and got out. And it was pick-up business as usual.

M: So there were a number of young ladies from West Allis that played elsewhere?

V: Oh yeah, yeah. There was as I say - Marge Peters, Jackie Loundgarden, ah, Betty Machinski, ah, Ellen Tranier who was originally from Milwaukee, although she lives in some other "burg" now, I guess. These are the people well, I'm still involved with them. We got out to lunch every couple months or so. So it's just a friendship that lasted. I mean, we had things in common - our lives are not the same. I do talk to Marge Peters quite frequently because she and I are buddies from way back when we were little kids.

Tape 2, Side 1.

M: At the conclusion of the war was there a large celebration in Milwaukee?

V: Oh yes, lots of - the town was like an idiot place.

M: Parades?

V: Parades galore, parties everything. At that time I'd really gone back to play in West Allis for a little bit and when the war was over, I think I was having my hair done, and they tracked me down and it was all - "get together we're meeting - we're gonna have a party." It was just - yes this is it it's over we can resume our lives.

M: Did your husband come home immediately?

V: Shortly thereafter, yeah. See Dan had been in the Navy when he was a kid. I think he lied about his age to get in, and I was rather upset with him when I found out he allowed himself to be drafted into the Army. Whereas, if he had stayed with the Navy he would have been something
else besides a buck sergeant of some kind.
M: He got out of the service at the end of the war?
V: Yeah.
M: And what did he do?
V: He started working for Railway Express. Like I said he was in the motor pool and quite a good driver and he liked to play around with cars and things like this. So, it was an obvious thing he was going to do - there weren't that many jobs available at that point without the normal amount of training or background.
M: When did you leave baseball for good?
V: I think it was probably around '49 or '50, someplace in there.
M: And why did you leave?
V: Starting to feel a lot of the injuries that I got besides being on crutches for a month because somebody slid into me and then my mother was a little bit instrumental in that she said, "I think it's time you grew up and realized you can't last forever doing this."
M: How did you feel about leaving the game?
V: I felt badly at first, but then I thought no - my mom's probably right. I got a lot of living to do and I won't do it if I'm gonna keep getting cracked up. I didn't have brains enough to get out of the way. I blocked bases, I did dumb things which was part of the game to me but they were dumb. As you start to get a little bit older you start to realize the body isn't gonna take this much longer.
M: Did you have your mind set on a particular career when you left baseball?
V: Just in office work of some kind. I was in PR as your probably recognize I can chat away for hours and hours on end. But ah, the challenge of doing things that basically are men's jobs. Talking to high people in the industries.
It's always a challenge to me. I like challenges.

M: Did you encounter any opposition to any jobs that you applied for?

V: No, not really. Like I said - I worked when I was in school for my dad. The minute I got out of school I started to work, so it wasn't really a drag time. My dad wanted me to go to college and I didn't see any reason to go to college. So I didn't go to college. I just went with street smarts and said "OK, here I am, take me or leave."

M: You mentioned that you've kept in contact with many or some of the teammates. Have you been able to attend any of the reunions?

V: No, I haven't gone to them to be honest with you. I realize the fact that we're all older and I'm saying oh my God, I'll probably run into one of my teammates and wouldn't even know her. I'd feel like a jerk.

M: A little bit like high school reunions.

V: (Laughs) High school reunions I didn't go to either. It's that same feeling - I don't know - I love parties and things it doesn't bug me in the least. I guess it's meeting up with people that you knew many, many, years ago - everything has changed and you say oh my goodness you are so and so. It just - I don't know, to talk about - like baseball - you probably realized I haven't been gung-ho to get into this much. I just don't feel I was that great. I didn't really add that much that was going to change anything about me or about anybody. It's just - yes, the memories are there I'm not going to deny that but ah, I figure if I had it to do over again I don't even know if I would.

M: Really? (Pause) In the movie A League of Their Own, what single aspect of that movie was the most realistic?

V: The actual playing. They did a lot of things that we had done that in today's professional baseball and things - like I said, the sliding in on
your belly - I could sit there and relate to what they were doing and how they felt about it. They did a fantastic job with training these people.

M: Did that film spark any renewed interest in you about the All-American Girls Baseball League?

V: No. (Pause) I just figured it's over, it's done - I had my fun. God Bless everyone else who wants to do it.

M: What are the most important memories of your time with the Milwaukee Chicks?

V: I think it was the people I was playing ball with. They were interesting. I mean we had people from all stations of life. You had some of these gals who were models, you had some of the girls who were movie starlets. It was kind of exciting just to see what they were doing as compared to what I had done with my life.

M: Do you believe that your role with the Chicks was significant?

V: Oh in a way I guess it was. It instilled a lot of having faith in your fellow players - that you knew that it was just gonna be right. It seems to me that these people were very instrumental in maybe my attitudes towards other people now. We were really wide open and lost of fun, and understanding, considerate.

M: What is the significance of the baseball league in American history?

Do you believe there is one?

V: Well that too is kind of difficult to answer. Portraying the type of situation that we did and realized it a cover-up for the war years. Baseball in itself was a very, very, big part in the entertainment world of today. Regardless of what people think about the fantastic salaries - the prima donna situation of many of these players that kind of make you a little bit sick to your stomach when you realize - hey! I had a hangnail - I
wasn't allowed to sit on the bench and drag down a fantastic salary or say well I'm not gonna play if you're going to be like that about it.

This is an entirely different concept.

M: Do you get out to see much baseball anymore?

V: I don't even like to watch it on television. (Pause) I guess because I feel the way I do about it. They're just taking advantage of the American public, and we're allowing it to happen. It's like with this strike going on now. My own feeling is let 'em sit. I know a lot of other people that feel the same way but you've got a certain amount of people that can't live without it. Any of the other things I've had to give up in my life - I've found other things to fill in. I bowled till I couldn't anymore. That was fun, I enjoyed it - met a lot of nice people. I have a card club that meets here every Monday night that are former bowlers.

M: What are some of the big changes that you've seen in Milwaukee since the Second World War?

V: Well, there are so many. Of course all predicated mostly on a financial situation. Milwaukee is very conservative, they have been, they probably will be for the rest of their lives and people do not take kindly, in Milwaukee, to radical changes. I think anybody coming from out of town will probably recognize this is probably the biggest little town there is. People here are just not venturesome people, they are not gonna go jumping into something without knowing where they're going. Like I said, they're very conservative.

M: Do you believe it's important to tell about your experiences in the baseball league?

V: I don't know. I don't think it would have any significant meaning to anybody particularly - I don't know. A lot of people I know, my own
friends for example, they have fits when I say I'm not going to go to
Cooperstown right now. I may go there sometime, and I don't care
about having my picture plastered all over. It's just memorabilia to me
as far as yes I was there - yes I participated. Yes, I had a good time
and it's over let's get on with our lives. You can't do much more than
that.