

War Era Story Project 2012

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Age: 95

World War II

The thing I recall during W.W.II for us at home was the shortage of food and other items. Coffee and sugar were two items that were rationed. I lived at home with my parents and sister and since my sister and I didn't drink coffee, my parents didn't notice the shortage of coffee. Whenever there was a shortage of other items, you would notice a line in the stores when they had an item that was in short supply. I would always get in line even if I didn't want the item because I would know of someone who would want it. I didn't smoke but there was a short supply of cigarettes, so I got them for my friends.

Liquor was rationed, but not rum, so rum became a popular drink with cola. Someone wrote a song – "Rum & Cola". One day on my lunch hour I noticed a line in front of the Liquor Store it was a week before Christmas, so I got in line. While waiting, who should come by but my boss and his wife and they teased me about being in line. After I purchased the liquor and came out of the store, who was in line but my boss and his wife.

There was also a shortage of nylon hose, so women in warm weather painted their legs with makeup. Those day women wore dresses or skirts, no trousers.

I was only in my 20's so most of the men my age were in service, so I wrote quite a few letters on "V Mail, (short messages). To pass the time while most male friends were gone, we played golf or bowled. Luckily, most of my friends returned home and only one was injured. When the war was declared over, many people gathered downtown to celebrate. It was a "great day".

During the war President Roosevelt made a visit to Dayton. He visited Wright Field and the Veterans Hospital and I saw him again on his return. I had no other choice, as I rode the Street Car and there were none running until he returned to the Field. I was happy to wait because he has always been my favorite President. He did so much for our country. Sorry to say he didn't survive World War II