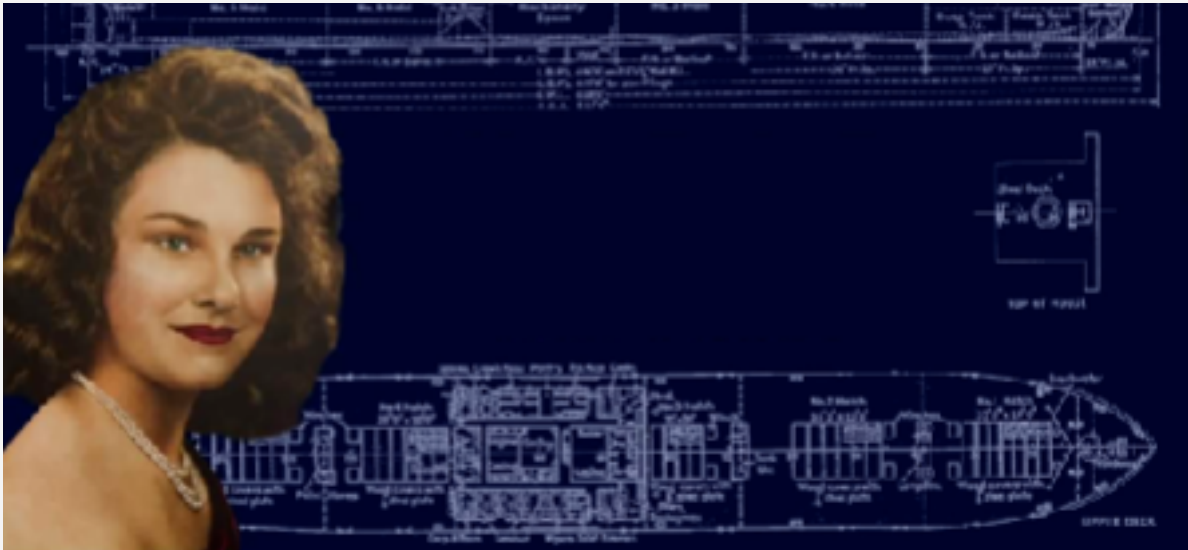


VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

# SHE CAN DO IT!

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH A FORMER  
'ROSIE THE RIVETER'



10/20/2020

AGNES MOORE

## SHE CAN DO IT!

WRITTEN BY ABIGAIL O'BRANOVICH

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to speak with a hero of mine. She has no idea how much she has inspired me. Agnes Moore, a 100 year old, is a former Journeyman Welder. Over the course of an hour, she relayed stories of her childhood. How she grew up on a farm without electricity, using only kerosene lamps, and selling cream and butter (with the highest grade, of course) at the local creamery. She mentioned how much she loved her grandmother's bed. "It had *high* posts, on every corner that went to the ceiling. They were carved and had little curly-q's on them."

We then got into her time as a Rosie. This has to be my favorite topic to discuss with her. Her use of descriptive language gives you the sense of her holding your hand and walking with you back through time. She is a very patient person, and took the time to answer my questions in great detail.

## THE EARLY YEARS

**Abigail O'Branovich:**

So, you lived on a farm, which is really cool!

**Agnes Moore:**

It was a lot of work. (laughs.)

**AO:**

Did you have a TV in your house back then?

**AM:**

No, we didn't even have a radio. We had an organ that you pumped and my mother played the organ and we would sing.

**AO:**

What songs did you sing?

**AM:**

Uh, hymns from the church songbook. Like "The Old Rugged Cross".

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**AO:**

How about Fashion? Everyday clothes?

**AM:**

Well, we just wore regular dresses. My mom made all of our clothes. Our dresses were different from the other girls, and we liked that. They had to buy theirs ready-made and they all got them from the same place so they all looked alike.

**AO:**

And you looked *unique*.

**AM:**

Yes, we had special ones.

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**AO:**

Alright. We are doing great!

**AM:**

Oh!

**AO:**

I remember in a previous phone call we had, you mentioned you had lived in a family of 7 with four boys and 3 girls. What were the ages and names of your siblings?

**AM:**

My oldest brother, his name was Alfred. The second was Clara. (she goes on listing her siblings...) Each child is two years older. Every two years, my mother had a baby, and she had seven.

**AO:**

Awesome! I can do the math later.



**AO:**

I am curious, my journalism teacher had a meal that her mother would make called "Hamburger Stew". I am curious if you had that, or something like it?

**AM:**

Well, being on the farm, we grew just about everything we ate. We had chickens and pigs for bacon. And we had cows that we milked, we grew everything. The only thing we bought at the store was flour and baking powder, and stuff like that. We baked all of our own bread. So, it was a lot of work.

**AO:**

Did you have any popular meals in your home?

**AM:**

(the enthusiasm in her voice is so apparent)

We *loved* bacon and then gravy made from the bacon. (chuckles) Bacon drippins'. Oh, it was *so good*!

**"WELL, I GET UP AND I HAD TO PUT ON MAN'S CLOTHES, 'CUS I WAS DOING A MAN'S JOB."**

## WORKING AT KAISER

**AO:**

Did you and Bonnie (her sister) work in the same facilities, meaning were you both assigned to the Kaiser Shipyards?

**AM:**

We both worked for Kaiser, but Kaiser had four shipyards in Richmond. So, you didn't necessarily work where you knew everyone. There were thousands of people working. It was like, have you seen a bunch of ants crawling around on the dirt?

**AO:**

Yes.

**AM:**

And how they are just busy, busy, busy. Well, that's the way we were. Everybody was working and happy to do it because, who were we fighting then? I think we were fighting the Germans. They had England down to her knees, bombing her into the ground. So we finally gave in and said "we will defend England". and we got into the war. It's the second World War, they called it.

**AO:**

Yeah...

**AM:**

You probably weren't even born then.

**AO:**

Nope.

**AM:**

What year were you born?

**AO:**

I was born in 2003.

**AM:**

Two-oh-three. My goodness, you're just a baby.

**AO:**

I am a baby.

**AO:**

Did any of your other siblings have a position in the war?

**AM:**

My youngest brother was in the war.

**AO:**

That would be Ralph. What position, what rank would he have been?

**AM:**

Oh, he was a private first class. He was in, right at the end of it. The war was over before he got into it, really. He never left the United States. We were happy to have him still here.



WOMEN WORKING ON AS WELDERS

**AO:**

What was a typical day like for you?

**AM:**

Well, I get up and I had to put on man's clothes, 'cus I was doing a man's job. I had big, heavy lace up boots and overalls and then leather overalls over them. Because welding, you're working with fire, so we had to wear the leather overalls to keep from getting burned.

**AO:**

Yeah, I'm sure.

**AM:**

Then we wore big, gray gloves that went to our elbows. Leather overalls and a leather jacket. We had a big hood that we put on our head that protected our eyes when we were welding. (see photo) You had to raise it up when you went to get a new rod.

**AO:**

It was *lovely* speaking with you.

**AM:**

Well thank you. It's nice to talk to you.

**AO:**

Thank you so much for all your wonderful information.

**AM:**

Well, I am glad I can help you.

**AO:**

Alright, talk to you soon.

**AM:**

Bye bye.

**AO:**

Bye!