Marylyn Shadduck discusses her career at REO Motor Car Company and Diamond REO Trucks, Inc. 06/08/2004	
4 5Shirley Bradley: 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	This is June 8 and this is Shirley Bradley and Marylyn Shadduck and we're at her home and we're just going to be talking about REO memories. And I think I'll start by asking her just a little personal background. She's given us some wonderful typed information on, that we'll be happy to have copies of and we can store at the museum with this tape but, um, just for the record, we're going to put this on tape today. [0:31] I'm just going to start by asking her a little bit about her background, where she grew up, and where she went to school, even though she has been showing me and telling me [chuckle], I need a little bit on the tape.
16Marylyn Shadduck: 17	Well, I was born in Lansing at St. Lawrence Hospital the night before Christmas.
18 19Shirley Bradley: 20	Oh!
21Marylyn Shadduck: 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36	And my mother's name was Mary and I always thought that was significant. And I lived in Lansing all my life. I went to Maplewood School and Walter French. And the REO Clubhouse was always a big part of our existence for one reason or another when we were kids. That was where we went for our free movies. We'd run all the way from Maplewood School to beat all the other kids for a seat. And one day when we were running cross country and had to hurdle the parking lot barriers, my girlfriend tripped and it was just too bad, she actually sprained her wrist but she had to pick herself up and join us if she wanted a seat. That's the way it was. [chuckle] And it would get out about 5:00 and my dad would come home from the State building where he was working and sometimes we'd get a ride and sometimes we wouldn't, but I think it was once a week. Then, of course, they had evening shows for the employees and families. We weren't allowed to sit in the balcony during the kids' things because we're mischievous, you know.
37Shirley Bradley: 38	Oh.
39Marylyn Shadduck: 40 41 42	The organ was up there and they'd throw paper wads or one thing or another if they – one day, somebody through a peppermint, one of those pinwheel peppermint things.
43Shirley Bradley:	Mm-hm.
44 45Marylyn Shadduck: 46 47	Or no, I was sucking on one and somebody through a paper wad and I inhaled real quick 'cause it startled me and that thing

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1Shirley Bradley: Oh.

2

3Marylyn Shadduck: I thought I was going to die. It just worked its way down my whatever

[chuckle] and by the end of the movie it had dissolved itself. It's a wonder I didn't, didn't choke to death. [laughter] And I saw the original Ben-Hur movie. It was the brand new color and it was awfully hard on our eyes.

7

8Shirley Bradley: Was it?

9

10Marylyn Shadduck: And, and some of the dialogue was in writing and I couldn't read that well

11 yet and I kept punching the person in front of me to ask him what it said. I

can remember that. [chuckle] And then Lew Ayres was there in...

13

14Shirley Bradley: Oh my.

15

16Marylyn Shadduck: ...in All Quiet on the Western Front, that original movie. I remember that.

My mother wouldn't let me go to the Frankenstein ones or Murder in the

18 Wax Museum one but anyway that was great. It was great.

19

20Shirley Bradley: You had a lot of fun there. A lot of family time there.

21

22Marylyn Shadduck: Well, no. It was just us, just the schoolkids.

23

24Shirley Bradley: Just, oh, this was just – your parents didn't...

25

26Marylyn Shadduck: This was just – my, my parents didn't work at REO. My husband's father

when he first got out of WWII and came home, after WWI and came home, Andy Shadduck, he retired from the fire department as captain years later but the first job that he had he went to REO to work and this would have been like in the, like 1920 in there. And in 1922 when my husband was born, his mother entered him in a [chuckle] baby show and here's the picture of all those mothers and the babies. There's Dick's m-,

33 Dick and there's his mother Genevieve and he won a prize.

34

35Shirley Bradley: Oh, wasn't he adorable.

36

37Marylyn Shadduck: Wasn't he cute? [chuckle]

38

39Shirley Bradley: His mother was pretty too.

40

41Marylyn Shadduck: Well, years later...

42

43Shirley Bradley: [chuckle] Look at this little girl down here.

44

45Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah, yeah.

46

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1Shirley Bradley: She doesn't want any part of it.

2

3Marylyn Shadduck: Just think, all those ladies are dead now.

4

5Shirley Bradley: I know.

6

7Marylyn Shadduck: Mother died at 103.

8

9Shirley Bradley: Is that so?

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11Marylyn Shadduck: And this was when we were at a mother-daughter banquet. This was

12 Mother.

13

14Shirley Bradley: Oh, this was your mother.

15

16Marylyn Shadduck: And our daughter and myself at a mother-daughter banquet...

17

18Shirley Bradley: Oh.

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20Marylyn Shadduck: ...when I was working at REO, for the Girls Club, you know, so

21 [inaudible 4:30].

22

23Shirley Bradley: I love the, uh, the hairdo.

24

25Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah. [chuckle]

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27Shirley Bradley: Yeah. [inaudible 4:33] some are beehive.

28

29Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah, yeah.

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31Shirley Bradley: And you had geraniums so this...

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33Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah.

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35Shirley Bradley: And fortified milk, uh, your daughter has a little jug of fortified milk in

36 front of her.

37

38Marylyn Shadduck: Oh, does she?

39

40Shirley Bradley: [chuckle] Yes.

41

42Marylyn Shadduck: Well, why not?

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44Shirley Bradley: [chuckle] Yes.

45

46Marylyn Shadduck: She didn't drink coffee I'm sure.

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2Shirley Bradley: No. Or tea.

3

4Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah. So that was one of the activities of the Girls Club, so that was our

first family connection with, with REO. But like I wrote in the notes I

6 gave to Jim Neal, that REO woods was right down there in my

neighborhood when we were kids.

7 8

9Shirley Bradley: I didn't know about that.

10

11Marylyn Shadduck: Well, you know, where the arm-, the, the Guard is now.

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13Shirley Bradley: Mm-hm.

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15Marylyn Shadduck: The National Guard, that was the extreme north end, but the woods where

Washington Park is now was very dense and that was the REO proving grounds, test track for their trucks. There was a road that wound all

through there and the trees were very dense.

19

20Shirley Bradley: Hm.

