

Janis Kozlowski: Well, it sounds like all in all you had a pretty good life. You had a great family and....

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yes, um-hmm. Yes, I had ... fortunately I had all ... everything was good. We didn't have any people dying or anything bad, you know, funerals or sicknesses or anything like that. Everything was normal, but hard to take, you know, some things we had to do without and get, and do what we didn't want to. But, no, it was not a bad time. It was ... normal. We were glad when the war ended. Oh my lands, yes, that couldn't have been nicer. The excitement and the ... oh, it was really something. Everybody was so happy and celebrating and it was something else. I can still remember it, how wonderful it was and how happy everybody was and it was better than a Christmas, I'll tell you. Everybody was so polite and happy and nice.

Janis Kozlowski: Well, that's probably a memory that really stuck with you for your life.

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yes. Yes.

Janis Kozlowski: Because that would be a ... kind of a defining moment.

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Yes it was. And the man I was going with was such a character. He was quite a comedian too. He was a lot of fun. He went through a lot but he was a lot of fun too.

He was hired ... fortunately he was not shipped over where the fighting was and we worried about it because we didn't know until the war was over where he was. And we worried for fear he was going to be shot down but he was in the Aleutian Islands but we didn't know that.

It was hard on him especially getting out in the morning in the snow and standing at attention putting the flag up and it was wind and it was snow and it was raining and they're up in the Aleutian Islands and nobody around. But they all had to get up, the Army, you know. They all had to get up [laughing] to put the flag up regardless, whether anybody there or not, it was horrid. My husband said, "geez, there we are standing in the snow putting the flag up and its freezing." In the Aleutian Islands – that was something else.

[laughing] And I guess they cooked a chicken in a paper bag. They learned how to cook this chicken in a paper bag. I don't know how they did it but he told me he was gonna cook me a chicken in a paper bag when he got home. [both laughing]

Janis Kozlowski: I never heard of them doing that kind of thing. I wonder how that worked?

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Well, I don't know. It worked out alright because he knew how to put a chicken in a bag and cook it. [both laughing] I never got the details on it but I do remember him [laughing] cooking a chicken in a bag. A bag in the chicken – that was funny. Yeah, we cooked in pots and pans but this was a chicken in a bag! [laughing]

Janis Kozlowski: That sounds pretty interesting.

Eleanor Mae Cramer: It was. It come out good.

Janis Kozlowski: I guess they were pretty ingenious up there trying to find different ways of ...

Eleanor Mae Cramer: Oh, yeah.

Janis Kozlowski: ... getting some decent food to eat.