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Theda F. Campbell

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ORAL HISTORY OF APPALACHIA
 400 Hal Greer Boulevard
 Huntington, West Virginia 25755-2567
 304/696-6799

SUBJECT: Owens Glass
Hot. Project
 ORAL HISTORY NUMBER: _____
 MORROW ACCESSION NUMBER: 00655

ORAL HISTORY

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Theda J Campbell
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Huntington W Va
5236691
 (Phone)

DATE: _____

 (Signature - Interviewer)

 (Address)

 (Phone)

Interview and Biography of Theda F. Campbell

Her Experiences at the Owens Glass Plant

Project Completed by:

Interview: *Louis Zollo*

Transcription: *Nesley Griffith*

Biography: *Jack Fournier*

Biography of Theda F. Campbell
Her Experiences at the Owens Glass Plant

Theda F. Campbell was born in Huntington, West Virginia in 1932. She is the daughter of Dorothy and Elish Franklin, respectively an antique dealer and contractor. She completed high school and took her first job in a ten cent store. In 1956, Theda got a job at the Owens Bottling Plant in Huntington.

Having worked at Owens, Elish felt the work was too tough for his daughter. Despite her father's disliking, Theda started working at Owens on September fourth at the age of 26. She was hired to be a "selector." The selector "packed the bottles...looked at them and packed them." Theda says she enjoyed this job. The only thing she did not like about this particular job was the "hard work." "You had to pack bottles, stack cartons...there were just a lot of things to do."

While working as a selector, Theda worked with all women. The supervisors were all men. She liked some of these men and disliked others. Theda said of the supervisors:

"Well, like the midnight shift would come and would

and would wear these little white gloves to protect your hands. Well, (the supervisors) would give you the gloves and then they would disappear until it was an hour before time to go home. And we did all the work....They would come then and fill out their sheets. It wasn't really fair."

After the job as selector, Theda worked in mold shops, cleaning molds and in batch furnaces, cleaning the batch that fell off of the conveyor belt. She was the only woman performing these jobs.

According to Theda, a woman had the same opportunities as a man at Owens Glass Plant. "Now they do," she said, "but at first when we went to work, we didn't....They didn't have the laws back then that women could work."

However, female leaders at Owens were often harassed and frustrated. At one of the first union meetings Theda attended, one of the women got so mad "they had to get the guards to take her out." Theda also recalls the first woman that took a man's job. "They were really mean to her. They messed her up on her counting, they messed her up in every way they could."

One female supervisor was always giving Theda a hard time. "I didn't know the woman really. She and I just went round and round all the time." She later heard from a third party that this supervisor felt Theda was harassing her.

Business picked up [^]the summer and slowed in the winter.

Therefore, many workers, such as Theda, were laid off in the winter. She did not mind this layoff. "Didn't do nothing really. I stayed home on unemployment and had a ball."

Owens used a "progressive swing shift" in scheduling workers. There were four different shifts that changed weekly. Every shift had its own auxiliary and clubs which workers had the option to join.

Of all her experiences at Owens, Theda most fondly remembers her socialization with coworkers. Besides the usual "bridal showers and baby showers," Theda engaged in several company sponsored activities. The company offered dances, "sporting things," men's and women's basketball, baseball and bowling. Theda and her husband went to the dances and she enjoyed bowling as well.

Theda was also a member of the women's union, which has since combined with the men's union. Meetings took place about 3 or 4 times a year, although Theda would often not attend for 2 or 3 years at a time.

The union went on strike several times, usually for pay raises or better working conditions. At one point, Theda's sister-in-law called her in a panic. "Something horrible is happening up here. They are running down my street." Theda went to the union hall to see what was going on. Evidently, the strikers were all "sitting on the railroad track so they couldn't get a train past."

When Theda started her work at Owens, there were no people of other nationalities working there. "We did have a

few colored people come in, later on they started hiring a whole lot of them." Theda states they worked the same jobs and got paid the same wages.