21

22Marylyn Shadduck: Full of all kinds of fascinating things, garter snakes and flowers and

everything else. And we all, all the kids in that whole south end

neighborhood played down there in the REO woods and it stretched from city limits which was there on Greenlawn where the Ingham medical facility is. That used to be the TB sanitarium and the city bus that was the

27 extreme end of their route.

28

29Shirley Bradley: Oh.

30

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31Marylyn Shadduck: It would come down Greenlawn and turn north on Washington and head

back downtown and that was our main means of transportation in those

days.

34

35Shirley Bradley: Oh sure.

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37Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah, so.

38

39Shirley Bradley: [6:06] Uh, so you grew up in that area?

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41Marylyn Shadduck: Oh yes.

42

43Shirley Bradley: And, uh, probably a lot of your friends' parents may have worked for

44 REO.

45

46Marylyn Shadduck: Oh, oh, well, um, everybody worked for REO in the old days. [chuckle]

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2Shirley Bradley: Mm-hm. 4Marylyn Shadduck: When the Depression hit, my husband's parents opened their home to good friends that were let go at REO and he had gone to work for the fire 6 department by then so Andy had a job but the Richardsons moved in with 7 them when he lost his job at REO. 8 9Shirley Bradley: Hm. 11Marylyn Shadduck: And, uh, those were tough years. 13Shirley Bradley: Oh, they were tough years. Yes, indeed. 14 15Marylyn Shadduck: So a lot of people... 16 17Shirley Bradley: A lot of people, oh, I know. 19Marylyn Shadduck: ...have come and gone from REO but it's always survived. The factory 20 has always been there, you know. And the Clubhouse has always been 21 there. 22 23Shirley Bradley: Until now. 25Marylyn Shadduck: Until now. 26 27Shirley Bradley: Yeah. 29Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah. 31Shirley Bradley: [6:53] When did you hire in to REO and how did you happen to go there?

33Marylyn Shadduck: Well, uh, first time I worked there it was war, it was the war.

34

35Shirley Bradley: Oh, you started during the war.

37Marylyn Shadduck: And, uh, I had been working at Oldsmobile in the office. That was the

first job I had when I got out of business college, in the insurance office at 38 39 Oldsmobile. And my husband was in the navy. He was a sailor and he

40 was at sea most of three years.

42Shirley Bradley: Oh.

43

44Marylyn Shadduck: But he would, his ship would hit maybe San Francisco or maybe New

45 York and if there was time, I could get out there and see him. Well, one time too many, I couldn't get any more time off at Oldsmobile so I had to 46

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1 2 3 4	leave Oldsmobile. That would have been in 1944, I'd say. And, uh, I followed him to rest camp and then when he, when they hit a [inaudible 7:47] day, he was shipped right out again so I came home. And it's not that easy to get back in to Oldsmobile. I mean, you
5 6Shirley Bradley: 7	[7:55] It wasn't?
8Marylyn Shadduck: 9 10 11	No, no. You, you either knew somebody or something to get in to Oldsmobile. But anyway, I could make more money in the factory at REO and I had a girlfriend who had gone to work there and I heard she was making \$100 a week. I couldn't believe it.
13Shirley Bradley: 14	Oh, that must have seemed like a fortune.
15Marylyn Shadduck: 16 17	They were, she was at the, out in the factory where they dipped packages in wax to ship'm overseas.
18Shirley Bradley: 19	Hm.
20Marylyn Shadduck: 21 22 23 24 25	And that's what she did so I, I got a chance to go to work at, at REO but first we had to go downtown to Old Central and learn to run the metal lathes in Mr. Kieppe's metal shop and so he [chuckle] I can't tell you how many tools I had jammed. [chuckle] He must have, he must have been at his wits' end. Anyway, then, then we learned to run the micrometers and so forth, gauges.
26 27Shirley Bradley: 28	Oh.
29Marylyn Shadduck: 30 31 32 33 34	And then they put me in the Navy Department, running gauges as inspector on the drill press line. We made fuses for depth bombs for the navy. It was in the Navy Department. I was 19. I was a war bride. We were married and my husband went into the service. I was 18 when I got married.
35Shirley Bradley: 36	It sounds like a movie, doesn't it?
37Marylyn Shadduck: 38	Well. [chuckle]
39Shirley Bradley: 40	It wasn't easy.
41Marylyn Shadduck:	It wasn't. [chuckle]
43Shirley Bradley:	It wasn't easy
45Marylyn Shadduck: 46	No.

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1Shirley Bradley: ...with him away and you worried.

2

3Marylyn Shadduck: We survived. And so when the war ended in 1945, that day, everybody whooped and hollered and I just stood there and balled. I couldn't believe

5 it was over.

6

7Shirley Bradley: Oh.

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9Marylyn Shadduck: And we were all sent home. Everybody in the factory was sent home.

10

11Shirley Bradley: Is that right?

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13Marylyn Shadduck: We never went back. Nope, that was it.

14

15Shirley Bradley: Oh.

16

17Marylyn Shadduck: And the unemployment line stretched for blocks. Everybody was

18 unemployed, you know.

19

20Shirley Bradley: Oh, I see.

21

22Marylyn Shadduck: So my husband had so many points being at sea duty for so long and being

married and in, in, uh, theaters of war [inaudible 9:55] he got out in
November of '45, so I stayed home and had two children and I was home
for 10 years and then I went back to work and I couldn't get back in to

Oldsmobile.

27

28Shirley Bradley: Still.

29

30Marylyn Shadduck: I went over and had an interview and saw my old boss and so forth. Tom

Shields and all of them were very gracious but I never got a call back so I went to work at Motor Wheel and I survived there for about seven years, then the office unionized and I was bumped out of my job just like that.

34

35Shirley Bradley: Huh!

36

37Marylyn Shadduck: So they sent me over to Diamond REO, which was just REO then. I never

38 missed a day's work. I hired in as secretary to Arnold Schuppert in the

39 Sales Engineering Department and, uh, we...

40

41Shirley Bradley: I'm sorry. [10:46] What did you say his name was?

42

43Marylyn Shadduck: Arnold Schuppert, S-c-h-u-p-p-e-r-t.

44

45Shirley Bradley: P-e-r-t.

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1Marylyn Shadduck: He was in charge of Sales Engineering.

2

3Shirley Bradley: Okay.

