

NARRATOR: Holladay, Hulda
INTERVIEWER: Troy Reeves
DATE: February 17, 2004
LOCATION: Meridian, Idaho
PROJECT: Women in WWII/Veterans History Project

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00:00	1	Introduction
00:30	1	Holladay spelled her first and last name before she talked about her early years which were spent in either West Boise or Meridian. She offered information about the first home she recalled living in, (a farmhouse in Meridian), about the farm chores, and about the country school she attended. She noted that she really enjoyed riding her horse, including riding it to school. She felt doing chores and being in a close-knit family really helped her.
05:30	3	From Meridian she and her family moved to a farm in Melba, Idaho. She did not want to move to Melba. She eventually quit school at Melba and she never received a high school diploma. Holladay did not enjoy Melba mainly because her boyfriend (now husband) lived many miles away. She explained why her family moved to Melba. She talked about growing up in the Great Depression. From Melba Holladay moved to Boise where she worked for a family who lived on Irene Street.
09:30	4	With prompting from the interviewer, Holladay told how she met her husband, Vernal "Hap" Holladay. She played softball for her school and her future husband taunted her from the sideline. Holladay explained how their relationship became an engagement and a marriage. They were married in 1940 at the home of a bishop of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints near Nampa. The Holladays first lived near Kuna on a farm (raising crops and milking cows) near Indian Creek.
13:45	6	Holladay recalled her memories of December 7, 1941. The Holladays had a young daughter, and Holladay wondered what would happen to her family. She knew that her brother and Hap's brother would go to war. The Holladays moved onto another farm (with a nicer house) near Kuna; they made so little money that they decided to move and find jobs in defense work. Holladay did not think that she would work, but once she got there a day care situation worked out for her. The Holladays moved to Vancouver, Washington, to work for Kaiser Shipbuilders; they moved to Vancouver because Hap's parents had also moved there to work.

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		Holladay discussed her mother-in-law by talking about a picture of her mother-in-law holding Holladay's daughter. That picture appeared in a newspaper article. [Note: a copy of a digital image of that picture should be included in Holladay's file.]
18:45	9	Holladay discussed their home situation while working at Kaiser. She remembered numerous aspects of the home. She told a story about having a washing machine and sharing it with friends who lived a few houses down, meaning they would load up their wash and take it to their friends' home. The Holladays traveled with a friend, who was actually engaged to Hulda's brother. This woman left the Holladay's home when Hulda's brother told her to stop writing because he figured he would die. Hulda's brother did die not much later at Anzio. Hulda talked about her brother, including corresponding with him before he died.
22:45	11	Holladay's family had made arrangements to bring her brother's body back from Europe; her parents died in a car wreck before they received his body. Her brother and her parents are buried at Cloverdale Cemetery. Hap's brother was also killed in the War; he died at Iwo Jima in the Pacific Theater. Holladay moved back to Idaho because Hap was drafted into the service. With prompting from the interviewer, Holladay tried to remember when she and Hap moved to Vancouver.
25:30	12	Holladay discussed when and why she started working for Kaiser. She lived in Vancouver for several months before she joined the workforce at Kaiser. She offered her memories of her daily routine before she began working at Kaiser. She only took care of her daughter and no other babies or children; she did mention other people who lived in their housing development that had children. She felt the people in this "suburb" treated each other well. With prompting from the interviewer, Holladay looked at an old ration book and discussed rationing. She focused on the rationed food, including chocolate chips, sugar, and butter. [Note: At 29:55 tape one side one of the analog cassette ends, and side two begins.]
30:15	13	She did not remember any difficulty cooking during rationing. Hulda told a story about her neighbors, who came there from Australia, who always had chocolate chips and gave them to Holladay's daughter. She talked about making lunches and big dinners—where they invited people over to help them eat it, before talking about the distance between the house and the shipyard. After the Holladays left Vancouver, Hulda did not keep in touch with the families that she lived near, except for one.

