

The Baltimore Rosies: Disc Two, Session 4

The Real Rosie The Riveter Project

Interview 5

Interview Conducted by

Anne de Mare & Kirsten Kelly

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Baltimore, Maryland

For The

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Date: April 16, 2010

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De Mare: So, can we just begin... for the camera, can you just again tell me your names, introduce yourself.

Green: Vera Green.

Bartholomey: Leona Bartholomey.

De Mare: And can you tell me where you worked during the war?

Green: Eastern Aircraft.

Bartholomey: I first worked for Glen L. Martins, in the, uh, D building as a Rosie the Riveter. And then I left to go to see my husband while he was here in the United States and stayed a couple months and came back and, uh, my job wasn't there but they sent me to Eastern Aircraft. And that's where I spent the rest of the war.

De Mare: Okay. Um, can you talk a little bit about, uh, what you remember about the... going to work for the first time, getting your first paycheck, what that meant to you back then to be employed. And how the... how the money was. If it was a lot of money, if it was a little money; how it affected you. Yeah.

Green: When... when we went... When I went to Eastern Aircraft, which was from the very beginning when it first opened, uh, we had two weeks of schooling to learn how to rivet. After two weeks they placed you in a department. My department was the rudder department, which is the back end of the airplane. And like you said... asked, um, about money, yeah, we made dollar fourteen an hour. That was a lot compared to what some of the other places were, you know, yeah... so of course we had to budget our money 'cause there was just one pay comin' in. And, uh, I think my rent at the time was like fifty dollars a month. That was a lot of money then, so, we had to, you know, learn how to budget your money so it lasts.

De Mare: Were you living with your family or were you living on your own?

Green: At first I was on my own; then I brought my sisters down. My husband went overseas. He was... he was in the service already but we married and then he went overseas, and then I brought two sisters down with me. Yeah.

00:02:06:22-----

De Mare: And what about you?

Bartholomey: Well, I first went through... I was working. I worked as a behind-the-counter in a, um, restaurant. Friends of ours had a restaurant downtown Baltimore. And, uh, I wanted to get into the, you know... they were advertising Glen L. Martins, uh, they needed help down there and I wanted to get into office because I was training for office work. I was eighteen, married. Got married in, in, um, um, April of forty-two and he went in the service in August of forty-two. So I went down there and I got a job but it wasn't an office job. It was this... they asked me if I wanted to become a Rosie the Riveter, they would teach me how to do it. I thought, oh, great, I'd like to try that. So I did- went to school not quite two weeks- I don't think... it doesn't seem like it was that

long- but they put me in the back tail section of the PBM-3 in D Building in Glen L. Martins and that's how I started.

De Mare: So you were both actually riveters.

Bartholomey: Right.

De Mare: Can you explain to me... if... if... now if someone didn't know what riveting was, could you explain to me what you used to do?

Green: I have... I have showed the small rivet... rivets in my book.

Bartholomey: Yeah.

Green: If you girls would like to see it.

Bartholomey: I don't even know what...

Green: But... but we are... we had rivets as big as that that were hard to, you know, to... the little ones weren't so bad but it's the big ones that were tough. And, uh, one... one person would, like, sh... shoot the gun with the rivet, and

the other person was behind you and they had a metal bar, heavy metal bar, they called it bucking. They bucked the rivet, you know. Sealed up any holes that were there. So that... that's about what I did. 'Course when, you know, like the light you see on the back of the airplane, I did all that, too. And that was welded, you know. Yeah, I did all that good stuff.

00:04:03:22-----

Bartholomey: Well, mine was the same thing and I worked at Glen L. Martins on the F tail section, like I said, and it was getting into the plane and riveting to the outside; getting outside and riveting to the inside. 'Cause I was tall but I was slender at that time. I could get... crawl in and out of the airplane. But when I went... then, when I came back from visiting my husband they didn't have a riveting job there for me, but they sent me over to, uh, Eastern Aircraft, where, uh...

Green: Where I worked.

Bartholomey: ...Vera worked. And, uh, they put me in the... in the, uh, finished stores department. That's where they

kept all the pieces to the airplanes. The parts that they were working on. And...

Green: That was called the tool crib.

Bartholomey: The tool crib.

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: Well, we called it the finished stores department.

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: And, uh, I had to keep the logs of everything in that... oh, it was big. It was a huge place. And I had a... a partner and she'd help me, you know. We... the two of us would keep... she... While she was waiting on somebody, I would enter all that from the... the order that we got. Do stuff with that and then... then she would do several and then I would do a couple of 'em. And we'd give out all the materials that they needed. I loved it. It was really good to do. But...

00:05:20:01-----

De Mare: But you... you had worked before the war behind the counter.

Bartholomey: Right.

De Mare: Did you work before the war or was this... was your first...?

Green: Oh, yeah. I worked in a cotton factory. I worked in a cotton mill for a while. My very first job.

Bartholomey: Yeah, like that was my first job.

Green: It was on... oh, you wouldn't know where it... it was located, like in a section called Woodbury.

De Mare: And what did you do there?

Green: Everything. Learn how to, you know, put the, uh, bob- they called them 'bobbins'- in to the things, and it spins and fills up a spool, you know.

Bartholomey: Oh.

Green: I didn't like it.

De Mare: And how... what was the pay like there? How much...
Do you remember how much you made?

Green: It was cheap. I don't even remember, that's how
long ago. It was cheaper than a dollar fourteen.

De Mare: Yeah.

Green: Mm.

De Mare: And what... what was it like when you... I mean, how
did you find out that you could do this work and make this
much money? Do you remember what... how you got the job and
when you...

Green: Yeah. Well, I...

De Mare: Yeah.

Green: I had a friend that lived in the upstairs apartment from... See, I first lived with my aunt and uncle after my mom died. And they lived over top of us, right? And this one girl says to me, "Come on, let's go, uh, go get a job." You know. "Okay." So we get the job. We were hired to... at the place there and... but I don't remember how much I made. But then we saw it in the paper where Eastern Aircare... Craft was hiring, you know. So that's how... we went down there and, uh, two weeks we had to learn how to rivet. And they had bosses going around showing you how to... how to rivet, make sure you're doing it right, you know. Piece of cake, you know. Was... wasn't that bad, we've wondered how the heck can a guy, you know... they say that women can't do men's work. It was so easy, you know.

00:07:04:05-----

De Mare: (overlapping) Did you...

Green: (overlapping) We... we showed 'em. We showed 'em.

Bartholomey: (overlapping) Yes. Mm. Because mine was two men in there, you know, and we two women took care of that for a couple years back in that finished storage

department. It was different, and the only thing I didn't like about was the... the eleven to seven shift, from the night to the morning.

Green: Yeah, 'cause see they...

Bartholomey: I hated... whoo.

Green: I.. I was tellin'... we worked two weeks...