4

5Marylyn Shadduck: And it was our job to publish the spec books that he, any truck that was

built had certain specifications and they were all published in a

specification book and it had to be updated and revised constantly. And there was no computer invented yet, so we would cut and paste and retype

9 and, and the print shop was over in the Clubhouse downstairs...

10

11Shirley Bradley: Oh.

12

13Marylyn Shadduck: ...downstairs in the Clubhouse, and there was a gal that was in charge of

the print shop and they printed all the material that we used at REO.

1415

16Shirley Bradley: I didn't know that.

17

18Marylyn Shadduck: Yup.

19

20Shirley Bradley: That's interesting.

21

22Marylyn Shadduck: And, uh, Ruth [inaudible 11:38] was on the switchboard. She was over at

23 the Clubhouse. And can you imagine that? Having a switchboard

operator to manage that whole place. Anyway, I was in Sales Engineering when Kennedy was assassinated. I can sure remember that. Well, in 1967, Mr. Schuppert was promoted to Vice President of Engineering and I moved over to the Engineering building with him and I was over there until 1970 and Mr. Adams was president and he lost his secretary. She quit, so Mr. Adams picked me to be his secretary and that's how I ended up over in Mr. Adams' office and I survived there until Mr. Cappaert

31 cleaned house.

32

33Shirley Bradley: You, so you were there [inaudible 12:49] when things were bad.

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36 37

35Marylyn Shadduck: Oh, was I ever. That's when I worked so close with [inaudible 12:52]. He

ran and fetched for me and we had – it was a busy office. In fact, it was so busy that Mr. Loudenslager gave me a help, Mary, and I can't remember

38 Mary's last name. This gal right here.

39

40Shirley Bradley: It looks like you got some wonderful pictures there.

41

43

44 45

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42Marylyn Shadduck: Quite a few. This is Mary right here. And so she came in and between the

two of us we were getting the job done. But the day that it hit the fan, Mildred Johnson called me in and said she was terminating me and I said "Don't you mean laying me off?" And she said "No, I'm terminating you and I'll give you a month's pay." She says "Mr. Adams is out [inaudible]

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1	13:41] right now. Mr. Cappaert is firing him, so." She says "You have no
2	boss, so we're letting you go but" she says, um, "when we do replace him,
3	why you'll have first opportunity to interview for it." So I hung all that
4	summer thinking I was going back, which, of course, I never was and they
5	had no intention of. And she said "Just one thing, don't tell Mary. I want
6	to tell Mary myself that she's done." And she never did. She never did.
7	Mary was kept and she went to work for this Stan Eaton who replaced Mr.
8	Adams, but she didn't last very long. He looked like Hugh Hefner. He
9	was quite a nice looking fellow but he wanted a different type of person to
10	be his secretary so he let Mary go, but she had enough time out in the
11	plant that she survived for a while.

12

13Shirley Bradley: Hm.

14

15Marilyn Shadduck: But, uh...

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17Shirley Bradley: Those were difficult days I'm sure.

18

19Marylyn Shadduck: That was it. That was devastating. It was, well, within a year or so,

Diamond REO closed and everybody was out on their ear, so.

2021

22Shirley Bradley: [14:51] Did you sense, well, of course, she, she called you in, but before

23 that, did you sense that it was...?

24

25Marylyn Shadduck: No, see, it was, it was all in transition. REO merged with Diamond T and that meant Diamond and REO became Diamond REO. Well, then, White

27 Motors owned Diamond REO and they sold it to Mr. Cappaert, F. L.

Cappaert. And he was a very wealthy man. He had his own big BOAC jet plane that he traveled in and then he had the Gulfstream that he let Mr. Adams and the staff and different people. One of my duties for Mr.

31 Adams was to keep track of that plane, where it was, and contact the pilots

and keep track of where it was and where it was going and all that.

33

34Shirley Bradley: Oh really?

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36Marylyn Shadduck: Oh yes. Anyway...

3/

38Shirley Bradley: Hm, I suppose he kept it out at the Capital City Airport.

39

40Marylyn Shadduck: Uh, it was on the move almost all the time.

41

42Shirley Bradley: Oh, it was?

43

44Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah, almost always.

45

46Shirley Bradley: [15:54] He was from Mississippi or something, wasn't he?

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1 2Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah, he was. He started in mobile homes, Mag-, they were called Magnolia, something like that. He, he had mobile homes. That's where 3 4 he got his start and then he had this big Farmland, F. L. Cappaert 5 Farmland Corporation, I guess he got from his initials. 7Shirley Bradley: Hm. 9Marylyn Shadduck: He was a big operator but he, everybody liked him. [Inaudible 16:20] shake your hand, you know, and, and, uh. 11 12Shirley Bradley: Oh really? 14Marylyn Shadduck: Oh yeah. And, uh. 16Shirley Bradley: So it was. 17 18Marylyn Shadduck: [Inaudible 16:27] a lot of stories there that I won't get into, so. 20Shirley Bradley: Okay, uh, [16:32] so you didn't have any other relatives that worked 21 there? 22 23Marylyn Shadduck: No. 25Shirley Bradley: Okay. 26 27Marylyn Shadduck: No. 29Shirley Bradley: Um, and we've already talked about how you, what your jobs were when 30 you started and some of the people you worked in, with, worked with. And you said your training they took you down to Old Central and showed 31 32 you how to run the, the... 33 34Marylyn Shadduck: [laughter] And, uh, I kind of think Mr. Kieppe called my mother and said what are you doing letting your daughter work in the factory? 35 36 37Shirley Bradley: Oh, he did? 39Marylyn Shadduck: I'm, I'm pretty sure. And so they didn't put me on the line. They put me in inspection and I think probably Mr. Kieppe had something to do with 40 41 that. 42 43Shirley Bradley: How do you spell...?

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I had so much steel in my hands when I was through working there that it

took months and months for that, from running the gauges and...

45Marilyn Shadduck:

46

1

2Shirley Bradley: Oh, for it to work out of your skin.

3

4Marylyn Shadduck: Mm-hm, yeah.

5

6Shirley Bradley: So it was like having steel slivers.

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8Marylyn Shadduck: Oh yeah, yeah. My, my hand grew a whole glove size.

