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Oral History Interview: Marjorie, M. Bond

Marjorie M. Bond

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ORAL HISTORY OF APPALACHIA
 400 Hal Greer Boulevard
 Huntington, West Virginia 25755-2667
 304/696-6799

dist. Plant

ORAL HISTORY NUMBER: _____

MORROW ACCESSION NUMBER: #684

ORAL HISTORY

GIFT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

I, Mayone M. Bond, the undersigned, of Huntington,
 County of Jabell, State of West Virginia, grant, convey,
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 University Foundation, INC., an educational and eleemosynary institution, all my right,
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- _____ (initial) Closed for my lifetime.
- _____ (initial) Closed for my lifetime unless special permission is gained from me or my assigns.

DATE: _____

Mayone M Bond
 (Signature - Interviewee)

 (Address)

 (Phone)

DATE: _____

 (Signature - Interviewer)

 (Address)

 (Phone)

Ms. Marjorie Bond

Retiree Of Owens Glass

Jeanette Wehrle

Donetta Rhyne

Marlena Smith

80

No indication of who did what
Tape not labelled

Release form not complete

Many typos in paper; Brief

Didn't follow-up sufficiently on questions
in interview.

1. Name in Full
Bonnie Mayone M
(Last) (First) (Middle)

2. Maiden Name:
Rowe

3. Marital Status (Optional)
 Single Married Widowed
 Divorced Separated

4. Date of Birth (Month, Day, Year)
March 17, 1926

5. Place of Birth (City, State)
Huntington, W.V.

6. What is your race or ethnic origin?
 (A) Caucasian (D) Black
 (B) Hispanic (E) American Indian
 (C) Asian (F) Other

7. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?
 (A) High School: Highest Grade Completed 11
 (B) College
 (C) Vocational Training
 (D) Other

8. First Employment: Huntington Tent & Awning

9. Year: 1943

10. Other jobs prior to employment at Owen's (and Dates)

List:	Employer & Address	From	To
		<u>7/43</u>	<u>2/44</u>

SPOUSE

Spouse's Name _____
Date of Birth _____
Place of Birth _____
Date of Marriage _____
Highest Level of Education _____
Occupation _____

Has he/she ever worked at Owen's? Yes No

If Yes, what kind of job? _____

Retired?
 Yes No

If Yes, when? May 1990

CHILDREN

1. Number of children 4

Ages: Girls _____
Boys 46-44-42-32

2. Highest level of their education
Girls _____
Boys GED GED GED BS Degree

3. What is their present occupation?
Girls _____ Boys Building contractor

4. Where do your children live?
Huntington 2
Tri-State (Kentucky, Ohio, W. Virginia) 1
Outside W. Virginia 1

5. Do you have grandchildren?
Yes 7 No _____

6. Have any of your children worked at Owen's?
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If Yes, when? Selection
What kind of job? _____

PARENTS

1. Parent's names Mother Dulcie May
Father Earl Rowe
2. Birthplace of Mother Huntington W.V.
Birthplace of Father W. Virginia

Ms. Marjorie Bond was born to Dulci and Earl Rowe of Huntington, W.V, on March 17, 1926. Her family's ethnic origin is Caucasian. She finished up through the eleventh grade in high school, and began working when she was eighteen years of age.

Ms. Bond also raised a family of four boys. Her first employment was at Huntington Tent & Awning, in 1943. Then in 1944, she began working at Owens Glass. She continued at Owens until 1947, then she was not employeed there again until 1957. In 1990, she retired.

Ms. Bond's first job at Owens was a selector, which was packing ware. This, she did not enjoy. But, back then all of the women were selectors, except when the men went to war. Then the women were able to do some of the things that the men did on the job, such as inspecting. When the men returned to the factory they returned to their old positions also. The men made higher wages than the women. Ms. Bond still stayed at her same position for a long while and made lower wages than the men.

Ms. Bond said, that the women did not have the opportunities as the men did in the factory, until a suit was filed against *awls* the inequality. Although the women could not do some of the heavy lifting work in the factory, later the jobs were open to them if they wanted them.