Bartholomey: One shift.

Green: Each shift. Every two weeks you worked a different shift. That way everybody had that chance, you know, to... whether you liked it or not...

Bartholomey: Or not, you did it.

Green: You did it.

De Mare: You never had a chance to get used to any schedule, then?

Green: (overlapping) No.

Bartholomey: (overlapping) No.

De Mare: That's interesting. Yeah.

Bartholomey: For sleep it was terrible, you know, 'cause during the day you... you wanted to sleep more, but if you got home at three o'clock in the afternoon, four o'clock, whatever time we got home from the day shift, it was regular shift like. You had to learn to do that all over again.

00:08:00:13-----

Green: It's... it was hard, like, when to eat, you know. Your... your system's used to lunch in one system and by the time you get used to one shift you had to change it all over again, you know.

Bartholomey: Yes.

Green: But...

De Mare: And you had no... you couldn't request to work at a different shift...

Green: (overlapping) Oh, no, no, no, no. Oh, no, no, no, no.

De Mare: ...you just had to (unintelligible).

Green: That was it.

De Mare: Wow. Can you talk a little bit... I know that in the... in the first part of the war there weren't as many women working on the floor. It was both men and women, and then as the war went on it became- as the men went off- more and more women. Can you talk about the dynamic of what it was like to work right alongside of men doing that kind of work?

Green: No, no problem.

Bartholomey: I didn't have any problem with that.

Green: No, no, we never.

Bartholomey: They were all respectful. I mean, it was women and men in, uh, Eastern Aircraft because they'd come up to get the materials like, you know, have certain people come up and get whatever they needed.

Green: They had the greatest bosses.

Bartholomey: Yeah.

Green: They were all men, you know. Greatest.

00:08:52:13-----

Kelly: What... what made them great?

Green: They were just very nice to... to the wo... all the women, you know, and very... if you needed help right away, you know, they were... they were there. Yeah. They were very nice to us. Not stuffy, you know what I mean? They weren't, you know, some people let their jobs go to their head. They weren't like that. Mm-nn.

De Mare: Now, were there any... were there any women in the management positions or was it all men?

Green: No. All men.

Bartholomey: As far as I know. I never had a lady boss.

Green: On the floor they were all men. I don't know what was behind, but, you know.

Bartholomey: They still had the older men that were still, you know...

Green: They were 4F.

Bartholomey: They were capable. (overlapping) You know, 4F or... or older men in a job...

Kelly: (overlapping) 4F?

Green: (overlapping) If they were 4F meant that they... they weren't... weren't able to go fight in the war. They had somethin' wrong or some... some of them had.. if... if they had how many children or what, then they wouldn't... they wouldn't take 'em.

00:09:44:21-----

De Mare: Can you, um, can we go back a little bit...

Green: Yeah.

De Mare: ...and can you talk about, like, what it was like to grow up when you were a child. I know that there was a lot of, I mean, during the Depression there was a lot of economic hardship, what it was like to grow up during that and then the transition into working and earning your own money. Can you just talk a little bit about wh... how you grew up and... and how that changed for you?

Green: Very poor. We were... everybody was like that, though. It was tough, and I come from a family of eight children. My mother passed away when she was forty-five. Eight children at home, and my dad was five years later. He was gone. That's why I came to Maryland... Maryland, 'cause I had an aunt and uncle down here. They... our family got split. My brothers all went in the service, and the girls were kind of split, you know.

So I came to live in... with my aunt. But it was hard for them, you know, to... the whole... the whole growin' up

period, 'cause we were (from) a big family, you know. But, they made it. We had a roof over our head, food on the table and clothes on our back. No luxuries; no toys like kids have today. No computers. You know, we roughed it.

De Mare: Yeah, yeah.

Bartholomey: I was raised on a farm, not at first, I was born in Baltimore City. And, uh, my mom and dad had lived in New Jersey, and they came to Maryland, uh, they were from Maryland. They ran away and got married, they lived up there. And my sister was a year old, an' m... my mother found out she was gonna' have another baby, and she wanted to come home to the farm. But she wasn't welcomed at the farm. So, anyhow, they lived in... in Highlandtown; close to Highlandtown. Pulaski Highway and, uh, Robinson street. And it was a little four-room house; I was born there.

Before I was a year old, we were in a house. My grandmother had built them a house, and made up with them, and we went back home to the farm. So, my mom died, I was um, four, um.. wait a minute... get my story straight... We had five children. The oldest was seven, my mom died. I was next, I was five and a half, goin' on six. I had a brother bree... after me, a sister after him, and a baby five and a

half months old. My mom died overnight. She got, um, double pneumonia. In those days they didn't have the drugs they have today. She died overnight, and we were all left without a mama.

So, my dad kept us together for four years. It was during Depression, and my grandmother didn't have the work on the farm, and he was... he was, at that time, laid off from the railroad. He worked down Sparrows Point on the railroad. And he drowned after four years. Great... Dundock... it, one of the pools they have around there. It was called Snake Hole, you remember that. And we were left orphans.

So, my dad... like I said, my dad kept us together for four years. We had person come and take care of us. Then, uh, each one of my aunts took one of us. My grandmother... my grandmother took my oldest sister and my brother, my aunt next door to my grandmother- they all lived on the same farm back (Overneck?) Road. And, um, my... my brother and sister went with Grandma. Aunt Barb took her godchild, which was my... one of my younger sisters. And the baby, who was five and a half months old, my aunt took to Highlandtown and raised her as her own, although she... All her life she knew that we were her sisters, and my dad would go up and bring her down so we'd be with her.

Then I met my husband while I was living with my cousin in Highlandtown, and that's where I met my husband. Uh, I was visiting his sister, and we went out on a blind date. It was on Valentine's Day. And that's how I met and married him within... well, I knew him since he was thirteen. And I didn't know, you know, that I'd fall in love with him. So we got married in April of forty-two, and he went in the service in August, and I went to Martins to work.

And that's where I was... went to get... I was workin' in the restaurant then. And, uh, I made twice as much money, you know, 'cause it was behind-the-counter there and you didn't make much money in tips behind the counter. So, when I got there and they told us how much money we were gonna make, I thought, "Oh, that's great," you know. So, I went to work at Martins. And four, um...

Green: And she made lot of money.

Bartholomey: Yep. Made a lot... boy that was great. But there we worked one shift, like it, one... then the next shift was three to eleven, the next shift was... wha... we weren't...

Green: You mean one week.

Bartholomey: One week at a time.

Green: Oh, we were on two weeks at a time.

Bartholomey: I'm thirsty.

De Mare: You want some water? We can get you some water.

00:14:38:05-----

Green: Union Hall.

De Mare: Okay.

Green: I'm goin' to the...

Kelly: Okay. (unintelligible)

De Mare: Here we go. We're gonna get...

