

National Museum of the Pacific War

Nimitz Education and Research Center

Fredericksburg, Texas

Interview with

Ms. Elizabeth P. Vieau

Date of Interview: May 17, 2016

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Interview in progress.

John Fargo: Today is May the 17th, 2016. My name is John Fargo, and I'm a volunteer at the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas. Today I am interviewing Mrs. Penny Vieau concerning her experiences during World War II. This interview is taking place at ... at Mrs. Vieau's home in Austin, Texas. This interview is in support of the Educational Research Center for the National Museum of the Pacific War, Texas Historical Commission, for the preservation of historical information related to World War II.

Okay, with that out of the way, I need ... let me ask you a ... a few questions about your early years. Where were you born?

Ms. Vieau: I was born in Atlanta, Georgia.

John Fargo: What year was that?

Ms. Vieau: 1919.

John Fargo: 1919.

Ms. Vieau: I don't tell anybody how old I am, so don't you (laughter).

John Fargo: (Laughter), okay. What was your father's occupation?

Ms. Vieau: He was a managing editor of the Atlanta Constitution which is a newspaper.

John Fargo: It's still in existence, isn't it?

Ms. Vieau: Oh yeah!

John Fargo: Yeah, yeah. Alright. Do you have any siblings?

Ms. Vieau: Two brothers.

John Fargo: Two brothers. Uh, did you go to school in Atlanta?

Ms. Vieau: Yes, I did. I went to a ... a private school, it was called North Avenue Presbyterian School (chuckles).

John Fargo: What year did you graduate?

Ms. Vieau: I think it was 1940.

John Fargo: 1940. You go on to college?

Ms. Vieau: Oh yeah, that's when I graduated from college is 1940.

John Fargo: Oh, you graduated from college in 1940?

Ms. Vieau: Yeah. So ...

John Fargo: So, you went ... you graduated from high school in '36?

Ms. Vieau: Yes.

John Fargo: What college did you go to?

Ms. Vieau: I went to Agnes Scott College.

John Fargo: Agnes Scott?

Ms. Vieau: Scott College; it's in ... it's in ... right near Atlanta.

John Fargo: Okay, and you graduated in 1940?

Ms. Vieau: Right.

John Fargo: What was your major?

Ms. Vieau: Math.

John Fargo: Math, okay. What was the motivation for you to join the Navy?

Ms. Vieau: Well, one thing, they had a real good recruiting officer. She was a girl from a good family. You know, in the south in those days, family was real important. And so, and I had two brothers.

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: And that was before women's lib (chuckles), and they could all sorts of things that I could never do, you know, they wouldn't let me do them. And so, I always wanted to do ... so, they were in the ... I guess they were in the Naval ROTC program then. Anyway, I did it because ... because I could (laughter). And they had a real good recruiting officer from a good family. It was very (pounding sounds in background) exciting. I had a real good experience in the Navy.

John Fargo: What year did you join?

Ms. Vieau: December '41 was when the war started, wasn't it?

John Fargo: Yeah, yeah right.

Ms. Vieau: And I think I joined in December of '42. I'm not sure of that, but that ...

John Fargo: Where did you go to boot camp? Or did they have boot camp for ... ladies.

Ms. Vieau: Well, they didn't call it that. But I went to Harvard, no, wait a minute. First I went to ... might have been Harvard, I may have gone there first or some school ... some school up in that area. In the New England area. And then I got sent to Harvard which was training for the ... for being a Supply Officer which is a pay ... well, you do a lot of things. But you pay people and that's the main thing (laughter).

John Fargo: Paymaster.

Ms. Vieau: Paymaster.

John Fargo: So, they taught you how to do that at ... at Harvard?

Ms. Vieau: Yeah. (Unintelligible).

John Fargo: Were you an Ensign?

Ms. Vieau: Yes. And then I got promoted (laughter). So ... and I had some really smart people working for me.

John Fargo: Tell ... tell me about that training, Penny.

Ms. Vieau: Well ...

John Fargo: What was it like there?

Ms. Vieau: Well, it was funny because ... well, well WAVES were unusual addition to the community. You know, there were lots of men up there. You know, women didn't go to college then as much as they do now, and ... and we had a wonderful time. They ... I asked if they ... they kept making statements forgetting there were women included, you know? They'd say, "All Naval officers can do so and so, and I'd raise my hand up and say, "Does that include women?" And they'd say, Oh, no, we don't have any place for you to change your clothes (laughter)." And anyway, so they said we could use equipment at Harvard. And I loved the sight of those boats that they rowed up and down the river, and so I asked if we could use those and the ... we didn't have any place to change our clothes (chuckles).

