

TE: Yes. You learned as the season went on.

GR: Did you recall ever any injuries that you... any serious injuries?

TE: Not with Milwaukee.

GR: O.K.

TE: I think with another team I had broken my ankle. Fibia bone and I was... (tape runs out).

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2

TAPE 2, SIDE 1

GR: Alright then, continuing on. O.K. I really want to focus on this next catagory which is World War II, and we understand that one of the reasons Philip Wrigley started the All-American Girls League was part of what he considered keeping baseball alive during the war, um, also some patriotism and things like that. And did you see your role as a professional baseball player as patriotic during this time? Did you feel you were part of the war effort? You know, entertaining people at home and keeping baseball alive? Did you have any feelings like that?

TE: Yes, I did. I felt that we were out there to entertain and to help with the war effect because people had to do something. And, of course, this was really before television and people had to get out and do things and you had to be very careful, when the war was on, about lights on the west coast here. And when you were back there, why the people had to get out. They had to do things and I felt that those teams, once they got all their fans behind them, that they really enjoyed it.

GR: O.K. Did you, um... did you have family or friends that served during WW.II?

TE: I had a brother that was in the maritime service on a ship.

GR: O.K. Were there any other kind of things that you and your teammates did that helped the war effort? Did they, for instance, do team photographs saying buy war bonds or anything like that? Did you ever have to do any talks or meet the press beforehand and possibly talk about the war effort? Was there anything like that? Meeting the press before a game?

TE: I'm trying to remember in Milwaukee. I remember being, going to a theater one time and

they introduced us on the stage and the girls got up and gave a little talk. But I don't really recall if it was about the war effort at that time.

GR: O.K. Did you do anything outside of baseball to help the war effort or was it just that you felt your role as a Chick was enough?

TE: Before I went back with the Chicks, why I did work in some of the factories to help the war effort. Well, I can tell about that now. I didn't know if you wanted that later in the interview?

GR: Sure, we can cover that now.

TE: Yeah. Well, during 1942-43, I worked for Lockheed which was, you know, the aircraft. They made those P38's, you know, airplanes that flew all over. Fighter-planes. And I worked there and also, just before we went back to spring training, I worked for Western Pipe & Steel in the Todd(?) shipyards in San Pedro, California. They had a softball team and they wanted the girls to come down there and play and entertain. And they gave us jobs. So, and that was wonderful too. And from there, why then when the tryouts came for the All-American, why then we all went down and tried out and then left and felt that we were doing our job helping the war effort by going back and playing ball in the ball league.

GR: Right. Right, ok. That's interesting. Um, let's see. What do you think the role of women was during the war? You know, we often read about that image of Rosie the Riveter and ladies going into the factories and things like that. And basically everybody pitching in and doing what they could to help but what do you recall for yourself and the role of women in general? What do you think that was during the war? Was that to, um, more just to be a comfort and help out or was it more of an active, changing role for women?

TE: Well, before that you know, women were supposed to be home taking care of the kids and the husband went out and worked all the time. When the war came and the women got out and they were beginning to see, to do anything. You could train a woman as well as you could a man. Maybe not physically but we had brains too (laughs). And it made a big difference. I think it changed the United States in their view of women and what they could do. And they were back home doing all the work ~~that~~ had to be done to get the war over. I personally felt that I was doing my job and I knew that I could do anything if I had the right training. And it made a big difference in the women. The thing that set the women back was when the war ended.

GR: Right. Uh-huh, and that even changed the league somewhat.

TE: That's right. It did. Definitely.

GR: O.K. Now we were reading that Dorothy Maguire thought that she had lost her husband in the war. Do you remember how the team reacted to that?

TE: Well, she never said too much but she went out and played ball. And you know, that night when she heard that news, what can you say. You just go out and do what you have to. She was wonderful.

GR: Do you recall any other teammates losing a friend or a family member during the '44 season?

TE: No, I don't.

GR: Alright, um, is there anything else you can recall about the war while a member of the Chicks team? Is there anything that stands out? Where you were when you maybe heard the news of a certain battle or anything like that?

TE: No, but everybody kept in touch with the newspapers and what was going on. And it was, you know, why we were all young and hoping it would be over soon. You never wanted to see who was lost. That was a sad, terrible thing, people who had lost their lives.

