

OH-3052, Maggi Layton, 6-19-2014, WY In Flight

JUNGE: [00:00:00] You got it.

LAYTON: OK.

JUNGE: OK, today is the 19th of June, 2014, I can't believe  
it's 2014.

LAYTON: I can't either.

JUNGE: And I am in the home of Maggi Layton, here in her,  
what do you call this? Study?

LAYTON: My history room.

JUNGE: OK, your history room. (laughter) And what is the  
address here?

LAYTON: Thirteen-twenty-two White Drive.

JUNGE: OK, and you are just north of the Wind River.

LAYTON: Yes, just north, uh-huh.

JUNGE: OK.

LAYTON: And we're right out of the city limits.

JUNGE: You're not actually in Riverton.

LAYTON: No, we're right, or whatever that (inaudible) (laughs)  
is south of Riverton.

JUNGE: I just took a picture of you with your tattoo. Tell  
me about this tattoo. On your arm.

LAYTON: Oh. Well, I and these two friends of ours had gone to  
Lander and, yeah, [00:01:00] it was Lander. And had lunch

over there and had a couple of beers. So on the way home we stopped at Hudson and had a Bloody Mary and that's when we decided that I would get this tattoo (laughs) but I got it later on, I didn't have a Bloody Mary when I got it.

(laughs) Anyhow -- (laughs)

JUNGE: In other words, this was a sober decision.

LAYTON: There you go. (laughs) But I thought, why not? You know. Why not? So I did.

JUNGE: Well, you wouldn't do it unless you were proud of it.

LAYTON: That's exactly right. And I think a tattoo, if you're going to have a tattoo, have it mean something, you know, or don't have it. (laughs) Now that's my opinion.

JUNGE: Well yeah, like "Mother" or a heart with an arrow through it. (laughs) But this has something to say, this has more meaning than that. What meaning does this have for you?

LAYTON: This meaning?

JUNGE: Yeah.

LAYTON: That I was proud to have done my part of the [00:02:00] World War II event, (laughs) you know I mean, because our brother, oldest brother was, our older brother was taking training for a fighter pilot in California and he was killed in an accident during his training. And so this was another reason we decided to be riveters, too.

You know, and so oldest sister had already gone to San Diego Consolidated and Aircraft and so we went out and stayed with her and stayed, after we'd got through helping our dad on the farm in Missouri Valley here, and then we stayed through the winter in --

JUNGE: Here. If that's bothering you just pull that off because that's making a ticking noise. Just put it right there.

LAYTON: Oh, here.

JUNGE: OK, well, let's go back a step. Well, no, no, continue, I'm sorry. Continue. [00:03:00] So you went out to where to do this job?

LAYTON: To San Diego, California. At Consolidated Aircraft, it was called then, but it's some other name now. It was an aircraft factory.

JUNGE: OK. Let's go back in time a little bit. When and where were you born?

LAYTON: We were born in, I was born in Marion, Kansas at home. (laughs) We lived on a farm out of Marion, Kansas and us twins were born at home.

JUNGE: Oh, that's the reason why you said "we."

LAYTON: Yes. (laughs) That's exactly right. Cause I was twins.

JUNGE: But who came first?

LAYTON: Pardon?

JUNGE: Who came first?

LAYTON: Marge came first.

JUNGE: So is she the boss?

LAYTON: And so she's the boss. But, later on in life she and Mama had a little argument and this was when we both were married and had families and Mama said, "Well, now I don't know if you were the first or not," because when we were [00:04:00] born the second one came and the doctor, or the first one was born and laid on a counter in the kitchen and there we were in the kitchen and so then the second one started to be born and the doctor says, "Oh, there's another!" (laughs) At that time they didn't know if you were going to have one, two or three. (laughs) And so that second one was laid on the counter and so then after everything was done up and taken care of, the doctor said to the nurse, "Which one was the first one?" (laughs) And the nurse said, "I can't remember." (laughs) So they just put Marge as first. So there you go. (laughter)

JUNGE: What a great story. What day was this? What year, what day?

LAYTON: This is in '25, August 10th, 1925.

JUNGE: So you are 89.

LAYTON: Right. We will be 89 in August.

JUNGE: You will be 89 in August.

LAYTON: Yeah. [00:05:00]

JUNGE: OK. Where's your sister now?

LAYTON: She's in Casper, Wyoming, I mean, yeah, Casper, Wyoming, duh, and yeah, they live in Casper. They lived in Shoshoni for quite a while and they had six boys and I had three girls and three boys. (laughs) So we were even with our kids, too. And so but they live in Casper now, where most of their kids are. They lived in Shoshoni for quite a while and then --

JUNGE: Any twins in that family?

LAYTON: Ah, I think one of Margie's kids had twins. And --

JUNGE: So it runs in the family.

LAYTON: Yeah, it runs in the family.

JUNGE: What about going backward in time? Was there any twins?

LAYTON: Let's see. Yeah. I had an aunt and an uncle on Daddy's side that were twins. And then one of my uncle and aunts from Kansas had twins. So we had quite a few twins in the family.

JUNGE: OK. And you were born, [00:06:00] you weren't born on the kitchen table, were you?

LAYTON: No. (laughs) No, I think, well, I don't know. We might have been. (laughs) I know that we were put on the kitchen table. (laughs)

JUNGE: Well, let's just say for convenience sake you were born in your mother's bed.

LAYTON: Yeah.

JUNGE: Is that right? Probably were in your mother's bed.

LAYTON: Yes.

JUNGE: Was this on a farm?

LAYTON: Oh, yes. Yeah, we were on a farm.

JUNGE: Well, tell me about the farm and farm life.

LAYTON: Well, we had a farm there in Kansas out of Marion and I remember, I remember a big old grove, trees on the farm because us twins like to go up and play in the grove there. But I can't remember what we must have raised, potatoes, probably, and corn, I imagine was [00:07:00] and let's see, we lived on that farm then, let's see, when did we, well, us twins went to school, to a grade school there.

JUNGE: Was it a one-room schoolhouse?

LAYTON: Uh-huh.

JUNGE: It was.

LAYTON: A one-room schoolhouse.

JUNGE: I can't tell you how many people I've talked to that went to school in a one-room schoolhouse.

LAYTON: Yeah, just a one-room schoolhouse. And I remember, I remember, oh, that's why we moved to Nebraska. The Dust Bowl was happening at the time. We didn't get -- I can remember the dust, though, just, and they closed the school early because it was so dark that you couldn't see, you know, and so we lived probably a mile from the school and we walked back and forth and then we'd come home and the chickens would be at roost at 3:00 and (laughs) in the afternoon, but that was the Dust Bowl. So then we decided we'd better move out of that and we moved then to Lyman, [00:08:00] a farm out of Lyman, Nebraska then, which is just on the border of Wyoming.

JUNGE: So it was the dust storm that forced your parents out.

LAYTON: Yes, yeah. I now it comes to me. It was the dust storm.

JUNGE: Did you guys, what were your circumstances growing up? A lot of people didn't have much during those days.

LAYTON: Well, we didn't. We had to go to the neighbor's well to get water and of course, we had lamps, you know, like, well, I probably have one (laughs) somewhere around here, I can't --

JUNGE: Coal oil lamps?

LAYTON: Yes. Mm-hmm. And, but when you're young, like we were, everything's fun. I mean, you know, you don't worry

about anything. And then when we got to Nebraska we were in the third grade, I believe. And there again, we had a country school that we went to, [00:09:00] Because we were about five miles out of Lyman. Kiowa was the name of that little country school.

JUNGE: Kiowa?

LAYTON: Kiowa. And it was a one-room school. And so we went to the rest of our grade school was in Kiowa and then our beginning of the high school was in Lyman, still in Nebraska and then we moved, in '41 we moved to Shoshoni, or to Missouri Valley, which is a little valley outside of Shoshoni and we were seniors then at Shoshoni High School.

JUNGE: Why did your folks decide to come to Wyoming?

LAYTON: Well, my uncle had a farm in Missouri Valley and he also had a farm in, out of Lyman, Nebraska but in Wyoming, on the Wyoming side and so he couldn't handle them both so he, they had to take the farm in Missouri Valley.

[00:10:00] And so we moved so, to Uncle Charlie's farm.

JUNGE: This was your uncle's farm.

LAYTON: Yes. Yeah.

JUNGE: And what did you grow out there?

LAYTON: We grew beets and corn and alfalfa, a lot of alfalfa. We had an 80-acre farm was all. It was not all I did. And I think Marge and I worked outside all the time with Bob



and we pulled all the weeds in every field. (laughs) And my younger sister and my older sister helped Mom in the house. But us twins worked outside most of the time. Milked cows, the whole bit.

JUNGE: Who was Bob?

LAYTON: Pardon?

JUNGE: Who was Bob?

LAYTON: Our oldest brother, who was killed in the training there. Yeah, Bob was the oldest and then --

JUNGE: On 80 acres, I don't see how you could make a living on 80 acres.

