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Interview no. 872

Betty J. Ligon

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE: Betty J. Ligon

INTERVIEWER: Michelle L. Gomilla

PROJECT: World War II

DATE OF INTERVIEW: March 8, 1995

TERMS OF USE: Unrestricted

TAPE NO: 872

TRANSCRIPT NO: _____

TRANSCRIBER: _____

BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Former assistant editor of in-house publication distributed to employees during World War II at the PANTEX Ordnance Plant, Amarillo, TX; born 27 August 1921 in Decatur, TX; graduate of Wayland Baptist Junior College, Plainview, TX, and West Texas State College, Canyon, TX; assistant society editor for Plainview Evening Herald; reporter for International News Service, Dallas, TX; society editor for Amarillo Globe News; columnist for "Hangar Gas," aviation column in Amarillo Globe News; airplane pilot; understudy at Texas Western Press; entertainment reporter for El Paso Herald Post.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Recollects decision to enter field of journalism; employment experiences at Plainview Evening Herald; meeting Helen Keller, deaf and blind lecturer; bombing of Pearl Harbor; recruitment by PANTEX Ordnance Plant; wartime rationing, shortages, and social activities; war effort contributions; recalls spending day with Robert Taylor, French cinema star; covering society events in Amarillo; writing aviation column for Amarillo Globe News, "Hangar Gas"; flying lessons; filming of movie in Tascosa, "Boy's Ranch"; Amarillo premier of "Duel in the Sun"; impressions of Hollywood cinema stars Gregory Peck and Joseph Cotten; attempts to interview Clark Gable and Howard Hughes; reflects on cultural and ethnic isolation of hometown community; discrimination and segregation during World War II; offer to write for aviation publication, Flying Magazine; move to El Paso; work with Carl Hertzog, well-known printer, at Texas Western Press; shares sentiments on current position as entertainment reporter for the El Paso Herald Post.

Length of Interview: 2 hours, 5 min. Length of Transcript _____