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[Mary Kruppiak]

[???

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Folklore Collection (or Type)

Title Work experience

Place of origin Chciago, Illinois Date 4/5/39

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Project worker Betty Burke

Project editor

Remarks

W3619

Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

CHICAGO FOLKSTUFF

FORM A

Circumstances of Interview [??]

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

330 Words

May 18, 1939

STATE Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Betty Burke

ADDRESS 1339 South Troy Street

DATE April 5, 1939

SUBJECT Work Experience

Library of Congress

1. Date and time of interview - April 5, 1939
2. Place of interview - 51st Street & Ashland YWCA.
3. Name and address of informant - Mary Kruppiak, 5006 S. Winchester
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.

None

5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

None

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

YWCA stockyards center clubrooms, 2nd floor of bank building.

FORM B

Personal History of Informant

CHICAGO FOLKSTUFF

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

STATE Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Betty Burke

ADDRESS 1339 South Troy Street

Library of Congress

DATE April 5, 1939

SUBJECT

NAME OF INFORMANT Mary Kruppiak

1. Ancestry Russian-Slovak parentage
2. Place and date of birth Chicago, Illinois, stockyards area, 21 years old
3. Family - Seven members
4. Places lived in, with dates
5. Education, with dates - Grammar school, 2 1/2 - years high- commercial course
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates - housework, factory work and hotel work
7. Special skills and interests -
Likes anything new, she says.
8. Community and religious activities -
Belongs to YWCA, Greek Catholic, Very religious
9. Description of informant
Small, blue eyed, dollfaced, vivacious, friendly, seemingly open minded.
10. Other Points gained in interview

FORM C

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Text of Interview (Unedited)

CHICAGO FOLKSTUFF

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

STATE Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Betty Burke

ADDRESS 1339 South Troy Street

DATE April 5, 1939

SUBJECT Worker's Experience

NAME OF INFORMANT Mary Kruppiak (works at Armour & Company in string department, counting gut strings)

There's nothing to it - - all you have to do is spread out those gut strings and count them - - you might call it a wet job - - the tables and floors are always wet.

We get 52¢ an hour - about \$20 - it's really \$21.80 but by the time they take off for the Social Security it amounts to \$20 - 8 hours, forty hours. We're expecting a layoff but I hope it don't get here - foreman lets us talk if we keep busy, but it's not easy to talk and concentrate on counting, you know. It's our custom to sit around a big steam pipe talking and waiting for the starting whistle and one time four of us were talking and all of a sudden the steam pipe burst. I didn't get it but the three others got about a pail full of cold water over them. In about two seconds the steam started shooting out but they just barely got away before it hit them. They would have been scalded plenty. They looked like cats

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dragged through the gutter all day. You see they couldn't change clothes because we were busy then and they worked in west clothes all day. No, the foreman wouldn't let them go home.

FORM D

Extra Comment

CHICAGO FOLKSTUFF

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

STATE Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Betty Burke

ADDRESS 1339 South Troy Street

DATE April 5, 1939

SUBJECT Worker's Experiences

NAME OF INFORMANT Mary Kruppiak

We'd get the biggest kick out of this:

Down at our place there's five Stella's four Mary's and three John's at our table. It's really a picnic when the forelady starts calling for Stella or Mary or John. We have no relief period because the dressing room is about five minutes walk from our tables. I've worked there

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off and on just five months in the last three years - - you see they have so many lay offs all the time.