Green: Twenty-fourth is next Saturday...

Bartholomey: Yeah.

Green: ...that you're talking about.

Bartholomey: Right. Right.

Green: You're... you're goin'...

De Mare: Um, so I just overheard you were having some conversations about union.

Bartholomey: Yeah.

De Mare: Unions. Can you talk about whether there were unions at that time and... and when unions came into the...

Green: They had unions. Yeah.

Bartholomey: They had a union?

Green: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

Bartholomey: (overlapping) I... I didn't know that.

Green: (overlapping) The... see they... the... General Motors,
there was all... there was a union.

Bartholomey: Oh, yeah. Over at Eastern Aircraft.

Green: And it just carried over, you know. Yeah.

De Mare: Were you a...

Green: (Overlapping) We had a union, yeah.

De Mare: Were you a member of the union?

00:15:11:16-----

De Mare: Were you...

Green: (overlapping) We all were.

De Mare: (overlapping) You were?

Green: (overlapping) We all went in.

Bartholomey: (overlapping) We all had to join. I guess I joined it...

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: ...'cause I worked there.

Green: Yeah. It was nice. They had a good union, really. General Motors had a good union, all the time.

De Mare: And do... did you pay dues to the union, then?

Green: Yeah. Uh-huh. Yeah.

De Mare: Now, do you remember, as a woman, did you earn the same amount of money as the men?

Green: Yeah. Oh, yeah.

Bartholomey: Yeah.

De Mare: You did?

Bartholomey: We were comparable. Yes, that's...

Green: (Overlapping) Yes, we did. Same. It was the same.

De Mare: Awesome.

Green: And we also had black people workin' in there. Where people said, you know, "Did black people work with you?" Yeah. Nothin' happened.

De Mare: So, it was a very... it was a very amenable place to work?

Bartholomey: Oh, I think so.

Green: (overlapping) Of course. I grew up with black people, so there... to me, they was nothin', you know.

Bartholomey: We had black people livin' right on the farm.

Green: (overlapping) We had... we were... we were integrated in school, so that was no problem, you know. So.

De Mare: Is her microphone okay? Because it's pulled back.

00:16:00:27-----

De Mare: So, uh, just to... to... to move... to go back again to... to when you first started working. Do you remember, just because I don't think people understand what the dollar was and how... how much you earned and what you spent your money on? Can you talk a little bit about that? Do you remember?

Green: Sure. Sure. We... same way it is now. We had rent, of course we don't have no met... the electronics like today that the p... you know, you know what I mean. But we pay rent, we pay our utilities. We didn't pay water- we were in the county. Yeah. And, uh, you know, household things and... and your clothes. No shoes. I mean, shoes were ss... you were rationed. Everything was rationed, you know.

Bartholomey: Right.

Green: And, uh, but I have to tell you about my childh... She was waitin' for... I was getting... we were getting married

like July... no, August the eighth of 1943. So, in two weeks I had a wedding to put together, right? I did it. And then...

Bartholomey: It's true.

Green: ...I called... I... I wrote to my... my father and I says, "Gettin' married such and such a day, I need you to bring my b... birth certificate from ss... from the church," you know, baptismal and all that stuff. And I says, "And I would like for you to come down and give me away at our wedding." Well, which my father did. And, uh, but everybody's worried about how you gonna get shoes, you know. We had one stamp- was the number thirteen stamp in our ration book- and that's the stamp. I saved it for when I got married, you know, to buy shoes. White shoes for my wedding. But we had a complete wedding: three bridesmaids, for... three ushers, best man, and maid-of-honor. Everything.

Bartholomey: I... I had the same thing, actually.

Green: Somebody... somebody knew somebody that had a little band. 'Bout ten dollars for a band. Somebody- beer and

everything was rationed, right? I mean, you just couldn't buy it. Well, they managed to find bottles of beer, right? So my husband's ank... uncle had a bar; he took the bottled beer and gave us the kegs of beer, okay? And... and... and every... everything was like... people... and as far as food went, everybody pitched in their meat stamps. And we made sandwiches and stuff like that, you know. Not like what it is now. But we had a wedding. Everybody had a good time. My father told my... my husband, best wedding he ever went to.

00:18:37:28-----

Bartholomey: I also got married as a bride...

Green: (overlapping) It was... we had fun... I had my white gown on and the a... and the girls all... it was like a rainbow wed... we got what they had. I mean, you just didn't pick. We got what there... whatever they had. And it was beautiful. Yeah.

Bartholomey: Mine... mine was the... mine was the same way.

I...

Green: (overlapping) Two weeks. Two weeks I did. Today it goes a whole year, you know.

Bartholomey: I had to go back to work the next week, you know. So whe... whe... went to see the priest about gettin' married, I was only seventeen. And, uh, he would... he didn't wanna marry us. And he says, "When are you gonna be eighteen?" And I says, "April the eleventh." This was in February, early March. And, uh, I said, uh, "Why can't, you know, why can't I get married if my...?" He says, "First of all, whose your, um, guardian?" I says, "My aunt." And my aunt lived several blocks from where I lived. And I had to go back to her and tell her about it and she wouldn't let me get married.

She says, "I... you're my... under my guardianship until April the eleventh, at which time, you all... I will give you all my blessing." So I said, "Alright." Michael's sitting there, you know, not sayin' a word. He's... and I looked at him and he looked... and he says, "That's okay. We can wait." So we went up back to the priest and he put us up for April the twenty-fifth. I had to get, you know, my... between that time and April the twenty-fifth to get my wedding together. And I didn't have a gown, I didn't have any shoes, I wanted new underwear, I...

Green: I did better than you.

Bartholomey: ...was workin' and... and... I needed new... a... I... I went... the only way I could get a gown, somebody told me about a costume shop. I went all up downtown Baltimore. Right near the, uh, Stanley Theatre, they had a costume shop. I bought the most... I rented the most beautiful brocade... I was gettin' married in April, I wanted something a little heavier, brocade satin with a little tail on it. Not long, but it was form fitting. I was tall and I was a big girl. So, I got that. It had the... the mutton sleeves like, you know, and it had a little, uh, uh, crown, of rr... what do you call them? Orange blossoms. And a little veil.

And all the thing I had to do now was worry about underwear. I didn't know where I was gonna get the money to buy underwear. So, my sister and I got together and with her help and my help we got me some new underwear and a new pair of shoes. And I had a reg... a regular wedding. I had two, uh, bridesmaids, and a maid-of-honor, and, uh, two attendants and... and... I didn't have a father to give me away but I have a cousin that put me through Catholic, uh, secretarial school. And he was a real short little man.

He came up to here on me. Really a dapper Danny. Dressed well, you know, and real... and, uh, we're standing on... and he says, "Yeah, I'll give you away." He says, "But I wanna tell you, do you think you're doing the right thing? You..." Well, he gave me the whole history, you know, and all this. I says, "Yeah, I know what I'm doing."