Her favorite aspect of the job was the social atmosphere. Being able to talk to people made the hard work less strenuous, according to Theda. "We would talk on the layers...it was a hard job but it got easier as the years went by."

Theda disliked few things about her job. The health hazards were a constant danger. Theda received cuts all over her hands from working with the glass. Other complaints were bumps and bruises. She said "They told us when we went to work that "if you can go thirty days without getting your legs bumped, we will buy you a chicken dinner."" Eventually, she learned what was dangerous and what was not.

Theda also disliked some of the scheduling. "While my parents were up, I was asleep. While they were on vacation, I couldn't go." Theda always wanted to take her vacation with an aunt who also worked at Owens. However, the aunt took her vacation in July and Theda did not have enough seniority to take vacation then. By the time she did, her aunt was gone. "So I missed out on a lot of family things."

Theda retired in 1989 for medical reasons. She received a pension but no medical benefits. "They paid for my operation and then I got 6 months after that and then they bought out my insurance."

When Owens closed down, Theda says she cried all day. "There were people I knew and worked with left with no job." Some of her friends were able to retire. But an employee needed thirty years of seniority and be at least 55 years old to retire. Therefore many of her younger friends could not retire and were left unemployed.

Despite the cut fingers, the crazy scheduling, hard work and disappearing supervisors, Theda enjoyed her job at Owens. In fact, she still keeps [^]contact with several former coworkers and belongs to the retiree's union. When asked what one word described all her memories of Owens, Theda answered "good!" "I miss being down there, I don't miss the work that much."

Biography by:

Nicole Fournier

April 25, 1994

Transcript

Theda Cambell being interviewed by Louis Zollo, on March 16, 1994.

Q: When did you first go to work at Owen's?

A: It was in umm, I think it was September about the 4th in 19 um 60. No 56, I think it was.

Q: How old were you then?

A: 26

Q: And at the plant what was your first job there?

A: Uh, selector

Q: Can you tell me exactly what a selector did?

A: Packed the bottles. They packed the bottles, looked at them, packed them.

Q: Did you enjoy your job there?

A: Oh, yes

Q: What about it did you not like at all?

A: Hard Work..HaHa

Q: Were all the other people doing the same job as you women?

A: Yes, all women at the time.

Q: Were your supervisors women?

A: No, men

Q: How did you get along with them?

A: HaHaHa...Some of them were good and some of them were bad.

Q: Like in what way?

A: Well, like the midnight shift would come and would wear these little white gloves to protect your hands. Well, they would give you the gloves and then they would disappear until it was an hour before time to go home. And we did all the work. HeHe...and all the everything. They would come then and fill out thier sheets. It wasn't really fair.

Q: Did anyone in your family or community oppose you as a women going to work at Owen's?

A: Uh, my father didn't want me to work there.

Q: How come?

A: He had worked there for about 2 or 3 weeks one time. He was young and he said it was hard work, too hard work.

Q: In what ways do or don't you feel it was accepted to work ther by anybody?

A: It was good money.

Q: Were any members of your family employed at Owen's?

A: Well, he was for about 2 weeks.

Q: What did he do?

A: He was a layer attendent.

Q: And what was that?

A: It's uh... back then, well, back then I don't know what they did back then. I asked him one time "Well, Dad what do you do?" and he said "I was the lead layer attendant." I said "Well, what did you do?" and he said "I sat on the bench all the time." I said, "Well,

things haven't changed much has it?" but uh I don't know what they did then but uh, later on they helped load the cartons and empty the (undecipherable)

Q: Did you have any other jobs besides selecting at Owen's?

A: Yes, I worked in mold shops cleaning molds and I worked in batch furnaces cleaning the batch that fell off of the conveyer belt.

Q: These other jobs that you found were they all done by women?

A: No, I was the only one.

Q: Do you feel that women at Owen's have the same opportunities as men?

A: Now they do...But at first when we went to work we didn't

Q: They didn't? How come?

