

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

THE NIMITZ MUSEUM

PRESENTS

AN ORAL HISTORY BY

DRAKE

ANN ROGERS ~~BLAKE~~

TAPE NO. 419

THIS IS GIGI ^{DUKE} DUDE. TODAY IS JANUARY 31, 2002. I AM INTERVIEWING ANN RODGERS DRAKE. THIS INTERVIEW IS TAKING PLACE IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS AT THE MENGER HOTEL.

THIS INTERVIEW IS IN SUPPORT OF THE CENTER FOR PACIFIC WARS STUDIES, ARCHIVES FOR THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR, TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL INFORMATION RELATED TO THIS SITE.

ANN, IF YOU WILL, START BY GIVING US A LITTLE BIT OF YOUR BACKGROUND, WHERE YOU WERE BORN AND YOUR PARENTS AND PERHAPS THEIR OCCUPATIONS AND YOUR SIBLINGS.

ANN

I WAS BORN AUGUST 31, 1937. I WAS THE YOUNGEST OF FIVE CHILDREN. I WAS BORN IN (PLEASE SPELL), PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. MY FATHER HAD BEEN THE GOVERNOR OF THE ????? PROVINCE FOR A CERTAIN LENGTH OF TIME. THERE WERE OTHER GOVERNORS BEFORE HIM. HE HAD LEFT INDIANA AT THE AGE OF 18. HE JOINED THE ARMY, ENDED UP IN THE PHILIPPINES AND WAS AN AIDE TO GENERAL PERSHING. HE THEN ASKED TO BE DISCHARGED THERE. HE WAS ALWAYS GOING TO GO HOME TO INDIANA LATER, THEN HE BECAME SECRETARY-TREASURER OF THE SULU (????)PROVINCE, THEN GOVERNOR.

DURING THAT TIME, HE MET MY MOTHER. MY MOTHER WAS BORN IN BRITISH NORTH BORNEO. JUSTLETON, (????) NORTH BORNEO. HER MOTHER WAS A MORO WITH A LITTLE ARAB IN HER. THEY WERE MUSLIMS. MY MOTHER'S FATHER WAS A GERMAN MUSLIM. HIS FATHER HAD THREE SHIPS, WHAT I UNDERSTOOD WAS GIVEN TO HIM AS A DOWRY WHEN HE MARRIED MY GREAT GRANDMOTHER. HE SAILED AMONG INDONESIA, MALAYSIA , THE PHILIPPINES AND BECAME A GOOD FRIEND OF THE SULTAN WHO GAVE HIM QUITE A BIT OF LAND. THAT IS MY MOTHER'S BACKGROUND. SHE MET MY FATHER AND THEY WERE MARRIED AND HAD FIVE CHILDREN. THEY WERE MARRIED IN 1919.

THE PHILIPPINES BECAME A COMMONWEALTH IN 1935. THEY ARE NO LONGER AMERICANS RULE. THEY WERE SELF-RULING STILL INSTRUCTED SORT OF BY THE AMERICANS WHO ALWAYS WANTED TO GIVE THEM THEIR INDEPENDENCE. THEY WERE PROMISED TO HAVE IT IN 1945. I GUESS THEY GOT IT IN 1946 BECAUSE OF THE WAR.

THE AMERICANS WENT THERE AND SET UP A PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, SET UP PUBLIC WORKS, AGRICULTURE AND ALL SORTS OF THINGS SO THAT THE FILIPINOS COULD REALLY TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES. THEY REVISED THE SPANISH RULE THERE BECAUSE THE SPANISH ONLY HAD----THEY HAD UNIVERSITIES BUT THEY DIDN'T HAVE

AN EXTENSIVE SCHOOL SYSTEM. IT WAS MOSTLY FOR THE ELITE, MAYBE. AT LEAST THIS IS WHAT I WAS TOLD. BUT WHEN THE AMERICANS GOT THERE, IT WAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS. EVERYBODY HAD TO GO TO SCHOOL. I THOUGHT THAT WAS VERY GOOD BECAUSE EVEN IN THE BARRIOS, IN THE LITTLE TOWN OF HOLO, THERE WAS A SCHOOL.

GIGI

AND SO YOU WENT TO THE LOCAL SCHOOL THEN?

ANN

WELL, I DIDN'T BECAUSE I LEFT HOLO WHEN I WAS FOUR. MY OTHER SIBLINGS DID. THEY WENT TO SCHOOL WITH THE OTHERS AND MY BROTHER USED TO WAIT UNTIL HE WAS BEYOND THE BUSHES OF OUR HOUSE AND KICK OFF HIS SHOES AND UNDO HIS SHIRT, PUT IT OUTSIDE SO HE COULD LOOK LIKE THE OTHER BOYS.

GIGI

WHY DID YOU LEAVE WHEN YOU WERE FOUR?

ANN

WE LEFT THERE WHEN I WAS FOUR BECAUSE MY FATHER WANTED TO BRING HIS FAMILY BACK TO INDIANA. WE WERE NOT RICH PEOPLE. WE HAD A LOT OF LAND BECAUSE MY MOTHER INHERITED A LOT OF LAND. WE DID NOT HAVE A LOT OF MONEY. HE WENT TO WORK FOR A SUBCONTRACTOR FOR THE PACIFIC NAVAL AIR BASE IN MANILA. HE WANTED TO GET ENOUGH MONEY TO BRING US BACK TO INDIANA. THIS WAS HIS LAST JOB THERE IN THE PHILIPPINES AND WE WERE ALL GOING TO LEAVE AS SOON AS IT WAS THROUGH BECAUSE HE WAS GOING TO PURCHASE OUR FARES BACK ON THE SHIP. THIS IS IN 1941. WE WENT TO MANILA.

GIGI

WAS THIS IN THE SPRING OR THE SUMMER?

ANN

IT MUST HAVE BEEN EARLY IN THE YEAR. I DON'T KNOW THE EXACT TIME. I HAVE SOME MEMORIES OF THAT. I KNOW THAT I GOT A NEW PAIR OF SHOES. I REMEMBER THEY WERE BASKETBALL SHOES AND I WOULDN'T GO TO A DRESS UP THING. I WOULDN'T TAKE THEM OFF. WE WERE THERE WHEN THE BOMBING HAPPENED ON DECEMBER 8.

GIGI

YOUR WERE LIVING IN MANILA WHEN IT WAS BOMBED?