So, um, I got married, Michael had his brother as a... a... well, his brother was supposed to stand in and his brother didn't show up, so we had a friend that stood in for us. And we got married at mass and then went to his mother's for breakfast. She fixed a breakfast buffet. And then all his buddies and everybody pitched in for the... the beer and whatever. Lasted until two o'clock in the morning. Everybody's half drunk, you know.

00:22:18:16-----

Green: Oh, we were... we were even in the... remember the Moose Hall...

Bartholomey: Yeah.

Green: ...on the King Island?

Bartholomey: Yeah.

Green: That's where my... where my reception was.

Bartholomey: (overlapping) We had... we had... we had it at my mother-in-law's house.

Green: (overlapping) Oh, we were really uptown, I'm tellin' ya.

Bartholomey: But it was great. And three years... three months later he was in the service.

De Mare: Can you talk a little bit about what it was like to be home while your husbands were away? Can you talk about... I want... I wanna hear about the letters, how you communicated with each other. But can you just talk about... about that whole time in your life?

Green: Well, see during our time, we didn't have, like, husbands to call you back and let you know how they're doin'.

Bartholomey: No phone. We didn't have a phone.

Green: First of all, you didn't have a phone. And second of all, that did.. didn't happen then. It's just now they.. they, you know, cc.. oohhh.. communicate like that.

Bartholomey: With a cellphone.

Green: we commuted by mail.

Bartholomey: Texting.

Green: And then, goin' out or comin' back, your mail was censored.

Bartholomey: Oh, that was bad.

Green: And a lot of times you'd get your mail- and the mail was called 'V mail'.

Bartholomey: 'V mail.'

Green: It came like a... like that. They would, like, you would write, you know, or they would write, and it was like all censored. Holes in it, you know, and, uh...

Bartholomey: It was awful.

Green: It was terrible. It was terrible. That was our news but one thing gotta say, everybody, I mean, working with everybody, it... everybody was in the same boat, you know.

Bartholomey: (overlapping) Everybody was in the same boat.

00:23:39:11-----

Green: I got a letter, I told everybody what was goin' on. You got a letter, same way back. I mean, it kept us all interested, you know.

Bartholomey: We knew where they were..

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: ...but we didn't know the exact..

Green: Yeah. You...

Bartholomey: ...point they were, you know.

Green: That's right. You...

Bartholomey: We never knew that.

Green: They could never tell ya.

De Mare: Now, uh, you were working on airplanes, correct?

Green: Right.

Bartholomey: (overlapping) Right.

De Mare: Now, uh, how did that make you feel to be working on the equipment that was being sent over? Can you talk about like what it was like to participate in the war effort and...?

Bartholomey: I thought it was great that we were...

Green: Oh, yeah.

Bartholomey: ...into somethin' helpin' out to the war effort. That's...

Green: Everybody was patriotic.

Bartholomey: Oh.

Green: Everybody was. You didn't hear this, like... like now they're protesting this...

Bartholomey: Yeah.

Green: ...and they're doin' that...

Bartholomey: We never had none of that in our day.

Green: ...or... ya... we didn't have stuff like that, you know. And, uh, everybody's patriotic, everybody had a banner in their window with how many people in their family was in the service. My dad had five.

Bartholomey: Flags.

Green: Five. Little flags like that... trimmed in red,
white and blue.

Bartholomey: If they... if they...

Green: With the stars.

00:24:41:29-----

Green: And some of them had gold stars.

Bartholomey: (overlapping) Gold stars- that was...

Green: They called them gold star mothers, yeah.

Bartholomey: They were killed in action.

Green: They were killed, yeah.

Bartholomey: So if you ever see...

Green: But my... my father luckily had... he had five. And
everyone came back, see.

Bartholomey: Yeah. It was a little red, white and...

Green: My father...

Bartholomey: ...blue flag with a blue star...

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: ...in the middle. And mine was, but the...

Green: (Overlapping) And he... my dad made his own wine. See, I come from an Italian family, right? My dad made his own wine every year. He saved a barrel of wine for when my brothers would all... when everybody would come home. It was gonna be like a really big family thing, you know. My dad died on V.E. Day- the day the war in Europe end... ended. Very same day.

Bartholomey: Who did?

Green: My father.

Bartholomey: Really? Wow. I didn't know that.

Green: That's why... that's why I had my V.E. button in... on...
in my...

Bartholomey: Yeah. I know she has one of those...

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: ...V.E. buttons.

Green: He had... people were going to church, and my father
was... had just finished building a fence around his house,
you know. He had moved from the house we grew up in to
another. And he just finished build... said hello to
everybody. Everybody's happy, goin' to church w... the war
ended, y'know. When they came out of church, he was gone.
My dad.

Bartholomey: Oh, my.

00:25:51:22-----

Green: Then I got... we... my sister and I got called at work
and we had to go home. But, uh, that was sad, but I'll...
I'll never forget that, you know.

De Mare: What about... what other things did you work on?
Which different airplanes did you work...

Green: Airplane... we worked on near... Navy airplanes. The Avenger, the Drummond, Hellcat, Wildcat. They were all Navy planes, yeah.

Bartholomey: The one that was... that, at the time that I was with Martins, was a PBM 3. It was a seaplane.

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: And we were invited- whenever they would finish a plane- we were invited to go out- Middle River's right there, you know? And we w... it was right... they would take the ship down there and invite everybody that wanted to come to see the ship go off for the first time like, you know. It was fun.

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: It really was. A lot of them would walk out, you know, they'd get time off to do that. So, you know, a lot of them went out.

Green: You know that... and, like goin' to work, you know, there... it was such secrecy anyhow.

Bartholomey: Oh, yeah, yeah.

Green: I mean, you talk about...

Bartholomey: That's somethin'.

Green: ...checkin' on people, when we go in and out of the building, you had to open up any box or your purse...

Bartholomey: (overlapping) Bag.

Green: Everyday. In. Out.

Bartholomey: And they..

Green: And I don't care if you went in and out ten times. You got... you had to open up...

Bartholomey: That bag.

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: Anything you carried, they looked in, you know.

Green: That's right.

Bartholomey: And, of course, they... they... they were... some people were frisked. I never was.

Green: No, I never was.

Bartholomey: But every... occasionally...

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: ...they would frisk somebody. They caught a couple people trying to get out tools and all, like, that.

Green: Yeah.

00:27:25:19-----

Green: But the...

Kelly: Did you... ww... were there any spies or anything at that time?

Bartholomey: We don't know that. I never...

Green: No.

Bartholomey: I never heard of that. But they were always in ch... everything was camouflage, you know. Down Middle River, or wherever you are now...

Green: (overlapping) No. But they were... they were really strict about... even... even to go to the bathroom, I mean, you just didn't go by yourself, y'know.