GR: Yeah, yeah. Do you think perhaps that if you would've gone to the All-American Girls League, that you well, would you have stayed with the factory work? Would you have ever joined any type of branch of the services?

TE: I think I would have stayed with the factory work because I enjoyed the work that I was doing. I liked to work with my hands, and I know that some of the ladies that I knew back there retired from the factories there, like Lockheed. They worked there many years and got very good positions as they went on, you know, in life. And it worked out just fine for them.

GR: So you have a feeling that's probably what would have happened to you if the league would've come along?

TE: Probably.

GR: O.K. Um, let's see. Now after 1944 and the winning of the championship, when did you... did you go home at that point then? Did you leave right for Los Angeles?

TE: Yes, uh-huh. I went home every year.

GR: Every year?

TE: Yes, back to Los Angeles.

GR: O.K. When, where did you find out that the Chicks were going to be moving to Grand Rapids? How did you hear about the dissolving of the Milwaukee branch?

TE: By letter.

GR: By letter from Max Carey or...

TE: No. Well from... I believe from... that uh the Chicks and there was another team that were sponsored by the league. The other teams were I think. They had trustees, oh, I guess it was Milwaukee and Minneapolis.

GR: Minneapolis Orphans?

TE: Were run, controlled by a board of trustees. And we recieved a letter from the business manager at the time, you know, telling us they were gonig to be moving and, you know, of course I was still with the team because I signed a contract. So, I went to Milwaukee, I mean to Grand Rapids the next year.

GR: O.K. so you did go to Grand Rapids?

TE: Yes, I did go to Grand Rapids.

GR: And at Grand Rapids you continued to play in the outfield?

TE: Yes.

GR: And that was for the '45 season then?

TE: The '45 season.

GR: And who was the manager of that team then? Do you recall?

TE: Gosh, I can't remember that. Let's see, maybe it was Bennie Myers. You know I can't recall. I have a book upstairs. Gee I should have...

GR: That's no problem.

TE: You can ask Alma Ziegler. She'll know. She stayed with the Chicks forever.

GR: Oh, I see. Yeah she's going to be... when they went to Grand Rapids, she stayed.

TE: Yes, that's where she finished.

GR: How long did you actually play in the league then?

TE: I was there until 1952.

GR: O.K. So could you kind of tell me... you were with the Chicks first...

TE: I was with the Chicks and then in 1946 they added two new teams. One of them was the Peoria Redwings and what they did then was to allocate players, good players from some of the other teams like Grand Rapids. Grand Rapids had four outfielders. Pat Keagle was still with them. I was still with them. Vicky Panos. I think Vicky Panos was still there. And they didn't <sup>need</sup> all these players, good players. So they took good players to help the new teams, so I was sent to Peoria. And I played there for a year and a half.

GR: O.K. So that was '46 and then part of '47?

TE: Yes, '46 and part of '47.

GR: O.K. and then from...

TE: And then from... in '47 they had the biggest trade in the league. The first and the big one (laughs). And they traded Faye Dancer for Tiby Eisen and I went to Fort Wayne and Faye went to Peoria.

GR: Oh, ok. So you went to the Daisies then?

TE: Right.

GR: Alright.

TE: And then I stayed with the Daisies until my last year in 1952. I palyed through that season.



GR: O.K. and when did your injury occur?

TE: That was probably with Grand Rapids in '45.

GR: So that halved your season there basically? Or did that occur beginning, middle, end of the season?

TE: You know I don't recall if that was '44 or '45 now come to think of it. I did... oh, it must have been. Arthur Myerhoff was in charge of everything then, and he was a wonderful man because he, I had hurt myself and could'nt work and during the off-seson he sent me a check every month to help pay my expenses for my injury. Which I thought was wonderful because I could'nt work at that time.

GR: Yeah. So if you would'nt have had the injury, though, normally when you went home, you would work?

TE: That's right. You're contract ended when the season ended. But he was a very nice man. In fact he wanted me to stay back in Chicago one time. I was looking for a career of some type and he thought maybe I could fit into his company. But it didn't work out that way. I was to inhibited (laughter). You know, like I said, he needed somebody that was aggressive to go out. He had an advertising agency and he needed people to go out to get advertisements. I could hardly open my mouth (laughs). It didn't work out.