John Fargo: How many people uh, women were in your class?

Ms. Vieau: I ... I feel like there was about a hundred, but I may be wrong.

John Fargo: Oh, that many?!

Ms. Vieau: So, a lot of us, but not everybody did the Supply Corps thing, you know? Some of them went to do other jobs.

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: But I really had a good experience; I had a good time also (laughter) and I learned a lot, too, because we had to do all these specialized ways of paying people and things.

John Fargo: Really? Like what for example?

Ms. Vieau: Well, we had to uh, we had to total out (cough), excuse me (cough), anything we spent, we had to account for.

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: Or they made us pay it. Its really about the only way they could do it, but it was still scary. You know, you had to ... you were respon ... a lot of people were paying out, not just you, and you were responsible for their mistakes, too.

John Fargo: Really?!

Ms. Vieau: Yeah, so ...

John Fargo: You mean the people ... these people worked for you?

Ms. Vieau: Yeah. But anyway, it work ...

John Fargo: You paid ... you paid in cash, too, right?

Ms. Vieau: Right. I ... I paid everybody ... I paid the officers by check, and everybody else by cash. And the ... the people that worked for me had to like me (laughter) or they could have done a lot of things to make me suffer (laughter).

John Fargo: How many did you have reporting to you?

Ms. Vieau: Well, let me see, I had different ... different staff, different jobs, and I guess, oh about, from six to ten.

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: And ...

John Fargo: And where was this, Penny?

Ms. Vieau: Well, I went to ...

John Fargo: From Harvard where do you go?

Ms. Vieau: Well, they were saying, “We have a space in such a such a city,” and people would say, “Oh, I want to go there,” and so, when they came to Atlanta, which was my hometown, I wanted to be loyal (laughter), and so, I said, “Oh, I’d love to go there.” Well, I didn’t really want to go back to Atlanta, but that’s where I got sent ... was at Georgia Tech. What do you see? Pensacola, Florida, that was part of the time, yeah. This is just an article about different things that happened to me.

Other Person: Okay.

Ms. Vieau: Renewing my (unintelligible).

John Fargo: Yeah. Your memory, yeah.

Ms. Vieau: But ...

John Fargo: So, you did go back to Atlanta?

Ms. Vieau: Yes, and it really worked out okay, but I was disappointed I had done that because I could have gone ... lots of interesting places (laughter).

John Fargo: Yeah, yeah.

Ms. Vieau: But anyway, it worked out good. I was ... it worked out fine.

John Fargo: Well, there ... there's no Naval bases in Atlanta ...

Ms. Vieau: No.

John Fargo: ... is there?

Ms. Vieau: But they would ... they would ... it was ... these men were in college, and it was like the ROTC, the NROTC.

John Fargo: Right.

Ms. Vieau: And we certainly didn't have any ... well, at Harvard we had the Charles River (chuckles).

John Fargo: (Chuckles).

Ms. Vieau: And ... but it was ... it was a great experience because they really tried for the first time to treat men and women the same. That was a big step forward (chuckles).

John Fargo: What kind of quarters did you have?

Ms. Vieau: I always had good quarters. I had uh, a bedroom and it was usually a bed sitting room, you know? There was ...

John Fargo: Really?!

Ms. Vieau: Uh huh, space for other furniture. And I had ... most of the places I lived, I had a little kitchen. But they also had a big dining room, and we could eat in that, too. It was a good experience, and they treated the officers really well.

John Fargo: Uh huh. So, you ... you ... you stay ... what was the name of that place in Atlanta?

Ms. Vieau: It was ... it was at Georgia Tech.

John Fargo: Oh, at Georgia Tech?

Ms. Vieau: Yeah.

John Fargo: I see.

Ms. Vieau: And I handled the people at Georgia Tech and Emory. In Atlanta, Southern Dental College. all the other little schools around.

John Fargo: Well, all the NROTC students, huh?

Ms. Vieau: Yeah. And it was a ... I had some good people working for me that knew a lot more about this kind of stuff than I did. They knew a lot more about money and ... and handling it. I had real good experience, so it was very ...

John Fargo: How ... how did you secure the cash?

