

**NARRATOR: Horn, Beatrice**  
**INTERVIEWER: Troy Reeves**  
**DATE: October 31, 2003**  
**LOCATION: Boise, Idaho**  
**PROJECT: Women in WWII/Veterans History Project**

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**TAPE ONE**

00:00	1	Introduction.
00:30	2	Horn and her family moved from Oklahoma to Idaho in 1918. Horn did not know for sure why her mother and father moved to Idaho, but she offered her opinion about the move. She also talked about her father's occupation in OK, the train trip to Idaho, and her family's initial home (and her father's first job) in Idaho, near Caldwell. Horn's father went to work on Archie McClung's farm outside of Caldwell, and they lived in a house on the farm property. Horn offered her memories of her teenage years in Idaho, including who traveled with her and her parents to Idaho (four brothers and a couple of other relatives), where (and how long) she attended schools, and who (if anyone) lived near their home. The house and the farm were near Caldwell in a community called Riverside. Horn and her family moved into various homes and her father worked for a few different farmers while she grew up.
06:30	4	Horn gave her father's and mother's names and then talked about quitting high school. She took a job working in a home helping a family with an invalid mother. She moved from that job to another home where she helped a family with cooking, cleaning, and other chores. Horn lived in the homes where she worked. She only returned to live at home when she did not have employment. When Horn moved to Idaho she was the oldest of five children. She gave the names of the four brothers that moved with her and her parents. She then told the names of the four children (one boy, three girls) that her mother gave birth to after they moved to Idaho. This all meant that Horn was the oldest of nine children; only one other sibling—the youngest child—is still living.
12:00	6	While growing up, Horn's mother did not teach her any homemaking skills. So, her first job was the first time she did any cooking or cleaning. Also, Horn met her oldest friend, Opal Sackett, while growing up in southwest Idaho. They were friends until Sackett

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17:30	8	<p>died. Horn said she never really took to any hobbies while growing up. The interviewer shifted the dialogue to Horn's memory of WWII. Horn did not have any specific memories of Pearl Harbor. When she joined the WAAC/WAC in 1943, she was working for Pugs TV [Radio] Shop in Caldwell, Idaho. By 1943, Horn had either four or five brothers in the military, so she decided to join, too.</p> <p>Horn (along with other women from southwest Idaho) joined the WAC in Salt Lake City, Utah in March 1943. She joined the WAC at age 36. She mentioned that there were very few women her age—most were younger—but her age never mattered to her. From Salt Lake City, Horn was sent via train to Monticello, Arkansas. Their training camp was originally used for prisoners (Horn thought it might have been built to house WWII POWs). Horn described the camp's look, although the barbwire and Spartan conditions never bothered her. Horn took numerous train trips during her time in the WAC; she told a story about her train trip from Monticello to Fort Des Moines, Iowa. Besides marching and training, Horn could not recall much about her time in Arkansas.</p>
23:00	11	<p>Horn spent most of her time in the South or the Midwest, but she did not recall having problems adjusting to the climate. She said that her trip to Mississippi (her last stop with the WAC) was cold, because it was early spring and they did not have jackets. Horn then detailed the various stops within the US during her WAC service. The interviewer read a reduced, business card size discharge form that offered some essential information about Horn's military service. Horn remembered being quite busy while stationed in Arkansas and being issued coveralls and "PE" clothes to train and march.</p>
27:00	13	<p>While "stationed" in Ft. Des Moines, Iowa, Horn and other WACs stayed in two different hotels, because there was not enough room on the base to stay. She also said that she and others trained at a location not inside the Fort. She remembered training hard but not ever passing out while marching. She also recalled doing KP and serving in the parts room while in Iowa. <b>[At 30:00 the public listening copy shifted from tape one side one to side two.]</b> Horn thought that she was transferred from Iowa to an ordnance plant in San Antonio, Texas, in September 1943. She took the train (along with some other WAC) to Texas. While stationed at the ordnance plant, she worked in the parts room, making sure that the WAC worked on vehicles. She offered an overview of a typical day while in Texas, including living in the barracks.</p>

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33:30	16	While a WAC Horn made two good friends, Helen Newhouse and Beatrice Farmer. She also had one other friend, but she could not recall her name. She tried to keep in touch with her after she mustered out of the WAC. These women were people that she met during her initial training in Arkansas. Horn also briefly mentioned two girls from southern Idaho that she knew. She thought their last names were Severria and Frandsen. The women she made friends with were around her age (mid-30s). Horn then mentioned what she and others might do during the hours between dinner and bedtime while in San Antonio. She said that she did not keep track of events in the War while a WAC.
38:00	19	Horn stayed at the Texas and Mississippi ordnance plants for about the same period of time (6 months). While in San Antonio, she and a friend did visit the Alamo. She did not eat at any of the local restaurants or cafes; she did buy a banana split almost every time she went into the city. She did not recall receiving much advance notice before moving to Mississippi; she did think that the US Army Air Corps moved into the ordnance plant in Texas after they left. With prompting from the interviewer, Horn talked about seeing African American WACs while stationed at Fort Des Moines in Iowa. When she came to Mississippi, a cold front from the north made the temperature cold, especially considering they had no jackets. While in Mississippi she worked in the parts room doing numerous jobs.
43:00	21	Horn was released from the WAC in September 1944. She was injured while working to remove tires from rims by jumping on them. She was never told how damaged her heels were, but they were. She was told that they could not be operated on, but they have hurt her ever since. If it were not for her bad heels, she would have stayed with the WAC for as long as she could. She talked about a WAC captain, Esther Lamprecht, that she befriended and corresponded with until Lamprecht began suffering from dementia. After returning to Idaho, Horn went to Links Business School in Boise using the GI Bill. From there she worked for Morrison-Knudsen Company; she offered an overview of her eight years working for that construction business, including the physical location of her office space.
48:30	23	Horn offered some notes for her narrator's file. She explained why she left Morrison-Knudsen and how she felt about working for that company. Horn worked at various odd jobs in California and Idaho, which she described, before she earned employment as a bookkeeper for Drake's Plumbing in Boise. She retired in 1965.

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53:45	25	Horn was active in the American Legion and in the Disabled American Veterans. She quit the Legion, but she continued to volunteer for the DAV until June 2002. With prompting from the interviewer, Horn offered the reasons why she remained single for her entire life. She concluded by offering some general comments to some of the questions from the Veterans History Project list and by telling a story about seeing her relatives in Marshalltown, Iowa, while she was stationed in Des Moines. She also mentioned another possible narrator for this project, Emelda Hansen (or Hanson), who served in the military during WWII and was active in the DAV.
60:10	28	<b>END OF TAPE TWO</b> <b>END OF INTERVIEW</b>

**NAMES AND PLACES INDEX**

Boise, Idaho  
Caldwell, Idaho  
Disabled American Veterans  
Drake's Plumbing Company (Boise)  
Fort Des Moines, Iowa  
Horn, Mary Ethel  
Horn, Otis Clyde  
Links Business School (Boise)  
Marshalltown, Iowa  
Mississippi Ordnance Plant (Flora)  
Monticello, Arkansas  
Morrison-Knudsen Construction Company  
Pugs Radio Shop (Caldwell)  
Sackett, Opal  
San Antonio, Texas  
Wilder, Idaho