GR: No. What ... you had mentioned earlier that you had taken some college courses prior to playing. What types of courses were those?

TE: It was city college. Mainly math courses. Algebra, you know, things like that. To sharpen my brain a little bit.

GR: I see. I was wondering if those courses, you know, in terms of a career that you were looking for? Some type of position?

TE: All... as I say, all the things I wanted to do. I was so inhibited. I didn't know how to push myself. That came later (laughs). Much later (laughter).

GR: O.K. So then you ended up with the Fort Wayne Daisies and you played your last game with them in 1952? Um, can you explain how you felt during your final game? Was it ... what was that like? Was it at home or on the road?

TE: Well, at that time, I really didn't know I was going to retire. It was after I got home and I woke up one day and thought I don't know how to do anything to earn a living. And it dawned on me that I had better get busy. Times a wasting, and so this was when I went out looking for a job. And I did find one and I decided not to go back to play ball. Mainly also because my muscles at that time... my lower back wasn't in too good of shape. You know, you get injuries without realizing it and I thought it was best not to play anymore.

GR: O.K. so you, you kind of made that decision after the season ended. So you didn't really know... it wasn't like the last game, you didn't know it was the last game?

TE: Right. No, I didn't.

GR: O.K. I see. Um, so could you tell me then after you made the decision to leave, how did you... did you write anybody to let them know or phone anybody to say...

TE: Well, when they sent the contracts out, I wrote back and took care of that. That I would be retiring and wouldn't be coming back.

GR: I see. And then at that point, what kind of numbers did you retire with? In terms of, did you have a lifetime batting average and base stealing? Anything like that? Do you recall any numbers?

TE: No, I don't recall now. I'd have to look it up in a record book somewhere.

GR: That's no problem. No problem. Um, just to kind of back track briefly. How did you ... when World War II ended, how did you... the end of the war? Were you just relieved for the country that it was over? Was there any personal...

TE: Oh, well we were relieved. Coming back to California, you know, we had black outs here, and it was so wonderful to be able to live like a human being again (laughs). You know what I mean?

GR: Yeah, that is true. I do recall... I mean I do remember now from various classes that the west coast really had to handle it a whole different way.

TE: Oh yes we did because you never knew. There was one time I remember that they thought, you know, the enemy was coming and submarines on the coast of California. Santa Barbara and they were shooting off Ack-ack guns here. I tell you it was scary. We thought we were being attacked. And they did find a submarine or something if I remember correctly, you

know, at that time. So it was quite a relief to know that we were gonna be living a normal life again and also that, you know, they did have rationing here at one time too. It was wonderful to be back (laughs) to normal.

GR: O.K. Now then in '52 you decide you need to start thinking about the future. Did you have any idea that the league would be ending just two years later? Was there any sense that fan attendance was declining? Declining steadily, um, or it was just a very personal decision that didn't have any influence on that then?

TE: No, it didn't have any influence then. But I could see that they weren't drawing the fans, you know, like they were. Fort Wayne had, at that particular time, had some great fans. They were very loyal to the team. But the league itself I think was having a problem with the people that owned the franchise, you know. And particularly some of the hotel people that owned, you know, there was money they had to dig up to pay the girls and so on and I think it was becoming a problem in most of the towns. But that didn't have any decision on my part, my retiring. I thought I had to go out and find something to do for the rest of my life (laughter).

GR: O.K. So then... that is my next question. What did you do then after you left the league in 1952?

TE: Well, after I left the league, I looked around for a job. I really couldn't do too much except for what I did during the war years, you know. Lockheed. I could do electro-mechanical things and so after looking and looking, I found a local job in Santa Monica, California at a place that did work for the Navy and the Army and so on. They made, it was called pressure transducers and medical instruments and it was called Statum Instruments. And Mr. Statum was a scientist and an inventor, and he helped to develop the first heart, you know, that Dr. Gulbankie(?) did. They did all that in his factory there. Why, he helped to design pressure transducers that they used during the war for measuring and for the... what am I trying to say, for the first hearts that they did. And he was just a brain that man and so anyway I worked for him for seven, eight years. And then they moved the place to a new factory. They went about 50 miles away from here and I didn't quite know what I wanted to do because I didn't want to move actually. So I stayed in the area here and quit my job and went out looking for another job. Finally did find one with GTE (laughs).