ANN

YES. I REMEMBER THAT BECAUSE IF I EVER HEAR THE WHINING OF SHELLS AND ALL THAT, IT STOPS ME IN MY TRACKS. I WONDER WHERE IT IS GOING TO HIT.

GIGI

THAT IS A SOUND THAT IS PERMANENTLY ----?

ANN

OH YEAH.

GIGI

HOW ABOUT THE SMELL?

ANN

SMELL? ONE SMELL I REMEMBER IS WHEN THE JAPANESE KILLED THEMSELVES IN THE PRISON CELLS WHEN WE WERE LIBERATED .THERE WERE THREE OF THEM. I REMEMBER LOOKING AND THIS HORRIBLE SMELL OF A DEAD BODY OR BLOOD OR SOMETHING. I REMEMBER THAT. IT IS A HORRIBLE SMELL.

GIGI

THOSE ARE TWO THINGS THAT STAY FOREVER.

ANN

THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS THAT ARE FOREVER IN MY LIFE.

GIGI

I IMAGINE.

ANN

I REMEMBER THEM PUTTING BLACK PAPER ON THE WINDOWS. ALL THE WINDOWS HAD BLACK PAPER. I DIDN'T ASK WHY. I JUST SAW THEM PUTTING IT ON THERE. I GUESS IT WAS FOR THE AIR RAIDS THAT WE HAD TO HAVE BLACKOUT.

GIGI

WHEN THE BOMBING STARTED YOU WERE WITH YOUR PARENTS AND FAMILY?

ANN

NO, I WAS HOME WITH MY MOTHER AND MY SIBLINGS. IT WAS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION, IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, DECEMBER 8. IN THE PHILIPPINES IT IS A HOLIDAY. SCHOOL WAS OUT, ALL THE SCHOOLS INCLUDING THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. A LOT OF OFFICES WERE CLOSED. MY SISTER WORKED AT NICHOLS FIELD AND SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO GO TO WORK. MY FATHER HAD TO GO OVER TO THE PACIFIC NAVAL AIR BASE SO HE HAD LEFT EARLY, EARLY THAT MORNING. HE HAD TO GO ACROSS THE BAY TO MARIVELES AND HE GAVE US A PHONE CALL AND SAID, "PEARL HARBOR HAS BEEN BOMBED AND WE WILL BE NEXT AND YOU PROBABLY WON'T BE HEARING FROM ME AGAIN." HE TALKED TO EVERYONE EXCEPT ME. I DON'T REMEMBER TALKING TO HIM. MAYBE I WAS STILL IN BED. HE TALKED TO MY BROTHER AND SAID, "YOU WILL HAVE TO BE THE MAN OF THE FAMILY NOW." MY BROTHER WAS 15 AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE SAID TO MY MOM. HE TOLD EVELYN, THE OLDEST TO TAKE CARE OF THE FAMILY, CARE FOR YOUR MOTHER AND YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS. THAT WAS THE LAST TIME WE HEARD FROM HIM, YOU KNOW, HIS VOICE EVER.

HE DID SEND MESSAGES FROM CABANATUAN, THROUGH A WHOLE SERIES OF PEOPLE. I GOT A DOLL ON MY BIRTHDAY. I FORGOT WHICH YEAR THAT WAS. IT MUST HAVE BEEN '43, '42, SOMEWHERE IN THERE. MY MOTHER GOT ORCHIDS ON THEIR ANNIVERSARY THAT LAST TIME. '44 OR SO .

GIGI

AFTER THE BOMBING, DID THE JAPANESE COME INTO YOUR CITY?

ANN

THERE WAS A LOT OF BOMBING. IT SEEMED LIKE FOREVER. THEN ONE DAY, WE WERE PACKING. THEY TOLD ME THAT WE WERE GOING TO GO ON A PICNIC. WHAT THEY HAD TOLD MY MOM WAS TO PACK ENOUGH FOR 3 DAYS. I THINK THEY TOOK US IN A TRUCK. I'M NOT SURE BECAUSE ALL I REMEMBER IS SEEING WHEN I WAS YOUNG WAS I USED TO LOOK AND SEE MORNING GLORIES GROWING ON OUR BACK PORCH. I USED TO LOOK AT THE MAGNOLIA TREES, THE BIG BLOSSOMS AND I USED TO LOOK AT PLANTS. I DON'T REMEMBER BUILDINGS BUT I CAN TELL YOU WHERE THE PLANTS GREW.

GIGI

DID THE JAPANESE TAKE YOU BY TRUCK?

ANN

YES.

GIGI

SO YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING ON A PICNIC. YOU WERE PROBABLY NOT AFRAID THEN?

ANN

I DON'T REMEMBER BEING AFRAID.

GIGI

WHERE DID THEY TAKE YOU?

ANN

THEY TOOK US TO SANTA THOMAS INTERNMENT CAMP, I THINK. THIS IS WHAT I HAVE BEEN TOLD.

GIGI

DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT WHAT TIME OF THE YEAR IT WAS?

ANN

IT WAS IN JANUARY OF '42.

GIGI

AND DID YOU STAY IN SANTA THOMAS THE ENTIRE TIME?

ANN

WE DIDN'T STAY THERE BECAUSE MY MOTHER HAD TO HAVE AN OPERATION. THE DOCTOR WAS AFRAID SHE HAD CANCER SO SHE HAD A HYSTERECTOMY. HE SAID, "I AM NOT GOING TO TAKE BIOPSIES." I DON'T KNOW IF THEY DID THEM IN THOSE DAYS. HE SAID, "I DON'T WANT TO TAKE THE CHANCE ON NOT HAVING AN ANESTHESIA LATER, YOU HAVE ALREADY HAD FIVE CHILDREN. I THINK IT IS NECESSARY." SO SHE HAD A HYSTERECTOMY AND WE WERE IN HOUSE ARREST. WE GOT TO GO OUT AND STAY IN OUR HOUSE, UNDER HOUSE ARREST.

GIGI

YOU STAYED IN YOUR HOME THEN, BACK FROM SANTA THOMAS BACK TO YOUR HOME THEN?

ANN

YES.

GIGI

SO YOU WERE FREE INSIDE YOUR HOUSE, BUT YOU COULDN'T LEAVE YOUR HOUSE?

ANN

RIGHT.