Ms. Vieau: Well, we had a safe, and when ... what we'd do ... I had a ... I could figure out ... I couldn't do it now, but I could figure out ... when I ordered it at the bank, how many twenties, tens and so forth to order. And we paid all the men in cash; we paid the officers by check. Oh yeah, I had to wear a gun.

John Fargo: Did you have to wear a gun?!

Ms. Vieau: Yeah! And ...

John Fargo: What kind of ... what kind of gun?

Ms. Vieau: It was a forty-five was all it was.

John Fargo: A forty-five?

Ms. Vieau: And ...

John Fargo: Did they train you how to use it?

Ms. Vieau: Well, sort of.

John Fargo: (Chuckles).

Ms. Vieau: And they ... I remember when I went to the bank in Atlanta, and I felt like I was holding them up (laughter).

John Fargo: Oh, you had to go to the bank to ... to get the cash?

Ms. Vieau: Well, I did that time. Yeah, I think I went always ... I had some (unintelligible) (sirens in the background). And I was responsible, if I was taken out, you know, part of the money I was taking out, if they miscounted, I was responsible.

John Fargo: Yeah.

Ms. Vieau: That was a tough deal, but ...

John Fargo: Did you ever have a case where ...

Ms. Vieau: Oh, little ...

John Fargo: ... there was a discrepancy?

Ms. Vieau: ... minor, minor.

John Fargo: Minor?

Ms. Vieau: Not ever anything, thank God!

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: But it was ... it was a tough job in lots of ways, but everybody liked me (laughter) because I was going to give them money (laughter).

John Fargo: Well, what did ... how often did you ... you pay these fellows?

Ms. Vieau: I think it was every two weeks. I think ...

John Fargo: So, what did you do in the meantime?

Ms. Vieau: Oh gosh! I had to pay lots of bills that they incurred, and ... and if the ... some ... if they wanted to get an advance in their money; I had a lot to do (chuckles).
It was a lot of financial stuff that went on.

John Fargo: Uh huh. Well, you as a major in Mathematics, you could have handle that pretty well, right?

Ms. Vieau: But you know, it was just so much. It just overwhelmed you.

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: She brought me my picture of the ...

Other Person: (Unintelligible).

John Fargo: Yeah, yeah.

Other Person: Where she was (unintelligible).

Ms. Vieau: It tells about ...

Other Person: About Florida where she was.

John Fargo: I'll read that later, after we're finished here.

Ms. Vieau: Yeah. Well, it was a ... it was a real new idea when I joined for women to be even considered. And so, we had to make a lot of (chuckle) we had to open a lot of eyes (laughter) to get our fair share of things. But I was really lucky because uh, everywhere I was stationed, they were very good to me.

John Fargo: Where did you go from Atlanta?

Ms. Vieau: Well, I think I went to ... back to Atlanta. Oh! Well, wait a minute; I already said that (unintelligible).

Other Person: Florida.

Ms. Vieau: Yeah, Florida.

John Fargo: Pensacola?

Other Person: Pensacola.

Ms. Vieau: Pensacola area.

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: And ...

John Fargo: There's a big ... big air field down there, isn't it?

Ms. Vieau: Oh yeah!

John Fargo: A big Navy ...

Ms. Vieau: Oh yeah, they had a lot of big stations.

Other Person: (Unintelligible).

Ms. Vieau: And let me think where I went after that.

John Fargo: And you did the same job in Pensa ... Pensacola?

Ms. Vieau: Yeah, yeah. I had ... the difference was ... at different bases, I had different num
... numbers of people working for me and different capabilities (chuckles). If I
was responsible for everybody, you know, if anybody paid too much, I had to
make it up.

John Fargo: Did that ever happen?

Ms. Vieau: Occasionally, but it wasn't ever a big deal. The ... so, well the people that
worked for you had to really like you because otherwise, they'd figure out ways
to ...

John Fargo: Yeah.

Ms. Vieau: ... get some money.

John Fargo: Well, these people that worked for you, they were WAVES also, right?

Ms. Vieau: They were men though.

John Fargo: Oh, they were men?!

Ms. Vieau: Yeah, I didn't have a ... when I joined the WAVES, there weren't many.

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: And ... but I had lots of good sailors (laughter)

John Fargo: But they were sailors that worked for you?

Ms. Vieau: Yeah.

John Fargo: I see.