GR: Oh and what did you do for them?

TE: Well, it all seems to fall in place. I was one of the first women that they hired to work on their switches in their switchroom. And I didn't know anything about telephones or switches or anything but I think I got a college education with them (laughs). They keep sending you



to school. You know, and there were four or five of us that did that type of work. I loved it.

GR: When... what was the year you started with GTE?

TE: Oh golly, now let me think about that (laughter), um... I don't know. But I know I retired in 1986. So then about 17 or 18 years.

GR: O.K. I see. So then that was a good move (laughs).

TE: Yes it was. You know people say they didn't pay women as much as men, but they did when I worked for them anyway. And they were very fair and I wasn't a youngster anymore. They hired me anyway in my 40's.

GR: That's great. At that time did you continue to play baseball?

TE: That's what I was going to get to. That once we came back to Los Angeles. Why Orange County, which is not Los Angeles, had a women's softball league in the early 30's. They were world champions and they had asked me... well no, that's not true. In 1952, most of the girls that played in the All-American came back to California and we got up a team of some softball players. And some of the girls that played in <sup>the</sup> All-American and we wanted to get into the league in Los Angeles but they wouldn't let us in because we hit the ASA, the Amateur Softball Association, wouldn't let us in because we had played professional baseball. But they said that if we stayed out for two years, in two years we wouldn't be as good as we were, they would let us come back into the league and they would give us our card. I couldn't believe that either so we did that. We got a team together. And people like Lois Florikes, I don't know if you know the name or not?

GR: I'm not familiar with her.

TE: The Rockford Peaches. A wonderful pitcher, and Dorothy Doyle that played for the Peaches. We all lived in California. We got a team together and we beat every softball team they had around there (laughter) for two years. So, I finally got my card back. Then I had a chance to play for the City of Orange. The Orange Lionettes. We went out in 1953, '54, and '55 and won the world championships back to back in softball with the ASA. So I did do that and I played with them until 1957 and then I thought it was time to retire (laughs).

GR: Officially?

TE: Right.

GR: Did you ever do any coaching then or anything like that for any of those softball teams?

TE: No, I didn't do any of that. What I did do after that then in 1958, '59, and '60 and so on... I still wanted to do some kind of sports so I joined a field hockey association where they had a lot of the colleges play on the coast here so I played field hockey for 4 or 5 years. And I enjoyed that very much. And then I thought it was time (laughter) that I quit running around because the body wasn't holding up to well (laughter).

GR: And now you play ...

TE: I golf.

GR: That's right because you said something, I believe, about a lucheon today.

TE: Right. At noon. Yeah, I joined... I took up golf and I went to a college out here because I really didn't know how to play very well. You know, I'd pitch and putt a little bit. And I went to a college like I said. I went there four years to get a PhD in golf (laughter). But I had a wonderful teacher there and they had senior citizens, you know, that could join in. And I learned... they start from the very beginning. This is a club, all the different parts of it, how it's put together. They spend, you know, a few lessons on that and then they go on out to the field and they show you how to hit and what to do. So I had four years of that. I'm an average golfer but I certainly enjoy it.

GR: Good. Yeah, that's nice. It's nice to do something.

TE: Well, I'm much older now and I'm not competing with anyone. I'm just having fun.

GR: Right. O.K. Now you mentioned earlier that you've been to a couple of reunions for the All-American Girls? Or you had at least mentioned Dorothy Maguire's son coming?

TE: Yes, in 1982, just before that we had a newsletter that started going out and we decided that we would have a players association where we could get together every few years to see how everybody is and so on. And so we had one in 1982, the first one, and it was wonderful. We had it in Chicago and it was just loaded with friends and people that played that are still around. We had a wonderful time. We spent four or five days in Chicago. Then we had another one about two years later and then in 1988, of course, the players association. We went into Cooperstown and had this display. And then, since then I'm on the players associa-

tion board of directors. And we have a meeting a couple of times a year, you know, for our aims and things that we want to do for our history. So we're going to be having another reunion in Indian Wells, California which is in the Palm Springs area at the end of this year in October. So we're planning it now and it's going to be wonderful.