A: They didn't have the laws back then that the women could work.

Q: Did you work shifts at Owen's?

A: Oh yes

Q: Which ones?

A: I worked B shift. They ran 4 different A,B,C, and D.

Q: How often did you change?

A: Oh, every 5 days.

Q: And what exactly was the schedule?

A: It was a progressive swing shift is what they called it. Like if I worked uh 7 to 3 one week then we went in after 2 days off, then we went on midnight shift. We worked five days, had 2 off then we went in on night

shift, and then we would start all over again.

Q: Did you socialize with other people on your shift?

A: Oh yes

Q: What did you do?

A: We went out, we had bridal showers and baby showers.

Q: Did you participate in any of the company sponsored activities?

A: Yes

Q: Like which ones?

A: Well, they had dinners and they had dances, me and my husband went to dances. They had sporting things, volleyball, basketball. I didn't play any of them. They had the men's basketball and women's basketball.

Q: How often were all of these events?

A: Umm, just like baseball in baseball season and bowling I bowled on the bowling team.

Q: Like year round?

A: Yes, all different sports. They had sports for everyone, if you wanted to join, you could find something.

Q: Were people outside of the company aloud to join?

A: No, it was just company.

Q: Did management and hourly workers all associate together?

A: Yes, sometimes.

Q: In what activities?

A: Bowling, they were on most onf the teams.

Q: Where there ~~some~~ things the bosses didn't do?

A: Umm, no. If they wanted to they could do whatever they wanted to.

Each shift had clubs and the auxiliary had clubs. I belong to the auxiliary now and so if you wanted to belong to a club you could, if you didn't want to you didn't have to.

Q: Were you a member of a local Union?

A: Yes

Q: Which one?

A: Umm, there have been 2 or 3 of them. Right now it is 212 but at first it was just the women's local and the men had their local. Then they put them both together and now it is men and women.

Q: How often did you go to these local union meetings?

A: Sometimes 3 or 4 of them a year. Then sometimes I wouldn't go at all for 2 or 3 years. Just when they had elections or something like that. I know I did go to most of the elections.

Q: Were there any women leaders in the union?

A: At the women's, when they first started there were women, and umm there are women in the union now, they still have a union.

Q: These women as leaders, how was their leadership accepted by other women?

A: Sometimes good and sometimes bad.

Q: In what way?

A: At on of the first union meetings I ever went to one of the women got mad. They had to get the guards to take her out because she was mad about something she was doing. I said "Oh, my goodness", but then I got to know them. So it wasn't anything unusual once I got to know them.

Q: How did some of the men act oward women taking leadership roles?

A: The first women that took a man's job, they were meant to her. They were really mean to her.

Q: Can you give me an example?

A: They messed her up on her counting, they messed her up in every way they could.

Q: Did you ever go on strike?

A: Oh, yes.

Q: When was that?

A: 2 or 3 times.

Q: And how long were you out for?

A: One time 15 days. I think the longest time was 15 days.

Q: Was there ever any trouble during strike?

A: Not really, we had one man one time. I think that the most serious was my sister [^] in [^] law and brother lived up close to the _____ Gas Company and she called me one time and said, "Something horrible is happening up here, they are running down my street", and she said, "Can you come up here?" So I go over to the union hall and

I said something is going on up at the curb. They said can you go up there and I said no, I don't have my car, and so I went back and told my sister[^] in[^] law and she said it was over with now. They were all sitting on the railroad track so they couldn't get a train past.

Q: What were some of the main reasons you went on strike?

A: Well, umm pay raises, better working conditions. That was ~~was~~ about what most of them go out for.

Q: Were ther any people of different nationalities working for Owen's?

A: Not back then.

Q: None

A: I don't know what year they first started hiring.

We did have a few colored people come in, later on they started hiring a whole lot of them.

Q: What kinds of jobs did they have?

A: They had the same jobs we had.

Q: Did they get the same pay?