There were shift changes at Owens, and you worked the same shift for five days. Tehy worked day shifts from 3 to 11, and midnight shifts. Ms. Bond said, it was hard to adjust to the shift changes, such as from the midnight to day shift

because the period between them was very short. Later on she said the shifts were rotated the other way which gave them more time to rest between them.

She belonged to a club of women at work, which were the women on her shift. They had dinners, picnics and different activities together. She was also involved in company activities such as being president one year and secretary another, of a club that organized company functions.

GGDBA was the name of the union that Ms. Bond belonged to. But she did not attend very many of the meetings because teh women only talked amongst themselves and nothing was being accomplished. She felt like the union meetings were a waste of her time. The men and the womens union at one time was seperated, but then they remerged.

She mentioned that she was involved in some strikes, but there were very few that lasted long. There was hardly any trouble within the unions or with the union members during the strikes.

Teh health and safety dangers that Ms. Bond spoke of were serious. There was always broken glass everywhere. Through a hole glass fell onto a belt, and went back out. This substance that was on the glass, or the small shavings of glass were a problem because it was breathed in by the workers. Ms. Bond said, that there may have well been asbestos in hte factory.

To protect themselves from these hazards, she said, that goggles, mask, and safety side shields for their glasses, were given to htem to were.

What Ms. Bond liked best about her job at Owens, was that after a while other occupations in the factory were open

to women, and she was chosen as a crew leader.

In 1990, Ms. Bond decided to retire because she felt that she was to old to continue working. At first she was afraid that she would not draw enough social security to live on. But she looked into her plan and was going to be drawing almost as much as if she was still going to be working. She also receives a pension from the company.

Although she has retired, she is still involved with some of the women that she worked with. They go to a retirees union at the clubhouse across the street from Owens. Through this union you can still belong to the same shift club as you did when you were employeed. She also gets together with the women from the other clubs in the company, and walks in hte park, and they go to Captain D's every Wednesday. So even though she has retired, she still stays active within the company and with her friends from the company, who have also retired.

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED WITH MARJORIE BOND ON APRIL 18, 1994

Interviewer: When did you first start to work at Owens?

Ms. Bond: April of '43 through January '47.

Interviewer: How old were you when you started?

Ms. Bond: Eighteen.

Interviewer: What was your first job there?

Ms. Bond: Selector.

Interviewer: What exactly does that involve?

Ms. Bond: Packing ware.

Interviewer: Did you enjoy that job?

Ms. Bond: No, I don't think so.

Interviewer: What about it didn't you like?

Ms. Bond: The monotony.

Interviewer: I worked in a factory over the summer and that was awful to me - you just sit there and do the same thing over and over again. I worked there for about a week.

Were the other people doing the same job as you all women?

Ms. Bond: Yes.

Interviewer: Were your supervisors women?

Ms. Bond: No.

Interviewer: Did you get along with them?

Ms. Bond: Well, back then - it's been so long. I suppose so. I mean, I was young, you know, and stuff doesn't get through to you.

Interviewer: Did anybody in your community or your family oppose you going to work for Owens?

Ms. Bond: No.

Interviewer: Why do you think they didn't care?

Ms. Bond: Well, see at that time, it was during the war and everybody that was able bodied was supposed to work someplace.

Interviewer: That's about where we are, we are talking about this in class.

Ms. Bond: See I had worked at a place called the Huntington Tent and Awning and they made engine covers for B29s and then they made some kind of tent liners for hospital tents and most of that was defense work.

Interviewer: Were any other members of your family employed at Owens?

Ms. Bond: My aunt worked there for a short period of time. See my mother died when I was five and my father was already gone. So my sister and I, my grandmother raised us and my aunt was about nine years older than me and she worked there for a little while.

Interviewer: Did you have any other jobs at Owens; other than a selector?

Ms. Bond: Later. Yeah, but not back then. No.

Interviewer: What jobs were those?