GR: How many people are involved with this?

TE: The players association?

GR: Right.

TE: Well, we have associate members also who are family members and there's probably 300 or 400 people that are involved in it. And it's just been grand because everybody keeps in touch and we have a newsletter that goes out. Dottie Collins sends it out. I guess you know her?

GR: Yes, yes.

TE: And she sends it out and they've done some very good things, I think, in keeping the All-American name, you know, present.

GR: Right. Yeah, I know they really have. We've been lucky enough to get some information from Cooperstown and also from South Bend and the Northern Indiana Historical Society has been very helpful.

TE: Oh yes they have.

GR: Did you see the movie "A League of Their Own"?

TE: Oh yes. I was in the cast.

GR: O.K. I'm wondering what you thought of that representation of the...

TE: Well, I thought it was a great movie, great entertainment but it didn't all happen that way (laughter). But that's Hollywood you know. I think they made up a story but the background was real. I thought it was lovely. I really enjoyed it.

GR: That's great. O.K. Kind of in the final questions. What I'm gonna do here is turn my tape off...

END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 1

TAPE 2, SIDE 2

GR: O.K. There we go. What was your most important memories of your time with the Milwaukee Chicks? Is there anything as we've been talking that really stands out in your mind?

TE: Well, I'm trying to think. That first year we were concentrating on baseball period and well there were a few games in there that was important. I remember one time running into the shortstop. I was out in the outfield and we clashed together. We both split our chins. Bleeding all over the place from the impact (laughs). I always remember that (laughter).

GR: I would say.

TE: But nothing really outstanding other than I was particularly so busy trying to learn the game and keep my head above water so I wouldn't lose my spot. There was another time I do remember I got up off the bench and went out to pick up a bat and Terry Davis, did I say...

GR: There was a Gladys Davis.

TE: Gladys Davis right. They called her Terry. She was swinging a bat and I didn't see it. And I got right in her line and that's the first time I ever saw stars in my life (laughter). And you know, little things like that I remember. To take care, you don't want to get injured (laughs). Yeah, but I guess the most outstanding thing to me was when we won the championship and we received our pins. I was just thrilled to death. I still have that pin and every once in a while I look at it. 1944 Milwaukee Chicks (laughs).

GR: Great. How about your most important memories of your whole time with the league? Anything that...

TE: With the league itself? Um, well after the season, I think it was late 50's, 40's, they had two teams that travelled in Central and South America and I was on one of the teams. And I remember going to Nicaragua and in '49, still quite young, and I remember meeting the President of the country. They took the two teams into the palace and introduced us to the President and entertained us royally. We were still kids and I had never really been out of the country and... like that, you know, and it was just marvelous to be able ... to see how other people lived. Because in Nicaragua at that time they were still washing their clothes in the rivers, you know, and banging them with sticks to get them clean. They still had the... I re-

member the oxens. The oxens, they were pulling the carts, you know. We played on some ball field that was out in the sticks and the seats were all stone. But the people came out to see us. It was amazing.

GR: Was that... it was a promotional tour then this...

TE: Well, it was ... I think what it had to do was one of the men. See we had three Cuban ball-players.

GR: Oh, ok. That's right.

TE: And they wanted to try to tour a Cuban team and an American team. And so when they did that why one of the men that owned a distillery in Havana helped pay for some of the expenses. And we took the Cuban team with us and so it was advertised all over, all through that area there that <sup>an</sup> American team and a Cuban team would be playing. And they had beautiful ladies and be sure and come out. And so when we got to Nicaragua, why they really went all out for us. I was amazed at how the people lived. The rich lived very rich and the poor were down there in the river washing their clothes. It made quite an impression. So, the league did a lot of things for me personally. That if I had'nt played, I don't know if I would be the person that I am today which I think I've lived a pretty good life.

GR: That is kind of my next question was, do you feel that being a member of the Chicks and the All-American Girls Baseball League changed your life in any way? And you just touched upon that. Um, could you elaborate a little bit more on that? I know we talked earlier about gaining personal confidence and things like that.

TE: Like I had said, that I was really inhibited. I had so much inside that I didn't know how to get it out. I think the ball league did that for me. That we got to meet people and we had to get up and learn how to speak and say things, you know, to meet fans. And it just gave me a lot of self-confidence.