A: The same pay.

Q: Did you usually socialize with these people?

A: Yes, some of them are still good friends.

Q: Do you feel that people of all different races have the same oppurtunities?

A: Oh, yes.

Q: Can you give me an example?

A: When they started hiring them, they came in and they

did the same jobs we did.

Q: Were there any health or safty dangers on the job?

A: Sometimes, well, dangers were, I got cut all over with glass. All over my hands. Undeciphable

They told us when we went to work that if you can go 30 days with out getting your legs bumped, we will buy you a chicken dinner.

Q: What did you do to protect yourself from getting hurt?

A: After awhile you knew what was dangerous and what wasn't. You would watch out for it.

Q: Overall what did you like most about working at Owen's?

A: Umm, I think being able to talk to people.

Q: The social atmosphere?

A: Uh huh, we would talk on the layers and uh, it was hard job but it got easier as the years went by.

Q: Now for the hard question. What did you like least?

A: Umm, let me think. Some of the bosses.

Q: Any reasons?

A: Some of them I got a long with and some I didn't get a long with. You know how some people you get along well with and some you don't.

I got along well with people I worked with and of course there were some in Barboursville I knew for quite awhile.

Q: When did you retire?

A: 5 years ago.

Q: Why did you retire at that time?

A: I had my knee operated on.

Q: Do you receive a pension?

A: yes

Q: Do you still receive any medical benefits?

A: No

Q: Did you ever receive any medical benefits?

A: They paid for my operation and then I got 6 months after that and then they bought out my insurance.

Q: Do you still socialize with any of the people you used to work with?

A: Oh, yes.

Q: How often?

A: Once a month, sometimes more than that.

Q: What do you do together?

A: We usually go out and eat, and then we have the retiree's union. We have dinners and we go on trips and then I belong to the auxiliary.

Q: Do you or any of these people ever bring your kids along?

A: No

Q: Is there anything you would like to add?

A: We had to work, while my parents were up, I was asleep.

While they were on vacation, I couldn't go. See I had an aunt that worked down at the factory. She took her vacation the first 2 weeks of July and I was the youngest one and it went by seniority, so I couldn't get that. And then when I did get old enough to build up seniority she she was gone.

So I missed out on a lot of family things.

Q: How did you feel when Owen's closed down?

A: I cried, the day I heard it I cried all day long, I couldn't help it. There were people I knew and worked with left with no job.

Q: Overall it sounds like you really enjoyed your work there?

A: Oh yes, It was hard work but like I said as the years went by it got easier.

Q: Is there one point that was not a good moment?

A: There were good days and there were bad days, then there were days you were just bored.

Q: Did you ever answer back to your boss?

A: Oh yes, some of them just ignored us. I had a women boss and she gave me a hard time. I don't know why. I didn't know the woman really, she and I just went round and round all the time. Then she told someone a week later that I gave her the hardest time of anyone there.

Q: How about the pay?

A: It was good pay.

Q: Was it good pay for the times?

A: Yes, it has always been good pay.

Q: Was the job exciting?

A: Not really, it was just a job (undecipherable)

We got laid off an awful lot and I drew unemployment,

other girls didn't but I did. I stayed home on unemployment and had a ball. Then the next thing I knew I had a lot of seniority in there.

Q: How long did you get laid off?

A: I got laid off for the first time 6 months.

Q: What did you do in the mean time?

A: Didn't do nothing really, around Christmas I worked downtown in a store.

Q: What was the reason you were laid off?

A: It was seasonal back then, they didn't do much in the winter. They would work you during the summer and lay off in the winter.

Q: Did you know this going into it?

A: Oh yes, I was young and not married and it didn't really matter. So I didn't have to worry about it or money.

Q: When did you need this job?

A: After I got divorced.

Q: Do you miss Owen's?

A: Oh yes, I miss being down there, I don't miss the work that much.

Q: You wouldn't want to go back at all.

A: Oh no, I couldn't because of my knee.

