

Sara Diamond: So, did you kind of go in there because you figured you would make good wages?

Jonnie Rankin: No, there wasn't any choice. About good wages, I made 55 cents an hour and that was the minimum wage and that was what we were paid. No, we didn't have choice you see, what we had as wages and what didn't...people came from all over from the prairies, that's why they had Alice's thing in here (picks up book on Marine workers), because it was work.

Sara Diamond: Yeah, and it was after the Depression.

Jonnie Rankin: Yeah! That's what brought it on, when they started producing for war, there was work, suddenly there was all this money for industry after the Depression when nobody worked any place, hardly. No, it's just that I got a chance of getting a job.

Sara: So, how many women were there?

Jonnie Rankin: Oh, I have no idea. Can't remember, there were a lot of us anyways, there must have been a thousand of us in there, it seemed like it.

Sara Diamond: And were the women hired in groups?

Jonnie Rankin: Yeah, we hired through this lady that I was telling you about, we went into a special office, and hired through there. And were assigned to different departments, wherever they took so many women.

Sara Diamond: What kind of training was there?

Jonnie Rankin: No training, you just went in, it was like, it was just...if you'd been in the Depression and never worked, and then started raising kids at seventeen like I did; it was an entirely different world believe me (laughs) when I went in the shipyards.