GIGI

FOR ABOUT HOW LONG DID THAT LAST?

ANN

THAT I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW THAT I EVER ASKED MY MOTHER BUT I KNOW THEN WE WERE BROUGHT TO HOLY GHOST CONVENT FOR CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS WERE EITHER COULDN'T CARE FOR THEM OR THEY BROUGHT BABIES AND CHILDREN THERE. THAT'S WHERE DOLLY AND I WERE BROUGHT WITH MY MOM.

GIGI

WHAT ABOUT YOUR BROTHERS?

ANN

THEY STAYED IN SANTA THOMAS AND SO DID EVELYN. MY SISTER JO VOLUNTEERED TO TAKE CARE OF BABIES. EVELYN VOLUNTEERED TO WORK IN THE LIBRARY: MY BROTHER WAS IN THE KITCHEN. EVERYBODY HAD A JOB TO DO. IT WAS VERY WELL ORGANIZED. WE LEARNED FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, WE LEARNED VERY EARLY THAT IF WE WANTED TO LIVE, CLEANLY AND ALL THAT, THAT WE HAD TO DO IT ON OUR OWN. I THINK THE FIRST THING THEY EVERY DID WAS SET UP A CHLORINATION

PLANT FOR THE WATER. JO CAME AND HELPED TAKE CARE OF BABIES AND STAYED THERE SO SHE COULD BE THERE WITH MOM AND DOLLY.

GIGI

YOU WERE AT HOLY GHOST CONVENT?

ANN

YES, AND THE VERY FIRST NIGHT WE WERE THERE, I WET MY BED. I REMEMBER THAT. I WAS SO ----- . I MUST HAVE BEEN FRIGHTENED OF A STRANGE SITUATION.

GIGI

HOW LONG WERE YOU AT HOLY GHOST?

ANN

WE WERE THERE THROUGH DECEMBER OF 1943.

GIGI

YOU WERE THERE ALMOST TWO YEARS THEN.

ANN

WE ONLY WENT INTO SANTA THOMAS IN THE BEGINNING OF 1944.

GIGI

WHILE YOU WERE AT HOLY GHOST, WHAT KIND OF TREATMENT DID YOU HAVE?

ANN

WE WERE ALWAYS HUNGRY.

GIGI

WHAT DID YOU HAVE TO EAT?

ANN

I DON'T KNOW. I REMEMBER THINGS LIKE A GREEN CHYOTE SQUASH THAT WAS AWFUL. BUT YOU KNOW, IF YOU WERE ----- THEY HAD THAT FOR BABIES AND CHILDREN. I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT OTHER FOOD. IT DIDN'T MATTER TO ME. THERE

JUST WASN'T A WHOLE LOT OF IT. I DON'T THINK WE WERE STARVING AT THAT POINT. THE LAST YEAR IN SANTA THOMAS, WE WERE STARVING.

GIGI

AT HOLY GHOST THINGS WERE REASONABLY STABLE?

ANN

OTHER THAN JAPANESE GUARDING THE PLACE, THEY DIDN'T RUN THE PLACE.

GIGI

WHO RAN THE PLACE?

ANN

I AM TRYING TO REMEMBER WHO RAN IT BECAUSE I KNOW THAT I WAS GOING TO HAVE MY FIRST COMMUNION, MY MOM INSISTED. SHE DIDN'T CARE THE WAR WAS GOING ON. I WAS AT THE AGE WHERE I NEEDED TO HAVE MY FIRST COMMUNION WHEN I WAS SIX. I WAS INSTRUCTED BY THE NUNS. I DON'T REMEMBER THE NUNS TEACHING ANYTHING.

GIGI

SO, YOU ALL DIDN'T HAVE SCHOOL?

ANN

WHEN WE WERE UNDER HOUSE ARREST, I THINK I WENT OVER TO, BRIEFLY OVER TO A SCHOOL. I'M NOT SURE IF IT WAS ST. JOSEPH'S OR WHATEVER AND IT WAS KIND OF LIKE A KINDERGARTEN, THE CLASS I WAS IN. I COULDN'T SPEAK ENGLISH. I COULD ONLY SPEAK MORO BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT WE TALKED. I DIDN'T SPEAK ENGLISH. MY FATHER DID. HE NEVER WOULD LET US MIX SO I NEVER SPOKE ENGLISH. MY SIBLINGS DID BECAUSE THEY HAD GONE TO SCHOOL AND I DID NOT SO WHEN I GOT THERE, THEY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I WAS SAYING. I KNOW THEY DIDN'T. I WANTED TO GO TO THE BATHROOM AND I COULDN'T MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND SO I WET MY SEAT. I REMEMBER THAT. THAT WAS THE END OF MY SCHOOL CAREER. I THINK I REFUSED TO GO. PROBABLY A PRE-KINDERGARTEN.

GIGI

SO THEN, AT HOLY GHOST, WERE JAPANESE GUARDS INSIDE DURING THE DAY?

ANN

THERE WERE MOSTLY VOLUNTEERS THAT TOOK CARE OF US.

GIGI

COULD NOT HEAR THE QUESTION

ANN

THE PRIESTS WOULD COME OVER. I DON'T KNOW HOW OFTEN. I KNOW, AT LEAST, SATURDAY NIGHTS, HE WOULD COME OVER AND TEACH US A BUNCH OF SONGS AND HAVE A SING ALONG, AND A PRAYER AND ALL THIS. WE LOOKED FORWARD TO IT. THEY TAUGHT US SONGS THAT WERE ----- .

GI GI

NOT UPLIFTING, MAYBE?

ANN

NO, THEY WERE LIKE ----- DO YOU WANT ME TO SING YOU ONE? (A SONG FOLLOWS) THAT IS THE KIND OF SONG SO WE LOOKED FORWARD FOR THAT PRIEST TO COME. IT KIND OF GAVE US A LIFT TO OUR MORALE THAT WAY. THEY WERE AMERICAN PRIESTS.

GIGI

SO THEY ALLOWED THEM TO COME?

ANN

THEY GAVE US RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION AND WHATEVER. HE TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO HELP US, YOU KNOW, GET OVER THIS THING BY DOING THAT.

GIGI

SO, DID YOU CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS, BIRTHDAYS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

ANN

OH YES.

GIGI

YOU HAD A SEMBLANCE OF NORMALCY THERE?