Bartholomey: ...they had a big camouflage over the parking lots and everything was camouflage.

Green: Oh, yeah.

Bartholomey: Remember that?

Green: Windows were all camouflaged. Oh, god.

Bartholomey: Even the streets, you know, you...

Green: (overlapping) The streets... the streets were dark,
no lights.

Bartholomey: We didn't have lights like you have today.

Green: And nobody hit you on the head, either. Never had
that.

Bartholomey: No. Never had anybody breakin' your hh... arm
or anything like that, you know.

Green: Your... your... your homes had to be ... had to have
dark...

Bartholomey: Dark curtains.

Green: ...curtains at... at night. You could have light in
your house, but you had to have dark curtains to keep it...

Bartholomey: If not the... the sergeant or whoever was in charge, they'd... they'd knock on your door. Yeah.

Green: (overlapping) They had air raid... air raid personnel going through the neighborhoods. If they saw light you were in trouble.

Bartholomey: It was black, 'cause I would walk from my aunt's to our house, which... to my husband's house, from... from... uh, one... about six blocks. I was scared to death.

Green: But nobody was... just never saw it in the papers or anything.

Bartholomey: No, no.

00:28:32:22-----

Kelly: Did you ever... did you have a drills? Uh...

Bartholomey: Air raids? Yep. Mm-hm. Yeah.

Green: (overlapping) Air raid drills. Yeah.

Kelly: Yeah? Tell me about those.

Bartholomey: Well, I don't really even remember. We were working most of the time...

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: ...when they had 'em.

Green: They'd go off, we'd be at work. Yeah.

Bartholomey: You know, at night, they mostly were at night when they had them.

Green: But they used the... that used to blow... like you see on T.V. in some...

Bartholomey: That's how you'd hear it comin'.

Green: ...some of the areas, that's the way it'd go off, you know.

Bartholomey: It was scary.

Green: You had a- like they say- duck and cover. Yeah.

Bartholomey: Then they had people out watchin' for airplanes also.

Green: Oh, yeah.

Bartholomey: You know, the civil air patrol, whatever they called that.

Green: Yeah.

De Mare: Where did you go? Where did you duck? I mean, you say duck and cover?

Bartholomey: Say, if you were in a... you gotta go in the basement.

Green: (overlapping) If you were in a house you had to go in the basement.

00:29:10:12-----

Bartholomey: That's the first thing.

Green: No lights at all on the hou... You didn't have even, like, y... electricity and all. If you had a candle goin', you had to make sure it... it wouldn't flicker outs... you know.

Bartholomey: I didn't tell you about having food in the holding... food at home ruin or...

Green: (overlapping) I mean, it was really... really... they were good. I mean, they were good about all this stuff. Now it's... it's... it's so different from now. Mm.

De Mare: What is... what is it... I know it was... you both said, you know, you were... you were so happy to be able to help, to do this work.

Green: Oh, yeah.

Bartholomey: Mm-hm.

De Mare: How do you think it affected you later in your life that you did this really important work? That you felt... how did you feel...

Bartholomey: I was always proud of what I did and I was always proud of our...

Green: My... my family is more proud because...

Kelly: (unintelligible)

Green: ...they... they'll talk about... mm... "My mother or my grandmother," you know, "they did all this". They were... they get a kick out of my book. Every so often they'll look at it, you know.

Bartholomey: It's a beautiful book. She's got everything in there.

Green: And I was g... I was thinkin' about donatin' it to the museum, but they'd hollered at me, they told me no.

00:30:06:21-----

De Mare: Your family?

Green: Because it's...

Bartholomey: Yeah.

Green: ...to pass it down to the family. Yeah.

Bartholomey: I think that's a... keep it in your family,
yes.

Green: "Oh, don't do it, Mom, don't do it." But I was... at
first I thought about donatin' it.

Bartholomey: Several things, yeah, you can give to them,
but nothing...

Green: But I got young grandkids...

Bartholomey: Yeah.

Green: ...great-gran... great grandchildren, you know, coming
down the line. I... you know...

De Mare: What... what kind of work did you do after the war?
Did you stay...

Green: My family.

Bartholomey: Sec...

Green: I raised a family.

Bartholomey: Secretarial. I did secretarial work.

Green: No, I didn't work after... aft...

Bartholomey: (overlapping) I worked for... in and around
Baltimore County Public Schools for seventeen years, but I
was always in the secretarial end of the business.

Green: And then... yeah...

Bartholomey: After I left Martins.

Green: When... then when my kids grew, you know, g... grew up
and went on their own, then I went to work in the jewelry
store. White collar job, and that...

Bartholomey: You were there for a long time.

Green: Eighteen years. Yeah. Eighteen years. Yeah.

De Mare: Did you miss doing the physical work? Did you like... 'cause you both talked about how much you liked doing it. Did you...?

Green: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah, you miss it.

Bartholomey: Yeah, you missed it...

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: ...you know, and you wish you were... and I didn't wish to be back in because of the war...

Green: No.

Bartholomey: ...you know, I wouldn't wanna do that. But I think any woman can do what she puts her mind down to it.

Green: (overlapping) You missed all... all the people you met, you know. Really, it was... 'cause in my... in my

wedding, I st... I have the picture- and these were people I worked with, right? The girls. Even my boss- he was an usher in the wedding. That's how... how friendly we all were, y'know. It's like a big family. And, uh, like I look at the picture- I'm the only one livin'. Really. Out of... out of my whole wedding party, I'm the only one livin'.

00:31:36:26-----

De Mare: What do you think was...

Bartholomey: You know what? Mine is, too. I'm just sittin' here thinkin' about my wedding party. Everybody's dead...

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: ...but me. My cousins... I had a couple cousins in my wedding, and they're all dead.

Green: Yeah.

De Mare: What do you think was, you know, I... I understand it was a very positive working exper... What do you... what

were the challenges that you think you faced? What were the hardest things about being a young person at that time and working with your husbands away? What was... what were the challenges you faced? Can you talk about that?

Bartholomey: No. We lived with everything we had to do, you know. I don't... I don't really think challenge is the right word. I... I missed my husband. I missed the other things that the married couples had, you know, because I didn't have my husband home. But everybody was... everybody had somebody...

Green: I... I think that's what helped. Everybody was the same, you know.

Bartholomey: You know, we all went through...

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: ...every family that I knew had people in the service, you know. And, uh, we... we just worked until the war was over. Like for money, you know, I made good money. And my father-in-law was always after me to put some away for a rainy day, you know. So he'd borrow money from me,

and he'd put it away. And at the end of the month he says, "How're you doin' there, girl?" He called me 'girl' all the time. I said, "I'm doin' fine." He says, "Can you use a couple bucks?" I said, "Yeah, why? You got a couple to lend me?" He'd go downstairs and get me a couple of bucks. He says, "This is the money I put away for you."