Ms. Bond: OK. Back then everyone was a selector, all the women were, and then when the men - the women did some of the jobs that men did like inspecting and stuff like that, but when the men came back they got their jobs back -- but they didn't make as much money as the men. Like a quality inspector, the women make about five cents more on the hour and the men make about fifty cents more than the base rate of pay which was the selector's rate. I quit in '47 and went back in '57.

Interviewer: So were you still a selector when you went back?

Ms. Bond: Oh yes.

Interviewer: So basically all you did was work as a selector?

Ms. Bond: Either that or assemble cartons.

Interviewer: Put together the boxes?

Ms. Bond: Yes. It's a different type of work that is the same pay. You know, if you're interested in that.

Interviewer: Now, were the people making the cartons all women too?

Ms. Bond: When I first went back, yes.

Interviewer: Do you feel that the women who worked at Owens had the same opportunities as the men who worked at Owens?

Ms. Bond: Not until the suit was filed about women - just about what I told you the women working as a quality inspector made about five cents more than a selector and the men make about fifty cents more. And the men, boys would come in there and work maybe two years and then they were the inspectors or leaders. They went right up. And the women with all their years of experience - nothing.

Interviewer: The place I worked at over the summer - there were women who had been there maybe thirty years they had to do a lot of hard labor, a lot of lifting and stuff. And there were men who had been there maybe five years and they put together the machines and they could make up to about five or six more dollars an hour more than a woman who had been there twenty years.

Ms. Bond: Well, there's a lot of jobs that women aren't physically able to do. They had jobs in the maintenance department or the gauge room where they had to lift heavy equipment and women weren't physically able to do and I can see that. Later they had to put all those jobs up for bid. Not many women went out for them.

Interviewer: Did you work shifts at Owens?

Ms. Bond: Yes. You changed - you worked a shift five days. We did work day shift, 3 to 11, and midnight but you had such a short period of time between midnight and day shift that you couldn't adjust to

it so I don't know what year it was that they changed and rotated the other way. It was hard to get used to and I never knew when I was supposed to go to work but it was better on you as far as getting your rest was concerned.

Interviewer: Did you socialize with other women who worked on your shift?

Ms. Bond: Yes.

Interviewer: What did you do, did you do things after work - after hours?

Ms. Bond: Yeah. And we had, each - see there was A, B, C, and D shifts and each shift had a social club. I always belonged to the club and we'd have dinners, parties, picnics and stuff like that.

Interviewer: Did you ever participate in any company sponsored social events?

Ms. Bond: Ah, well, what do you mean?

Interviewer: Did they ever have company picnics or anything?

Ms. Bond: Oh yes, they used to have sometime around the 4th of July, the company would reserve Camden Park and they would give tickets to the employees and we'd go to that. And then the company used to help with the Christmas parties. And I was president of our club for a year and secretary for a year. And you interacted with the bosses.

Interviewer: Were you a member of a local union?

Ms. Bond: Yes.

Interviewer: Which one?

Ms. Bond: GGDBA - Glass something about glass pottery, glass figures. You'd have to ask Ike, he'd know about that. We just - you know, they took our union dues out and that was it.

Interviewer: How often did you go to local union meetings?

Ms. Bond: Not very often. Because it was shift work and you know they's schedule them when you were on day shift or midnight, there was always some of them

that wanted to just yak, yak, yak, and they didn't really get much done and I felt like it was a waste of time.

Interviewer: Were there any women leaders in the union?

Ms. Bond: At one time the men's union and the women's union were separate. I don't know what year they merged though.

Interviewer: Did you ever go on strike?

Ms. Bond: Yes.

Interviewer: When was that?

Ms. Bond: Different times.

Interviewer: About how long were you out?

Ms. Bond: There was one time in the 60's that we were out 51 days and I think one lasted about two weeks and one time - you see a lot of people wouldn't cross the picket lines. See someone at another plant could have a grievance and send pickets to the plant and no one would cross. What they were striking for at the other plant might be ridiculous - of course it wouldn't be to them - but one time we stayed out a few days and then went back in.

Interviewer: So there was some trouble during the strike, like on the picket lines?