Ms. Vieau: And some of them were really good; they were ... they'd had past experience handling money and ...

John Fargo: Uh huh. At Pensacola, where did you live?

Ms. Vieau: I'm trying to remember.

John Fargo: Were you right on the naval base?

Ms. Vieau: I think I was, I think I was *always* on a naval base except when I was in Atlanta. But it was a good place to live because you were right there with everything and you ... they had good food. What else?

Other Person: (Unintelligible) ... you mention it.

Ms. Vieau: Yeah, I met my husband in the Navy.

John Fargo: Was ... was he in the Navy?

Ms. Vieau: Oh yes, he was a big shot though. He knew how to fly before we got in.

John Fargo: He was a flyer?!

Ms. Vieau: Yeah. And so, for his rank he always had a big job.

John Fargo: What was his rank?

Ms. Vieau: I don't remember (laughter).

Other Person: Ensign.

Ms. Vieau: Yeah, he was ... he had his own airplane before he got in the Navy.

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: He had a mother that really spoiled him.

John Fargo: (Laughter).

Ms. Vieau: And ... but he wasn't spoiled somehow (chuckle), thank goodness. But anyway, he ... he got a real important job. And it was a ... it was nice because he was friends with the captain and he could get special favors sometimes (laughter).

John Fargo: Were you married at that time?

Ms. Vieau: No, we didn't marry until after the war was over.

John Fargo: I see.

Ms. Vieau: You know, I was anxious because, you know, air ... when I went to the ... into the Navy, everybody said, "Oh gosh, you're going to, you know, this is going to mess up your whole life. You're going to marry somebody you don't even know," and all these things. But I waited ... so, I waited, I think, a year after the war was over or after we got out, and then we got married.

John Fargo: Did you stay at Pensacola for a long time?

Ms. Vieau: Pretty long. I don't remember exactly.

John Fargo: Did you go somewhere else after Pensacola?

Ms. Vieau: I don't think so. Gosh, I don't remember that.

John Fargo: So, Pensacola was the place where you got discharged?

Ms. Vieau: I think I went back to Atlanta.

John Fargo: Atlanta? For your discharge?

Ms. Vieau: And (unintelligible), yeah.

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: Thank you (speaking to someone else; she's reading up on me).

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: (Chuckles). But it was a good experience, and it got me out into the real world (laughter). What else can I tell you?

John Fargo: Well, let me ask you this – talk a little bit about some of the personal memories that you have that you still remember.

Ms. Vieau: Well, I remember when anybody crashed or got shot down or anything. There was just a ... everybody on the base was depressed because, you know, we ... we kind of new each other and you really felt like a friend of yours had gone even if you didn't really know them. But ... but we had a real good time, though, all these young people together, you know, we were just ready to party all the time (laughter).

John Fargo: Well, its like college all over again, huh?

Ms. Vieau: And ... except you had more money (laughter). That was a big help.

John Fargo: Yeah. Can you remember any incident during those years that ... that may not have been funny at the time, but when you think about it later on, its ... you have to laugh?

Ms. Vieau: I'm sure there were some things like that because everybody was making mistakes and, you know, nobody knew what they were doing exactly (chuckles).

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: And I think that ... that regular Navy people laughed at us a lot (chuckles) as we were fumbling along. But we had a good time. It was, you know, it was all

these young people together, and we didn't have to pay tax on liquor, so it was really cheap (chuckles). And we had ... always had a bar, and we ... and people would come entertain us. We had a really ex, you know, except for the people who were actually fighting, we had a really good time. And I got to go lots of places in the United States that I'd never been to.

John Fargo: Oh, you traveled?!

Ms. Vieau: Well, I would be assigned to a job at ... like Boston or, you know, I went a lot of places that I never would have gotten to.

John Fargo: Well, tell me about ... say, going to Boston. What ... what would have triggered that?

Ms. Vieau: Well, they ... they needed somebody there.

John Fargo: I see.

Ms. Vieau: If they, you know, if they, you know, this was, you know, we ... we were mainly attached to colleges because there were people going through their basic course there, and they ... we had a long pay line, I remember that. And I think that was when the people were getting twenty-one dollars a month (laughter), but ...

John Fargo: Did you have to, say you went from Pensacola to Boston, did you have to carry money?

Ms. Vieau: No!

John Fargo: Never?

Ms. Vieau: Never. We ... we only carried like if I was in Atlanta and I was going to the Dental College.