Green: Hey, you know what I paid rent? Brand new apartment. You're gonna flip your lid. I had a brand new two-bedroom apartment with a living room...

Bartholomey: I remember this, too.

Green: ...and a kitchen and a nice bed... bathroom. Fifty dollars a month. You girls gonna blow your mind?

00:33:24:18-----

Bartholomey: Essex (Tower?) Gate Apartments in- I'm not Essex (Tower?) Gate- but it was down in Essex, uh...

Green: This... this... this was on Eastern Avenue.

Bartholomey: Was it?

Green: Uh, yeah.

Bartholomey: This was in a community of apartments, like, you know, my sister and I shared an apartment 'cause both of them were in the service, you know. She had her bedroom, I had mine. Her husband was here in Maryland, mine was in Germany somewhere, I don't know. Anyhow, he was here, he was a sailor and he got in more often, but it was... it... you know...

Green: Brand-new apartment.

Bartholomey: We had fun in those new apartments, didn't we? I never was in a new apartment in my life.

Green: It was brand new. First one in it. Such beautiful floors, you know.

Bartholomey: (overlapping) We shared expenses. It was fine.

Kelly: How were, um, you know, you think of that time in your life, how do you think it affected the rest of your life? Being a Rosie the Riveter? How did it, like...

Green: Well, you know, really it... it doesn't affect us as much as it does now, when they started recognizing the Rosies. I mean, we did our thing and that was it. Nobody ever asked us anything about it, you know.

Bartholomey: (overlapping) No, everybody knew we worked in the ff...

Green: And... and... and once we got involved with it, and we, boy, people really think we're somethin', you know. We're... we're goin' in the parade, you know, and people are clap... especially the men. The men in the par... you know, in the...

Bartholomey: Oh, they always clap.

Green: They thank you and they go salutin' us on... you know.

Bartholomey: All the way through the... you... you...

Green: It never happened before.

Bartholomey: It was a long parade, let me tell you. And every place we went the guys would go like this, you know...

Green: (overlapping) They're salutin' us. Yeah.

Bartholomey: Or they'd go...

Green: I mean, that made you feel good, you know.

00:34:58:14-----

Kelly: Why do you think that changed? Like, sud... why did that start to happen, do you think?

Green: I think... I think because the country never recognized us, really. The country...

Bartholomey: (Overlapping) And we got these ladies got together with the...

Green: (overlapping) ...never rec... they never had nothin' good to say about the women that worked in the... in... it was

always the men. Which... alright. They... they earned that right, re... really.

Bartholomey: It was some la... lady in New York...

Green: (overlapping) And sometimes you felt, like, we shou... we... we worked for the war, too, you know.

Bartholomey: Vera, wasn't it some lady up in New York that started this all?

Green: Yes. Yeah, yeah, she started...

Bartholomey: (unintelligible)

Green: She... she felt the same way, but... but then once... once the college do... down here got it started, then...

Bartholomey: Yeah. There's lots of 'em down here.

Green: (overlapping) ...then it got started, you know. That's what really started it, you know. So.

De Mare: What was the name of the college?

Bartholomey: Dundalk Community College.

Green: (overlapping) Dundalk Community College. Yeah.

Bartholomey: It's called the Community College of Baltimore now. They got 'em all over, you know.

Green: But it was Dundalk. And I even have a... a, um, a... a thing from the move... that we did, like that, you know, uh, at home. I have a... When we did their show, you know. Their college, uh, thing.

00:36:03:15-----

Kelly: Do you think... I mean, I love... I kind of love this topic... Do you think that Rosie the Riveter... that without Rosie the Riveter's, um, all of the changes in the women's rights, and... Do you think that would've actually happened without you?

Green: I don't think so. 'Cause real...

Bartholomey: I don't think so.

Green: Really, things...

Bartholomey: Because they have been preaching women's rights since I can remember. Way before that and way back when, you know, before women were allowed to do anything.

Green: I... Eleanor Roosevelt is the one that really..

Bartholomey: (overlapping) It's been a slow process until the Rosie the Riveters came along.

Green: ...got the women's, you know, the women's rights...

Bartholomey: (overlapping) And it's not... we're called Rosie the Riveters, but for a lot of other women that took some part in the war effort, you know...

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: ...you had to have some, like, you took over for, uh, like, my grandmother's farm. She couldn't do it anymore. So they had people come in and take care of the,

you know, do it for the war work, like, you know. I remember that.

Green: Oh, yeah, they had people comin' in, take care of farms 'cause farmers had to go...

Bartholomey: Yeah.

Green: ...in the war, yeah.

Bartholomey: So they are entitled to Rosie the Riveter or... or... What's his name? Who... what's the rivet called that's a man? Ribbet is a man.

Green: Ribbet. Yeah. He's a ribbet. My daugh... my daughter's a...

Bartholomey: Kids are rose buds and what's the...

Green: Rosebuds, yeah.

Bartholomey: And I don't know what they call the...

Green: And she's gonna miss it when I tell her all this happened.

Bartholomey: She was supposed to come today. We thought she was.

Green: Yeah. Somethin' came up, but she brought us over, you know. But she's... she's a... a...

Bartholomey: A fan.

Green: A rosebud, yeah. She went to convention last year with us, yeah.

00:37:35:14-----

De Mare: Tell us a little bit about the... the... you...

Unseen: How long you served as Rose, you know, how long you did the work, and then as it wound down, you had one girl.

Green: You mean when the war started? We went...

Unseen: Yeah, how long you...

Green: ...from 1941 to forty-five.

Bartholomey: (overlapping) To four... forty-five. Yeah.

Five... five, six years.

De Mare: And when the war ended, what happened?

Green: Our husbands came home...

Bartholomey: And then I went and got an office job.

Green: (overlapping) ...and we started a family. And one led to two. Then you had to raise them. That's what you did then. Jobs weren't that plentiful, I mean, women... whoever went to work... it was rare. Women...

Bartholomey: I... I worked.

Green: ...stayed at home and raised their family. And...

Bartholomey: I worked because I couldn't get pregnant.

Green: Well...

Bartholomey: And then when I'm forty years old I had my first child.

Green: But anyhow...

Bartholomey: Twenty-two years later.

Green: Once they... once they sh... left, you know, I went to work.

00:38:28:16-----

De Mare: How did your financial life change when you stopped working? When your husbands came back?

Bartholomey: My husband had a good job. We got along good, yeah.

Green: Yeah, my husband worked down... down at the steel mill. Yeah.

Bartholomey: We bought a house, you know, on...

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: ...G.I. bill and we did very well.

Green: We managed. We managed without a lot of things, but today I can do better. Today I'm doin' better.