LAYTON: Well, you could at that time, but you couldn't now. But you could at that time. [00:11:00] For some reason. Isn't it funny how things change? But we did a pretty good, we had an OK living. And then, and then Daddy, let's see, we were, yeah, in Missouri Valley and he had a heart attack then and died, so then Mom moved off the, Uncle Charlie put someone else on the farm and Mom moved off and that was in, let's see, us twins were seniors in high school. No, we were out of high school. (laughs) Sorry. Let's see, we were both married at that time, too, when Daddy died. No, I take that back. Marge was married to her husband. And then I was still living at the place [00:12:00] and that's when he had his heart attack, when he

was working in the field and Mom and I took him to town, to Riverton, but he died before we got there. And so I was still living with Mom. And so then we just, then Uncle Charlie got a hired man for us to run and I went to Riverton and got a job at the Riverton, the REA, the Riverton Electric Association, it was called then, but now it's something different. And no, I first, (laughs) I have think --

JUNGE: No, go ahead, take your time, that's fine.

LAYTON: I and a friend of mine, yeah, we were still living on the farm, but Daddy had died and Mama was still there but Mama was teaching. She taught in the little country schools and she had, was, when she, before she was married she was getting a degree but didn't get it and then she got married and quit [00:13:00] and so then in the meantime she was teaching in little country schools here.

JUNGE: Around Pavillion?

LAYTON: Around Pavillion, well, Pavillion in, Ethete started Ethete, I know and then Circle Ridge, which was an oil thing out there by Pavillion. And um, but Ethete was her favorite. She thought the Indian kids were the best students she ever had. (laughs)

JUNGE: Really?

LAYTON: Uh-huh, yeah. She said they wanted to learn. And the rest of the kids, the other kids just, you know. And she taught up at the Hyattville, not Hyattville, up above Ten Sleep there. A little place.

JUNGE: Well, yeah, there is a Hyattville above Ten Sleep.

LAYTON: Oh, that must have been it, then.

JUNGE: Yeah.

LAYTON: But anyway, then I and a friend of mine that lived out there in Missouri Valley, went to Yellowstone Park and worked one summer. (laughs)

JUNGE: What did you do? [00:14:00]

LAYTON: We were maids at the Big Old Canyon Hotel, which is gone now, but, and that was, that was fun. We enjoyed that very much, and --

JUNGE: Why? Tell me about that experience.

LAYTON: Well, it was just fun. The most of our friends were students from other parts of the country that came and worked there. And then we had little parties at the big hotel there in the little party room. And just, it was just, and we did a lot of walking. Hiking and such. And then I went with a guy that was up there, he was one of the wranglers and he and I did a lot of horseback riding around

the place. You know, so we got a lot of sightseeing done.

(laughs) But it was just a good experience, it was fun.

JUNGE: How much did you get paid?

LAYTON: Wow. [00:15:00] Now I can't remember, but it probably wasn't, it was probably OK then but (laughs) it wouldn't be now. I can't remember what.

JUNGE: Did you go there to make money for school? Is that it?

LAYTON: Just went there because we thought it would be fun to have a job during the summer there.

JUNGE: You and your sister both.

LAYTON: No, a friend of mine.

JUNGE: Just a friend. OK. Don't sisters stay together and do everything the other sister does?

LAYTON: Well, we did but I think Marge was married at that time. And I wasn't. And so, (laughs) and so then when I came back from Yellowstone, that's when I worked at Riverton Electric Company for the Riverton, that was my first real job.

JUNGE: And then what? Did you meet your husband here?

LAYTON: Yeah. I met him here. And it was, I had the boss that ran the Riverton Electric Company was in a, oh, what did they call the shooting targets, gun club, that club?

JUNGE: Oh, a trap club?

LAYTON: Yeah. [00:16:00] And so he took me with him one time to one of the meets and that's when I met my husband because he was probably one of the best shots (laughs) that they, he was a good shooter and so that's when I met him, yep.

JUNGE: How exactly did you meet? Did you just watch him and go over to him and say, "Hey, you're a good shot, let's get married,"?

LAYTON: (laughter) No. We dated for a while first. (laughs) And so then George [Ziener?] who was my boss who introduced us to, oh, and then Don started working there, at the REA, too. And so --

JUNGE: What was his last name?

LAYTON: Layton. (laughs)

JUNGE: Oh, of course, of course. I'm sorry. I'm thinking of your sister, [Kura?].

LAYTON: Kura. Yeah, Marge married a Kura.

JUNGE: Yeah, OK. You were a [Hayen?].

LAYTON: Hayen, yeah. H-A-Y-E-N.

JUNGE: Were both your parents of German descent or just one?

LAYTON: Just the one. Mama, Mama had part Cherokee in her.

(laughs) [00:17:00] Because she had the black hair and she

was, and so they met, but they did meet in the east, when  
Daddy come over from Germany as a little kid.

JUNGE: Oh, your dad immigrated.

LAYTON: Yeah. Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: Oh. Did he speak German?

LAYTON: Yeah, a little bit. But we didn't speak German. We  
just --

JUNGE: Did he just chew you out in German once in a while?

LAYTON: Ach, ach, whatever. (laughs)

JUNGE: Ach. Ach.

LAYTON: (laughs) I take that back. He wasn't, he, his mother  
and dad immigrated, yeah, because he was born in Nebraska,  
I think, yeah.

JUNGE: But that sounds about right.

LAYTON: Yeah. And so that was, that was, that was, oh, I get  
things mixed up, but anyway --

JUNGE: My dad is far removed from Germany and I think I'm  
fourth or fifth generation born in America, but he lived in  
southern Illinois where they all spoke German, in that  
community, I should say.

LAYTON: In that community, yep. [00:18:00]

JUNGE: Yeah. And to the day he died he could speak German.

LAYTON: Isn't that something? Because I think Daddy, when he was a kid lived in Illinois. I think he might have been born in Illinois, come to think of it.

JUNGE: Oh.

LAYTON: I should get my history out. (laughs)

JUNGE: Yeah, you should. Now you went to work for the REA. You met your husband and then what happened?

LAYTON: And then we got married and then I still worked. I worked, oh, for quite a while at the REA.

JUNGE: Did you get married in Riverton?

LAYTON: In Ethete.

JUNGE: Oh, you did.

LAYTON: Our father's mis-, or Our Father's House or the Mission?

JUNGE: Our Father's House. The Indian Mission.

LAYTON: Yeah, that's where we were married.

JUNGE: Why did you decide to get married there?

LAYTON: Because Mama taught there. (laughs) And so.

JUNGE: Was that a good ceremony? Were there any Indian traditions in the process?

LAYTON: Nope. Uh-uh. We just, it was just a regular marriage ceremony. [00:19:00]

JUNGE: Now that was an Episcopalian Church, right?

LAYTON: Pardon?

JUNGE: That Mission Church is Episcopalian? Our Father's House.

LAYTON: Yes, Episcopalian, right.

JUNGE: So were you both Episcopalian?

LAYTON: No, Don wasn't. I don't know what he was. (laughs)  
He never went to church. But I was Episcopalian.

JUNGE: Did you go to church?

LAYTON: And, yeah, in fact my dad and some of his buddies built that church out there in Missouri Valley, the one that's, the one that's, oh, let's see. It's a community house now or a fire station now, too, or a fire, the fire engine station is right next to it and it's out there in Missouri Valley about probably from the highway, oh, five or six miles maybe, on the right.

JUNGE: The highway near [Dooboys?].

LAYTON: It's, pardon?

JUNGE: The highway to Dooboys or the Missouri Valley Road?

LAYTON: The Missouri Valley Road. No, the highway, this highway out here.

JUNGE: Two-eighty-seven.

LAYTON: Yeah. When [00:20:00] and then you come to the Missouri Valley Road, yeah, and turn down the Missouri Valley Road, it was on the Missouri Valley Road.

JUNGE: I gotcha.



LAYTON: Yeah.

JUNGE: And he built the church?

LAYTON: He helped build the church. In fact, us twins helped peel the logs for that church. (laughs)

JUNGE: Really?

LAYTON: Yeah. And we were part of that church and that's an Episcopal Church. And my daddy was a lay reader. We didn't have a minister at that time there. So he was a lay reader who was just Episcopal --

JUNGE: A stand-in for a minister, maybe?

LAYTON: Yeah. Mm-hmm. Right. Yep.

JUNGE: So you and your sister peeled logs for this?

LAYTON: Yep, yep. We peeled logs. They were on the ground, of course, and we peeled the logs with a sharp, yep.

JUNGE: And was it, not an adz, what do they call that?

LAYTON: It was a, what do they call those?

JUNGE: Yeah, you hold them in two hands and they're like shavers, they shave --

LAYTON: Shaver, shaver.

JUNGE: Yeah, something like that.

LAYTON: Yeah, that's what, mm-hmm. And so we did that

[00:21:00] and that was --

JUNGE: Did you have much of an outdoors life then?