9

10Shirley Bradley: Did they? Is that right? They did?

11

12Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah.

13

14Shirley Bradley: [17:28] Did you have any protective gloves or anything?

15

16Marylyn Shadduck: You couldn't.

17

18Shirley Bradley: You couldn't.

19

20Marylyn Shadduck: Your, your – I had so many gauges on that fuse, I had a table probably 8

feet long with all my gauges and they'd bring the stock, you know, hot from the wash, you know, after they get through on the drill press. And I had one gauge after another to run and the faster I could work, the more

24 the line got paid.

25

26Shirley Bradley: Oh!

27

28Marylyn Shadduck: They, they made piece rate but I had a flat. I think I made something like

\$65 a week, which was about twice what I could make in the office at
Oldsmobile [chuckle] but they never let you slack up, not for a minute. If
you had to go to the bathroom, why you had like 10 minutes and if you
didn't come back, somebody would find out where you were and what you

were doing, [chuckle] so you earned your pay I'll tell you.

34

35Shirley Bradley: I guess.

36

37Marylyn Shadduck: Our line was right behind where the fire station was at the corner of Baker

there and, and Washington Avenue.

38 39

40Shirley Bradley: Oh yeah.

41

42Marylyn Shadduck: Near the fire station.

43

44Shirley Bradley: Mm-hm.

45

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1Marylyn Shadduck: When we'd take our break, which was like a sandwich for 15 minutes or whatever it was, we went outdoors on benches right behind the fire station

there. That was, that was where we were. And I never ventured very far in that place. I'd have gotten lost. I had no idea. That place went on and

5 on. [chuckle]

6

3

4

7Shirley Bradley: Oh, it was huge.

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9Marylyn Shadduck: It was huge.

10

11Shirley Bradley: It took up that whole...

12

13Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah.

14

15Shirley Bradley: ...Cedar, Baker, Washington.

16

17Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah, it sure did.

18

19Shirley Bradley: All the way down to the tracks.

20

21Marylyn Shadduck: And cigarettes were a prime thing in those days, though I've never

smoked but most everybody else did, so when they'd get a load of

cigarettes, shop workers had a chance to buy'm so...

24

25Shirley Bradley: Oh.

26

27Marylyn Shadduck: ...somebody pushed me in the line and I'd have to buy a [chuckle] carton

of cigarettes for somebody. I wasn't old enough to buy'm probably, but I

29 was 19 then.

30

31Shirley Bradley: Oh.

32

33Marylyn Shadduck: That was funny.

34

35Shirley Bradley: [19:22] So they would, uh, bring a load of cigarettes in for the factory

36 workers?

37

38Marylyn Shadduck: Oh sure. Just like servicemen got all the cigarettes they needed, you

39 know.

40

41Shirley Bradley: Uh-huh.

42

43Marylyn Shadduck: But the rank and file of the population I don't know how they, how, how

those, how that managed. I don't think you had stamps for those, food

stamps you had but not...

46

44

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1Shirley Bradley: No, I don't think so but.

2

3Marylyn Shadduck: But it's just, uh.

4

5Shirley Bradley: I think they were rationed in, uh, in this way. I think that the store would

get so many and so each person was allowed to buy maybe one or two

packs.

7 8

9Marylyn Shadduck: Whatever.

10

11Shirley Bradley: Whatever.

14

13Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah.

14

15Shirley Bradley: Something like that. My parents both smoked and they didn't seem to

have any shortage of it during the war so they must have had some way to

17 get them.

18

19Marilyn Shadduck: They managed.

20

21Shirley Bradley: [19:59] How did, how would you spell Mr. Kieppe's name?

22

23Marylyn Shadduck: Uh, K-i-e-p-p-e I, I think.

24

25Shirley Bradley: K-i-e-p-p-e. I almost had it right. Okay.

26

27Marylyn Shadduck: His family is all buried out there at North Cemetery. They were all from

8 Holt, you see.

29

30Shirley Bradley: Oh really?

31

32Marylyn Shadduck: Oh yeah. Mother was in school with him.

33

34Shirley Bradley: Oh.

35

36Marilyn Shadduck: And his wife Edith and Dick Kieppe, their boy, went to Michigan State. I

37 think he played football at Michigan State and Kathleen was their

38 daughter.

39

40Shirley Bradley: Hm, hm.

41

42Marylyn Shadduck: They lived over there on Forest I think.

43

44Shirley Bradley: [20:31] What kind, what would you say about the working conditions

45 when you were doing your work with the micrometers and...?

46

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1Marylyn Shadduck: Well, they were pushing so hard for production and I didn't know one

factory from another but I'd been in the new Grand River plant and

3 believe me, it was nothing like that. And they tried to get the gals to wear 4 a cap or a hairnet, and like women are, they resisted. And one day a gal 5 got scalped. I'll never forget that. Her hair got caught in the drill press 6 and you could hear her screaming from – that really shook me up.

8Shirley Bradley: Oh my.

So that brought out a few caps and hairness after that. 10Marylyn Shadduck:

11

12Shirley Bradley: I remember those. Mother had a cap 'cause she worked there too. She 13

worked out on the receiving dock I think, anyway, and it had a blue snood

14 kind of thing.

15

16Marylyn Shadduck: Sure, yeah, yeah.

17

18Shirley Bradley: Remember snoods?

20Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah, right.

21

22Shirley Bradley: Um, let's see here.

23

24Marylyn Shadduck: You know, about the last thing that happened to me there was when they

had a picnic out to Fitzgerald Park and they were trying to get some girls 25 26 to be in the beauty contest and it didn't sound like a great idea to me. I 27 mean, taking your clothes off and standing up in front of a bunch of people, you know. But they made us feel like it was our patriotic thing to 28

29 do.

30

31Shirley Bradley: Oh.

32

34

33Marylyn Shadduck: They were going to have some boys from I think Percy Jones Hospital that

were going to be the judges so they talked me into it and, my gosh, I won

35 the contest.

36

37Shirley Bradley: I've seen the Xerox of it, but this is the...

39Marylyn Shadduck: And I think...

41Shirley Bradley: Oh, you were lovely. You really were.

42

43Marylyn Shadduck: [laughter] 19, huh. I think his name was Murphy, I think.