GR: Good. And friendships and all of that.

TE: Oh yes and friendships that I still have you know. People that I played ball with.

GR: Now did you keep in touch with Max Carey at all or...

TE: Um, to a point. See, he became President of the league later on. So after that first year, not too much but whenever he'd come to town to see how the different teams were doing, we'd



always have conversation and a cup of coffee and so on. But other than that why no.

GR: Um, how do you perceive the significance of the All-American Girls League in U.S. history, in sports history in particular?

TE: Well, I really think they were the first organized professional baseball team that they had. The first. They have had other players that played in games and you hear about them, you know, that the women played on men's teams and so on. I've read some articles about it which is wonderful. But you know when we had, when we were in Cooperstown, I met two little ladies that played in 1925. I couldn't believe it. They were in their 80's.

GR: Wonderful.

TE: It was really. I was so thrilled to meet them, and they told us about the baseball team that they played on. But I don't think they were organized and saw the salary like the All-American. So we were really... we considered ourselves and, I think we're right, as the first women's baseball team. Another league you know. They had the American League and the National League and I feel there was the All-American Women's League and there was the Negro League, of course. So I think there were really four.

GR: That's interesting. I mean I had heard of the league through, basically the first time I had heard of it was through the movie "A League Of Their Own" and the documentary that circulated.

TE: Oh, did you see the documentary?

GR: Yes, uh-huh.

TE: I was in there quite a bit.

GR: Well, you know I guess we're going to have to watch it again.

TE: Yes, you're going to go have to watch it again. That's the documentary that KCE did.

GR: Right.

TE: Yeah, right.

GR: O.K. Yeah, we had seen that... I had seen that a long time ago and then we watched it as a

class last semester. And, um, but I do recall and you know I had never heard of it before, you know. And it was so interesting to me that women were out there doing this and, um, playing as hard and as well as they played in the 1940's. Really that they could compete and I thought that was just wonderful and I guess now with your players association and being in Cooperstown and then having the, uh, information... while it's kind of scattered around the country but it's out there. And more and more people are finding out about it and reading about it. And it kind of sounds like a member of the players association that you, you believe that it's important to tell your experiences and...

TE: Our story. Exactly and that's why we think that we're trying to get younger people to take care of the archives for us.

GR: Yes, yes.

TE: And I know there are so many that are interested because I've gone... well when the league, when the movie "A League Of Their Own" first came out, we went to the theater locally here in Santa Monica and, as we were coming out of the theater, I saw a mother with some little kids and she kept staring and staring and finally she came up and said "do I know you or were you in the movie?" And I was with Faye Dancer and another lady there and I said no, I said but we were in the documentary and she said "that's were I saw you". Now, see they saw that on KCET, which is our local public television, and I was shocked (laughter) that people know me, you know, and Faye. But we were in that and they remembered. So apparently it's made an impact.

GR: Yes, yes. Well just with this class project, um, you know that's a small, small part of it all. And then what we're going to do with this information is we'll not only keep it in Milwaukee but I have hopes to, um, get copies of not necessarily the tapes but the transcripts sent. We had talked about that a couple weeks ago. Sent to South Bend at least, um, because that will be nice for them to have on record and then if anybody wanted to get their hands on the actual tapes, they'd know that they were here in Milwaukee. So...

TE: You know I don't know if you know Dr. Janice Taylor?

GR: Ah, no.

TE: Yeah, yeah. She has done some tapes that are marvelous and she won a prize for... I think she taught at the University in Chicago there. And she is an associate member of our league. She has done some wonderful tapes and she has won prizes for them. When we had our reunion in '82 and '84, she came with a T.V. camera and her crew by the University and took

all these wonderful pictures and interviews. You might be interested in seeing them sometime.

GR: Yes, definitely.

TE: Get hold of Dottie Collins and ask her about them because she knows.

GR: O.K. That's great information. Certainly. Well, um, that covers all of the questions that I had. And I'd just like to thank you very much for taking the time this morning.

TE: Oh, you're welcome.

GR: And doing this with me. It really has been a neat experience, the whole project, but in particular finally speaking with you. So, um, I'm gonna turn the tape off now.

TE: Alright.

END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 2

END OF INTERVIEW