LAYTON: Well, yeah, we did. We, of course, we worked outdoors, pulling weeds. And then we played a lot of softball, you know, ball, at home and in fact I was on a softball team, come to think of it, from Riverton. (laughs) Before I was married.

JUNGE: Really? What position?

LAYTON: It was, well, I was usually second base. And I didn't want to pitch because I was pitching one time when we were playing at home, just the family, and a ball, somebody hit the ball and hit me in the eye. So then I didn't want to pitch anymore. (laughs) And so --

JUNGE: What were your, let's see, compared to the schools you went to in elementary school, the two schools you went to, it must have been a heck of a change to go to a high school, [00:22:00] right?

LAYTON: Oh, it was, yeah. It was a real big change. Yeah, but we managed. (laughs)

JUNGE: How did you get to school?

LAYTON: We, well, we drove. That was high school and we could drive at that, we learned how to drive at 12, (laughs) you know. And you could, well, we drove trucks in the field, you know. That stuff. So then we drove ourselves then to the high school when we were seniors, in, or when we were going, freshman, say, junior, sophomore.

JUNGE: In Riverton.

LAYTON: In, that was in, not in Riverton, in Lyman.

JUNGE: In Lyman.

LAYTON: Yeah. And we came to Shoshoni or the Missouri Valley when we were seniors. And then we caught the bus. During our senior year we caught the bus that went by all the time, to Shoshoni.

JUNGE: Now did you just have the one older brother?

LAYTON: Yes.

JUNGE: Bob.

LAYTON: Bob. Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: Now was, [00:23:00] it sounds like you guys, the twins, were expected to work just as much as Bob was.

LAYTON: Yeah, we were. Yeah, uh-huh. Because we, we wanted to. (laughs) You know. And we thought Bob was just all there was, (laughs) you know. And ah, so yeah, we did, we were expected to. But that was life, you know, then. You did, you did what you had to do.

JUNGE: Now when you went, you and your sister, explain how you and your sister decided to go into the service. Why you went into the service --

LAYTON: Or to the (inaudible) you mean.

JUNGE: Excuse me, I'm sorry.

LAYTON: Yeah.

JUNGE: Your brother had, explain that to me.

LAYTON: Yeah. Our brother had gone into the service and he was taking training out in California then, to be a fighter pilot. And one afternoon he went up to take his flight and his practice and another plane from a different [00:24:00] outfit, they crashed. They ran into one another, collided. And Bob, before that Bob had, during training, he had, he was up in the air flying and shooting, you know, and he turned the wrong switch on and he was shooting at these targets with the real ammunition and he was supposed to shoot it with (laughs) this, and so that cost him a little. He was very conscientious, very conscientious. And so when he crashed, then that had already happened and when he crashed he tried to stay with the plane too long. And then when he parachuted out he was too close to the ground and his parachute didn't open. And a guy in the force there, heard this crash, heard this noise and then he saw Bob then. So he [00:25:00] reported it. But Bob tried to stay with his plane too long.

JUNGE: This sounds like a very, in your family history, a very traumatic event.

LAYTON: Yeah, it was. It really was, yep. It was just unbelievable. (laughs)

JUNGE: How did it affect your parents?

LAYTON: Well, they were really strong. I remember us twins were in high school, seniors, and this was in Shoshoni and -- the superintendent got the telegram to give to us twins. And so he said, he told us what happened and Alice, our younger sister, too, was there and he took us then out to the farm and he gave the telegram to Daddy. We lived in a basement in the Missouri Valley and so we all went down and Daddy didn't even open the telegram. He knew probably what it was and he just [00:26:00] and he just went over, Mom was at the kitchen sink and they, and he, they both read it together and then they just held each other. (laughs) You know, it was pretty sad. But they were real strong people and so they didn't they took it OK, you know, it worked OK but, just they expected it, I think.

JUNGE: And how did it affect you and your sister?

LAYTON: Really bad. We took it pretty bad. Because he was, he was ours, you know, he was just, he was our brother and he was, we just did everything, he taught us everything. When we were little he taught us how to play ball, he taught us fishing, he taught, he just took us under his wing, so, we --

JUNGE: He was your big brother.

LAYTON: Yeah. It was not good, it was, you know, but --

JUNGE: Now did you, did I read in this book [00:27:00] *They Served with Honor* that that's the reason why you guys went to work?

LAYTON: That's the reason. Yep. When Bob, yeah, mm-hmm. We decided we'd do that for Bob.

JUNGE: Well, how did that conversation begin? Do you remember? Whose idea was this?

LAYTON: Well, I don't remember. Let's see. I don't know. Sis was already out there working and --

JUNGE: Now which sister was this?

LAYTON: That was the oldest sister, Edwina.

JUNGE: Edwina.

LAYTON: Eddie, we called her.

JUNGE: And then there was Bob the next?

LAYTON: Well, Bob was first and then Eddie, Edwina and then us twins and then Alice.

JUNGE: OK.

LAYTON: Yeah. And, but, yeah, we missed him terribly. But we also thought, but that was the reason, then we went to San Diego.

JUNGE: You didn't quit high school, though. [00:28:00]

LAYTON: We were seniors, we graduated first, yeah. And then, and then we helped Dad with the farming. And then in the fall we went to San Diego. But we did help with the

farming first. And when it was over then we went to San Diego.

JUNGE: What did your parents think about this?

LAYTON: Pardon?

JUNGE: What did your parents think about this?

LAYTON: They thought it was a good idea. They understood.

Mm-hmm. They really did. They thought it was a good idea, so.

JUNGE: Did you feel relieved in getting away from the situation?

LAYTON: Well, probably. I can't remember that we did that much.

JUNGE: I'm just thinking, your purpose to go out there was to serve in the war?

LAYTON: Yes, yes. That's right. Mm-hmm. Take Bob's place, we'll say.

JUNGE: Mm-hmm. So your sister was working out there previously?

LAYTON: Yes. She and a friend of hers from Lyman, [00:29:00] they went probably when the war started, I mean you know, and they heard about this factory and so they went out there and so she got situated then in San Diego and then later on when us twins was through with the farming we went out. Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: Did you stay with her?

LAYTON: Yeah, we stayed with her. She had a nice little apartment. And we rode the streetcar from our place, from her place what was called "the Plaza" in San Diego and that was kind of kind of the middle of the Plaza was in San Diego. And then we caught the buses to the factory. And there was a lot of buses and when we'd get off work we'd, all us twins had to do was pick up our feet and get right onto (laughs) the bus, because everybody, thousands of workers, you know, trying to get on these buses. (laughs) And so we, (laughs) and so, and I remember one [00:30:00] thing, too, that we couldn't understand was how people thought about the black people. You know, and we couldn't figure out why they hated the black people. (laughs) You know, because we had never been back or whatever. (cough) And so what irritated us twins the most (cough) was when we'd get on the bus, the buses, the black people always had to go to the back of the bus. And we never could understand that. It made us mad. It made us very angry. (cough) And because they were working, too, just like we were. So why? You know, we could never understand that.

JUNGE: Did you run into that attitude at the factory, too?



LAYTON: Yeah. Mm-hmm. Yep. And we had a real good friend, but she was from, in the east, worked at the factory, and most of the girls that worked at the factory had husbands [00:31:00] that were stationed there in San Diego and she, oh, one time we were getting on the bus and one of the colored gals was getting and this gal that we were friends with said, just oh, said a terrible thing about her, you know, (inaudible) and gosh, we were shocked. (laughs) And so we weren't too good of friends after that. But it, she just, and I thought, and somebody told me later, "Well, probably because back in the east they did," I mean, you know, I don't know, I still don't understand it. (laughs) I just --

JUNGE: You still don't understand it.

LAYTON: (laughs) That's right, I don't.

JUNGE: I think that's one of the, frankly, and this, I don't want to get into a political discussion here because we don't have time for that, but I think frankly that's one reason why people dislike our president so much.

LAYTON: [00:32:00] It is. It's definitely one of the reasons. One of the main reasons, I would say. Yep. Because I have a friend out in the valley that, that, when we go over to lunch or something we won't even bring up Obama, because she just, I don't know why she hates him so bad. But she

was from California. (laughs) And so that probably explains it, I don't know. But she, so --

JUNGE: Do you remember any other incidents out in California like that?

LAYTON: No, I don't.

JUNGE: How about with Latinos? Mexicans? Yes.

LAYTON: Mexicans. See, they weren't treated like that. They, well, I can't remember anything there that, you know. But just, I don't know, anyhow, that's (laughs) --

JUNGE: No, but to me that's very interesting. So well, maybe it's because there were more Mexicans there and people had to live, you know, it seems [00:33:00] to me like there's more prejudice when people don't have to live with the other group of people, whatever they are.

LAYTON: Yeah. Isn't that something? I don't understand it. And I never will understand it. I think people are people. God made everybody. (laughs) You know. He just colored some of them different. And they're, I just, I'll never understand it. Because I don't, I like everybody. (laughs) You know.