ANN

OH, THEY TRIED SO HARD. THEY TRIED SO HARD TO KEEP US GOING EVEN IN SANTA THOMAS. THEY WOULD HAVE ENTERTAINMENT UP THERE. THE VOLUNTEERS WERE PERFORMING. WE HAD MOVIES. PROBABLY SAW THE SAME MOVIES OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

GIGI

SO, WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THEY MOVED YOU FROM HOLY GHOST TO SANTA THOMAS?

ANN

THE JAPANESE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEIR REASONS WERE. I THINK, ABOUT THAT TIME THEY DECIDED THAT THE PRISONERS, THE CIVILIAN INTERNEES WERE NO LONGER CIVILIAN BUT THAT WE WERE PRISONERS OF WAR, AND WE WERE PUT INSIDE SANTA THOMAS AND THEY CHANGE THEIR GUARDS AND THE JAPANESE MARINES GUARDED US. THEY WERE A TERROR. THEY WERE NOT NICE.

GIGI

DID YOU SEE ANY BRUTALITY YOURSELF?

ANN

NO, NO. I HEARD A LOT OF BRUTALITY OUTSIDE AND OF COURSE I HEARD RUMORS, THE OLDER BOYS SAID THEY PEEKED OVER THE SUWALI FENCE AND THEY SAW ---- I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY SAW BECAUSE I WAS TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT.

GIGI

WHAT IS A SUWALI FENCE?

ANN

IT'S A WOVEN FENCE: THEY DIDN'T WANT PEOPLE TO SEE IN THERE. I THINK THE WROUGHT IRON FENCE MASKS----- SUWALI IS NOT QUITE STRAW BUT WHICH WE WOULD WEAVE MATS AND HATS AND STUFF OUT OF.

GIGI

SO, WHEN YOU WERE AT SANTO THOMAS AND YOU WERE REUNITED WITH YOUR OTHER SIBLINGS, HOW WAS THAT?

ANN

IT WAS FINE. WE WERE PUT INTO ROOMS, ALL WINDOWLESS.

GIGI

HOW BIG A ROOM?

ANN

I DON'T KNOW BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE MUCH MORE THAN THIS BETWEEN THE COTS.

GIGI

YOU SLEPT ON COTS?

ANN

THAT'S WHAT MY MEMORY SAYS. COTS OR BEDS, DORMITORY TYPE THINGS. IT WAS CROWDED. MY BROTHER STAYED IN A DIFFERENT PLACE. HE WAS IN A GYMNASIUM BECAUSE HE WAS A TEENAGER. THEY PUT HIM WITH THE MEN.

GIGI

SO, YOU JUST HAVE ONE BROTHER AND THREE SISTERS? IT WAS MORE CROWDED THEN THAN IT WAS AT HOLY GHOST?

ANN

YEAH.

GIGI

HOW DID YOU KEEP CLEAN AND CLEAN YOUR CLOTHES AND THINGS LIKE THAT?

ANN

I WASHED. I DIDN'T DO THE LAUNDRY BUT THERE WERE TROUGHS AND THEY DID THEIR LAUNDRY. I REMEMBER MY MOTHER HAD TO ----- MY SISTERS WERE SO EMBARRASSED ABOUT HAVING TO WEAR CLOTH SANITARY NAPKINS AND THEY HAD TO WASH THEM. MY MOM WOULD DO IT FOR THEM. LATER ON, I THINK THE LAST YEAR THEY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A PERIOD. WHEN YOU BODY FAT GETS BELOW A CERTAIN LEVEL, YOUR HORMONES DON'T WORK ANY MORE.

GIGE

WHAT KIND OF PERSONAL POSSESSIONS DID YOU HAVE.?
DID YOU HAVE CLOTHES, SEVERAL CHANGES?

ANN

THEY ONLY LET US HAVE: THEY TOLD US TO PACK FOR THREE DAYS. PEOPLE ENDED UP AT THE END MAKING THEIR BLOUSES INTO HALTERS OR WHATEVER. I MEAN THERE WERE STILL IF YOU WASHED THEM AND EVERYTHING, IT WOULD LAST. YOU DIDN'T HAVE THE VARIETY. YOU HAD THREE DAYS WORTH OF CLOTHING.

GIGI

DID YOU EVER TRADE SOMEBODY ELSE FOR SOMETHING YOU WANTED?
DID YOU EVER BARTER OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT, OR JUST PRETTY MUCH WHAT WAS YOURS WAS YOURS AND THAT STAYED THAT WAY?

ANN

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT PEOPLE DID. I REMEMBER CHASING A BOY ONCE WITH MY LITTLE WOODEN SHOE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE DID BUT I WAS CHASING HIM AROUND WITH THIS SHOE. MY BROTHER WAS SO EMBARRASSED. MY BROTHER SAID, "LOOK AT MY BABY SISTER. SHE'S CHASING THAT BOY." I REMEMBER GOING DOWNSTAIRS IN THE DARK AND GATHERING FIREFLIES. I WAS CHEWED UP ONE SIDE AND DOWN THE OTHER BY MY SISTER JO; THIS WAS AFTER WE WERE BACK IN SANTO THOMAS. SHE SAID, "DON'T YOU KNOW THEY COULD SHOOT YOU?" BUT, I WANTED THE FIREFLIES IN MY MOSQUITO NET.

GIGI

SO, YOU HAD TO BE INSIDE BY DARK AND YOU DIDN'T DARE GO OUT?

ANN

NO. BUT I PROBABLY WAS NAUGHTY, BUT I WANTED TO GET FIREFLIES SO I COULD PUT THEM IN MY IN MOSQUITO NET. I DIDN'T KNOW I COULD GET SHOT.

GIGI

WHAT DID THE MEN DO DURING THE DAY?

ANN

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY DID. THEY ALL HAD CHORES. MY BROTHER WAS IN ---
- HE HAD TO CARRY THE POTS. I REMEMBER THIS GUY WOULD HAVE POTS ON POLES,
THESE BIG HUGE VATS. THEY WOULD YELL, "HOT STUFF COMING THROUGH", FROM THE
KITCHEN.

GIGI

YOU HAD A MESS HALL THEN WHERE YOU COULD EAT?

ANN

THERE WAS AN OUTDOOR TYPE OF MESS HALL FROM WHAT I REMEMBER, WITH A
LITTLE BIT OF THATCHED ROOF, WITH BENCHES, OR YOU COULD EAT IN YOUR SHANTY.