45Shirley Bradley: Murphy?

46

1 Page 14 of 28 1Marylyn Shadduck: I think his last name was Murphy.

2

3Shirley Bradley: It looks like he's enjoying pinning that banner on you.

4

5Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah. We actually had to go over to the clubhouse and get measured

before they let us compete and I wasn't prepared for that either. [laughter]

7 Oh dear.

8

9Shirley Bradley: [22:35] Now who did the measuring? [chuckle]

10

11Marylyn Shadduck: Murphy. [laughter] I think [inaudible 22:38].

12

13Shirley Bradley: Now how did he get that job?

14

15Marylyn Shadduck: I have no idea. Probably the whole thing was his idea. I don't know, but

it was a lot of fun.

17

18Shirley Bradley: Ain't that funny. And this is you right here.

19

20Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah.

21

22Shirley Bradley: And all the, oh, there were a lot of contestants.

23

24Marylyn Shadduck: And bathing suits, you couldn't buy bathing suits with rubber, you know,

elastic in them anymore. This is just a fabric thing, you know.

26

27Shirley Bradley: So pretty.

28

29Marylyn Shadduck: Because rubber, everything like that was just all going into the war

30 production.

31

32Shirley Bradley: Oh yes. It's beautiful.

33

34Marylyn Shadduck: But I won a Hamilton watch and I gave it to my mother. She'd never had

a watch and I was so proud to be able to do that.

35 36

37Shirley Bradley: Oh, you won a watch...

38

39Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah.

40

41Shirley Bradley: ...for being Miss REO.

42

43Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah. That was my prize. Yup. That was...

44

45Shirley Bradley: Miss REO reigns at Gala Annual Picnic.

46

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1Marylyn Shadduck: [chuckle] So that was just before the war ended.

2

3Shirley Bradley: Was it?

4

5Marylyn Shadduck: 1945, uh-huh. I gave, uh...

6

7Shirley Bradley: [chuckle] That must have been an exciting day. A lot of fun.

8

9Marylyn Shadduck: Well, it was, as I look back on it. I didn't win anymore beauty contests so

that was quite a highlight.

11

12Shirley Bradley: It says selecting Miss REO Motors proved to be the most exacting and exciting task of the day. [chuckle] And Mr. Murphy looked like it was.

14

15Marylyn Shadduck: The servicemen were sitting right down in the front row judging

16 everybody.

17

18Shirley Bradley: Were they?

19

20Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah. They had a good day.

21

22Shirley Bradley: They must have had a good time. Miss REO Motors chosen after a

lengthy study... [laughter]

24

25Marylyn Shadduck: Oh dear.

26

27Shirley Bradley: Oh, don't you love it.

28

29Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah.

30

31Shirley Bradley: ...is Marylyn Shadduck, lovely blonde with a healthy tan and next in line

were [Rowena 24:17] Adams in the black suit. Marylyn received a handsome wristwatch while the other two girls received cocktail sets.

34

35Marylyn Shadduck: We were on the swing shift and so that's how I was able to get a tan.

We'd worked one month 12 to 8 and the next month 8 to 12 and the next month 4 to 12 and then we'd swing from – it was terrible. You'd just get your biological clock in tune to one set of hours and then you'd swing to the other set of hours. But I liked the one where you get out at midnight, you could still sleep in the dark, you know, and, and get up and I'd have

41 time to be out in the sun.

42

43Shirley Bradley: Hm, and that's how you got your tan.

44

45Marylyn Shadduck: That's how I got my tan.

46

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1Shirley Bradley: I was wondering when I read that, you know, when you had time.

2

3Marilyn Shadduck: Mm-hm.

4

5Shirley Bradley: Um, [25:07] can you recall any of the other people that you worked with

on the line and then later in the office?

7

8Marylyn Shadduck: Well, Larry...

9

10Shirley Bradley: I guess we'll start with the line.

11

12Marylyn Shadduck: Larry [Ducap 25:16] was second down the line of foremen. Earl, Earl

[Chlore 25:23] was the foreman on our line and he drowned years and years and years ago and Larry [Ducap 25:29] was second under him as, as on our line and he moved in two doors down from us on Pleasant Grove

Road years later and he's gone now.

17

18Shirley Bradley: Oh.

19

20Marylyn Shadduck: And, uh...

21

22Shirley Bradley: [25:42] D-u-c-a-p you think? Something like that.

23

24Marylyn Shadduck: I – it was a French...

25

26Shirley Bradley: Oh, a French name. Okay.

27

28Marylyn Shadduck: D-u-c, I don't, I can't really remember.

29

30Shirley Bradley: Earl Core, C-o-r-e probably.

31

32Marylyn Shadduck: Uh, his last name I can't remember if it was C-h-l-o-r-e. I can't

remember.

34

35Shirley Bradley: That's all right.

36

37Marylyn Shadduck: But the other people I can't remember their names.

38

39Shirley Bradley: Hm.

40

41Marylyn Shadduck: I can see them but I can't remember their names.

42

43Shirley Bradley: Um, so then you worked back and forth and then you were in the office.

44

45Marylyn Shadduck: Uh, after the, after I was let go at REO from the office back in '72 when

46 Mr. Cappaert was there, I tried to get into Oldsmobile again and couldn't.

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1

2Shirley Bradley: Is that right?

3

4Marylyn Shadduck: Yup.

5

6Shirley Bradley: My gosh.

7

8Marylyn Shadduck: And, uh, well, the automotive business is up or down. They're in austerity

or they're in great times. And when they're in austerity, they start cutting heads. I know because I worked in the sales budget office at Oldsmobile and that was part of our job was head count for the whole marketing thing

in our office.

13

14Shirley Bradley: Oh really?

15

17

18

16Marylyn Shadduck: I had to run, do to the organizational charts and all kinds of things and so

you'd be given a head count and, and if you had to lose two people, you had to lose two people and that's the way it is. And when they weren't

hiring, they weren't hiring, so I just didn't hit it right I guess.

19 20

21Shirley Bradley: You were in that slump period.

