose blouses, that would get caught in the equipment. It was more of a check on the women, really, so that they wouldn't get hurt. It was knowledgeable for me because if they didn't understand something, I could find someone who would explain it to them, if they felt uncomfortable doing a job. I mean, I never would interfere or wouldn't. That was not my role. But I could get somebody -- and the foreman of the department, usually. But anybody coming into a department, just like anything else -- nobody likes it too much because they think that you're going to interfere with their authority. And that wasn't the point. But it took all kinds of people to do all kinds of jobs. And there were a lot of women employed...