

War Era Story Project 2012

Submitted by: Helen Mesko

Current home town: Grove City, Ohio

Age: 88

I graduated from Lorain High School in January, 1942, and finding a job was not easy. My first job was at a Jewish delicatessen in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. My best friend Helen worked there as well. We both lived at the owner's home and they were so kind to us.

While working at the delicatessen, a friend called to tell me of job openings at the Western Automatic Machine Screw Company in Elyria, Ohio. They made nuts and bolts for aircraft, and with the government ramping up production of everything for the war effort, they had job openings. I was hired as an inspector, along with two other young women. We had to examine the pieces to make sure they passed inspection. If the piece was too small, an inspector had to go into the factory to have it corrected. If it was too big, it was scrapped. The women working on the machines in the factory were not happy when their pieces were rejected or when they had to stop to correct a piece, since they were paid by the piece! Our hours were 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week. We were told that we had to wear uniforms so that the men working in the plant would not be distracted!

My brother Adam was in the Air Force while I was working on the home front. Shortly after I turned 21 years of age, a friend and former classmate called to say goodbye and that she was leaving for Tiffin University to participate in a three-month Federal Government program to train women. She was to be paid while in training. I was so excited and wanted to sign up as well! I had to get permission from my boss to quit my job, which he gave since he thought it was a good deal. After the training was completed, we were to be sent to Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. The training included eight hours of typing, shorthand and spelling each day. During the last week of training, Japan surrendered and the war was over!

We were told to go home, but my friend and I did not want to go back to Lorain. Our instructor told us that his sister lived in Columbus and worked for the State of Ohio and could find a job for us, which she did. My friend went to work in the Department of Insurance and I worked in the Department of Commerce, Savings and Loan Division, as secretary to the Chief Examiner. When I retired after 42½ years, I was Deputy Superintendent for Administration. Over the years, I had worked for many bosses, since they changed with each administration change. Looking back, I have had a good and interesting life!

Thank you to all who fought for us! May they not be forgotten!

**WAR DEPARTMENT
NOTIFICATION OF PERSONNEL ACTION TSPCP 4
(FIELD)**

1. Date: **May 28, 1945**

2. TO: **HELEN S. MESKO** 3. S. S. NO. [REDACTED]
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

4. THROUGH: Civilian Personnel Section, School Branch
Office in which Employed or to be Employed

This is to notify you of the following action concerning your employment. This action is subject to the provisions on the reverse hereof:

5. NATURE OF ACTION (Use standard terminology) War Service Indefinite Appointment	6. EFFECTIVE DATE May 28, 1945
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	(FROM)	(TO)
7. POSITION TITLE		Clerk
8. SERVICE GRADE AND SALARY		CAF-1, \$1260 per annum
9. FORCE AND SERVICE OR COMMAND		Army Air Forces Air Technical Service Command
10. INSTALLATION & LOCATION		Hq., ATSC Wright Field Dayton, Ohio
11. ORGANIZATION UNIT		
12. DUTY STATION & LOCATION		Per-422-5

13. REMARKS:

Appointment is made subject to satisfactory report on character investigation.

For the Commanding Officer:

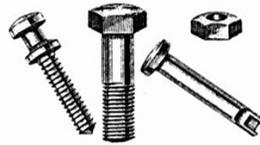
Benjamin E. Sullivan

 BENJAMIN E. SULLIVAN
 Major, Air Corps
 Civ. Personnel Officer

EMPLOYEE

THE WESTERN AUTOMATIC MACHINE SCREW CO.

STANDARD SET AND CAP SCREWS
SOCKET SET AND CAP SCREWS
NUTS, STUDS AND TAPER PINS
SCREW MACHINE PRODUCTS
HARDENED AND GROUND PARTS
MACHINING OF CASTINGS.
FORGINGS, AND STAMPINGS.
ASSEMBLIES - COMPLETE



Screw Machine Products

SALES OFFICES
106 ATWATER ST., EAST.
DETROIT 26, MICH.
641 ENGINEERS BLDG.
CLEVELAND 14, OHIO

ELYRIA, OHIO

June 15, 1945

Mrs. Helen Mesko
107 Perry Street
Tiffin, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Mesko:

We are attaching payroll check #27378
in the amount of \$25.83 to cover your pay
ending May 27, 1945.

Very truly yours,

THE WESTERN AUTOMATIC MACHINE SCREW CO.

T. E. MILLER
Paymaster

TEM:ek
Enc.-1



**EMPLOYEE
EARNINGS AND
DEDUCTIONS
STATEMENT**

ARMY AIR FORCES
Air Technical Service Command

#6644-6 MESKO, HELEN S.