Q: So you stopped working there before it even closed?

A: Oh yes.

Q: How did your friends react?

A: Some of them were old enough to retire and it didn't

phase them to much. You had to have 30 years seniority, and be 55 years old. Most of the ones I worked with were close to the age where they could retire. There were a lot of younger ones that couldn't.

Q: Were more people hired now than then, like younger people?

A: When I first started working they were all young.

Q: Did most of the people last as long as you did?

A: No, there were 50 hired in when I was. I think there were about 9 left out of that many.

Q: Were the conditions that bad?

A: It was hard physical work. You had to pack bottles, stack cartons, there were just a lot of things to do.

Q: Was it manual to the point where you wanted to just go home and crash.

A: Sometimes I wanted to crash other times I could go on.

Q: What do you think was the hardest job there? Who had the most manual job to do?

A: Well, the batch furnace.

Q: And what did they have to do?

A: They had to take the bottles that fell down out of the crusher and all that.

Q: Did you get more money for working there?

A: Oh yes.

Q: Was it hard when you went back?

A: No, not to hard.

Q: In one word what would you describe all your memories at Owen's?

A: Good



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Having worked at Owens, Elish felt the work was too tough for his daughter. Despite her father's disliking, Theda started working at Owens on September fourth at the age of 26. She was hired to be a "selector." The selector "packed the bottles...looked at them and packed them." Theda says she enjoyed this job. The only thing she did not like about this particular job was the "hard work." "You had to pack bottles, stack cartons...there were just a lot of things to do."

While working as a selector, Theda worked with all women. The supervisors were all men. She liked some of these men and disliked others. Theda said of the supervisors:

"Well, like the midnight shift would come and would

and would wear these little white gloves to protect your hands. Well, (the supervisors) would give you the gloves and then they would disappear until it was an hour before time to go home. And we did all the work....They would come then and fill out their sheets. It wasn't really fair."

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According to Theda, a woman had the same opportunities as a man at Owens Glass Plant. "Now they do," she said, "but at first when we went to work, we didn't....They didn't have the laws back then that women could work."

However, female leaders at Owens were often harassed and frustrated. At one of the first union meetings Theda attended, one of the women got so mad "they had to get the guards to take her out." Theda also recalls the first woman that took a man's job. "They were really mean to her. They messed her up on her counting, they messed her up in every way they could."

One female supervisor was always giving Theda a hard time. "I didn't know the woman really. She and I just went round and round all the time." She later heard from a third party that this supervisor felt Theda was harassing her.

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Her favorite aspect of the job was the social atmosphere. Being able to talk to people made the hard work less strenuous, according to Theda. "We would talk on the layers...it was a hard job but it got easier as the years went by."

Theda disliked few things about her job. The health hazards were a constant danger. Theda received cuts all over her hands from working with the glass. Other complaints were bumps and bruises. She said "They told us when we went to work that "if you can go thirty days without getting your legs bumped, we will buy you a chicken dinner."" Eventually, she learned what was dangerous and what was not.

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Biography by:

Nicole Fournier

April 25, 1994

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A: It was in umm, I think it was September about the 4th in 19 um 60. No 56, I think it was.

Q: How old were you then?

A: 26

Q: And at the plant what was your first job there?

A: Uh, selector

Q: Can you tell me exactly what a selector did?

A: Packed the bottles. They packed the bottles, looked at them, packed them.

Q: Did you enjoy your job there?

A; Oh, yes

Q: What about it did you not like at all?

A: Hard Work..HaHa

Q: Were all the other people doing the same job as you women?

A: Yes, all women at the time.

Q: Were your supervisors women?

A: No, men

Q: How did you get along with them?

A: HaHaHa...Some of them were good and some of them were bad.

Q: Like in what way?

A: Well, like the midnight shift would come and would wear these little white gloves to protect your hands. Well, they would give you the gloves and then they would disappear until it was an hour before time to go home. And we did all the work. HeHe...and all the everything. They would come then and fill out thier sheets. It wasn't really fair.

