

THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

June 20, 1951

Description: In the opening segment, ER and respond to a listener's question regarding the burning of a communist controlled Malaysian Village by British soldiers. In the following segment, ER interviews Colonel Mary Hallaren, commanding officer of the Women's Army Corps (WAC).

Participants: ER, Elliot Roosevelt, Colonel Mary Hallaren

[ER:] How do you do, this is Eleanor Roosevelt. Every Monday through Friday my son Elliott and I have the opportunity to visit with you here in my living room at the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City. Each day it is our desire to bring interesting guests that we are hopeful you will enjoy meeting. Elliott, will you tell our listeners today's plans?

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Much of the mail Mrs. Roosevelt receives these days deals with the indecision of young women as to what course they should pursue: marriage or a career. The thought often being expressed that it is futile to concentrate on educating themselves in a specific profession. In some cases, the answer to these questions is a very simple, pleasant one, the Women's Army Corps. And with Mrs. Roosevelt today to tell about the WACs is its commanding officer Colonel Mary Hallaren [1907-2005], but before Mrs. Roosevelt introduces Colonel Hallaren, we will have a short discussion on a question which seems to be of interest to many of our listeners after we have had a few words from our announcer on behalf of the sponsors who make this recorded program possible.

[Break 1:28-1:41]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mr. Nicolas B. Sedita of Los Angeles, California has supplied our question for discussion today. Here is what he writes: "Perhaps you would agree with me that the first casualties of the Cold War have been such time honored words as 'democracy,' 'freedom,' and 'justice.' I'm afraid that the newer terms, 'free world' and 'human rights,' must be added to this growing list of terms which were once so useful and relatively understandable but which now must invariably be suspected of harboring an exactly opposite meaning, no matter which side uses them. As evidence I would like to draw your attention to the enclosed clipping taken from the *Los Angeles Times*. Is this the action--" incidentally the clipping from the *Los Angeles Times* the headline on it is "British to Burn Malay Village as Red Warning"--is this the action of a government which can be said to represent the cause of a free world? Is this a judicial procedure which could be countenanced within the US or more appropriately within the British Isles and still be called justice? Is this an answer to imperialistic despotism? Is this a concept of human rights, by which you are working in, which deserves to be defended by wars cold or hot. My dear Mrs. Roosevelt I do not doubt your sincerity or the importance of your work in the UN, nor is this a small scale snide attempt to undermine western unity. I wish only to stress that injustices and actions which contradict stated ideals mar the record of our own bloc, as well as the record of the communist bloc. Whichever side is more at fault, or more promising for the future are questions which are beside the point. Even if we could answer them dispassionately and objectively, what is to the point is that this is--that this atmosphere of power politics and military intimidation does not reduce these blemishes on the contrary it tends to make them the rule rather than the exception in both worlds. But worse it closes our eyes to the possibilities for solutions that are rational and peaceful even if competitive. But this is a discussion of principle when the lives and welfare of individuals are directly concerned. Can anything be done for the people of Jenjarom or other Jenjarom's. Very truly yours, Nicolas B. Sedita." That is uh th-the village [ER: The village.] which they uh were going to buy. (4:33)

[ER:] Well of course a village in Malaya uh is not quite uh the same type of destruction that a village here would mean, it can be rebuilt in more rapid time and I imagine that the reason for doing it was the fact that the British felt the communists were infiltrating into that particular village very fast and that it would be um [Elliott Roosevelt coughs] an example--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] I-I'd like to read the article [ER: I haven't--] and maybe it will explain [ER: Yes.] uh a little bit more. It says that its-that the State-line Singapore, March the twenty seventh, "the entire village of Jenjarom in the southern part of Selangor state in Malaya is to be burned to the ground by the British. Police and public works employees have been assigned to put the torch to the village as a flaming warning of what can happen to the homes of others who aid communist terrorists. Jenjarom once-once housed fifteen hundred Malays, Indians, and a few Chinese mostly engaged in rubber tapping. British troops and police in a lightning raid February the fifteenth rounded up every inhabitant. Then they drove out all cattle and livestock and removed all personal properties. These were sold at public auction and the money divided among the forced evacuees. These evacuees now are in a detention camp at Kluang in Johore state north of Singapore where British authorities are making a check and double check of every individuals-every individual. Those directly involved in aiding communist terrorists fighting British security forces will face trial. The others are to be resettled in protected camps and villages. While all this is going on police and public works employees are stripping Jenjarom of anything that might be usable. As soon as this is completing--completed Jenjarom will be burned. British authorities determined to end the emergency war against terrorists this year, if possible, are convinced Jenjarom is the focal point for terrorist activities in the Selangor area. It uh has long as been a village of silent, sullen people and its reputation steadily has gone from bad to worse. In swooping upon Jenjarom, the British acted under an emergency regulation in effect since June the first 1948." (7:01)

