

The Little White House NEWSLETTER



Roosevelt's Little White House - 706-655-5870 - 401 Little White House Rd. - Warm Springs, Ga. 31830

Summer Quarter 2015

Rosie the Riveter blazed a trail for women today

As the United States was engaged in total war, the daughters, mothers, sisters, wives and grandmothers of our nation went to work to help save our nation.

1942 started off gloomy and uncertain. The United States had just entered the Second World War and the Great Depression had not ended. Hundreds of thousands of men from across the nation were called up to serve in the armed forces. Meanwhile President Roosevelt motivated the country and called upon the nation to both gear up for war and be prepared to sacrifice for their country.

Factories opened their doors. Industries developed. All of a sudden thousands upon thousands of jobs were created to fuel our massive war effort. Riveters, buckers, sanders, welders, bullet makers, uniform makers, crane operators, clerks, assembly line operators, bus drivers and many many more people were needed to fill the roles of jobs traditionally held by men.

Women, from all over the country, teenagers, young adult and seniors stepped up to help win the war. They built tanks, ships,

airplanes, weapons, ammunition, landing craft and more. They worked together. They raised families. They lost loved ones overseas. Our daughters, sisters, mothers and grandmothers served our nation. They were, and are, the Greatest Generation.

***They Were Rosies!
Rosie The Riveter.***



Women learned new trades and skills never afforded before. They enjoyed the challenges set before them.



After the war, many women returned to traditional roles at home while others blazed new trails opening doors for women that had never been opened before.

"If I had been a boy, I would have been drafted. Working in the defense industry was my way of helping out in the war. We were helping our country."

Dr. Fran Carter, Founder American Rosie the Riveter Association



Geraldine Hoff Doyle was a 17-year-old high school graduate when she took a job at the American Broach & Machine Co. in her hometown of Ann Arbor, Mich., in 1942, a time when millions of women across the country were going to work to replace men who had gone to war. She had just graduated and felt she wanted to do something for the war effort.

Doyle was operating a metal-stamping machine when a United Press photographer took a picture of the tall, slender and glamorously beautiful brunette wearing a polka-dot bandana over her hair.

Her photo was used by artist J. Howard Miller to create a series of morale-building posters to inspire Westinghouse factory workers.

Doyle, who was not as muscular as the woman depicted in the poster, had no idea her photograph had been used as a model for Miller's poster until the mid-1980s. "You're not supposed to have too much pride, but I can't help to have some in that poster." Doyle told the Lansing State Journal in 2002. "It's just sad I didn't know it was me sooner," Doyle said. "Maybe it's a good thing. I couldn't have handled all the excitement then."

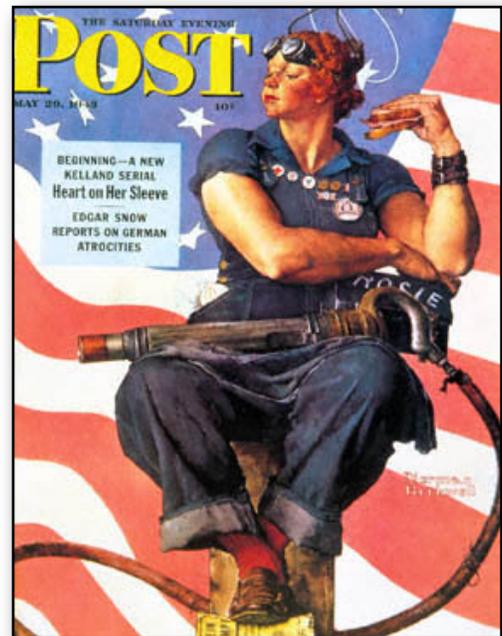
Mrs. Doyle died in 2010



Norman Rockwell's image of "Rosie the Riveter" received mass distribution on the cover of the Saturday Evening Post on Memorial Day, May 29, 1943. Rockwell's illustration features a brawny woman taking her lunch break with a rivet gun on her lap and beneath her penny loafer a copy of Hitler's manifesto, Mein Kampf. Her lunch box reads "Rosie" and viewers quickly recognized this to be "Rosie the Riveter" from the familiar song.

Rockwell's model was a Vermont resident, 19-year-old Mary Doyle (Keefe), who was a telephone operator near where Rockwell lived, not a riveter. Rockwell painted his "Rosie" as a larger woman than his model, and he later phoned to apologize. The Post's cover image proved hugely popular, and the magazine loaned it to the U.S. Treasury Department for the duration of the war, for use in war bond drives.

Mrs. Keefe died on April 21, 2015 in Connecticut at the age of 92





Rosie the Riveter appears to have come first in song, not in art. In 1942, a song titled "Rosie the Riveter" was written by Redd Evans and John Jacob Loeb and was issued by Paramount Music Corporation of New York. The song was released in early 1943 and was played on the radio and broadcast nationally. It was also performed by various artists with popular band leaders of that day.



While other girls attend their fav'rite
cocktail bar
Sipping Martinis, munching caviar
There's a girl who's really putting
them to shame
Rosie is her name

All the day long whether rain or shine
She's a part of the assembly line
She's making history,
working for victory
Rosie the Riveter
Keeps a sharp lookout for sabotage
Sitting up there on the fuselage
That little frail can do more than a
male will do
Rosie the Riveter

Rosie's got a boyfriend, Charlie
Charlie, he's a Marine
Rosie is protecting Charlie
Working overtime on the
riveting machine
When they gave her a production "E"
She was as proud as a girl could be
There's something true about
Red, white, and blue about
Rosie the Riveter

Everyone stops to admire the scene
Rosie at work on the B-Nineteen
She's never twittery, nervous or jittery
Rosie the Riveter
What if she's smeared full of
oil and grease
Doing her bit for the old Lendlease
She keeps the gang around
They love to hang around
Rosie the Riveter

Rosie buys a lot of war bonds
That girl really has sense
Wishes she could purchase
more bonds
Putting all her cash into national
defense
Senator Jones who is "in the know"
Shouted these words on the radio
Berlin will hear about
Moscow will cheer about
Rosie the Riveter!

MAKING HISTORY WORKING FOR VICTORY

Online Resources

- Ken Burns' The War, PBS
- "What Did You Do In The War Grandma?," Brown University
- Women and the Home Front During World War II, TeacherOz.com
- American Women's History: A Research Guide, World War II, Middle Tennessee State University Library

ROSIE IS HER NAME

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