Ms. Bond: No, we never did have any trouble.

Interviewer: Were there every any people of other races working at Owens?

Ms. Bond: I really don't remember when they hired the first black people, if you don't mind me saying black, I really don't remember when that was. I would say late sixties probably. I mean, it's been quite a while. Did you know Bess Jackson?

Interviewer: I don't think so.

Ms. Bond: Are you from here in Huntington? They had some really nice black people and they got along well with other people, you know. But you know you've got good and bad everyplace - black, white, green whatever.

Interviewer: So you all basically worked the same jobs?

Ms. Bond: Yes.

Interviewer: Did you socialize with different races?

Ms. Bond: Yes, they were in the clubs.

Interviewer: Do you feel that people of all different races had the same opportunities. That all women had basically the same opportunities?

Ms. Bond: Well, I suppose so - after they came to work there. At one time they were talking about giving black people so many years seniority so they could bid on jobs because they hadn't been able to get on, to get jobs there but nothing ever came of it.

Interviewer: Were there any health or safety dangers on your job?

Ms. Bond: Yes. There was glass everywhere. Underneath the floor was cracked glass it falls through a hole onto a belt and then goes back out and from under the floor would be a draft and that stuff would come up, you know, out of the holes. Of course, everyone breathed it. Everybody used to laugh and say that they had a glass-lined stomach or glass-lined lungs. That definitely was a health hazard. They said there was asbestos but I don't know.

Interviewer: Did you have any way of protecting yourself?

Ms. Bond: Well, I wouldn't breathe. No not really. In certain places they would give you those masks, you know. and they did after a while start making everybody wear safety glasses and they wore side shields.

Interviewer: Overall, can you give me an example of what you liked best about working at Owens?

Ms. Bond: The work on the layers was so monotonous and it was just the same thing you know, but then I bid on quality inspecting and I worked that off and on for several years and a job came open as a crew leader and I got that and I liked crew leader.

Interviewer: What do you do when you bid on a job?

Ms. Bond: They put out a posting and they used to say like "back up quality replacing so and so" and either that person had retired or moved on to another job and so they put that job up for bid. Then everybody who wanted it signed their name and the one with the most seniority got it. They would leave it up for five days and the one with the most seniority got it.

Interviewer: When did you retire?

Ms. Bond: The end of May 1990.

Interviewer: Why did you decide to retire then?

Ms. Bond: I was old. No, I was 64 and I checked into my social security and I thought "No, I can't do that" and then I found out that I was going to draw almost as most from social security as I was making when I worked. So I checked into it and found out how much I would draw and I felt like I was working 40 hours a week for about \$25 a week. So I just retired.

Interviewer: Do you receive a pension from the company?

Ms. Bond: Yes.

Interviewer: Do you receive any medical benefits?

Ms. Bond: No.

Interviewer: Do you still socialize with people you used to work with?

Ms. Bond: Yes. They have this thing, Ike Effingham, I think he's president, it's a retirees' union down at the clubhouse that's across the street from Owens and that's all people that retired from Owens. The shift that I worked, which was B shift still has a club and anyone that worked at Owens or is a relative can belong to it. They have a meeting about once a month but this other, retirees union, I joined the YWCA and they have a conference club meeting the same day so I go to one once in a while and then the other one. Then there's a group off of D shift or any shift that wants to go that meets down at Captain D's down at 14th Street West on the

second Wednesday of the month. And there's two or three of them that I walk with in the park. So I stay in touch with quite a few of them.

Ms. Marjorie Bond
Retiree Of Owens Glass

Jeanette Wehrle
Donetta Rhyne
Marlena Smith

80

No indication of who did what
Tape not labelled
Release form not complete
Many typos in paper; Brief
Didn't follow-up sufficiently on questions
in interview.