Bartholomey: Yeah, we are. You know, that's the truth. We all have very quiet lives. Not really with 103, uh, with, uh, Rosie the Riveters. We're always on the go, but I mean, it's a quiet to what everybody else would think. We both in a... a...

Green: We were housewives.

Bartholomey: ...senior homes. We were housewives.

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: Yeah. First. And then the other things came...

Green: You know what? But one thing, once I started working out, after that, I liked working out. I really did.

Bartholomey: Money. I think we made the money.

Green: And when I retired I... I was really... I hated it.

Bartholomey: It was something you wanted to do then, you know. Well, I worked all of my life, so I can't say that. But I was always robbin' Peter to pay Paul in my younger years. And as we got established in our married life, it kept getting a little bit better, you know. There were some rough times. I'm not sayin' there weren't some rough times. But there were, you know.

00:39:48:09-----

Green: Yeah. Well, see, then, too, I mean, we had to scrounge even during the war, don't get me wrong.

Bartholomey: Yeah.

Green: 'Cause the allotment you'd get because your husband was overseas- you only got fifty dollars a month.

Bartholomey: For... for like me, that's all I would get.

Green: (overlapping) So, between working like dollar fourteen an hour, 'cept on daylight shift you got fifty-five somethin' a... a week. Night shift you got sixty dollars and somethin' a week.

Bartholomey: Yes. A week. We thought it was great.

Green: (overlapping) So, fifty dollars a month...

Bartholomey: That...

Green: You couldn't... you still couldn't splurge. And out of that I was buyin' war bonds.

Bartholomey: Me, too. Yeah.

Green: (overlapping) Yeah, see. So you figured out how much your income is for the whole month.

Bartholomey: (Overlapping) (Unintelligible) salary.

De Mare: Yeah.

Green: Not bad, huh?

Unseen: So, when the war came to an end, tell us how you...
you were telling me in the other room...

Bartholomey: Everything stopped when they heard that and
everybody got off their job and went outside and... and
yelled, "Hallelujah."

Green: Oh, it was like a panic.

Bartholomey: (overlapping) It was a... a... Yeah. Every...

Green: Church bells were ringing and...

Bartholomey: (overlapping) Ringing. The church bells all
rang.

Green: (overlapping) People were like all... all... everybody went downtown whooping and hollering. Oh, it was somethin'.

Bartholomey: (overlapping) Oh, my god, downtown it was people up and down the streets and people huggin' one another and kissin' one another...

Green: Cryin'. Yeah.

Bartholomey: Cryin'.

Green: Cryin'. It was... was great. It was great.

Bartholomey: (overlapping) It was fabulous that day. I'll never forget it.

Green: Me, either.

Bartholomey: My sister-in-law and I, we all... we walked down... that was a long walk downtown from where we lived. But we wanted to go see where the action was.

Green: Everybody, yeah.

00:41:13:20-----

De Mare: What did they do at work?

Green: We did..

Bartholomey: They told us we could go home.

Green: That's it. You went to work like a normal day. We thought we were still gonna work yet.

Bartholomey: But ya' didn't. It was over.

Green: Your toolboxes were all out... outside.

Bartholomey: You picked up your toolbox and went home

Green: (overlapping) Picked up your toolbox, "That's it, girls." That's it.

Bartholomey: We didn't know what to do. They didn't advertise or anything, they just said that's the last day of work.

De Mare: That's kind of incredible, actually.

Bartholomey: Yeah.

Green: And then you went not- for unemployment, you know what we got then? Twenty-one dollars a week from unemployment. Yeah.

Bartholomey: 'Til we got... well, I went straight back to work, though.

Green: See that?

Bartholomey: I got a job right away.

Green: And you've waited in line a long... oh, my god, it was so ttt... so long, you wouldn't...

Bartholomey: I didn't (unintelligible).

Green: You wondered how you did it, really.

De Mare: So basically, almost all... all the women who worked in factory then...

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: Yeah.

De Mare: ...they were... they were on unemployment.

Green: All downtown, wait and sign up.

De Mare: ...and what did the factory do aft... 'cause obviously the factory is still here, so what did it... what did it... after it stopped making the war planes, what did it do?

Bartholomey: Well, I think they knew it was gonna be ending...

Green: Oh, yeah.

Bartholomey: ...and I...

Green: They converted back to... yeah.

Bartholomey: ..think they... and they told the employees, I mean, those in the higher up, employees, like the secretary to the president or all these guys, they knew it was gonna end and they knew what they had to do.

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: I think that's how it worked.

00:42:35:13-----

Kelly: Can you talk about the... the feeling at the time... why were we at... why was this country at war? What was...

Bartholomey: Pearl Harbor started it all. That was my...

Green: That was sad.

Bartholomey: Yeah.

Green: That was... That was the saddest day.

Bartholomey: I can remember what I was doin' that day. My cousin was... we were horseback riding and, uh, we came back home because she fell off the horse and knocked herself silly. Had a big bump up here and one cut. And we went home and she said, "My head hurts." And her mother said, "You better not go to sleep. You girls go up in your room and sit there and talk a while." Well, we put the radio on we went in my... in the... man that gave me away... in his room- he had the biggest room. We went up there and turned on his radio and while we were sittin' there it came on the radio.

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: And that's how I remember it, that Pearl Harbor was attacked.

Green: No, um, and I... I was tellin'...

Bartholomey: Ann?

Green: Me and my girlfriend...

Bartholomey: Annie, right?

Green: ...we... we had dates...

Unseen: (overlapping) Elizabeth.

Green: ...with coastguardsmen...

Bartholomey: Elizabeth. You're right.

Green: ...you, know. We had dates with coastguards. And we're walkin' down the street- Chest... Chestnut Avenue- and a car stopped. This guy stopped in his car. And he says, "They're callin' everybod... all the servicemen back. You have to go back to camp. Japanese burr... bombed Pearl Harbor, you know.

Bartholomey: That's how she know.

Green: Well, that was it, you know. They quick took off and went back. We went home.

Bartholomey: You never seen 'em again, huh?

Green: Nope.

Bartholomey: Never seen 'em again.

Green: No, it was just a date, you know.

Bartholomey: Yeah.

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: That's funny.

00:44:08:29-----

Kelly: And what...

Green: And every...

Kelly: ...what... go ahead.

Green: Everybody, you... went... they... everybody pounded to
the churches and...

Bartholomey: Churches were packed.

Green: Churches all had mass or some kind of services, you know. People were crying, you know, because a lot of people were killed. Oh, it was awful.

Kelly: Well, what was...

Bartholomey: That was the war to end all wars, but it didn't.

Green: (overlapping) And over... overs... over in Europe, they had this guy named Hitler.

Bartholomey: Hitler. Oh, god.

Green: He was doin' the same thing. He was like killin' everybody and they had to stop him, you know. But they did. They got him.

Bartholomey: (overlapping) He used to... you know, it's hard for me to fathom him.