GIGI

DID YOU EVER HAVE BABIES BORN WHILE YOU WERE THERE?

ANN

I UNDERSTAND THERE WERE. THE WOMEN AND MEN WERE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE
TOGETHER, BUT THEY WERE.

GIGI

THEY MADE IT?

ANN

I GUESS, OBVIOUSLY.

GIGI

DID EVERYBODY KIN OF ADOPT THEM (THE BABIES) LIKE A MASCOT OR SOMETHING OR KEPT PRETTY MUCH WITHIN YOUR OWN FAMILY?

ANN

YES. AND THERE WERE SOCIALIZING BUT YOU KNOW, TOWARDS THE END, THERE WAS PRETTY MUCH NOT HAVING THE STRENGTH TO THAT.

GIGI

FOOD RATIONING WAS REALLY GETTING TO YOU.

ANN

MY MOTHER GREW SOME COLETAM (SP????) PLANTS IN A DITCH NEAR THE SHANTY THAT WE HAD.

GIGI

WHAT IS COLETAM?

ANN

COLETAM IS A ---- YOU CAN BUY IT AT THE STORE HERE I THINK. IT'S A GREEN, NOT SPINACH, TONGCOM, THERE WAS SOME THERE TOO AND THAT WAS SPINACH. THE COLETAN IS SOMETHING THAT GROWS, NOT PIGWEED. I GATHERED PIGWEED IN THE FIELD. LET ME TELL YOU WE ATE PIGWEED. I KNOW WHAT I GATHERED. MY MOTHER GREW LIMA BEANS. SHE SAVED A LIMA BEAN AND GREW IT. .THAT WAS GOOD. SHE WOULD NEVER LET ----- THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE WE WEREN'T ALLOWED TO GO EAT WITH BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH THEY INVITED US, WE GOT SOME MEAT AND MY MOTHER SAID THEY WERE PROBABLY RATS. SHE WOULDN'T LET US.

GIGI

NOW, DURING THIS TIME YOUR DAD WAS A PRISONER?

ANN

YES.

GIGI

AND WHERE WAS HE?

ANN

WELL, FIRST HE WAS IN CORREGIDOR. HE WAS IN MARIVELES AND WHEN BATAAN FELL, BEFORE BATAAN FELL, HE WENT TO CORREGIDOR AND THEN OF COURSE, BATAAN FELL AND THEY WERE MARCHED TO CABANATUAN OR CAMP O'DONNELL. WHEN CORREGIDOR SURRENDERED, MY FATHER WAS BROUGHT OVER TO MANILA ; I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT WAS FORT SANTIAGO OR BILIBID PRISON OR SOMETHING AND THEN BROUGHT TO CABANATUAN. HE WAS OVER THERE AND SOME OF THE SURVIVORS TOLD US THAT KNEW HIM VERY WELL AND TOLD THE RED CROSS AND THE GOVERNMENT THAT HE HAD WRITTEN A BOOK AND BURIED IT IN A DRAWER AND BURIED IT THERE. BY THE TIME WE KNEW ALL THIS, THE PLACE HAD BEEN BULLDOZED.

GIGI

PERIODICALLY THOUGH HE WAS ABLE TO GET MESSAGES OUT TO YOU.

ANN

THEY PUT HIM IN SOLITARY I WAS TOLD. THESE PEOPLE TOLD US WHEN THEY WERE BEING DEBRIEFED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RED CROSS. HE SAID THAT MY FATHER WAS PUT IN SOLITARY FOR FIVE MONTHS. IT WAS A LONG TIME BECAUSE THEY SAID HE WAS INVOLVED IN A SPY RING AND THEY CAUGHT THE WOMAN OR WHATEVER THAT WAS A FILIPINO THAT WAS DOING THIS BETWEEN MANILA AND THERE AND THAT IS HOW MY MOTHER GOT HER ORCHID FOR HER ANNIVERSARY/ THEN, HE WAS PUT ON A HELL SHIP AND IT WAS BOMBED, THEN PUT ON ANOTHER HELL SHIP AND THAT WAS BOMBED. HE DIED ON THE ISLAND OF FORMOSA.

GIGI

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT WHEN?

ANN

PROBABLY JANUARY OF '44. SOMEWHERE BETWEEN DECEMBER AND JANUARY, WHEN EVER THOSE TWO SHIPS, THE ARUKU MARU AND THE NURA MARU. I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE HE WAS IN FIRST. WHENEVER THOSE WERE BOMBED.

GIGI

NOW , IN THIS TIME YOU WERE IN SANTO THOMAS, THE ENTIRE FAMILY WAS TOGETHER? HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR FATHER?

ANN

WE DIDN'T FIND OUT UNTIL WAY AFTER THE WAR. THE WAR WAS OVER AND THE RED CROSS WAS TRYING TO FIND OUT. THEY TOLD THE RELATIVES IN THE STATES THAT WE WERE ALIVE. OUR RELATIVES WERE TRYING TO FIND OUT IF WE WERE ALIVE. LATER ON, THEY WERE ABLE TO CONTACT PEOPLE AND TELL HER THE STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED. WE DID NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM. WE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE HELL SHIP. WE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ANYTHING UNTIL IT WAS ALL PIECED TOGETHER.

GIGI

DID YOU GET RED CROSS PACKAGES OR PACKAGES FROM THE ?????

ANN

WE RECEIVED THREE RED CROSS PACKAGES. WE FOUND OUT LATER WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GET ONE A MONTH. IN THE THREE YEARS, WE GOT THREE.

GIGI

WAS IT MAINLY FOOD THAT WAS IN THERE OR WAS THERE MEDICINE?

ANN

I DON'T KNOW. I KNOW THERE WAS FOOD BECAUSE CERTAIN PARTS OF THE FOOD WERE GIVEN TO ME BECAUSE I WAS THE YOUNGEST. I DIDN'T KNOW THAT. I HEARD ABOUT IT. THEY WERE ALL OLDER SO A LOT OF STUFF WAS GIVEN FOR ME.

GIGI

WHAT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS IN INDIANA. WERE THEY ABLE TO GET ANY PACKAGES TO YOU?

ANN

NO. OUR OTHER FAMILY WAS IN SOUTH CAROLINA. AUNT MARIE WORKED FOR THE RED CROSS SO SHE HAD BEEN TRYING AND AS SOON AS WE LANDED IN SAN PEDRO, WE GOT TELEGRAMS.