22

23Marylyn Shadduck: Yup. But I, I went to work for Manpower killing time trying to find a job

and a friend of mine knew Bill White and asked him to do it for me and so
I got a call and I got a job and that's how I got in. The first time I went to
work at Oldsmobile, I was just out of business college. It would have
been 1943, and I had no idea that it was difficult. I'd always wanted to
work at Oldsmobile. I just always did. My aunt worked there and I had
an uncle who had worked there. Oldsmobile was to me the greatest place

30 to be in the world, you know. And when I went to go there, Dr.

Gunderson was the plant physician, George Gunderson. He was the plant physician and he was a very close personal friend of ours. He and his wife

33 we called them Uncle Doc and Aunt Louise.

34

35Shirley Bradley: Hm.

36

37Marylyn Shadduck: So he put in a word for me and I had no idea that's the reason I got that

job. [laughter] I thought it was awfully nice of him, you know. And that's why I, I just stepped right in. Isn't that funny? I worked in the insurance office and that was in Building 28, which is where the cafeteria was. And the men that would come to the insurance office we had to ask their social security number because everybody had a set of books according to social

43 security number for the factory men.

44

45Shirley Bradley: Oh

46

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1Marylyn Shadduck: And we'd cover their families with insurance and so forth and so that's

when I learned my soc number because without exception they'd say "My soc number? What's yours?" You know like who would know that

3 soc number? What's yours?" You know, like who would know that.

4

5Shirley Bradley: Mm-hm, mm-hm.

6

7Marylyn Shadduck: We were lucky if they even knew the names of their children much less,

they usually know how many they had but some of them had trouble

9 coming up with the kids' names. It was funny.

10

11Shirley Bradley: Oh, that's funny.

12

13Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah. But there were an awful lot of deaths. They were working terrible

hours in the plant, 7 days a week, 10, 12 hours a day.

15

16Shirley Bradley: And the strain was...

17

18Marylyn Shadduck: And there were a lot of heart attacks, a lot of heart attacks.

19

20Shirley Bradley: And a lot of them, some of the men were older because the young ones

21 were off serving...

22

23Marylyn Shadduck: That's right. That's right.

24

25Shirley Bradley: ...in the army.

26

27Marylyn Shadduck: And women were taking jobs in the plant.

28

29Shirley Bradley: Mm-hm.

30

31Marilyn Shadduck: But they wouldn't transfer anybody from the office out there.

32

33Shirley Bradley: No. They wouldn't.

34

35Marylyn Shadduck: Uh-uh. But before I went to work in, uh, the insurance office, I was put in

charge of issuing gasoline ration stamps and they'd give us a whole sheet of stamps and then you'd X out the ones that they weren't entitled to 'cause the guys that worked in the plant got priority on their gas rations.

39

40Shirley Bradley: They could get a couple gallons more a week or something.

41

42Marylyn Shadduck: Well, they'd get stamps for, toward gas.

43

44Shirley Bradley: Uh-huh.

45

46Marylyn Shadduck: You take so many stamps for so many gallons.

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2Shirley Bradley: I didn't know they did that at the factory.

4Marylyn Shadduck: Oh yes. And when my father-in-law found out I was crossing black X's

on gasoline stamps and not pocketing any, [chuckle] he couldn't believe it. 6 It never would have occurred to me. It never would have occurred to me. 7

[laughter]

9Shirley Bradley: I supposed there could have been some of that going on someplace.

11Marylyn Shadduck: Could've been but I'm sure they were, it sure wasn't risk, worth risking

12 your job for.

13

14Shirley Bradley: Absolutely.

16Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah.

17

18Shirley Bradley: Absolutely.

20Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah.

21

22Shirley Bradley: Um, let's see now. I had a question in mind. Hm, what was it? Oh gosh!

23 It was a good question too.

24

25Marylyn Shadduck: What was it?

26

27Shirley Bradley: My memory is failing me.

29Marylyn Shadduck: I was trying to find an old picture I got of...

31Shirley Bradley: Oh, I think I was thinking of after REO closed and the doors were 32 padlocked, a lot of those folks – you went to Oldsmobile eventually. 33 [30:59] Do you suppose a lot of the others that you worked with

34 personally may have ended up at Olds or?

36Marylyn Shadduck: I have – I, I don't know because they were all office people. The

executive staff was just laid out on the ear. I know Barry DeVine went to 37

law school and started a class action lawsuit. I remember that. 38

39

40Shirley Bradley: Oh really?

42Marylyn Shadduck: We were all notified of that. He was on the staff.

43

44Shirley Bradley: A lot of the people, well, most everybody didn't get anything. I mean, the

45 pension fund had been raided [inaudible 31:31].

46

1 Page 20 of 28 1Marylyn Shadduck: It was, it was devastating. There were people who had been there for years and years and years. Of course, they had, they had unionized the office but I wasn't in the union because I was a confidential secretary at

office but I wasn't in the union because I was a confidential secretary and, um, the time I had outside of that was union, would have been a union classification so I had enough time in to get a small pension, which I still

get. But the people who had expected to get, what, \$500 a month, that

7 was pretty good money in those days.

8

4

5

6

9Shirley Bradley: Oh yes! Sure.

10

11Marylyn Shadduck: They had about the first case I think that went to the National Benefit

Department that, that, that guarantees pensions now.

13

14Shirley Bradley: I see.

15

16Marylyn Shadduck: It's in bad shape because there's so many pensions they've had to step in

17 and take over.

18

19Shirley Bradley: Hm.

20

21Marylyn Shadduck: Uh, so I don't know what's going to happen with that but REO was about

one of the first cases where the, the company has to pay into this fund so that if this happens, the money is in the government to – but they have to take into consideration how many people are still alive, how many people, uh, and when and how much are they going to allocate because no new

26 money is ever going to come in.

27

28Shirley Bradley: No.

29

30Marylyn Shadduck: And how long has it got to last and so forth.

31

32Shirley Bradley: Sure.

33

34Marylyn Shadduck: So everybody I'm sure took a big cut. It was devastating.

35

36Shirley Bradley: I wonder, I have heard stories where some people either didn't get

anything for a long time and then maybe it was something like \$20 or \$30

a month.

39

40Marylyn Shadduck: Sure.

41

42Shirley Bradley: I've also heard of some suicides when everything closed...

43

44Marylyn Shadduck: Oh.