JUNGE: You're very optimistic, aren't you?

LAYTON: (laughs) Right.

JUNGE: You inherit some of that toughness and optimism from your folks?

LAYTON: Probably from my mother.

JUNGE: From your mother.

LAYTON: Probably from my mother.

JUNGE: Is your sister the same way?

LAYTON: Yeah. Yeah. She's the same way.

JUNGE: Well now, why did she want me to talk to you rather than talk herself?

LAYTON: Well, because she can't remember things so, you know, I can't either, but she's getting to where she can't remember very much anymore that happened, you know, [00:34:00] and she just thought that I could remember more. I told her I was a better liar. (laughs) And she said, "Yeah, Maggi, you are." (laughs) And so, but that was the reason.

JUNGE: Well, we wouldn't call it "lying" in Wyoming. We'd be a little more polite. We call it BSing.

LAYTON: BSing, there you go, that's the word I should have said. (laughs) I'm good at that. But my daddy was good at that.

JUNGE: Was he really?

LAYTON: Oh, he loved to talk. He'd go to town. Used to stand on the corner and visit with the other farmers that came to town to shop or their wives were shopping, you know. And

in fact, one time he was in town, just I'm getting off the subject here --

JUNGE: That's all right.

LAYTON: And he was standing on the corner and here come doctor, the doctor we had around the corner and headed out toward our, I mean toward the road to our place and he said, a guy that had come up [00:35:00] there, "Where is the doctor going?" He says, "He's going to your house. Your wife's having a baby." (laughter) And Alice came. (laughs) And so Daddy --

JUNGE: That's unbelievable.

LAYTON: (laughs) I know. That was daddy. (laughs)

JUNGE: Oh, did he like, here, move that thing under your arm so you don't have to keep, there you go, now you don't have to worry about it. Was he, did he talk politics a lot?

LAYTON: Yes, he did, yeah, oh yeah. He was a good, and the older he got the more he talked about politics. They were a good, they were Republicans.

JUNGE: Oh, they were.

LAYTON: (laughs) Yeah. And so --

JUNGE: What did they think of Roosevelt? Did they ever say anything about Roosevelt?

LAYTON: No, they didn't. Didn't really think too much, I mean anything about that. But they, but they didn't. They

weren't, they didn't say, they weren't gossipers. (laughs)  
You know, he liked to be asked, but [00:36:00] just about  
farming and all that, you know. But so I don't ever  
remember them saying anything about Roosevelt.

JUNGE: OK. Because he did a lot of good for people.

LAYTON: Yes he did. He sure did.

JUNGE: He was a president who, although he himself came from  
a very wealthy background, he really wanted to do something  
for the common man.

LAYTON: Yeah, that's right. And I, he, Roosevelt was one of  
my favorite people. (laughs)

JUNGE: Really?

LAYTON: Oh yeah. You know.

JUNGE: My dad was a Republican.

LAYTON: Is that right?

JUNGE: Oh, lifelong Republican. Except he voted for  
Roosevelt once, in 1932. You know why? Because Roosevelt  
promised to bring beer back.

LAYTON: (laughs) I love it. (laughs) That's probably why I  
liked him. (laughter)

JUNGE: Yeah, they say that as soon as he was elected they  
backed the beer truck up to the White House.

LAYTON: (laughs) [00:37:00] How fun. Oh my goodness, isn't  
that something?

JUNGE: OK, so let's get back to your job. Now at the time, when you were hired, do you remember getting hired? Going through the hiring process?

LAYTON: Oh yeah. No, wait a minute. Huh. I don't remember that. Isn't that strange. So it must have been there at the plant.

JUNGE: Were there a lot of women there?

LAYTON: Oh yeah. Most of them women. Is that what you're asking?

JUNGE: Yeah, yeah.

LAYTON: Because they were, most of them wives of the servicemen and there was, and all the servicemen were in the service, all the men were. So most of the workers were women, yeah.

JUNGE: Did those women talk about their husbands?

LAYTON: Oh yeah, yeah.

JUNGE: I'll bet they did.

LAYTON: Yeah, yeah.

JUNGE: I'll bet there were some that liked to talk about their husbands more than others.

LAYTON: Exactly. (laughs) [00:38:00] And I remember, too, the Navy and the Marines would all, they were both based there, or they had Navy based in, and they would have dances once in a while for the women, you know, for the factory

workers, they had dances. And I remember one dance we went to and I danced quite a bit with this guy. His name was Dusty Rhodes, (laughs) I remember his name because it was such a funny one. And he, I don't know where he is, a nice guy, boy, he was, I really liked him. And so he asked me for a date one night and I says, one time and I said, "Well yeah, but I don't date without Marge." Well, he says, "I'll bring somebody for Marge," you know. And so I said, "OK." Well, Marge, at that same dance had danced with a guy that really danced with her quite a bit, but she really didn't like him all that well. [00:39:00] But anyway, when he came to the door, they came, and here he had that guy with him. And Marge, "Hm." Well, they couldn't tell us twins apart, so Marge grabbed Dusty (laughter) and walked out. And I was left with this other guy. (laughs)

JUNGE: (laughs) Did you let her get away with that?

LAYTON: (laughs) I had to. I mean, I couldn't, you know, I didn't know how to do it. (laughter) And anyhow, I thought, "Well, I'll never do that again." (laughs)

JUNGE: Well, how was your date?

LAYTON: It was good. He was all right. We went to the show.

JUNGE: You mean she didn't like him because he wasn't as good-looking or something?

LAYTON: No, he had WHT, wandering hand trouble.

JUNGE: (laughter) Now how did she know that in the first place?

LAYTON: Well, because she danced with him a lot. (laughs) And so evidently he -- (laughs) [00:40:00] Anyhow --

JUNGE: You are something else. Well, OK, so nothing came of that double date, right?

LAYTON: Nope, nothing came of it. Nope.

JUNGE: Did you date a lot after that?

LAYTON: I don't think so. I don't remember that we did. No, I don't think so. Anyhow, if we did, we didn't, (laughs) we couldn't remember.

JUNGE: OK, so what was your, now let's see, you're going to work. Did you have a lunch pail?

LAYTON: Yes. We made our own lunches.

JUNGE: This whole thing is like a stereotypic vision of have in my head of Rosie the Riveter with a scarf, carrying a lunch pail to the factory in men's pants. Is all that true?

LAYTON: Oh yeah. (laughs) That's all, and we carried, we usually took a sack lunch, we called it. (laughs) But anyway, yeah, that's what, [00:41:00] that's what we did.

JUNGE: When did you go to work? What time?

LAYTON: Oh, let's see. We had the, well, isn't that funny.



JUNGE: Well, there was probably day shifts, swing shifts and night --

LAYTON: Yeah, day shift, we had day shifts, probably from 8:00 to 4:00 or something like that. But I know we'd catch the streetcar and go to the plaza and catch the bus. And yeah, it was, it was, we had day shift there, and it must have been 8:00 because we'd --

JUNGE: Can you describe a typical day?

LAYTON: Oh, well, we'd get there and we'd take our spot that we were, that we had, you know, designated to us. And then we'd go to work. See, we took turns, one of us would rivet and the other would buck. And we were on different sides of the planes.

JUNGE: Of the metal? [00:42:00]

LAYTON: Aluminum, yeah, yeah, the mantle.

JUNGE: Oh, it was aluminum.

LAYTON: Well, I think so, maybe --

JUNGE: Yeah, OK.

LAYTON: And so one of us would be on one side bucking and the other would be inside where the lights were and it was hot because of the lights and the light reflection off, would rivet. No, we'd rivet from the outside in, but from the inside, yeah, duh.

JUNGE: Now tell me what "buck" is all about.

LAYTON: Bucking was, you had a bar, a square bar like that and you'd hold that bar against the rivet after when the riveter put the rivet in and then you could hold it against that, and then she'd rivet and it would, it would flatten it to the skin.

JUNGE: How were these hot rivets?

LAYTON: No. They were --

JUNGE: Cold rivets?

LAYTON: Cold rivets, mm-hmm. Well, I think.

JUNGE: What did they look like?

LAYTON: No, wait a minute. Maybe they, well, they were just little rivets. Just little, with the round, and an end to it, you know. And they were already in [00:43:00] the skin, that's right. Somebody else, so they probably were hot rivets. And all we had to do was flatten them, you know, rivet, yeah, they were already in the skin. Isn't that something? I can't remember that too much.

JUNGE: So explain the process to me. Did you have a gun?

LAYTON: A rivet gun. Yeah, it was a rivet gun, just like a gun that you --

JUNGE: Pneumatic? Was it a pneumatic?

LAYTON: Yeah, right, dadadadada, you know, yeah, yeah, in there bucking. And then we'd trade sides because we'd get so hot on the inside so we'd switch. And one of them could

be on the outside and the other would be on the inside.  
And we did that and then we had our lunch break and a lot  
of times at lunch break they'd have a band there to play,  
like Skinny Anderson and Bob Hope, or Bob Crosby and people  
like that. And would entertain us at lunchtime, most of  
the time. And then we'd go back to riveting or working.  
[00:44:00] And then we'd, we probably had a short recess,  
on both, you know, morning and afternoon and then we'd  
finish up and run for the bus. (laughs)

JUNGE: Now on the riveting process, (cough) was that a noisy  
place to work?