GIGI

DID YOU EVE SEE THE PEOPLE IN THE CAMP FIGHTING AMONGST THEMSELVES?

ANN

NOTHING PHYSICAL, BUT BICKERING;. THERE WAS A LOT OF THAT. MAINLY IT WAS AMONGST OURSELVES.

GIGI

IT WAS MAINLY AMONGST YOURSELVES?

ANN

I THINK SO. MY BROTHER USED TO BOX IN THE RING

END SIDE ONE

GIGI

DO HAVE THE NAMES OF ANY OF THE JAPANESE THAT WERE IN YOUR GUARD OR IN CHARGE OF THE CAMP?

ANN

NO. I JUST KNOW THAT WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN WE HAD TO BOW DOWN AND WERE TAUGHT HOW TO BOW DOWN. I DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT AND MOM SAID, "JUST DO IT. YOU ARE GOING TO GET KILLED IF YOU DON'T DO IT. YOU ARE GOING TO GET YOUR HEAD BUTTED WITH THE END OF A RIFLE." I DON'T KNOW IF ANYONE ACTUALLY DID BUT IS WHAT THE THREAT WAS. I REMEMBER BEING REALLY RESENTFUL. I MEAN, A LITTLE KID BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO BOW. I DIDN'T WANT TO GET NEAR THEM.

GIGI

DO YOU RECALL ANYTHING REAL HUMOROUS INCIDENT?

ANN

HUMOROUS? NO.

GIGI

ANY REAL REPRESSIVE?

ANN

NO.

GIGI

HOW DID YOU GET WORD OF ANYTHING GOING ON IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD, JUST GRAPEVINE OR DID YOU HAVE RADIOS?

ANN

IN THE BEGINNING YOU COULD GET PACKAGES FROM OUTSIDE AND WE HAD FRIENDS. THEY TIGHTENED THEM UP DOWN IN EVERYTHING. YOU DID NOT HAVE RADIOS. IT WAS ILLEGAL BUT SOME PEOPLE HID RADIOS. I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY HID THEM. YOU COULD BE SHOT IF THEY FOUND THEM. YOU WERE REALLY TAKING A RISK. I THINK ONE PERSON DID. HE HID IT IN SOMETHING, A PALM OR WHATEVER FROM WHAT I REMEMBER. THERE WERE ALWAYS RUMORS. I TELL YOU ONE THING. I DON'T THINK I EVER HEARD ANY ONE THING THAT THE AMERICANS WERE COMING. IT WAS ALWAYS TOLD TO ME, THE AMERICANS ARE COMING. WE DON'T KNOW WHEN, BUT THEY ARE COMING BACK. THEY ARE NOT GOING TO LEAVE US HERE. I DON'T KNOW ANYONE WHO DIDN'T BELIEVE THAT.\

GIGI

DID YOU EVER HEAR THAT THE GERMANS WERE COMING?

ANN

NOPE, NEVER.

GIGI

WERE THERE ANY MILITARY P.O.W.'s THAT YOU WERE AWARE OF OR WERE YOU MOSTLY OFF THE BASE.

ANN

NO, WE WERE OFF THE BASE. I THINK THAT MAYBE SOME ARMY NURSES WERE WITH US. SO, THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN MILITARY. I THINK THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN, BUT NO MALES. WE HAD NUNS AND PRIESTS FROM WHATEVER AS LONG AS THEY WERE AMERICANS OR BRITISH OR AUSTRALIANS. OUR FRIENDS THAT REMAINED OUTSIDE WERE SPANISH AND A FEW GERMANS; MY MOTHER'S GERMAN RELATIVES. MY MOTHER WAS IMPRISONED BECAUSE, FIRST OF ALL SHE DIDN'T WANT TO BE SEPARATED FROM HER AMERICAN CHILDREN AND SHE DIDN'T REALIZE SHE WAS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN AND THEY DIDN'T EITHER. LATER ON WHEN WE TRIED TO GET HER STATUS

STRAIGHTENED OUT, WE FOUND OUT THAT THERE WAS A LAW WHEN SHE WAS MARRIED IN 1919, THERE WAS A LAW THAT WAS DONE AWAY WITH IN 1921, THAT IF YOU MARRIED AN AMERICAN CITIZEN AND YOU WERE MORE THAN 50 PERCENT WHITE, YOU AUTOMATICALLY BECAME AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. WELL, SHE KNEW SHE WAS FIFTY PERCENT WHITE AND APPARENTLY THE OTHER HALF PERCENT OR ONE PERCENT CAME FROM A LITTLE BIT OF ARAB. SHE DIDN'T REALIZE THEY WERE EVEN CONSIDERED WHITE OR CAUCASIAN AND THE GOVERNMENT TOLD HER, "YES." SO THIS IS HOW SHE FOUND OUT FIRST OF ALL, THE BRITISH SAID SHE WAS BRITISH BECAUSE SHE WAS BORN IN BRITISH NORTH BORNEO AND THE GERMANS SAID NO, SHE WAS A GERMAN CITIZEN BECAUSE HER FATHER WAS GERMAN. SHE WAS A WHOLE AMERICAN CITIZEN.

GIGI

WHEN DID YOU FIRST KNOW THAT THE AMERICANS WERE COMING?

ANN

MY BROTHER AND HIS FRIENDS WERE IN THE GYMNASIUM AND THERE WERE THE RUMORS, SO AND SO, SO AND SO. MY BROTHER WAS TELLING SOMEONE, "THOSE ARE AMERICAN TANKS, THOSE ARE AMERICAN TANKS." HIS FRIEND SAID, "YEAH, THOSE ARE NOT JAPANESE TANKS." A LOT OF THE GROWNUPS SAID, "OH THOSE ARE JUST JAPANESE TANKS THAT ARE COMING." THERE WAS A RUMOR THAT THEY WERE GOING TO DO AWAY WITH US, WHICH APPARENTLY THEY WERE. WE KIND OF, SOME OF THE OLDER ONES WERE SAYING, "THE JAPANESE TANKS ARE GOING TO DO AWAY WITH US."