45

46Shirley Bradley: ...and there were no jobs.

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2Marylyn Shadduck: Oh [inaudible 33:13]. 4Shirley Bradley: It was a terrible time. 6Marylyn Shadduck: It was, uh, people were... 8Shirley Bradley: I also heard, uh, I think it was Mr. Cataline that mentioned that there was a Swedish company that at one point toward the end was interested perhaps 10 in building a new factory north of town and starting, you know, building 11 the engines again and... 12 13Marylyn Shadduck: Well, there is a group that have a business that, that builds the – a fellow named Larry. They've been in the paper several times telling they, they 14 build buses I think and one thing or another. They have quite a business 15 16 there [inaudible 33:47]. 17 18Shirley Bradley: Oh, the Spartan Motors. 20Marylyn Shadduck: Right. 21 22Shirley Bradley: Yes, yes. 23 24Marylyn Shadduck: Those people came from REO. 26Shirley Bradley: Some of the men went, yeah, from REO. That's true, yeah. 28Marylyn Shadduck: Mm-hm. 30Shirley Bradley: Yeah. Uh, and then there's, uh, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania they still build a big truck with like the Gold Comet engine. The big REO Comet I 31 32 guess it's called. But anyway, they still build some of the big REO over 33 there, road trucks, commercial trucks. 34 35Marylyn Shadduck: Boy, those trucks were beautiful, I'll tell you. 37Shirley Bradley: Were they?

39Marylyn Shadduck: We thought they were the Cadillac of trucks, I'll tell you. They really were. Every one was designed for a person. I mean, you didn't have

dealerships just buying trucks to sell. If a man had a fleet of trucks and needed a replacement truck or whatever, he'd come in and they'd spec out a new truck and it would have to make a difference, you know, whether it was going to carry a big load of a cement mixer or whether it was going to

45 go on a school bus or what it was.

46

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1Shirley Bradley: Oh.

2

3Marylyn Shadduck: Everyone was figured and built for the person and when they'd come off

the line, well, if the line ever went down, Mr. Adams had the siren

5 [inaudible 34:45].

6

7Shirley Bradley: Oh really?

8

9Marylyn Shadduck: And everybody in the world knew the line was down. And, and ain't that

0 funny?

11

12Shirley Bradley: [chuckle] And so I imagine they didn't want that line going down very

13 much

14

15Marylyn Shadduck: Oh no, no.

16

17Shirley Bradley: Hm. That's interesting, isn't it? Almost custom-making a truck for a, for

a buyer.

19

20Marylyn Shadduck: Absolutely, absolutely [inaudible 35:06].

21

22Shirley Bradley: I bet that doesn't happen at very many places.

23

24Marylyn Shadduck: I have old newspapers for Jim and it has a lot of pictures of trucks and

5 different kinds.

26

27Shirley Bradley: [35:22] This is one of the publications that REO put out?

28

29Marylyn Shadduck: Mm-hm. Yeah. There's pictures of all [inaudible 35:28].

30

31Shirley Bradley: An in-house kind of...

32

33Marylyn Shadduck: Mm-hm. This Dorothy [Karens 35:35] was secretary to Hugh Clark. He

was right – they were right next to the Sales Engineering office. They did orders and distributions. And Ron Nelson, he was my sister-in-law's

36 uncle.

37

38Shirley Bradley: [35:48] Who was that?

39

40Marylyn Shadduck: Ron Nelson. He was the plant maintenance man.

41

42Shirley Bradley: Hm.

43

44Marylyn Shadduck: And they're just, all these trucks are just fabulous [inaudible 36:00].

15

46Shirley Bradley: Marvelous you've been able to save some things.

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1 2Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah. There's a lot of personnel that, that I have known. I wish I could find this little picture I had of the girls. 3 4 5Shirley Bradley: Diamond T dealer meeting highly successful. 7Marylyn Shadduck: Here it is. 9Shirley Bradley: Three new models were unveiled to the dealer organization and White Motor Corporation president J. N. Bauman pledged vigorous support for 10 11 Diamond T and the Lansing division, hm. 12 13Marylyn Shadduck: Boy, they used to give some really nice outings for these customers and dealers, whatever, that would come in. Mr. Collins was sales manager 14 when I was in Sales Engineering and he had a home in Okemos, and he'd 15 16 have these pool parties and invite these various customers, dealers, 17 whatever they were and then he'd ask some of us girls to be hostesses and that was a big thing. That was a lot of fun. 18 19 20Shirley Bradley: Was it? 21 22Marylyn Shadduck: He had a beautiful home there in Okemos and he married this Kay Collins 23 and she was a concert organist and she put on a concert in the Clubhouse 24 at one time... 25 26Shirley Bradley: Hm. 28Marylyn Shadduck: ...that the Girls Club sponsored and it was a real money-making thing for 29 us. She was, she was a real performer.

30

31Shirley Bradley: Hm.

32

34

These are the girls when, when I went to work for Mr. Adams. I was 33Marylyn Shadduck:

> replacing Alice and this, this gal worked for Clare Loudenslager and Phyllis Harkins was the receptionist. This is Carol [Andreoski 37:51].

35 36

37Shirley Bradley: Carol Andrea?

39Marylyn Shadduck: [Andreoski 37:53].

40

41Shirley Bradley: Oh, I guess I better write that down because whoever is going to transcribe

42 this will not know. [chuckle]

43

44Marylyn Shadduck: And Alice Goodrich was leaving Mr. Adams' office and I was replacing

46

1 Page 24 of 28 1Shirley Bradley: And you were replacing her.

3Marylyn Shadduck: And Phyllis Harkins was just outside in the lobby. She had to cover my

phone for me if I ever had to leave my desk.

5

6Shirley Bradley: Oh, I see.

8Marylyn Shadduck: I have no idea what became of Phyllis or Alice or Carol.

10Shirley Bradley: I was going to ask you if you'd had a chance to see some of the gals.

[38:33] Are some of them still...? 11

12

13Marylyn Shadduck: Well, the only one that I keep in touch with is Ruby [Hurley 38:36]. She

was in the Accounting office and she and her husband used to always go 14 to the charity ball with my husband Dick and myself and we were such 15 16 good friends. And eventually he died and Ruby moved up north. She's

17 got a place right, right at the foot of the Mackinac Bridge.