LAYTON: Yes, very noisy. Yeah.

JUNGE: Did it affect your hearing?

LAYTON: No, it didn't. We had earplugs in, too, a lot. But I  
don't think it did. My old age affects my (laughs)  
hearing. But it was noisy, yeah, it was pretty noisy and  
my sister, older sister, she was, she was an inspector.  
She would come around and make sure the rivets were OK, you  
know. So she had that job as an inspector.

JUNGE: But you and your twin worked together?

LAYTON: Yes, we always worked together.

JUNGE: Did you insist on that? [00:45:00]

LAYTON: No, I think they just put us together because we were  
twins and we'd make good partners or something. And Sis,

and that was I'm sure the reason. Anyhow, we, I don't remember thinking it about it even. (laughs) We were just together, you know.

JUNGE: Was there ever any argument between you and your sister as to when the other person should switch?

LAYTON: No, (overlapping) --

JUNGE: You know, switch --

LAYTON: The only time I was inside and I insisted on going outside, and if you needed to, if you weren't ready to buck you had to tap on the skin and that meant for the riveter not to rivet, (laughs) because the buckler wasn't against the rivet. And so I was riveting, or I was on the inside bucking and, and my reflection was showing in the tin there and the light was shining on it and I thought, gosh, what's, I look funny. And so I tapped. [00:46:00] That meant for Marge not to rivet. And got out and I said, "Boy, I feel funny. I sure feel funny," and she says, "You look like you got the measles." So I went to the doctor that was there all the time, the health there. Sure enough, I had the measles. And that was the end of our riveting. Marge came home with me. (laughs)

JUNGE: Did that, didn't you say in the book, *They Served with Honor*, that that interfered with something you had planned to do?

LAYTON: Oh, yeah. That's right. It was [Skinny Amos?] was going to be the band that day. And so we had to leave before lunchtime, and so I missed Skinny Amos, (laughs) that's what I missed, isn't that something? Yeah, that was it. (laughs)

JUNGE: What do they say? Thirty percent of the world is obese now, 30%. And in America it's awful, it's 40 or 50% are overweight.

LAYTON: Terrible. [00:47:00]

JUNGE: Were there a lot, there weren't a lot of overweight people, were there? Or were there?

LAYTON: No, there weren't. No, there wasn't, at that time. And I can't, I can't remember, but --

JUNGE: I mean, there weren't many fat girls in the factory.

LAYTON: No, no, there weren't hardly any (laughs) fat girls in the factory. And, but boy, I tell you, aren't they terrible sometimes? And oh, I just want to go out and flog them. (laughs) That's terrible. It's because I --

JUNGE: Well, you stayed slender.

LAYTON: Well, yeah. We, we ate smart I guess, or something. And the only fat probably comes from a beer I drink. (laughs)

JUNGE: No. You don't. Did you drink beer during prohibition?

LAYTON: During prohibition?

JUNGE: Yeah.

LAYTON: Huh, no. (laughs) [00:48:00] I didn't. I was too young. (laughs)

JUNGE: Did your dad make alcohol?

LAYTON: Nope.

JUNGE: He didn't make moonshine?

LAYTON: Nope.

JUNGE: He didn't make wine?

LAYTON: Nope.

JUNGE: Didn't make beer?

LAYTON: Nope.

JUNGE: Did he drink?

LAYTON: He, nope. Well, he did, he would go down and have a drink once in a while with some of the guys in town, but not, he never did at home.

JUNGE: Did your mom?

LAYTON: Nope, nope.

JUNGE: So where did you get this habit?

LAYTON: I have no idea. I think my husband taught me.

(laughs)

JUNGE: Is Kathy in here listening to this?

LAYTON: No, I think she's outside. (laughs)

JUNGE: She's probably going to rap me over the head for asking you, asking you questions like that.

LAYTON: No, but you know, I don't, I think it was, no, I think probably when we were seniors in Shoshoni High School, they'd have a dance [00:49:00] every once in a while there at Shoshoni rec room or something and I think that's probably when I started to drink. Not very much, I mean you know just, because a lot of the guys that we, or a lot of the people that, our age people, would have liquor at the dances. Or we'd, and so, but they'd take it out in the car and then drive out in the country a little bit and (laughs) drink some of it. First drink I ever had was whiskey. And that was during a dance, you know, and so but I just had one swallow and --

JUNGE: How did it affect you?

LAYTON: Well, it kind of, we went back to the dance and my daddy was there then. And he would take us kids to the dance. And oh, I didn't want to look at him, you know, because I just knew he knew I was out there drinking. But when we had a whiskey bottle I remember, [00:50:00] and this one gal said, "Here, Mag, just take a drink." Well, I started to drink and I thought I was supposed to drink half the bottle, you know. And she's, "No, not that much." (laughs) I didn't know. And so then, so then, what later

on then, I didn't, my daddy was one of the chaperones, they had chaperones, you know and so I didn't want to look at him because I just knew he'd see that on me or something. So I was talking to somebody, I can't remember who it was, I was talking to afterwards and they said, "Well, he wouldn't have noticed," because he said he and Rosie were drinking, too. (laughs) And that's the first time I knew that Daddy drank. (laughs)

JUNGE: Rosie?

LAYTON: Rosie [Shuttlesworth?]. He was, we called him Rosie. He helped build the Episcopal Church out there with Daddy and they were neighbors of ours up the road a way, is when we lived in Missouri Valley. Rosie Shuttlesworth. [00:51:00] They, he did a lot of potato plant or you know, growing in.

JUNGE: Did you smoke?

LAYTON: No, I didn't smoke until I was probably -- oh, probably in my twenties. And then I thought everybody else smoked, I might as well, too. Now, wasn't that a stupid thing? (laughs) I mean, and so but, and then I got, I was working then at the REA building and so I smoked for quite a while, I think. I remember, and one time my sister from California came to visit. Mama was teaching at that time and so Mom and Sis and I went down to one of the



restaurants there in town to have lunch and I took out a cigarette. And so I started to light and Sis never smoked and she just took it away from me and threw it, or in the ashtray, just, "You don't need to smoke," [00:52:00] and Mama looked at her and (laughs) she opened her purse, took out a cigarette. (laughs) And started to smoke. Sis never (laughs) -- Yeah, so Mama smoked a little bit but not a lot. So then I finally get to smelling smoky all the time. I thought, well, why are you smoking? And so I quit.

JUNGE: How many years did you --

LAYTON: I smoked probably five years.

JUNGE: Yeah, yeah.

LAYTON: And then I quit.

JUNGE: OK, let's go back to the factory.

LAYTON: Yeah. (laughs) I get sidetracked.

JUNGE: No, no. I'm deliberately doing this, you know.

LAYTON: (laughs) OK.

JUNGE: So OK. You're back at the factory. You're working.

You do your job. I would think a job of, eight hours a day, right?

LAYTON: Right.

JUNGE: You must have had muscles on you like that tattoo that's on your arm. I mean, that must have been hard work.

LAYTON: Well, it was. It was, it was hard work, [00:53:00]  
yeah. Because it was the same thing, you know, you don't  
get to move around a lot. And so it was, it was hard.  
(laughs) Yeah, but just because you couldn't move around a  
lot.

JUNGE: Do you remember how much you got paid?

LAYTON: No, you know I don't. I wish I did. Maybe, in fact,  
I think I asked Sis this one time. And I said, she says,  
"I think we made 25 cents an hour." (laughs) And that  
comes to mind, anyhow, so if, and but it wasn't much.

JUNGE: How could you live on that, if that's what it was?

LAYTON: Well, things then weren't real high, price, you know.  
I mean they weren't, we were all three together so we,  
(laughs) you know.

JUNGE: Well then, what did you do for entertainment? Like if  
you had to have a hot dog or a hamburger or something like  
that?

LAYTON: Well, we'd go out and go to a café and have a  
hamburger or something, you know. But us twins, we did a  
lot of walking [00:54:00] downtown. I mean just, we'd take  
a streetcar down to the plaza or so and then walk, you  
know, around San Diego. We did that. And then on days off  
we would, which was probably Saturday and Sunday maybe, we  
would go to a riding stable there. They had a riding

stable there and us twins did that a lot. We went riding and go out in the country riding. So we did that a lot. And then we did go down to Mexico one time I think.

JUNGE: I'll be that was a trip.

LAYTON: It was, it was something else, yeah. It's, but yeah, I'm sure we did. Anyhow, we did a lot of hiking, too, because she didn't, her apartment wasn't too far from the canyon there, there was a canyon there. And I can't remember the name of the canyon, but there was a lot of hiking spots there. [00:55:00]

JUNGE: Listen, if I was a young lady working in a factory, walking the streets, I would be afraid of one of those sailors in San Diego picking me up. (laughs)

LAYTON: Oh yeah. That's probably why we walked the streets. (laughter) It was that reason.