Green: He was... he was terrible. He was terrible.

Bartholomey: I can't imagine. I think about that all the time when you never...

Green: But see, this is... this is what kills me, now. We fought, we were fightin' two wars at the same time. In a cc... in a few years it was all over. Look at this, what's goin' on now. Why?

Bartholomey: God knows. I don't know either, they're fightin' terrible killers.

Green: Two wars. Two bad ones. They were terrible. And they... they were huntin' Hitler just like they're doin' this, uh, this other guy. They got him. This other guy, they still can't find him.

00:45:24:01-----

Unseen: I would be interested to hear you talk about the different feelings about your five... you... you had five brothers in the war. You told me the difference is how you thought about the prospects of their return. Just take a turn.

Bartholomey: I... I kind of... my husband was in the front line, all the time. And they told...

Green: Mine, too. They...

Bartholomey: ...they told, you know, whenever we talked to anybody about... they were going in ahead of the infantry or the field artillery. Whatever you wanna call it. But they were... they were the... the... what they call the, um, artillery A.A. They had on their things, you know, over here it was uh, coast artillery but they changed it to A.A. for overseas. And they would go ahead of everybody else. They went up through... they landed in Oran- that's where my husband landed, I don't know where they landed before he got... that was in... in the August, uh, that was in December of forty-two when he went over. And he went over, uh, landed in Oran, Africa, and they went all through Africa campaign. Then they changed... changed the, uh, fighting forces, the... the guys. Patton. You know Patton was the head of it? Then this other guy came in, what was his name? I can't even remember. My husband's... the head one then. But anyhow, he took them to Sicily and Patton came up the boot of Italy. And this was Sicily and there, they were goin' up there. Some of these from Sicily also went

to Italy when they bombed... what was that? Oh, I can't think of the name of the town. Where my brother-in-law's brother was killed. A-somethin'. I can't think of that city. Anyhow, they were workin' two wars. Like, goin' up to get Germany here and to conquer Italy here, which they didn't do either, but, I mean, they all went over then to this... this, uh, war in the blow. Battle of the Bulge. They came from everywhere and all went up through that. And that's when the war ended.

Green: Yeah.

De Mare: And how did you feel about whether... when... how did you feel about their chances of getting back?

Bartholomey: I didn't... we didn't know.

Green: You didn't... you didn't... you didn't... no.

Bartholomey: Then when we heard that they were... Go ahead. You can... you can say that.

Green: What?

Bartholomey: Tell 'em about what you were gonna say 'bout...

00:47:44:23-----

Green: No. Well, my husband was in the field artillery like...

Bartholomey: Yeah.

Green: They... as a matter of fact, we went... when we went to Italy aft... you know, a few years ago, uh, he showed me the hill they had to climb up in Italy. And... and you could... you... straight up, these guys were shootin' and killin' 'em, you know, like crazy. He's lucky he made it.

Bartholomey: Oh. I'll say.

Green: But the... goin' up the hill...

Bartholomey: That was terrible.

Green: ...to fight, you know, and... and right over that hill was the Germans...

Bartholomey: Yeah.

Green: ...shootin' 'em up, you know.

Bartholomey: He showed it to me when we went to visit over there. Yeah. That was really...

Unseen: What'd you think, though? Did they...

Green: Huh?

Unseen: What'd you think their prospects were
(unintelligible)...

Bartholomey: Of getting out of that.

Green: I don't know how they got out of it, really.

Bartholomey: That's what I mean. We didn't know nothin'.
We just knew...

Green: (overlapping) No. I don't... I don't know.

Unseen: But you... you thought they were all coming home,
right?

Bartholomey: If...

Green: Oh, yeah.

Unseen: (unintelligible)

Green: We did... we didn't think of that.

Bartholomey: I prayed all the time that he'd come home,
but you...

Green: (overlapping) I mean, you see, we didn't know all
of this stuff, because they couldn't tell you about it in
the letters or it would've been cut out.

Bartholomey: You ever seen... you... have you ever had a
chance to see one of those, uh, even in the movie like when
they cut out parts of the letters? Well, they... lot of
them came through like that

Green: They... that was V.E. mail.

Bartholomey: V.E. mail.

Green: V mail. V mail.

Bartholomey: Mm-hm. V mail.

Green: Yeah.

00:48:54:10-----

Bartholomey: V.E. mail.

Green: And... and... and little envelopes like this they had.
It was... Wished I'd've saved one of them. I don't know why
I didn't save.

Bartholomey: I... and I wrote a lot of them 'cause they were
easy...

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: ...one page, and you could stick it in a little
envelope.

Green: I saved everything else...

Bartholomey: Yeah.

Green: ...and I'd forget to save it.

Bartholomey: And I... I didn't save any of them, either. I had a lot... lot of little things, like, you know...

Green: Yeah. Well, I had stripes... stripes and medals. I had... my grandson took all of that, you know.

Bartholomey: (overlapping) All moldy now. They're gettin' gray and green, yellow.

Green: Well, he's... he's a... yeah.

Bartholomey: And he brought back a lot of change of the different comp... countries.

De Mare: That's wonderful. Thank you, ladies, so much. Is there any last thing you wanna say about... about...

Green: No. Whatever... whatever else you wanna know, we'll... we'll try.

Bartholomey: Your questions? You got everything covered?

Green: Now, I know you girls are tired.

Kelly: It's a lot.

De Mare: It was an awful lot.

Green: (overlapping) Look, it's three o'clock, already.
Geeze.

De Mare: We did an awful lot.

Bartholomey: Oh, my goodness.

Kelly: No, you were wonderful.

Green: Hey, thank you for havin' us.

Bartholomey: Yeah.

Kelly: You guys were great.

Green: You were great. Yeah.

00:49:47:21-----

Bartholomey: No. We don't know...

Green: (overlapping) Oh, they woulda liked that with Maria, 'bout the...

Bartholomey: Yeah.

Green: My... our other friend that's in the nursing home, she's in a... she used to work at Corning. Corning, up in New York? And she was sayin' about how they had to chew gum so that the glass wouldn't go down their throat. The glass would stop with the chewin' gum.

Bartholomey: They had to wear somethin' in their hair so it wouldn't get all in their hair, but it...

Green: (Overlapping) She said... yeah... they... they had it in their hair and everything, you know.

Bartholomey: She has a story to tell.

Green: She... She was good.

Bartholomey: She was like a... what did she call herself when she used to take these people in the other places on a tour?

Green: Like a tour. A tour guide. Yeah.

Bartholomey: She was workin' at an air corps, first...

Green: Yeah.

Bartholomey: ...and then, her dad... her brother went overseas so her dad wanted her to come home 'cause she was only seventeen years old. And she had to come home but then she got a job at Corning.

Green: But the... the part about the chewing gum and the glass, it...

Bartholomey: Oh...