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34:15	15	The Holladays worked at the Kaiser Shipyard in Vancouver, Washington. Hulda went to work there a few months after Hap started. She recalled training and learning how to weld before she could weld on her own. She remembered her trainer being kind and the number of days she trained. She did not recall the first thing she welded; she did say because of her petite frame, her bosses had her weld in tight, small spaces. Hap's parents worked for Kaiser, too. She talked about their jobs and Hap's job. They made "big money" while at Kaiser. Holladay talked about where she welded and who watched her daughter while she worked.
38:45	16	Holladay noted what comprised a typical day while both she and Hap worked at Kaiser. She talked about dealing with the welding slag, cleaning herself up after the shift, and trying to rest as much as possible between shifts. Holladay then described the outfit—from top to bottom—she wore while welding.
42:15	19	Holladay wrote to the brother, parents, and sisters while in Vancouver. With prompting from the interviewer, Holladay talked about what she and Hap would do during their non-working, non-sleeping hours. She said they would go to Portland and shop, dine, and sightsee, but she noted that they always made it back to work. While at work some welders would go to first aid because the flash from the weld would injure their eyes. She briefly mentioned the medical advancements during WWII. She and Hap worked swing shift, meaning they received a dinner break. She and Hap did not eat together because they worked in different places in the shipyard. She ate dinner with her fellow welders; she said she got along with all of them, although she did not keep in touch with them after she left. She felt that events in her life at that time, including expecting a new baby and preparing for Hap to leave for the military, caused her some stress.
48:15	22	Holladay answered some general questions about her time as a welder in Vancouver, including the part of the jobs that she enjoyed and disliked, although she could not think of anything that she disliked. They moved back to Idaho when Hap received his draft notice. Hap joined the military when their second child was only six weeks old. Holladay returned her memories to her time at Kaiser, talking about the security measures (or lack of them) and about the rules and protocols at the shipyard. She returned her thoughts to going to first aid when her eyes burned from seeing the welding flash. She did not recall whether she became a member of a union.
53:00	24	The money that Holladay and Hap earned helped Holladay make it through the time that Hap was in the military. They put their money in a savings and checking account. They would spend their money

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		on entertainment, such as movies or dinner. When they returned to Idaho, Hulda's parents built a house near their home (on Fairview Avenue), and that became Hulda and Hap's house. Hap left for the military around Christmas of 1944; this thought led to Holladay discussing how they spent the Holiday season of 1943 and 1944. She talked about the beautiful tree they had in Vancouver during Christmas 1943 and about the dinner held at Hap's parents' home in Vancouver.
58:45	25	According to Holladay, the Christmas of 1944 was very sad because Hap was serving in the military. [At 59:15 tape one ends and tape two begins.] After the introduction to tape two, the interviewer asked Holladay about how the slag would cause burns on her body. She offered her memories about these burns. She wondered how the slag would find its way through her clothes to her skin.
61:30	26	With prompting from the interviewer, Holladay offered her memories of a typical day after she returned to Boise. She spent a lot of time tending to her two children, including one newborn, and visiting with her family. A significant number of Holladay's family died well before old age. She talked about those family members and about her thoughts about dealing with death, specifically with her daughter's death, at the age of 50, from cancer. The Holladays were and still are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; she talked about where they held church in Vancouver.
65:15	28	Holladay discussed the number of days per week that she and Hap worked. When they returned to Boise, she did not work. Holladay had pictures of her and Hap back at the shipyard in Vancouver. They returned to Vancouver only once, primarily to attend Hap's sister's funeral, and saw the remains of the shipyard. She never heard about and never attended any reunions. The interviewer began the recording's conclusion by asking Holladay how the effects of being a welder affected the rest of her life. She saw her work as an accomplishment and a benefit for the War. She then talked about Hap's time in the War and her memories of V-J Day.
70:00	30	Hulda had promised Hap that she would not cut her hair, but she eventually did because he said he was not coming home. He had teased her in the letter so he could surprise her by coming home. She offered her thoughts about living through the War.
72:45	31	END OF INTERVIEW

NAMES AND PLACES INDEX

Boise, Idaho
Holladay, Vernal "Hap"
Kaiser Company
Kuna, Idaho
Melba, Idaho
Meridian, Idaho
Vancouver, Washington