HOURS	EARNINGS & DEDUCTIONS	AMOUNT OF CHECK	VOUCHER NO.	LAST DAY OF PAY PERIOD	CODE
144:00	B 104.26	95.32		AUG 25 45	A—Without Pay B—Regular Salary C—Overtime Amount D—Reimbursement E—Federal Tax G—Retirement H—Bond Deductions J—Subsistence K—Quarters L—Other Deductions R—Bond Refund Δ—Bond Balance
16:00	C 17.38				
	S 121.64				
	E 21.10				
	G 5.22				
	∇ 15.00				



The Western Automatic Crew

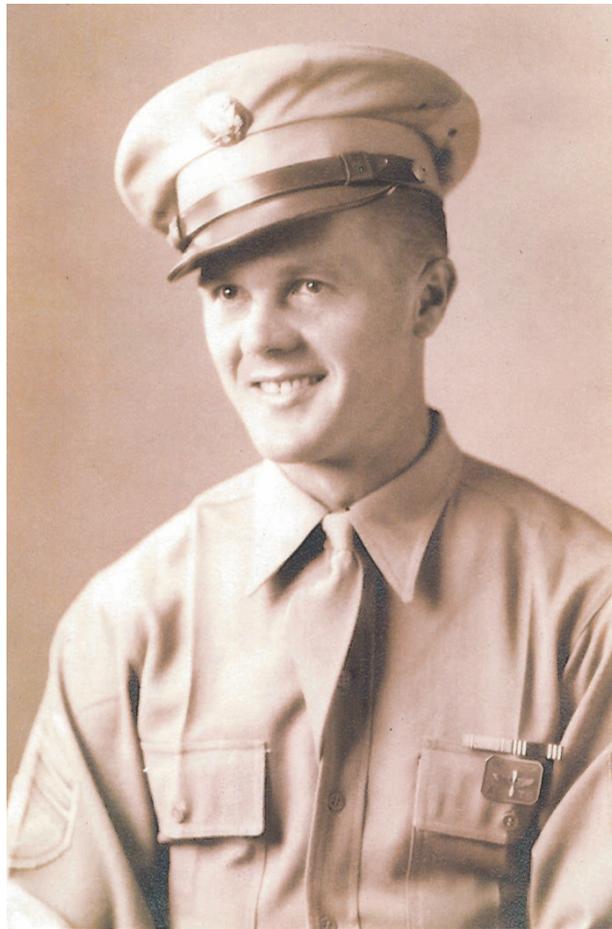
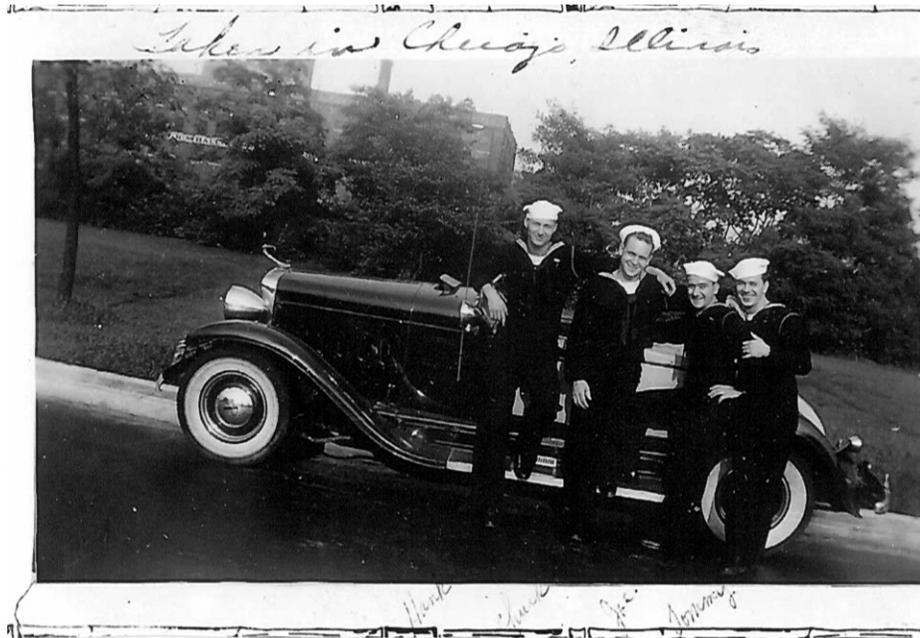


The Western Automatic Crew



“The Girls” at Western Automatic

Our Boys



Adam Mesko, Brother



Friends