JUNGE: Maggi, not only, you're incorrigible. You know that?

LAYTON: I know it.

JUNGE: Absolutely incorrigible.

LAYTON: (laughs) But I sure have fun. (laughs) I have a lot more fun than Marge, because Marge never dared anything. I was stupid, she wasn't. (laughs) But I had more fun, too.

JUNGE: Well, if you were stupid you sure had a lot of luck, didn't you?

LAYTON: Yeah, yes. (laughs)

JUNGE: When you look back at that job what do you think?

LAYTON: I, oh, sometimes I wish I was still doing it. But most of the time I, I think we did, I just think it was the right thing to do, you know. And it was a good job, really. It wasn't all that hard. [00:56:00] So, but --

JUNGE: What do you think about these Rosie the Riveter jobs in general? I mean --

LAYTON: Well, I think that the gals did a heck of a good job. (laughs) All of them, in general. You know, they, and that was, that was great, that there were so many women that would, you know, get out and take those jobs and stuff. My sister, older sister, speaking about taking jobs, because people are in the service, that was when the plant, we quit building planes then but it was still going on, the war was still going on, but it was kind of ending them. And there was a lot of women that did filling stations then. And Sis was the manager of a filling station of a guy that was in the service and he didn't have anybody to take over the service station, so Sis did. They hired her. So she did that. [00:57:00] And it was a funny thing that, it was strange because the guy that owned the filling station has a house and had a house at that time out here between Missouri Valley turnoff and Shoshoni. And so, and he had it at that time. And so that might have been why he hired

Sis, (laughs) because she was from (inaudible). (laughs) I don't know. But isn't that something?

JUNGE: Could be. Yeah, yeah.

LAYTON: This is real coincidence, yeah.

JUNGE: Can you say something about the contribution of women like yourself and your sister?

LAYTON: And what?

JUNGE: The contribution that you made.

LAYTON: Yeah. Say something about that you're saying?

JUNGE: Yeah, yeah. How do you feel about that?

LAYTON: Well, I feel like we did a good job. I really, I really do think that we needed to do that. We wanted to do it and we needed to. And so but I'm proud of it, of what we did.

JUNGE: Yeah, OK. [00:58:00] But why did you need to do it? Why?

LAYTON: Because of Bob. Mostly. Because he did his, you know, he --

JUNGE: When you were working there every day, did you feel like you were making a contribution? Or did you just go to work and say, "Oh, here goes another job, got another bucket of rivets to do"?

LAYTON: Yeah, yeah, that's mostly what we thought, all right, yeah, we didn't, we just thought we were doing what we were supposed to be doing. Yep.

JUNGE: But looking back on it now after how many years has it been? Sixty-se- --

LAYTON: Well, it's been, I don't know. (laughs)

JUNGE: Seventy years maybe.

LAYTON: Seventy years or so, yes.

JUNGE: But looking back on it now, and the fact that you're in a book, *They Served with Honor*, as a Rosie the Riveter, how do you look back on that now? At this age.

LAYTON: Well, I think it's fine that, you know, that they write about us, (laughs) you know. And is that what you --

JUNGE: Yeah, I'm just wondering what the significance of [00:59:00] your job was, in the larger scheme of history.

LAYTON: I think it was probably one of the better parts of history. (laughs) You know. And really, I do, I think that, that I'm glad we did it, yeah.

JUNGE: You think you made a contribution to the war effort?

LAYTON: Oh yes, yeah. I think so.

JUNGE: How many planes did they put out every day there?

LAYTON: You know, I don't remember. I don't remember. Isn't that awful?

JUNGE: Well, no, no. You don't have to remember something like that. I just wondered if it was like an assembly line work? You got up on the rack and then another one came along?

LAYTON: Yes, yes. Yeah, it was that, it was an assembly line. Mm-hmm. Then another came along, yeah.

JUNGE: You moved or the assembly line moved?

LAYTON: The assembly line moved. We stayed in the same position, I mean place.

JUNGE: What happens if you had to sneeze and you didn't have time to get that rivet in? Was somebody on your neck?

LAYTON: [01:00:00] No. Not really. (laughs) No. No. They were really good. We had good bosses. (laughs)

JUNGE: Were they female or male?

LAYTON: They were mostly male. Yeah.

JUNGE: Did they feel at that time that it would take a male to be a boss?

LAYTON: I think so. I really do think so. Yep.

JUNGE: Did you feel that way?

LAYTON: Yeah. That we were brought up that way, evidently, yeah, I didn't think any, any different. You know, I mean, that was the way it was supposed to be. Now, isn't that stupid? (laughter) Sorry.

JUNGE: Well, no. Things have changed, haven't they?

LAYTON: Yes, they've changed a lot. Yep.

JUNGE: Do you think for the better?

LAYTON: Well, in some ways. And in some ways not. But mostly yes, for the better, I really think so.

JUNGE: In what ways not?

LAYTON: Well, I don't know. I don't know why I even said that, because I don't really have a reason. [01:01:00]  
(laughs) I just thought that, you know, there again, well, maybe that's supposed to be the way it was but no, I think that we're not necessarily better off, we're just as well, I mean we're about the same.

JUNGE: How do you feel about women being the positions that they're in today? Politics and CEOs of companies.

LAYTON: I think that's OK, I'm for that. Yes, I sure am because women, they're just as smart as men. (laughs) You know, they have -- (laughs)

JUNGE: I'm shocked. That you said that to me. (laughs)

LAYTON: (laughs) Anyhow, I had to. But no, I think that that's OK, if they want to be, fine, you know. Be in a position of politics or whatever, I wouldn't --

JUNGE: So you never felt shortchanged as a woman? [01:02:00]  
(cough) Like you know, gosh, "We had a glass ceiling over us and we never got to break the glass ceiling," and --

LAYTON: No, never, never felt that way.



JUNGE: Why not?

LAYTON: I don't know. Probably because the way I was raised.

(laughs) I mean I think really that's probably it. That was me, you know. Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: Yeah. So you haven't got any burning desire for revenge in your heart against men.

LAYTON: Pardon?

JUNGE: You don't have any burning desire for revenge against men in your heart?

LAYTON: Oh no, never. Just my husband. No. (laughs) That's the only man, rrrrrr. No, I'm just kidding. But no, no, uh-uh, not really, not really. Nope.

JUNGE: OK, OK.

LAYTON: I think I just think that, that (inaudible) well meant alone maybe, I don't know, it's, but --

JUNGE: But what?

LAYTON: Then, I mean think women, I think everybody should do what they want to do. You know, and if women want to be in politics, fine. I wouldn't want to. [01:03:00] But I'm, I'm more of a follower than a leader. (laughs) I was president of the State Historical Society at one time, the State president. Wasn't my doing because the guy that was vice president was up for the next presidency. Some of the

people, this happened in Laramie, I think. Anyhow, some of the people didn't like him. They thought he --

JUNGE: Was this [Loren Yost?]?

LAYTON: No, no. That was before [Loren Jost?]. It was a guy from Rock Springs, I think. What was his name? And I've been trying to think of who put me, who the --

JUNGE: It wasn't Henry [Chattey?]?

LAYTON: Pardon?

JUNGE: Henry [Chatey?]?

LAYTON: No, uh-huh. I think they liked him. He was a good guy, I mean, I always liked, I thought he did OK job. But darn, I wish I could remember, that's been so long ago.

JUNGE: Oh, that's all right.

LAYTON: So they put me up as, well heavens. [01:04:00] I'm not a president. I'm more of a follower, like I say, than a leader. And so they, the next election then they, I said, "No. (laughs) No way. I've had it." And then I was president of the Friends of [South Pass?] at one time. And I didn't mind that because that was more of, my type, I mean my liking. And our Riverton Historical Society, I think I was president at one, I just don't like to be president of anything, so see, wouldn't go into politics for nothing.

JUNGE: Why don't you want to be president?

LAYTON: I don't know. I'm not good enough. I feel that I'm not good enough and I'm not. I mean, I don't, I don't really, that's my feeling. I just, I don't like to be in charge, maybe. Is that what I'm trying to say?

JUNGE: You feel uncomfortable?

LAYTON: Yeah. I feel, you know, just, I just think somebody else could do a better job. [01:05:00]

JUNGE: OK, OK. (laughter) Well, listen, is there anything else we have to, (cough) excuse me, talk about in regard to this Rosie the Riveter? Did you recognize yourselves as Rosie the Riveters? I mean, is that what they called them?

LAYTON: Well you know, I don't think they called them that at that time. No, we were just riveters. But I think Rosie came along later, I think, the name. And yeah. Because we were just riveters. We were just doing our job. We were factory workers.

JUNGE: How long did you have that job?