1. Name in Full
Bond Mayorie M
(Last) (First) (Middle)

2. Maiden Name
Rowe

3. Marital Status (Optional)
 Single Married Widowed
 Divorced Separated

4. Date of Birth (Month, Day, Year)
March 17, 1926

5. Place of Birth (City, State)
Huntington, W.V.

6. What is your race or ethnic origin?
 (A) Caucasian (D) Black
 (B) Hispanic (E) American Indian
 (C) Asian (F) Other

7. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?
 (A) High School: Highest Grade Completed 11
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 (D) Other

8. First Employment: Huntington Tent & Awning
9. Year: 1943

10. Other jobs prior to employment at Owen's (and Dates)

List: Employer & Address	From	To
	<u>7/43</u>	<u>2/44</u>

SPOUSE

Spouse's Name _____
Date of Birth _____
Place of Birth _____
Date of Marriage _____
Highest Level of Education _____
Occupation _____

Has he/she ever worked at Owen's? Yes No

If Yes, what kind of job? _____

Retired?
 Yes No

If Yes, when? May 1990

CHILDREN

1. Number of children 4

Ages: Girls _____
Boys 46-44-42-32

2. Highest level of their education
Girls _____
Boys GED GED GED BS Degree

3. What is their present occupation?
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4. Where do your children live?
Huntington 2
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Outside W. Virginia 1

5. Do you have grandchildren?
Yes No

6. Have any of your children worked at Owen's?
Yes No

If Yes, when? Selection
What kind of job? _____

PARENTS

1. Parent's names Mother Dulcie May
Father Earl Rowe
2. Birthplace of Mother Huntington W.V.
Birthplace of Father St Joseph, Mo

SIBLINGS

3. Father's Occupation(s)

CTO railway

Where? _____

How long? _____

4. Mother's Occupation(s)

Home Co

Where? _____

How long _____

5. Highest level of education

Father _____

Mother _____

6. Are your parents living?

Yes _____

No _____

1. Number of brothers and sisters:

Brothers _____

Sisters 1

2. Highest level of education:

Brothers: _____

3. Brothers' Occupation:

4. Highest level of education:

Sisters: high school

5. Sisters' Occupation:

State Hospital

6. If not currently employed, did your sister(s) / brother(s) work outside the home previously?

Yes _____

No _____

Ms. Marjorie Bond was born to Dulci and Earl Rowe of Huntington, W.V, on March 17, 1926. Her family's ethnic origin is Caucasian. She finished up through the eleventh grade in high school, and began working when she was eighteen years of age.

Ms. Bond also raised a family of four boys. Her first employment was at Huntington Tent & Awning, in 1943. Then in 1944, she began working at Owens Glass. She continued at Owens until 1947, then she was not employed there again until 1957. In 1990, she retired.

Ms. Bond's first job at Owens was a selector, which was packing ware. This, she did not enjoy. But, back then all of the women were selectors, except when the men went to war. Then the women were able to do some of the things that the men did on the job, such as inspecting. When the men returned to the factory they returned to their old positions also. The men made higher wages than the women. Ms. Bond still stayed at her same position for a long while and made lower wages than the men.

Ms. Bond said, that the women did not have the opportunities as the men did in the factory, until a suit was filed against *awb* the inequality. Although the women could not do some of the heavy lifting work in the factory, later the jobs were open to them if they wanted them.

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She belonged to a club of women at work, which were the women on her shift. They had dinners, picnics and different activities together. She was also involved in company activities such as being president one year and secretary another, of a club that organized company functions.

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In 1990, Ms. Bond decided to retire because she felt that she was to old to continue working. At first she was afraid that she would not draw enough social security to live on. But she looked into her plan and was going to be drawing almost as much as if she was still going to be working. She also receives a pension from the company.

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INTERVIEW CONDUCTED WITH MARJORIE BOND ON APRIL 18, 1994

Interviewer: When did you first start to work at Owens?

Ms. Bond: April of '43 through January '47.

Interviewer: How old were you when you started?

Ms. Bond: Eighteen.

Interviewer: What was your first job there?

Ms. Bond: Selector.

Interviewer: What exactly does that involve?

Ms. Bond: Packing ware.

Interviewer: Did you enjoy that job?

Ms. Bond: No, I don't think so.

Interviewer: What about it didn't you like?

Ms. Bond: The monotony.