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A: He had worked there for about 2 or 3 weeks one time. He was young and he said it was hard work, too hard work.

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A: It was good money.

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A: Well, he was for about 2 weeks.

Q: What did he do?

A: He was a layer attendent.

Q: And what was that?

A: It's uh... back then, well, back then I don't know what they did back then. I asked him one time "Well, Dad what do you do?" and he said "I was the lead layer attendant." I said "Well, what did you do?" and he said "I sat on the bench all the time." I said, "Well,

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Q: These other jobs that you found were they all done by women?

A: No, I was the only one.

Q: Do you feel that women at Owen's have the same opportunities as men?

A: Now they do...But at first when we went to work we didn't

Q: They didn't? How come?

A: They didn't have the laws back then that the women could work.

Q: Did you work shifts at Owen's?

A: Oh yes

Q: Which ones?

A: I worked B shift. They ran 4 different A,B,C, and D.

Q: How often did you change?

A: Oh, every 5 days.

Q: And what exactly was the schedule?

A: It was a progressive swing shift is what they called it. Like if I worked uh 7 to 3 one week then we went in after 2 days off, then we went on midnight shift. We worked five days, had 2 off then we went in on night

shift, and then we would start all over again.

Q: Did you socialize with other people on your shift?

A: Oh yes

Q: What did you do?

A: We went out, we had bridal showers and baby showers.

Q: Did you participate in any of the company sponsored activities?

A: Yes

Q: Like which ones?

A: Well, they had dinners and they had dances, me and my husband went to dances. They had sporting things, volleyball, basketball. I didn't play any of them. They had the men's basketball and women's basketball.

Q: How often were all of these events?

A: Umm, just like baseball in baseball season and bowling I bowled on the bowling team.

Q: Like year round?

A: Yes, all different sports. They had sports for everyone, if you wanted to join, you could find something.

Q: Were people outside of the company aloud to join?

A: No, it was just company.

Q: Did management and hourly workers all associate together?

A: Yes, sometimes.

Q: In what activities?

A: Bowling, they were on most onf the teams.

Q: Where there somethings the bosses didn't do?

A: Umm, no. If they wanted to they could do whatever they wanted to.

Each shift had clubs and the auxiliary had clubs. I belong to the auxiliary now and so if you wanted to belong to a club you could, if you didn't want to you didn't have to.

Q: Were you a member of a local Union?

A: Yes

Q: Which one?

A: Umm, there have been 2 or 3 of them. Right now it is 212 but at first it was just the women's local and the men had their local. Then they put them both together and now it is men and women.

Q: How often did you go to these local union meetings?

A: Sometimes 3 or 4 of them a year. Then sometimes I wouldn't go at all for 2 or 3 years. Just when they had elections or something like that. I know I did go to most of the elections.

Q: Were there any women leaders in the union?

A: At the women's, when they first started there were women, and umm there are women in the union now, they still have a union.

Q: These women as leaders, how was their leadership accepted by other women?

A: Sometimes good and sometimes bad.

Q: In what way?

A: At on of the first union meetings I ever went to one of the women got mad. They had to get the guards to take her out because she was mad about something she was doing. I said "Oh, my goodness", but then I got to know them. So it wasn't anything unusual once I got to know them.

Q: How did some of the men act oward women taking leadership roles?

A: The first women that took a man's job, they were meant to her. They were really mean to her.

Q: Can you give me an example?

A: They messed her up on her counting, they messed her up in every way they could.

Q: Did you ever go on strike?

A: Oh, yes.

Q: When was that?

A: 2 or 3 times.

Q: And how long were you out for?

A: One time 15 days. I think the longest time was 15 days.

Q: Was there ever any trouble during strike?

