

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Fred, the guy I worked with, he had this chemical and I mean it was patented stuff and it was very secretive. He couldn't even tell what he was using. We knew he was famous because he worked in the lab but we didn't know what he was doing, he was just very secretive. And I went down to take any information downstairs, or to get information, on what we were doing, it was ... I had to have identification. They had to know who I was, and why I was, and what I was doing, and why I was doing it.

Janis Kozlowski: It was a pretty big plant, wasn't it?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Oh, yes. Yes, it was. They had two divisions; the A plant and the B plant. They were big operations.

Janis Kozlowski: Do you know how many people worked there?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Oh, no. I just know there were a lot—a lot of people.

Janis Kozlowski: Ok. Well, I wanted to ask you again. I saw this picture of the Lockheed plant with camouflaging over it. Do you remember that?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Oh, yes. They ... yes, because it was very secretive and the same with going in and out of the plant. They checked very thoroughly who's coming in, who's going out and what they had in their purse or bundles or anything and why.

Janis Kozlowski: So, did you actually like drive under some netting or something? Or like a big roof thing to get to the plant?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: No, no. When we got near there and we went into a, you know, into the area, and it was more secretive then. But just to get there anybody could go by it wouldn't really pay much attention to it. No, it was kept ... in case of bombing or anything, they didn't advertise, [chuckling] they kept it quiet.

Janis Kozlowski: So, they didn't have, like, a big advertisement outside indicating what it was?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Oh no! No, no.

Janis Kozlowski: But do you remember camouflage over it?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yeah, they had that because of bombing and stuff. They were secretive there. They didn't want the facilities to be noticed from the air or anything. No, it was a secret thing.

Janis Kozlowski: Those pictures made it look really impressive about how much camouflage netting and disguising that they did. I'd never seen anything like that before.

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yes. They were very, very [laughing] ... we were not ready to get bombed either at that time. No, they were very good about that.

Janis Kozlowski: Right. Well, do you remember, um, any bomb scares or any scares about the Japanese coming on the California coast.

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yes. I remember hearing those. Yes, that was because they were too far, not too far away, it was just up north there. Yes, they were very careful.

Then when my husband—before we were married—they took him up there—he was in the Air Corp then—and it was really, really ... we had no idea where he was going or why and he couldn't tell me and he couldn't – nothing, nothing. And then all the sudden I get a letter from—secretly has been opened already by the government and stamped before I could even read it. So, whatever he did or they did, it was opened and out in the open. There were no secrets went in the mail.

Janis Kozlowski: Right. Now, you didn't know that he was in Alaska but did you hear anything about Alaska and the war up there?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: No, but it was scary because, well, I heard, you know, a few rumors and I thought, “oh, I hope Mark—my husband-to-be—was going to be alright.” And we didn't know where he was and we didn't know if the Russians were with him or going after him or what. We didn't know anything, they didn't want you to know anything.

Janis Kozlowski: So that was probably the scariest part for you was worrying about him?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yes, and then, you know, you just didn't know what was gonna happen. You were very, very careful. You didn't talk either, because you didn't know who was listening. No, it was very ... we talked amongst ourselves but other than that it was not discussed with anybody outside.

Janis Kozlowski: That's right, the phones were ...you had party lines, right? So anybody could pick up them up.

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yes. That was another thing. You had to be careful about what you said.

Janis Kozlowski: So, did you feel that maybe people were—not just your neighbors, but government people or others, were listening to your conversations?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yeah, bad people, as well as the government.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh, bad people, like maybe the Japanese from the submarines or something like that?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yes, somebody might be listening. But no, we knew that the phone lines were always taped or tapped. They could pick them up and hear what was going on. So they were very careful about what they were saying, what they were doing. They were very strict too, because you weren't supposed to say or talk about certain things at all.

Janis Kozlowski: Like, what types of things?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Well, what you're using, what are they making, what are they doing, where is it going and why. You know, it was just strictly, "do your part, do your job." And they would check to make sure that everything was done right. They were very careful about it because they didn't know what--we didn't know what was going on. But we do remember them [laughing] going through our purses and stuff and checking our clothing and our pockets when we went in and out.

Janis Kozlowski: Of the plant?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Um-hmm. You couldn't take anything in, you couldn't take anything out.

Janis Kozlowski: Were there other places around where you lived where that was done as well?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Not that I can remember, just where I was working and where I was at Lockheed.

Janis Kozlowski: Right. It made sense for them to do that there.

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yes.