Interviewer: I worked in a factory over the summer and that was awful to me - you just sit there and do the same thing over and over again. I worked there for about a week.

Were the other people doing the same job as you all women?

Ms. Bond: Yes.

Interviewer: Were your supervisors women?

Ms. Bond: No.

Interviewer: Did you get along with them?

Ms. Bond: Well, back then - it's been so long. I suppose so. I mean, I was young, you know, and stuff doesn't get through to you.

Interviewer: Did anybody in your community or your family oppose you going to work for Owens?

Ms. Bond: No.

Interviewer: Why do you think they didn't care?

Ms. Bond: Well, see at that time, it was during the war and everybody that was able bodied was supposed to work someplace.

Interviewer: That's about where we are, we are talking about this in class.

Ms. Bond: See I had worked at a place called the Huntington Tent and Awning and they made engine covers for B29s and then they made some kind of tent liners for hospital tents and most of that was defense work.

Interviewer: Were any other members of your family employed at Owens?

Ms. Bond: My aunt worked there for a short period of time. See my mother died when I was five and my father was already gone. So my sister and I, my grandmother raised us and my aunt was about nine years older than me and she worked there for a little while.

Interviewer: Did you have any other jobs at Owens; other than a selector?

Ms. Bond: Later. Yeah, but not back then. No.

Interviewer: What jobs were those?

Ms. Bond: OK. Back then everyone was a selector, all the women were, and then when the men - the women did some of the jobs that men did like inspecting and stuff like that, but when the men came back they got their jobs back -- but they didn't make as much money as the men. Like a quality inspector, the women make about five cents more on the hour and the men make about fifty cents more than the base rate of pay which was the selector's rate. I quit in '47 and went back in '57.

Interviewer: So were you still a selector when you went back?

Ms. Bond: Oh yes.

Marjorie Bond Interview
Page Three

Interviewer: So basically all you did was work as a selector?

Ms. Bond: Either that or assemble cartons.

Interviewer: Put together the boxes?

Ms. Bond: Yes. It's a different type of work that is the same pay. You know, if you're interested in that.

Interviewer: Now, were the people making the cartons all women too?

Ms. Bond: When I first went back, yes.

Interviewer: Do you feel that the women who worked at Owens had the same opportunities as the men who worked at Owens?

Ms. Bond: Not until the suit was filed about women - just about what I told you the women working as a quality inspector made about five cents more than a selector and the men make about fifty cents more. And the men, boys would come in there and work maybe two years and then they were the inspectors or leaders. They went right up. And the women with all their years of experience - nothing.

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Interviewer: Did you socialize with other women who worked on your shift?

Ms. Bond: Yes.

Interviewer: What did you do, did you do things after work - after hours?

Ms. Bond: Yeah. And we had, each - see there was A, B, C, and D shifts and each shift had a social club. I always belonged to the club and we'd have dinners, parties, picnics and stuff like that.

Interviewer: Did you ever participate in any company sponsored social events?

Ms. Bond: Ah, well, what do you mean?

Interviewer: Did they ever have company picnics or anything?

Ms. Bond: Oh yes, they used to have sometime around the 4th of July, the company would reserve Camden Park and they would give tickets to the employees and we'd go to that. And then the company used to help with the Christmas parties. And I was president of our club for a year and secretary for a year. And you interacted with the bosses.

Interviewer: Were you a member of a local union?

Ms. Bond: Yes.

Interviewer: Which one?

Ms. Bond: GGDBA - Glass something about glass pottery, glass figures. You'd have to ask Ike, he'd know about that. We just - you know, they took our union dues out and that was it.

Interviewer: How often did you go to local union meetings?

Ms. Bond: Not very often. Because it was shift work and you know they's schedule them when you were on day shift or midnight, there was always some of them

that wanted to just yak, yak, yak, and they didn't really get much done and I felt like it was a waste of time.

Interviewer: Were there any women leaders in the union?

Ms. Bond: At one time the men's union and the women's union were separate. I don't know what year they merged though.

Interviewer: Did you ever go on strike?