A: Not really, we had one man one time. I think that the most serious was my sister [^] in [^] law and brother lived up close to the _____ Gas Company and she called me one time and said, "Something horrible is happening up here, they are running down my street", and she said, "Can you come up here?" So I go over to the union hall and

I said something is going on up at the curb. They said can you go up there and I said no, I don't have my car, and so I went back and told my sister [^]in [^]law and she said it was over with now. They were all sitting on the railroad track so they couldn't get a train past.

Q: What were some of the main reasons you went on strike?

A: Well, umm pay raises, better working conditions. That was ~~was~~ about what most of them go out for.

Q: Were ther any people of different nationalities working for Owen's?

A: Not back then.

Q: None

A: I don't know what year they first started hiring.

We did have a few colored people come in, later on they started hiring a whole lot of them.

Q: What kinds of jobs did they have?

A: They had the same jobs we had.

Q: Did they get the same pay?

A: The same pay.

Q: Did you usually socialize with these people?

A: Yes, some of them are still good friends.

Q: Do you feel that people of all different races have the same oppurtunities?

A: Oh, yes.

Q: Can you give me an example?

A: When they started hiring them, they came in and they

did the same jobs we did.

Q: Were there any health or safty dangers on the job?

A: Sometimes, well, dangers were, I got cut all over with glass. All over my hands. Undeciphable
They told us when we went to work that if you can go 30 days with out getting your legs bumped, we will buy you a chicken dinner.

Q: What did you do to protect yourself from getting hurt?

A: After awhile you knew what was dangerous and what wasn't. You would watch out for it.

Q: Overall what did you like most about working at Owen's?

A: Umm, I think being able to talk to people.

Q: The social atmosphere?

A: Uh huh, we would talk on the layers and uh, it was hard job but it got easier as the years went by.

Q: Now for the hard question. What did you like least?

A: Umm, let me think. Some of the bosses.

Q: Any reasons?

A: Some of them I got a long with and some I didn't get a long with. You know how some people you get along well with and some you don't.

I got along well with people I worked with and of course there were some in Barboursville I knew for quite awhile.

Q: When did you retire?

A: 5 years ago.

Q: Why did you retire at that time?

A: I had my knee operated on.

Q: Do you receive a pension?

A: yes

Q: Do you still receive any medical benefits?

A: No

Q: Did you ever receive any medical benefits?

A: They paid for my operation and then I got 6 months after that and then they bought out my insurance.

Q: Do you still socialize with any of the people you used to work with?

A: Oh, yes.

Q: How often?

A: Once a month, sometimes more than that.

Q: What do you do together?

A: We usually go out and eat, and then we have the retiree's union. We have dinners and we go on trips and then I belong to the auxiliary.

Q: Do you or any of these people ever bring your kids along?

A: No

Q: Is there anything you would like to add?

A: We had to work, while my parents were up, I was asleep. While they were on vacation, I couldn't go. See I had an aunt that worked down at the factory. She took her vacation the first 2 weeks of July and I was the youngest one and it went by seniority, so I couldn't get that. And then when I did get old enough to build up seniority she she was gone.

So I missed out on a lot of family things.

Q: How did you feel when Owen's closed down?

A: I cried, the day I heard it I cried all day long, I couldn't help it. There were people I knew and worked with left with no job.

Q: Overall it sounds like you really enjoyed your work there?

A: Oh yes, It was hard work but like I said as the years went by it got easier.

Q: Is there one point that was not a good moment?

A: There were good days and there were bad days, then there were days you were just bored.

Q: Did you ever answer back to your boss?

A: Oh yes, some of them just ignored us. I had a women boss and she gave me a hard time. I don't know why. I didn't know the woman really, she and I just went round and round all the time. Then she told someone a week later that I gave her the hardest time of anyone there.

Q: How about the pay?

A: It was good pay.

Q: Was it good pay for the times?

A: Yes, it has always been good pay.

Q: Was the job exciting?

A: Not really, it was just a job (undecipherable)

We got laid off an awful lot and I drew unemployment,

other girls didn't but I did. I stayed home on unemployment and had a ball. Then the next thing I knew I had a lot of seniority in there.