LAYTON: We worked four months, I think, I think four months, anyhow, through the winter. And then we went back to the farm. Well, I had got the measles. (laughs) And we had to come back home.

JUNGE: Is that why you, because you had the measles?

LAYTON: Yeah. That's right.

JUNGE: That's why you had to come back?

LAYTON: That's why I had to quit.

JUNGE: Oh really? It was serious.

LAYTON: Yeah.

JUNGE: Measles was serious.

LAYTON: Oh yeah. We were quarantined in Sis's apartment there. [01:06:00] (laughs) And it was just --

JUNGE: Why couldn't you wait until it got, the measles were finished and then go back to work?

LAYTON: I didn't want to. I wanted, we wanted to come home, and it was getting spring to where Daddy needed help. So we came home to help farm.

JUNGE: Did you feel like you had accomplished what you wanted to accomplish?

LAYTON: Yes, yes, sure did. Yep, we were ready. Yep.

JUNGE: Do you remember the name of that factory?

LAYTON: Consolidated. Consolidated Aircraft.

JUNGE: Yeah, I asked you that. Yeah, Consolidated.

LAYTON: Yeah. It was then, but it's Convair now, maybe. Or something. I can't, Convair I think. I'm not sure, but it was Consolidated Aircraft at that time.

JUNGE: What did they manufacture? What kind of planes?

LAYTON: What?

JUNGE: What sort of planes did you manufacture? Or rivet.

What kind of planes were --

LAYTON: Oh, PBY-24. I called it. I called it a PBY-42. What they are, [01:07:00] they were planes, one pilot plane that would, that flew around along the coast looking for submarine, enemy submarines. So they were that kind of a plane. They were whatever that word is. And --

JUNGE: Sub chasers, yeah.

LAYTON: The reason, when I, when we were first doing the stories for these people I said, "PBY-42" and so we had a friend, in Shoshoni at that time, he and Don were good gun buddies. And he came to visit one time and he says, "Maggi," he said, "That plane was a PBY-24, not a 4-2." I says, "Oh." He says, "The reason I know is I flew one." (laughs) And here we'd known that guy for years and didn't realize until he read the story in the paper [01:08:00] about that and he flew one on the east coast.

JUNGE: Don't you think it would be appropriate to have, you know, like clubs, like the American Legion and VFW, invite people like yourself who worked, you know, as part of the war effort?

LAYTON: Oh.

JUNGE: Be allowed to join groups like that or were you even interested in that?

LAYTON: Well, yeah, I think they would be allowed, but I wouldn't be interested. (laughs) I mean I just, you know, we did our job and that was it. (laughs) Or something.

JUNGE: Yeah. So you came back to Riverton and then what did you do?

LAYTON: We came back to Missouri Valley, to the farm and then we helped Daddy that summer and then I went to work for the REA, the Riverton Electric Association, after I came back from Yellowstone Park, working that summer, and then, then I went to work for the REA.

JUNGE: And then you met your husband. [01:09:00]

LAYTON: That's when I met my husband. Yep.

JUNGE: And you guys had six kids.

LAYTON: Yep. Three girls and three boys and our youngest boy died, and when he was young and so, I mean he was 20-some or 30-some, but the rest of them are still --

JUNGE: What happened to him?

LAYTON: Too much drugs.

JUNGE: Oh, oh OK.

LAYTON: Yeah. So he was gay and he didn't like that. And we didn't, you know, yeah, we didn't, there wasn't, you know, he was ours, you know, no matter what. And so he, it bothered him to the extent that he, he just took too many drugs. And he was in Arizona at the time staying with,

thank goodness, my oldest son. I don't know why I say "thank goodness" because that was terrible for him to go through, and George, so, but, so he, but he's at peace now. And he wasn't happy before.

JUNGE: How long ago was this?

LAYTON: That was probably [01:10:00] oh my, oh, I can't remember the date. Isn't that terrible? I don't -- probably 15 years maybe ago. Or more.

JUNGE: Things have changed a lot in terms of attitudes in 15 years.

LAYTON: Yes, a lot, yes. Mm-hmm. Just a lot.

JUNGE: Do you think that would have made a difference with him? The change in attitude?

LAYTON: I think probably so, yeah. It's, I think so.

JUNGE: If he had been in community like the one that my wife and I mean, my wife, my son and his wife live in, with our grandson, in the Castro district of San Francisco. It's the largest gay district in the world, probably.

LAYTON: Oh, is that right?

JUNGE: Yeah.

LAYTON: I'll be darned.

JUNGE: And if had lived, maybe if he had lived in a different situation.

LAYTON: Yeah, yeah, it would have been different, I'm sure.

Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: Yeah, yeah.

LAYTON: So, but, it was to be, because he's at peace now.

[01:11:00] He's not suffering anymore. (laughs)

JUNGE: This book I've got in front of me here, this, it says,

*103 Rosie the Riveter Stories:*

LAYTON: Stories, yep.

JUNGE: *As Told by Real Rosies who Served in the Work Force or  
who Helped Through Volunteer Work During World War II.*

American Rosie the Riveter Association 2001. Are you a  
member of this?

LAYTON: Do, yeah.

JUNGE: Of the association?

LAYTON: Yes.

JUNGE: Are you?

LAYTON: Yeah. Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: National headquarters of it, of the American Rosie the  
Riveter --

LAYTON: Yeah, were, we're members of that. Mm-hmm.

JUNGE: You and your sister.

LAYTON: Yep.



JUNGE: Is located at FDR's Little White House in Warm Springs, Georgia. Visit the website at [rosietheriveter.net](http://rosietheriveter.net).

LAYTON: Yep.

JUNGE: So when did you join this?

LAYTON: Well, I can't remember now. It's probably been, oh, five years ago maybe. What's the copyright of that book?

JUNGE: This one's 2001. [01:12:00]

LAYTON: OK, so it probably, it was probably five years ago. I can't remember, isn't that something? But we decided to go ahead and join it.

JUNGE: Why? Why did you?

LAYTON: Well, just, just because we were, we were riveters and so why not (laughs) join the association? (laughs) And so I guess, I don't know.

JUNGE: Is your story in here?

LAYTON: Nope. We didn't ever send it in.

JUNGE: Why not?

LAYTON: Well, I don't know. We just didn't feel like it I guess, I don't know why. (laughs) But anyhow.

JUNGE: Here's one called *Green Socks and Hot Ribbons*.

(laughter) Barbara [Worthy?].

LAYTON: Oh.

JUNGE: Sun City West, Arizona.

LAYTON: Yeah. (laughs) But you want to take that with you?

JUNGE: No, this is yours.

LAYTON: Well, I know it, but I thought I could lend it out, check it out.

JUNGE: No, I could get a copy of it. You keep your collection intact [01:13:00] here because I'm liable not to return or return it two years from now and say, "I wonder who this belongs to."

LAYTON: (laughs) You wouldn't be the only one. (laughs) I've had books that, and now I'm real careful and I write their names down and when they borrowed it. Because there are a lot of them.

JUNGE: And then send them a notice, an overdue notice?

LAYTON: Oh yeah, yep. (laughs) Call them and yell at them. (laughs) But these two books up here, I wanted to point those out to you, if I can find it. Oh, shucks, where did I, if I could remember the name of it.

JUNGE: That's OK, what are they?

LAYTON: Well, they're about Pitchfork Grant.

JUNGE: Yeah. *Brand of a Legend*.

LAYTON: Yeah, *Brand of a Legend*, and (inaudible) of shepherd, woman, sheepherder which --

JUNGE: Oh, Elinore Pruitt?

LAYTON: No.

JUNGE: No, no, no. That's *Letters from a Woman Homesteader*.

LAYTON: Yeah. That's the one, yeah, this is the letters from, [01:14:00] or *Legend of a Woman Home, A Woman Sheepherder*. She was, what the heck was her name?

JUNGE: Hamry, was it Emery?

LAYTON: No.

JUNGE: Mary Helen Henry?

LAYTON: Well, for crying out loud, here. Let me get up and jerk that off again.

JUNGE: You've got some slack there.

LAYTON: OK, let's see here. Oh, here we are. *Lady of a Legend*, there we go. And it was written by the same guys that wrote, *Pitchfork Ranch*.

JUNGE: Yeah. Bob Edgar and Jack Turnell.

LAYTON: Yeah, her name will be in there.

JUNGE: Page 102 and 106, Shoshoni? Are you in here?

LAYTON: No.

JUNGE: OK, it's just --

LAYTON: I think that might be --

JUNGE: Oh, I see, they just have a couple pages dedicated to Shoshoni.

LAYTON: Yeah. But she was a sheepherder, she was a [01:15:00] sheep lady out of Shoshoni, out north of Shoshoni. And by the dam's there now. And well, her name's in there

somewhere. Isn't that awful? I can't think what her name was.

JUNGE: Let's see.

LAYTON: Probably at the front there maybe.

JUNGE: Here. Let's look together.