[ER:] Well it's just as I thought, it's-it's uh a-a center where the communists have evidently uh gained a hold and from which help was begin given to communism--to communist terrorists um and I should say it have been done, in-as humane a manner as you can ever do uh something when you are fighting uh a war of-of that kind. It's never humane when you have to fight but um since we have got to realize that um the communist uh tactics are to create chaos and to create bad conditions and to make people uh discontented and unhappy um you are more or less a force to do uh something to try and make an example-le and stop that sort of-of advance that sort of uh action on their part. Now I don't like these things um our correspondent seems to feel that um the world in which we live uh could become a perfect world. Unfortunately everything is relative and when um you do things you have to realize that this was done. Uh the action isn't a perfect action but it was done as decently--far more decently eh then probably the terrorists would have done it. [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm, yeah.] And its- its relative and I think that um his desire is for or--um as never to keep our standards very high. Well I wish we could but I-I don't feel happy in the fact that we are obliged to kill a great many Chinese in Korea in an effort to bring the war to an end. I don't feel happy about killing Chinese-- I feel very unhappy about it [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] but somehow or other you have to try to bring a war to an end um in hope that aggression will not be tried again.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well in actuality what has been done here is to take a very grave trouble spot and to remove the people, all of whom are suspect and uh put them through uh-a complete screening and if they are acquitted of any trouble they will be uh put into new homes and new conditions relatively similar to what they had before. But what interests me is-is-does this man uh ever think uh of what the communist program--how they would act. You-you mentioned terrorists but the communists actually when they move into a village and the even think its ten percent of the people are causing trouble there they would just line up uh [ER: everybody and shoot them.] fifty percent of the population, men women and children and shoot them. And that's been known to happen. And uh so to say that this is an inhuman thing I think is absolutely nonsense.

[ER:] Well I do too, I think it's nonsense but um but after all we don't uh--we hear so little about what the communists do that um it's very hard to say--now you said they would line up fifty percent of the population. That's based on things which you heard in the war.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] No, that's based entirely on reports that have come back to Korea as we recaptured areas where the North Koreans had been and they moved out uh and uh where whole trenches--and we've seen pictures--of trenches of people who were shot and they were not confined to just the men in the village, they were men, women, and children. (11:14)

[ER:] Um that's- that's all true and um-um [ER coughs] I think we just are apt to expect so much of ourselves and the people who fight on our side that we don't make the comparison anymore at all of um the methods used on the other side.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well further than that I think that the methods in this case were the most humane methods [ER: They were.] that could have been evolved [ER: I think they were.] and therefore to-to list this as an atrocity is absolute and complete nonsense.

[ER:] I think so too, I agree.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Okay, well I think that that answers this gentleman's letter and now we should go on to another portion of our program and on to--very soon our interview of today.

[Break: 12:02-12:26]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] "You're in the army now." this can be said and sung these days in a feminine voice as well as masculine. On May the fourteenth, the WAACs now numbering ten thousand celebrate their ninth anniversary. They are serving throughout the United States, in Europe, in the Far East command, in the Caribbean and in Austria. To hear how the Woman's Army Corps has grown since 1942 and something of its accomplishments, Mrs. Roosevelt has a very charming guest today. Mother, will you uh make the introduction?

[ER:] Yes, with the greatest of pleasure, Elliott. The very charming lady with me today is Colonel Mary Agnes Hallaren, head of the Woman's Army Corps. There is so much I want her to tell us that I'm going to introduce her without further ado, I present to you Colonel Mary Hallaren.

[Mary Hallaren:] Delighted to be here, Mrs. Roosevelt.

[ER:] First Colonel Hallaren, before we hear about the Corps I know our listeners would like to hear something about its commanding officer and the first question that comes to me is one-- rather a personal one. Uh-uh you are very petite, why did you choose the rugged army life as a career? [ER laughs]

[Mary Hallaren:] Well, Mrs. Roosevelt, up to the uh outbreak of World War II I spent every summer traveling in a foreign country, that was uh hiking with a pack on my back. I can't think of a better preparation for the infantry. [ER laughs]

[ER:] I think you're quite right. I think it probably--did you used to climb mountains over there?

[Mary Hallaren:] Yes indeed.

[ER:] Uh that-that I think is one of the best preparations, I know young army officers said to us here that he thought every-every young man should be able to walk twenty miles a day with a pack on his back and do his job at the end of it. [ER and Mary Hallaren laugh]

[Mary Hallaren:] I can't say I did a job at the end of it but I've done thirty five miles a day.

[ER:] You've done thirty-five miles a day! [Mary Hallaren: Uh-huh.] Well that's doing a pretty- a pretty long walk. [Mary Hallaren: It is.] What did you do um in civilian life outside of these trips to Europe? (14:46)

[Mary Hallaren:] Well uh during the winter I was teaching school for about fifteen years before I came into the service. I taught everything from first grade up through junior high.

[ER:] Well that also I think is probably very good preparation

[Mary Hallaren:] It was!

[ER:] I must say you-you have a lot of-- you-you learned a lot of patience which is excellent in whatever you're doing now. When did you join the WACs and what is the history of your rise to be the head of it?

