



CALLING FOR ROSIE STORIES

Welcome to the American Rosie the Riveter Association! We are so glad to have you join ARRA. You help keep the legacy of the Rosies alive for generations to come.

We are thrilled to announce that we are now collecting Rosie Stories for our 8th publication. This is your chance to share your Rosie story. Every story matters, These are the stories that make history real, they deserve to be heard and preserved.

Please see and complete the following page for instructions and guidelines for story submission. If you have any questions please contact the ARRA Book Committee at RosieBiographiesARRA@rosietheriveter.net

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: November 15, 2026

Please send you story with the following page and the appropriate signatures to the address listed on the form.

We look forward to your story submission.

Laura Wright (Rosebud), President
American Rosie the Riveter Association
presidentARRA@rosietheriveter.net

Look for our other books on ARRA's Rosie Shoppe online at rosietheriveter.net.



American Rosie the Riveter Association's Rosie Stories Archives

Thanks for sharing your Rosie legacy!

this scanned form **and** your story
and jpeg file photos to:
RosieBiographiesARRA@rosietheriveter.net

Interview Tips for Rosies Oral History

To nudge deep stories out of Rosies, skip the rigid timelines. Weave sensory, scene setting questions directly into a natural conversation. Phrases like *“Tell me more,” “Walk me through that,”* or *“Talk to me about (blank)”* are great ways to get those memory banks fired up.



Start with the sensory basics. Ask about:

- The first shift
- The heavy feel of the uniform
- The smell of weld smoke or machine oil
- The deafening sounds of the factory floor at it peak

When the women offer modest summaries, zoom into specific “movie scenes.” Ask about:

- The weight of their tools
- Jokes shared among the ladies
- Songs hummed on the line
- The intense pride felt looking at a finished airplane or ship

Probe for the exact moment they heard the war ended, and encourage them to ground the session by letting Rosie hold an old photo or other special memorabilia.

Most importantly: embrace five seconds of silence after a question. Give these historic women the quiet space they need to mentally step back onto the assembly line and retrieve the details. Often, a warm smile or a gentle pat on the hand lets them know you’re listening and waiting for their reply.

Think of yourself as a listener rather than an interviewer. They will feel the difference.

Be sure to **include the Biography Checklist** (send a request by mail or email if you need one) and **Email the SIGNED Checklist, story, and copies of photos to:**

RosieBiographiesARRA@rosietheriveter.net

**OR MAIL TO: ARRA Rosie Biographies
c/o Helen Sullinger
11292 Mourning Dove Lane
Frederick, WI 54837**

Additional Questions:

1. First name, middle, maiden, last name of Rosie
2. Where was she born?
3. Where did she grow up?
4. Did she work before the war? Where? Doing what?
5. Dates/years worked for war effort?
6. Why did she join the workforce during WWII?
7. Why did she work at that company/volunteer job?
8. Did she apply to a company with a relative or friend?
9. What shift did she work?
10. How did she get her job and why?
11. Provide a job description, training involved, or any kind of information about her job.
12. If she worked on a vessel or plane, what part did she work on?
13. Can she describe a typical day or share any stories about working.
14. Does she remember any amusing stories while working?
15. What did she wear?
16. Who did she work with (as a team, with a partner)?
17. Were there other women working with her?
18. Does she remember what she did with her first paycheck?
19. Did she have to move for her job (from where)?
20. Where did she live when working?
21. Describe the living arrangements.
22. How did she get to work (bus, walking, carpool)? How long did it take?
23. How did she meet her husband? What was her husband's name? And where was he from?
24. What did she do with her free time? (evenings or weekends)
25. Were there any family members who also worked at a war plant?
26. Were there family members who were in the service during the War? Did she know what branch of the military they were in and where stationed/deployed?
27. Was her husband/future husband in WWII? Branch of service? Stationed?
28. Does she remember any difficulties during the War? (buying clothing, shoes, transportation, food rationing?)
29. Any particular food that she couldn't have during the war?
30. Did she have a "Victory garden"? Describe if possible
31. Did she do any canning of garden vegetables?
32. Did she have any difficulties with things breaking and not being able to get them replaced?
33. Does she remember (describe) blackout drills or pulling down the blackout shades at home?
34. Did she do things like saving fat, scrap metal, or collecting war stamps? Or remember any groups coming around the house to collect these items?
35. Does she have any memories about listening to the news about the war on the radio? Any particular event?
36. Can she describe the scene the day the war ended? Where were she?
37. Did she work up until the end of the war? If so, did her job end?
38. If she stopped working before the war ended, why?
39. When/where did she get married?
40. Did she work after WWII? Doing what?
41. If there is something she could tell a young person today about working during WWII, what would she say? (conclude with a reflection)