18

19Shirley Bradley: Oh really?

20

22

21Marylyn Shadduck: Her daughter has a farm up there and Ruby moved up there and I still am

in touch with her at Christmas, but she's the only one that I really – all the

23 bouffant hairdos.

24

25Shirley Bradley: I was looking at that.

26

27Marylyn Shadduck: Ain't that funny.

29Shirley Bradley: And, and the styles haven't changed all that much, a little bit.

31Marylyn Shadduck: They come, they come and go, but.

33Shirley Bradley: Yeah, they do, don't they?

34

35Marylyn Shadduck: But, you know, girls don't have their hair done anymore. It just is straight

and they have to stick it behind their ears so they can see out.

37

38Shirley Bradley: [chuckle] Um, looking back on the REO Motor Car Company, [39:36] any 39

last thoughts or things I haven't even thought to ask or something you'd

like to mention? 40

42Marylyn Shadduck: Well, they, there were so many phases like when they had Duo-Therm

43 division over there, the lawnmowers and the space heaters and all that and

44 then they moved that to La Grange.

45

46Shirley Bradley: Oh.

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1 2Marylyn Shadduck: They had, they had two sets of staff. They'd have a president at Duo-Therm and then another president at REO. I mean they had double and 4 then, of course... 6Shirley Bradley: Oh. ...they had to eliminate all that at Duo-Therm and then they eventually 8Marylyn Shadduck: moved it to La Grange. And I remember we bought several things that we 10 got a discount on. We got a space heater for my uncle's cottage. They 11 had a small hot water heater that we used at our cottage that went 12 underneath the sink, you know. 13 14Shirley Bradley: Mm-hm. 16Marylyn Shadduck: All kinds of things like that. Lawnmowers. They had playground 17 equipment for kids. My aunt and uncle bought our kids a whole set of playground equipment, all bright painted blue and red and yellow, you 18 know, metal swings and slides and stuff. All those things besides trucks... 19 20 21Shirley Bradley: Hm. 23Marylyn Shadduck: ...came and went. 25Shirley Bradley: I knew about the lawnmowers, but I didn't know about the space heaters 26 and the... 27 28Marylyn Shadduck: Yup. 30Shirley Bradley: And they were built by the Duo-Therm part of the... 32Marylyn Shadduck: Duo-Therm. Mm-hm, yeah. 33 34Shirley Bradley: Oh. 36Marylyn Shadduck: I don't know where the swings and slides came from. [laughter] That didn't have much to do with anything, but they had them. 37 38 39Shirley Bradley: [41:12] So you think it was a good place to work? 40 41Marylyn Shadduck: Well, it was a great place for me because I was saving every dime I could

42 get my hands on during the war so when Dick came home we'd have 43 something to start with, you know. And I was living with my folks for a

44 month and then I'd go live with his folks for a month.

45

46Shirley Bradley: Oh, is that right?

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1 2Marylyn Shadduck: Take my, take my food stamps with me, right? 4Shirley Bradley: Ah. 6Marylyn Shadduck: Ration stamps and, um, by the time he got home, I had a pretty good nest egg saved up. And when our kids went to college, Terry worked two 8 years, two summers. He worked out in the plant one summer and up on 9 the drawing boards. He was an engineering student at Michigan State so 10 he earned money there and then... 11 12Shirley Bradley: At REO? 13 14Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah. Out on the line and then the other summer... 16Shirley Bradley: Oh. 17 18Marylyn Shadduck: ...on the boards and that's where I was able to put, that was one of the big reasons I went to work was for college. 20 21Shirley Bradley: Mm-hm. And then when our daughter started State, why she got a job, they had sent 23Marylyn Shadduck: 24 the government office over there to where the Duo-Therm had been at the corner of Mount Hope. They had moved the government offices from, 25 26 from the Engineering building over there and she got a summer job in the 27 office over there. So thanks to REO, we financed college pretty much and 28 what... 29 30Shirley Bradley: And maybe your first home. You were able to save while your husband 31 was away. 32 33Marylyn Shadduck: Well, that's right. And so... 34 35Shirley Bradley: So those are good benefits, aren't they? 37Marylyn Shadduck: Absolutely. Gee, we had health benefits. We had it all, you know. We... 39Shirley Bradley: [42:43] You did have good benefits? 40 41Marylyn Shadduck: Yeah. We didn't make much money compared to what people make 42 nowadays. But I can remember when I got hired at Diamond REO, the

46Shirley Bradley: Oh yes.

43

44

45

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girl I was replacing had gone to work for that Con-Con, Constitutional

Convention, where they were redoing Michigan's constitution.

1 2Marylyn Shadduck: And I heard she was going to make \$600 a month. I couldn't believe it. In those days, \$400 was really good for a steno, you know, a secretary 4 steno. 6Shirley Bradley: Is that right? 8Marylyn Shadduck: And uh, I heard she was going to make \$600 a month. [laughter] 10Shirley Bradley: [43:20] But that work wasn't permanent, was it? Wasn't there ...? 11 12Marylyn Shadduck: No, but almost all the girls got in with some senator or legislator... 14Shirley Bradley: Oh. 16Marylyn Shadduck: ...and ended up working for... 17 18Shirley Bradley: Working for them. 20Marylyn Shadduck: ...the government. Yeah. 21 22Shirley Bradley: And that was a good thing. 23 24Marylyn Shadduck: Sure, if they wanted to, you know. 26Shirley Bradley: Uh-huh. 28Marylyn Shadduck: If they wanted to. 29 30Shirley Bradley: Well, I certainly do thank you for taking time to talk to me today. I've got a feeling there's thousands of stories that you have and some worth 31 32 sharing and some that are private. [chuckle] 33 34Marylyn Shadduck: Well, as you get older, sometimes your memory plays tricks on you and w-, what you think you remember maybe wasn't exactly the way it was. 35 36 37Shirley Bradley: [laughter] I see. 39Marylyn Shadduck: But... [chuckle] 40 41Shirley Bradley: I think you've done a marvelous job and you typed out really two bios. 42 Well, I thank you very much, Marylyn. And this tape will be kept at the 43 REO's Museum. 44

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45 46/mlc