LAYTON: (laughs) Sorry. *Lady of a Legend*, oh yeah, that was from Don's folks. She was quite a sheepherder. See? Oh, Lucy Morrison, duh. Lucy Morrison was her name, yep. And she went out there and she had a husband that went out with her I think, and then he didn't, he didn't like to work that hard. (laughs) And so he left [01:16:00] and then she, let's see, something, it's a pretty good book, though. Now there's a lady that should be the President of the United States. (laughs)

JUNGE: Really?

LAYTON: Lucy. Except I think she's dead now, but. Anyhow, she had a sheep ranch out there, north in Shoshoni. Yep. And --

JUNGE: I was going to ask you, too, so when you came back to this area you came back to Riverton, or Shoshoni.

LAYTON: You mean from where?

JUNGE: From the w-, when you came back to your dad's place.

LAYTON: Oh, Shoshoni.

JUNGE: You came back to Shoshoni.

LAYTON: To Missouri Valley, yeah. Shoshoni.

JUNGE: OK. And then you went to work and you met your husband and you settled down in Riverton?

LAYTON: Yes. Well, we went to California once. While, [Kathy?] was born in California, in fact, out of LA there. [01:17:00] (inaudible) But he went, he worked in a factory, a machinists' factory out there, he worked as a machinist in, where did he work? I can't remember what the place was now.

JUNGE: Why did he go out to California then?

LAYTON: Well, he thought he could, had to get a better job out there. That paid more and everything. So we went out there. Bob and Pam were born at that time, I mean they were our little kids. And, but he got, yeah, so he worked, we stayed there two or three years and then we were homesick. And so we came back and then he got a job at U.S. Steel, up at --

JUNGE: Lander?

LAYTON: At Lander.

JUNGE: The Lander Mine, or South Bass?

LAYTON: Atlantic City.

JUNGE: Atlantic City.

LAYTON: Mm-hmm. And he worked there for 18 years, as a machinist, he was a machinist, he was a real good

machinist, in fact he had a machine shop out here, he had,  
[01:18:00] we still have it. But he worked there for 18  
years and then he retired. Well, he got arthritis then,  
pretty bad. So he retired, but he retired right at the  
right time because not too long after that it went down, or  
the plant went somewhere else. And so the guys that were  
still working didn't get as good a retirement as he did.  
Because he had retired so, so that's what I'm living on.  
(laughs) It's good.

JUNGE: And Social Security, I suppose.

LAYTON: Mm-hmm. And Social Security. Definitely.

JUNGE: And Medicare, you have Medicare.

LAYTON: Yeah. Mm-hmm. And then I get a little bit from  
working at the college, CWC, I worked there for about five  
years or so.

JUNGE: What did you do?

LAYTON: I was a, I worked in the registration office. And  
helped to register --

JUNGE: How did you like that?

LAYTON: I liked it. It was fun. Seeing all those ornery  
kids. [01:19:00]

JUNGE: (laughs) Maggi, is there ever a job that you didn't  
like?

LAYTON: No, I probably liked them all. (laughs)

JUNGE: Do you like work?

LAYTON: Not now. (laughs) I like to get up and move around and Kathy does most of my work. (laughs) And so --

JUNGE: Yeah, but you're not afraid of it.

LAYTON: Oh, no, no, no. No. In fact, I think that's what keeps you young. Keep working. Keep working. Because that's why I'm still able to work. (laughs)

JUNGE: How does this community, I'm curious, now that this, we've exhausted this subject I think, well, we haven't exhausted it but I think we've gotten a pretty good amount from you about your job during the war. Oh, one last question, do you and your sister ever talk about this job that you had?

LAYTON: Oh yeah. Every once in a while. Not a lot.

JUNGE: Not a lot. Because it was such a short period in life.

LAYTON: Yeah, it was, it was short. We talk mostly about the people we remember. [01:20:00] That we worked with.

JUNGE: Did you meet, you must have met some characters.

LAYTON: Yeah, we did, we met some real characters. (laughs) And oh, I was going to tell you, too, about the fun we had going horseback riding. We went up to stables one time to check out a horse and there was a guy up there, there was a couple of young fellows up there, they were checking out

their horses and the one guy got on the horse and horses know when you can ride and when you can't, I think. And because, boy, this horse was just hopping all around and [FX] and boy that guy was just scared and, and so finally I had grabbed the reins of this horse and stopped him and he couldn't turn his head then and the guy got off and I said, "Here, take this horse I'm going to take and I'll get on yours," and I did and that horse never did a thing. It did exactly what I told it. He was so [mad?]. (laughs)

[01:21:00] I said, "You just have to know how." (laughs)

That didn't help either.

JUNGE: (laughs) What is this, you know, how does this community feel about the recent flack about the Indians saying that Riverton belongs to us?

LAYTON: Oh, well, they, I don't know. That's another thing that irritates me, too. Indians were here first. (laughs)

(inaudible) And I believe that. And it's just, people don't understand and you know, and they don't, they think that the Indians ought to be, stay on the reservation, I guess, I don't know. It's just, we have stupid people in Riverton, let's just put it like that. They don't, they don't care about anything but themselves. And they think, you know, stupid, is what I call them. [01:22:00] Every



time you drive downtown you meet a stupid driver. (laughs)

You've probably met a lot of those on your trip around.

JUNGE: I think I'm one of them.

LAYTON: (laughs) No, I don't think so. Oh, I know but --

JUNGE: But no, yeah, I was thinking about that this morning because I talked to a fellow who runs the motel where I stayed last night.

LAYTON: Here in town?

JUNGE: No, no. This was up in Thermopolis.

LAYTON: Oh, in Thermop.

JUNGE: And what did he make the comment about? Something.

It had to do with, you know how you get into these conversations, you just sort of slip into them?

LAYTON: Right.

JUNGE: And you don't mean to, but you slip into them and he said something like, "You know, well, it's our government," and I said, "Well, you'd better be careful," I said, "Because I'm a Democrat." And he goes, "Well, OK, but you can't like what Obama's doing. You just can't like what he's doing." And you know, I had to go to meet you.

[01:23:00] I had to go eat breakfast and then I had to drive on the road to get here to Riverton and for some reason I didn't argue with him, but I kick myself now because I'd like to say, "What do you mean?"

LAYTON: Exactly. That's what I'd say. Why? You know.

JUNGE: Why?

LAYTON: And so they can't give you a good answer, though.

JUNGE: Here's a man that's tried to do something for everybody.

LAYTON: Yes.

JUNGE: He's tried to do something for the planet. He's tried to do something for the climate.

LAYTON: Exactly.

JUNGE: He's trying to help people and they just keep kicking him in the butt.

LAYTON: I know it. And I like him. (laughs)

JUNGE: Do you? You're a Republican, too.

LAYTON: Well, yeah, but that's because my folks were. I'm actually, the last time I voted, I didn't vote last time, but the last time I voted I was a Democrat, I voted as a Democrat. My husband was a Democrat. When I married him I kind of turned, (laughs) as a Democrat. But I was a Republican, though, because of my folks.

JUNGE: Was your dad a very strong Republican?

LAYTON: Yes. [01:24:00]

JUNGE: And your mom, too?

LAYTON: And Mom, too. Mm-hmm. Daddy more so. Mm-hmm. Oh yeah.

JUNGE: You know, it's been, in the past it seems to me, it's been the case where women generally follow their husband's point of view.

LAYTON: Yes, that's right.

JUNGE: And not the opposite.

LAYTON: Yeah, (overlapping).

JUNGE: Although that's changing, right?

LAYTON: Yeah. Well, see what I did. See, I changed. Because Don was a Democrat, so I turned Democrat. But I was really for the Democrats (laughs) then, too. You know, then, at that time, so, that was in '40. No, when were we married? Fifty-one. (laughs)

JUNGE: Yeah. So what do you think of the casino out here?

LAYTON: Well, I think it's OK. I don't go out. I don't believe in, I'd rather buy a book. Because you keep that. But it's OK, the Indians, I'm OK with it.

JUNGE: Mm-hmm. I am, too.

LAYTON: I really am, I'm OK with it.

JUNGE: You've got, we're sitting here in this --

LAYTON: History room. [01:25:00] (laughs)

JUNGE: History room, you call it and I'm looking at this huge picture of Chief Washakie that you've got at --

LAYTON: I love it.

JUNGE: At the hotel from [Moreland?]. But all around us are books.

LAYTON: Yeah, oh. (laughs)

JUNGE: Practically surrounding us. And what about this collection of Wyoming books?

LAYTON: That's -- (clears throat) that's this, some mixed up, too, because Marge, I got, and all of this from the bottom, it's Wyoming books. And then, (inaudible), let me, let me take you on a little tour around the house, OK?

JUNGE: OK. Let's cut this. Wait a minute. Let's cut this off. Let me squeeze that.

LAYTON: There we are.

JUNGE: All right. I want to thank you. I want to thank you for this contribution.

LAYTON: OH, well, I want to thank you. (laughs) I mean, it's crazy but, but I hope I did all right.

[01:25:52]

END OF AUDIO FILE