Ms. Bond: Yes.

Interviewer: When was that?

Ms. Bond: Different times.

Interviewer: About how long were you out?

Ms. Bond: There was one time in the 60's that we were out 51 days and I think one lasted about two weeks and one time - you see a lot of people wouldn't cross the picket lines. See someone at another plant could have a grievance and send pickets to the plant and no one would cross. What they were striking for at the other plant might be ridiculous - of course it wouldn't be to them - but one time we stayed out a few days and then went back in.

Interviewer: So there was some trouble during the strike, like on the picket lines?

Ms. Bond: No, we never did have any trouble.

Interviewer: Were there every any people of other races working at Owens?

Ms. Bond: I really don't remember when they hired the first black people, if you don't mind me saying black, I really don't remember when that was. I would say late sixties probably. I mean, it's been quite a while. Did you know Bess Jackson?

Interviewer: I don't think so.

Ms. Bond: Are you from here in Huntington? They had some really nice black people and they got along well with other people, you know. But you know you've got good and bad everyplace - black, white, green whatever.

Interviewer: So you all basically worked the same jobs?

Ms. Bond: Yes.

Interviewer: Did you socialize with different races?

Ms. Bond: Yes, they were in the clubs.

Interviewer: Do you feel that people of all different races had the same opportunities. That all women had basically the same opportunities?

Ms. Bond: Well, I suppose so - after they came to work there. At one time they were talking about giving black people so many years seniority so they could bid on jobs because they hadn't been able to get on, to get jobs there but nothing ever came of it.

Interviewer: Were there any health or safety dangers on your job?

Ms. Bond: Yes. There was glass everywhere. Underneath the floor was cracked glass it falls through a hole onto a belt and then goes back out and from under the floor would be a draft and that stuff would come up, you know, out of the holes. Of course, everyone breathed it. Everybody used to laugh and say that they had a glass-lined stomach or glass-lined lungs. That definitely was a health hazard. They said there was asbestos but I don't know.

Interviewer: Did you have any way of protecting yourself?

Ms. Bond: Well, I wouldn't breathe. No not really. In certain places they would give you those masks, you know. and they did after a while start making everybody wear safety glasses and they wore side shields.

Interviewer: Overall, can you give me an example of what you liked best about working at Owens?

Ms. Bond: The work on the layers was so monotonous and it was just the same thing you know, but then I bid on quality inspecting and I worked that off and on for several years and a job came open as a crew leader and I got that and I liked crew leader.

Interviewer: What do you do when you bid on a job?

Ms. Bond: They put out a posting and they used to say like "back up quality replacing so and so" and either that person had retired or moved on to another job and so they put that job up for bid. Then everybody who wanted it signed their name and the one with the most seniority got it. They would leave it up for five days and the one with the most seniority got it.

Interviewer: When did you retire?

Ms. Bond: The end of May 1990.

Interviewer: Why did you decide to retire then?

Ms. Bond: I was old. No, I was 64 and I checked into my social security and I thought "No, I can't do that" and then I found out that I was going to draw almost as most from social security as I was making when I worked. So I checked into it and found out how much I would draw and I felt like I was working 40 hours a week for about \$25 a week. So I just retired.

Interviewer: Do you receive a pension from the company?

Ms. Bond: Yes.

Interviewer: Do you receive any medical benefits?

Ms. Bond: No.

Interviewer: Do you still socialize with people you used to work with?

Ms. Bond: Yes. They have this thing, Ike Effingham, I think he's president, it's a retirees' union down at the clubhouse that's across the street from Owens and that's all people that retired from Owens. The shift that I worked, which was B shift still has a club and anyone that worked at Owens or is a relative can belong to it. They have a meeting about once a month but this other, retirees union, I joined the YWCA and they have a conference club meeting the same day so I go to one once in a while and then the other one. Then there's a group off of D shift or any shift that wants to go that meets down at Captain D's down at 14th Street West on the

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second Wednesday of the month. And there's two or three of them that I walk with in the park. So I stay in touch with quite a few of them.



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