SOME OF THE TEENAGERS ALL COULD TELL BY THE SOUND THOSE WERE NOT WHAT THEY HEARD WERE JAPANESE TANKS.. THE SOUND OF THESE WERE DIFFERENT. THOSE ARE AMERICAN TANKS AND BY GOLLY, THEY WERE. SO, THAT'S THE FIRST TIME, OF COURSE, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON. EVERYBODY WAS SHOCKED. THEY WERE: I MEAN THEY JUST----- THE JAPANESE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

GIGI

SO THEY JUST CRASHED THROUGH THE GATES

ANN

WE WENT BACK IN '95 AND THE YOUNGER ONES, MY AGE AND MY SISTER'S AGE. WE WERE INVITED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES TO GO AND WATCH THE RE-ENACTMENT THAT THEY WERE GOING TO HAVE. WE WERE ALL THERE. WHEN THEY DID

THAT, WE WERE SITTING THERE AND EVERYONE OF US BURST INTO TEARS. WE DIDN'T REALIZE WE HAD SUPPRESSED IT. WE ALL TALKED WITH ONE ANOTHER THAT YEAR, '95 OVER THERE IN THE MANILA HOTEL. WE REALIZED THAT EVERYONE OF US WENT HOME AND DIDN'T SAY A THING OUR IMPRISONMENT TO ANYBODY, OUR SCHOOLS, OUR CLASS MATES, NOT ONE ALL THOSE YEARS.

GIGI

(COULD NOT HEAR COMMENT)

ANN

WE DECIDED THAT WE WERE IMPRISONED BUT FOR SOME REASON WE FELT GUILTY ABOUT IT SO WE DIDN'T TELL ANYONE.

GIGI

LIKE YOU WERE A CRIMINAL.

ANN

YEAH. AND WHY, WE DON'T KNOW. ISN'T IT ODD HOW WE THINK?

GIGI

WHO WAS THE FIRST LIBERATOR YOU MET? DO YOU REMEMBER HIS NAME OR ANYTHING?

ANN

I DON'T REMEMBER HIS NAME BUT ONE OF THEM WAS MY SISTER'S HUSBAND; MY SISTER JOCELYN. BILL CAME IN AND THEY FELL IN LOVE.

GIGI

INSTEAD OF COMING IN ON A WHITE HORSE, HE CAME IN ON A TANK.

ANN

RIGHT. AND THAT DID IT FOR HER.

GIGI

DO YOU STILL HAVE FEELINGS ABOUT YOUR FORMER CAPTORS?

ANN

YES, I DO. I WORK EVERY DAY TO FORGIVE THEM. I WORK EVERY NIGHT, I PRAY TO LET GOD TAKE THIS OUT OF MY HEART AND EVERY TIME I THINK IT'S DONE, I RUN INTO SOMETHING. WHEN I WENT BACK IN '95, THERE WERE A LOT OF JAPANESE GROUPS IN THE MANILA HOTEL. WE WENT TO CORREGIDOR TO SEE. THEY DIDN'T PUT US TOGETHER WITH THE GROUPS OF JAPANESE PURPOSELY. WE WERE THERE WATCHING AND LOOKED AT THE BEACH WHERE THESE YOUNG MARINES 17, 18, SOME WERE 17 BECAUSE THEY LIED ABOUT THEIR AGE, 19. I STOOD THERE AND THEY HAD NO MORE AMMUNITION. THEY HAD THEIR BAYONETS AND OF COURSE, THEY WERE MOWED DOWN. WE WERE ALL IN TEARS WATCHING THEM. THEN THIS GROUP OF JAPANESE AND THEY STOOD LAUGHING. I CAN'T IMAGINE ANYONE LAUGHING ABOUT SUCH A THING SO MUST HAVE BEEN LAUGHING ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE, I HOPE. I THOUGHT, OH MY GOSH, WHERE DO THESE FEELINGS COME FROM? IT WAS JUST ALMOST PURE HATRED. SO, I WORK ON IT ALL THE TIME. I REALLY DO BECAUSE I KNOW THAT I/M CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO HEAVEN IF I DON'T FORGIVE. THAT'S HOW I FEEL AND I HAVE TO AND EVERY TIME I FEEL I'VE DONE IT, THAT I'VE GOTTEN RID OF IT, SOMETHING COMES UP. I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S NORMAL OR WHAT BUT IT DOES. I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY NEWS ABOUT JAPAN OR ANYTHING. I DON'T KNOW IF I COULD HANDLE IT.

GIGI

COULD NOT HEAR THE QUESTION/

ANN

OH NO, I NEVER HAVE. I DON'T THINK ANYTHING ABOUT MY CHILDREN TO DO IT OR NOT. SOMEONE ASKED ME, MY SISTER JO, SHE BOUGHT A CAMERA. SHE SAID, 'I KNOW ANN BUT YOU KNOW, 1999, SHE SAID, LET BYGONES BE BYGONES.' I SAID, ' I'M NOT. JO, I'M NOT SAYING ANYTHING AGAINST YOU. YOU CAN BUY ALL THE JAPANESE PRODUCTS YOU WANT AND I PROBABLY HAVE SOME AT HOME. I DON'T RESEARCH.' SHE SAID, "THEY MAKE A LOT OF PARTS HERE. THEY GIVE A LOT OF WORK TO THE AMERICANS." I SAID, "BUT JO, THEIR PROFITS GO TO JAPAN." SHE JUST LOOKED AT ME AND SAID, "OH, ANN." I SAID, "DON'T FEEL BAD. I JUST CAN'T DO IT." SHE SAID, "BUT IT WAS SUCH A GOOD DEAL AND THIS AND THAT." I SAID, "I CAN'T DO IT. I DON'T CARE WHAT KIND OF DEAL." AND, I'M THE YOUNGEST. I SHOULD HAVE THE LEAST OF THESE FEELINGS. MY BROTHER HAS TERRIBLE FEELINGS. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE OTHERS.

GIGI

WERE ANY OF YOU ASKED TO TESTIFY AFTER THE WAR AGAINST THE JAPANESE?

ANN

I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T THINK SO.