John Fargo: I see.

Ms. Vieau: Or to Georgia Tech or ...

John Fargo: Yeah.

Ms. Vieau: ... we took money then.

John Fargo: You got it from the bank and ... brought it back?

Ms. Vieau: Yeah. And boy, I ... the first few years, I looked I was going to hold the bank up (laughter).

John Fargo: (Laughter).

Ms. Vieau: I had so many people with guns.

John Fargo: You mean, you had people go with you?

Ms. Vieau: Yeah!

John Fargo: Yeah.

Ms. Vieau: I sure did.

John Fargo: Yeah.

Ms. Vieau: And I didn't, you know, I ... wasn't used to handling all that kind of money, but it worked out. I mean, the money part was not ... not a problem really. The people that worked for me were honest, and usually if we overpaid somebody, they would come back and tell us.

John Fargo: Would they?!

Ms. Vieau: They would! And I think it was really ... they were ... sometimes they didn't, of course, but mostly ... mostly the people were nice and ...

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: ... we were kind of in something together (chuckles).

John Fargo: Who was your boss, what was his rank?

Ms. Vieau: Well, I didn't ever have a boss right with me, so when I'd go to a base, the captain of the base was my boss.

John Fargo: I see.

Ms. Vieau: And I was like the head of a department.

John Fargo: So, he never ... he never interacted with you as far as your duties were concerned?

Ms. Vieau: No, uh, I can't remember a time when anybody ... well, they were ... they did try to get their nose in the ... into things, but most of them didn't understand arithmetic too ... too much (laughter).

John Fargo: Yeah.

Ms. Vieau: You know, they didn't warn ... they didn't warn though.

John Fargo: Yeah, they had other things on their mind at that point.

Ms. Vieau: Right, that's right.

John Fargo: Yeah. So, you ... did you have a ... another WAVE who you would consider your best friend?

Ms. Vieau: Well, when I was in training, when we were first in, I had some ... had a couple of real good friends. And then, a lot of times, there wouldn't be another WAVE in that location. They would, you know, they ... the money part, they always needed, but sometimes they didn't need people in other positions, but I had a lot of ... lot of friends in the Navy. We just weren't stationed together usually.

John Fargo: Have you kept contact with any of them?

Ms. Vieau: Not really, I ... I did up until, well let's see, how long have I lived here (talking to other person in room)?

Other Person: (Unintelligible).

Ms. Vieau: Well, I kept up with them for a while.

John Fargo: But it didn't ...

Ms. Vieau: But, you know, when I got married and had children and moved around with him, you just make new friends and ...

John Fargo: Yeah. Tell me a little bit about your husband. Now, he was a flyer and he ... what rank was he?

Ms. Vieau: Well, he was a ... a Lieutenant Commander, I think.

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: But he was ... he had jobs way beyond his rank. He was ... he was a real unusual man; he was real smart, but kind of kept it to himself, you know? He was ... he ... a lot of the people just threw their weight around and their rank around and he never did that.

John Fargo: Did he get into combat at all?

Ms. Vieau: I don't think he ever did. He was more of a training person.

John Fargo: I see. And so, he was stationed at ... Pen ... Pensacola the entire time you were there?

Ms. Vieau: Oh yeah.

John Fargo: So, you must have had some good times together.

Ms. Vieau: We really did. And, you know, they had a bar for us always for the officers and drinks were real cheap (chuckles) like about fifteen cents or something like that. We didn't have to pay any tax on the liquor (laughter). But we had a ... and it was a great ratio of men to women (chuckles) a *lot* more men than there were

women. And a lot of them, of course, were married and uh, we got to be friends with some of them, too.

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: It was ... on the whole, it was a good experience.

John Fargo: Well, the ... looking back on it, Penny, you have any regrets about joining the Navy?

Ms. Vieau: I don't think so. I ... I've thought about this over the years sometimes and wondered how my life would have been different, but I think ... I think it turned out alright (chuckles).

John Fargo: How do you think the Navy changed you as a person?

Ms. Vieau: Well, it made me a *lot* more independent. And, yeah, I had grown up in Georgia and uh, I had two brothers and they were ... they kind of were the important people in my family. You know, the brothers ... that was before Women's Lib and all of that.

John Fargo: Yeah.