Q: How long did you get laid off?

A: I got laid off for the first time 6 months.

Q: What did you do in the mean time?

A: Didn't do nothing really, around Christmas I worked downtown in a store.

Q: What was the reason you were laid off?

A: It was seasonal back then, they didn't do much in the winter. They would work you during the summer and lay off in the winter.

Q: Did you know this going into it?

A: Oh yes, I was young and not married and it didn't really matter. So I didn't have to worry about it or money.

Q: When did you need this job?

A: After I got divorced.

Q: Do you miss Owen's?

A: Oh yes, I miss being down there, I don't miss the work that much.

Q: You wouldn't want to go back at all.

A: Oh no, I couldn't because of my knee.

Q: So you stopped working there before it even closed?

A: Oh yes.

Q: How did your friends react?

A: Some of them were old enough to retire and it didn't

phase them to much. You had to have 30 years seniority, and be 55 years old. Most of the ones I worked with were close to the age where they could retire. There were a lot of younger ones that couldn't.

Q: Were more people hired now than then, like younger people?

A: When I first started working they were all young.

Q: Did most of the people last as long as you did?

A; No, there were 50 hired in when I was. I think there were about 9 left out of that many.

Q: Were the conditions that bad?

A: It was hard physical work. You had to pack bottles, stack cartons, there were just a lot of things to do.

Q: Was it manual to the point where you wanted to just go home and crash.

A: Sometimes I wanted to crash other times I could go on.

Q: What do you think was the hardest job there? Who had the most manual job to do?

A; Well, the batch furnace.

Q: And what did they have to do?

A: They had to take the bottles that fell down out of the crusher and all that.

Q: Did you get more money for working there?

A: Oh yes.

Q: Was it hard when you went back?

A: No, not to hard.

Q: In one word what would you describe all your memories at
Owen's?

A: Good

1. Name in Full
Campbell Theda F.
(Last) (First) (Middle)

2. Maiden Name
Franklin

3. Marital Status
(Optional)
___ Single ___ Married ___ Widowed
 Divorced ___ Separated

4. Date of Birth (Month, Day, Year)
May 17, 1932

5. Place of Birth (City, State)
Huntington WV

6. What is your race or ethnic origin?
 (A) Caucasian ___ (D) Black
___ (B) Hispanic ___ (E) American Indian
___ (C) Asian ___ (F) Other

7. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?
 (A) High School: Highest Grade Completed ___
___ (B) College
___ (C) Vocational Training
___ (D) Other

8. First Employment: 10¢ Stores

9. Year: 1949

10. Other jobs prior to employment at Owen's
(and Dates)

List:	Employer & Address	From	To
	<u>Perry Novell</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>56</u>
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____

SPOUSE

Spouse's Name _____
Date of Birth _____
Place of Birth _____
Date of Marriage _____
Highest Level of Education _____
Occupation _____

Has he/she ever worked at Owen's? ___ Yes ___ No

If Yes, what kind of job? _____

Retired?
___ Yes ___ No

If Yes, when? _____

CHILDREN

1. Number of children 1

Ages: Girls L e A n n
Boys _____

2. Highest level of their education
Girls Senior at Marshall
Boys _____

3. What is their present occupation?
Girls State farm Boys _____

4. Where do your children live?
Huntington
Tri-State (Kentucky, Ohio, W. Virginia) _____
Outside W. Virginia _____

5. Do you have grandchildren?
Yes 2 No _____

6. Have any of your children worked at Owen's?
Yes _____ No

If Yes, when? _____
What kind of job? _____

PARENTS

1. Parent's names Mother Dorothy Franklin
Father Elish Franklin

2. Birthplace of Mother Huntington
Birthplace of Father Lincoln County

Project Completed by:

Interview: *Louis Zollo*

Transcription: *Wesley Briffett*

Biography: *Jack Fournier*

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