GIGI

ANY OTHER THINGS THAT WE HAVEN'T TOUCHED ON YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

ANN

ONLY THAT WHEN THE LADIES AT THE AMERICAN SCHOOL REUNION I WENT TO, ONCE SAID THAT THEY WANTED TO GET TOGETHER MONEY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP FOR A FILIPINO OR SOMETHING TO GO TO THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, WHICH USED TO BE THE AMERICAN SCHOOL, TO SORT OF GIVE BACK WHAT WE TOOK FROM THE PHILIPPINES, I ABOUT CAME UNGLUED BECAUSE I SAID, "I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR FATHERS, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THEM, BUT MY FATHER WAS THERE AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DID SO MUCH SERVICE THERE. I WATCHED THEM. HE WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT HAVING PUBLIC WORKS, AND THE EDUCATION AND MAKING SURE THAT THESE MOROS KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING WHEN THEY WERE TEACHING, SO THAT THEY COULD GOVERN THEMSELVES, AND ROADS. THINGS THEY DIDN'T HAVE IN SCHOOL. I SAID, I THINK WE GAVE A SERVICE AND I SAID, I DON'T THINK, I DON'T KNOW, THEY TOOK, BUT THEIR OWN PEOPLE TOOK MORE THAN THE AMERICANS EVER DID. I'M SORRY. WE GAVE BILLIONS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

GIGI

WHEN YOU WERE LIBERATED, HOW DID YOU GET TO THE UNITED STATES.

ANN

WE WADED AROUND SO MUCH DURING THE SHELLING AND EVERYTHING AT SANTA TOMAS; I WAS IN THE FOXHOLES WITH THE SOLDIERS. I ACTUALLY SAW BULLETS HIT A LITTLE GIRL MY AGE IN A TRUCK BY A SNIPER. IT WAS PRETTY DANGEROUS, I GUESS, BUT I LIKED ALL THE CHOCOLATES. I JUST LOVED THOSE SOLDIERS. THEY WERE SO NICE. THEY WERE WONDERFUL. ANYWAY, THE DAY CAME AND FRIENDS STARTED DISAPPEARING AND I FOUND OUT THEY WERE SHIPPED TO THE STATES. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THEY WENT ALPHABETICALLY OR WHAT THEY DID. FINALLY, WE GOT ON A SHIP AND IT WAS A TROOP SHIP. I'M TELLING YOU IT WAS HOT AND CROWDED. I DON'T THINK THERE WAS MORE THAN THIS MUCH ROOM BETWEEN THE BUNKS. MOST OF THE TIME, WE STAYED UP ON THE DECK IF WE COULD. THE SHOWERS WERE HOT SALT WATER

SHOWERS. THEY STUNK. KIDS GET PRETTY BORED. I WAS BORED WITH SANTA TOMAS AND I WAS BORED WITH THE SHIP AND THE TRIP.

GIGI

HOW LONG DID IT TAKE YOU?

ANN

WE WENT ALL OVER THE PLACE. WE SIG SAGGED TO NEW GUINEA AND EVERYTHING BECAUSE OF SUBMARINES. THE WAR WASN'T OVER YET. IT TOOK US A MONTH, TWO MONTHS, I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY MONTHS. WE EITHER LEFT IN FEBRUARY OR THE BEGINNING OF MARCH. WE DIDN'T GET HERE UNTIL MAY.

GIGI

WHERE DID YOU LAND?

ANN

SAN PEDRO.

GIGI

DID YOUR FAMILY GET TO MEET YOU THERE?

ANN

NO. I REMEMBER WHEN WE LANDED IN SAN PEDRO I LOOKED AROUND AND SAW THE PHOTOGRAPHERS. I COULD SPEAK ENGLISH BY THEN. BY THE WAY, IT TOOK ME ONLY A WEEK TO LEARN TO SPEAK ENGLISH. ALL THESE PHOTOGRAPHERS, AND NEWSREELS AND I STOOD THERE LOOKING DOWN. FIRST OF ALL, I HAVE A FEAR OF HEIGHTS AND I DIDN'T KNOW IT. HERE I WAS WITH THE GANGPLANK TO WALK DOWN. I GUESS I LOOKED FRIGHTENED. THERE WERE ALL KINDS OF FLASHES GOING OFF. I WISH I KNEW WHERE THOSE NEWSREELS ARE KEPT BECAUSE I SURE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ME COMING DOWN THAT GANGPLANK. THE RED CROSS GAVE ME A LITTLE BROWN COAT AND A DOLL, A SCARLET O'HARA DOLL.

GIGI

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DOLL?

ANN

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT DOLL. I HAD THAT FOR YEARS
THOUGH. EVEN WHEN I WAS 12 OR 13 I STILL HAD IT. I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS.

GIG

AND THEN WHERE DID YOU GO FROM THERE?

ANN

WE WENT TO OXNARD AND IN THE MEANTIME, MY AUNT IN SOUTH CAROLINA
GOT HOLD OF US AND MY COUSIN AND UNCLE IN INDIANA AND MY GRANDPARENTS HAD
ALREADY DIED. MY BROTHER JOINED THE MARINE CORPS. HE WANTED TO GO OVERSEAS
AND THEY WOULDN'T LET HIM. THEY SAID, "YOU JUST WENT THROUGH 3 YEARS OF
HELL. WE AREN'T GONG TO SEND YOU THERE. HE WAS VERY UPSET. THEY TOOK A
PICTURE OF US LIKE THIS AND WITH A BIG POSTER OF A JAPANESE THERE AND USED
THAT FOR POSTERS. HE JOINED THE MARINE CORPS. MY SISTER WORKED AT PORT
WYNIMI (SP???) FOR A WHILE AND EVELYN GOT MARRIED TO JOHN HACKETT WHO WAS
ALSO IN LOS BANOS AND WHOSE FAMILY WE KNEW FROM BEFORE THE WAR. I HAVE
RELATIVES ALL OVER THE PHILIPPINES STILL.

ANYWAY, WE WENT TO SOUTH CAROLINA AND STAYED A FEW MONTHS IN
OXNARD AND THEN WE WENT TO SOUTH CAROLINA WHEN MY AUNT SENT FOR US. WE
WENT BY TRAIN AND STAYED THERE FOR SIX MONTHS.

GIGI

YOU HAD A GREAT RECEPTION I'LL BET.

ANN

OH YEAH. ON THE WAY HOME WE STOPPED IN CHICAGO TO GO TO THE INDIANA
RELATIVES. I LIVED IN CHICAGO THEN. WE NEVER DID LIVE IN INDIANA LIKE MY FATHER
WAS GOING TO TAKE US HOME TO DO.

THE END OF THE TAPE.

TRANSCRIBED BY FOREST J. REES

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FREDERICKSBURG, TX

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