Ms. Vieau: And so, they could do a lot of things that I couldn't do. And I think the Navy gave me a sense of myself, you know, a feeling of identity and making my own choices and things like that. It was a good experience for me. And handling money, I had to be responsible. I had to learn to trust people, and it was a good experience.

John Fargo: Well, that ... that's wonderful, that's really great. So, you got married right after the war, 1946?

Ms. Vieau: Well, I think I waited a year. I couldn't believe I was going to marry a Yankee.

John Fargo: (Laughter).

Ms. Vieau: (Laughter). I'd had a lot of boyfriends.

John Fargo: Yeah.

Ms. Vieau: Local, but I ...

John Fargo: Where was he from?

Ms. Vieau: He was from Connecticut. His mother and father ... well, his father had a good job, made a lot of money, and he train in to New York from Connecticut like a lot of other people did. And they had a real nice house in a very nice house in a very nice subdivision.

John Fargo: Did he, your husband, stay in the Navy after the war?

Ms. Vieau: No. He got out and he got a job and was in Pennsylvania, I think. You know, jobs were hard to come by because ...

John Fargo: Yeah.

Ms. Vieau: ... all these thousands of people who'd been in the Navy were getting out and the Army were getting out and looking for work.

John Fargo: What about you, did you go to work at all?

Ms. Vieau: I was working at the telephone company before the war, and I don't think I ... I think maybe I went back until we got married.

John Fargo: But after you got married, you ... you never worked again?

Ms. Vieau: I don't think I ever did.

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: Except as volunteer.

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: Did a lot of volunteer work.

John Fargo: So, you lived in Pennsylvania?

Ms. Vieau: No, actually, we didn't live in Pennsylvania long, by maybe two years. And then he got a job in Houston. A friend of his called him up and said that he'd started a company and he wanted my husband to come work with him, so he did. He was real smart about his job and was a good worker.

John Fargo: How many children did you have?

Ms. Vieau: We had four.

John Fargo: Four!

Ms. Vieau: Two boys and two girls.

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: And the oldest one died (pause) and the next two live here in Austin.

John Fargo: In Austin!

Ms. Vieau: Isn't that right, Linda (sp?)? (Chuckle)

John Fargo: That's great!

Ms. Vieau: Yeah.

John Fargo: So, you get to see them frequently.

Ms. Vieau: Yeah. And they are there for me if I need some, you know, somebody to handle some family thing.

John Fargo: Yes.

Other Person: Did Bruce ... Bruce ...

Ms. Vieau: And then I have a son in Galveston.

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: He and his wife and little girl. We used to have a house at Galveston.

John Fargo: Did you?

Ms. Vieau: And we'd go down there every single weekend, and we just loved it. You know, it was ... it just felt like the cares of the world fell off your shoulders (laughter) when you went down there.

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: And it was a ... it wasn't anything of a house, it wasn't spectacular, but it was ... wasn't far from the beach, and we had a real good time going down there.

John Fargo: Well, it sounds like you had a ... an extremely interesting, wartime experience and met a lot of people, had a responsible job which you took a lot from in terms of how you approached it and what you learned and so on.

Ms. Vieau: Well, you learn a lot about people.

John Fargo: Yeah. Well, is there anything else, Penny, that you ... that you can remember that you'd like to have on this interview?

Ms. Vieau: Well, I don't know of anything you haven't covered except it was a great experience for me to get away from home (chuckles). You know, it was before Women's Lib really, and it enabled me to kind of adjust to the (chuckles) new world.

John Fargo: Uh huh.

Ms. Vieau: It was a good experience for me.

John Fargo: You still have your Atlanta accent.

Ms. Vieau: Oh, I do? (laughter). Well, that's good, I guess.

John Fargo: After all these years, huh?

Ms. Vieau: Well, I ... I feel very flattered that you wanted to talk to me about all of this.

John Fargo: Well, you're ... you're as much a participant in the great war as the guy who carried a rifle.

Ms. Vieau: (Laughter).

John Fargo: So ...

Ms. Vieau: I'm glad I didn't have to do that.

John Fargo: ... we want ... we want your story.

Ms. Vieau: Well, thank you.

John Fargo: And I appreciate your service, and thank you for the time today.

Ms. Vieau: Well, it's been fun to rethink all that (chuckles).

John Fargo: I'm sure it is.

(end of interview)

FINAL copy

CD – #OH04602– Ms. Elizabeth P. Vieau

Transcribed by: K. Matras

Houston, TX

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