[Mary Hallaren:] Well I came into the WAC in the first uh officer candidate class back in 1942, uh then I-I went over the first WAC's separate battalion to England, I think you're pretty familiar with that because I remember when you and Colonel [Oveta Culp] Hobby went to England just before we took the battalion over.

[ER:] I remember we went over um-we went over in the autumn of 'forty-two, [Mary Hallaren: Right.] she uh-she went with me. I was going to see what the British women were doing in the war and she-and her aid- came-flew over with me on that trip and came back a little ahead of me and um I always remember with amusement the story of how surprised the Air Force uh-Army Air Force people were when they saw these two, oh women in uniform coming out instead of men in uniform [ER and Mary Hallaren laugh] to get on the plane. They were equally surprised when I came out with my secretary because they thought they were waiting for two generals.

[Mary Hallaren:] Uh well--had bated breath during that time because what you folks found depended on whether or not we went over so we had our fingers crossed [ER: You had your fingers crossed.] Uh-huh, we went on then, uh that was with the Eighth Air Force and the Ninth Air Force uh that our first group of WACs served and then from England we went on to France and then on to Germany.

[ER:] Well I've seen-I've seen the uh WACs in many of--other countries since then, I've seen them in Germany in fact. Um I wonder if you would give us a sort of brief history eh of the armed services--um the women's armed services. I believe that the idea met was rather severe opposition in the beginning. (17:04)

[Mary Hallaren:] You should know [ER laughs], you and Congressmen [Edith Nourse] Rogers [1881-1960] were the first two, I believe, to introduce those bills to uh establish a women's service.

[ER:] Yes well she did the introducing because I was not in Congress but uh-she um I know how much opposition there was and I know too how much opposition there is to another idea which I have always had, because every time I write anything about it I always get from mothers the most violent opposition. I can't help feeling that girls at the same age that boys might go into universal service might profit if they had a sense that perhaps for a shorter period or some period if they had an obligation to do something um

in the community as training for any kind of public work that might be required of them in an emergency, whether they wanted to go in the WACs or in anything else. And every time I get the most violent letters saying "you want to regiment our girls." [ER laughs]

[Mary Hallaren:] Well you know, Mrs. Roosevelt, we had rather an interesting reaction to a Gallup poll done uh back in World War II uh on recruitment uh there weren't too many volunteers in the beginning, and so they did a check up to determine why the women were not volunteering. And the young uh women twenty to-uh well between the ages of twenty and forty said well if the uh services uh really want us they'll draft us as they do the men. [ER:] They'll draft us? They'll draft us.] They'll draft us as they do the men if they really want us. Of course we're going on the assumption that draft will not be necessary [ER: No.] for women but uh--

[ER:] Well now tell me a little about uh-- since we know there was opposition, tell me about how you actually got going in World War II.

[Mary Hallaren:] Well uh you know in the beginning there were only four different type jobs in which it was conceded women should be used. Cooking of course was one of them, that was pretty obvious, uh clerical work, uh telephone operating, and driving uh were considered to be the four type jobs in the Army that women could do. Those jobs expanded in a period of three years to two hundred and thirty nine different type jobs and it was estimated that women could do four hundred of the six hundred jobs that were done in the service.

[ER:] That uh amuses me because Mrs. Hobby and I saw all the things the British women were doing and they were doing a tremendous number of things at that time. Which to--uh at that moment to have our women restricted to four things seemed the most ridiculous performance.

[Mary Hallaren:] I don't think there's any question, anything that needs to be done, our women are ready and able to respond to it.

[ER:] I think so too. Well now you've already told me that the first assignments were to Great Britain. Now what did you do when you went to Great Britain?

[Mary Hallaren:] Well now uh our first group of women uh who went over were to serve with the Eighth Air Force. And as I said there was only uh a special-- those four specialties in which they were qualified. So what we had to do was rush them to school over there, give them brief, quick uh-uh courses as weather observers, as cryptographers, as uh photo interpreters and I think your son knows something about that because we was heading up that section at that time. Uh the um girls expanded uh in all different type jobs, uh except combat support uh jobs. (20:32)

[ER:] They-they expanded-- [Mary Hallaren: That's right.] Right at the start, well I-I think that's uh very interesting. Now I'd like to ask you, how do men in the Army react to having women on the post?

[Mary Hallaren:] I think perhaps the best answer to that Mrs. Roosevelt is the number of requisitions that have come in since the uh Korean situation. We can't begin to fill the request for WACs today and those requests come from the overseas theatres, from Germany and from Austria, from France, from uh the Far East command, from Japan, from Panama. I'd like to say also that the first group of personnel--of enlisted personnel to go in with General Ike [Dwight D. Eisenhower] were a group of enlisted WAACs [ER: They were?] to Paris, uh-huh, to the SHAPE [Supreme Allied Powers Europe] headquarters' and we'd just had um, let's see just about a month ago we had our first contingent of WACs arrive in Okinawa. (21:22)

[ER:] You did? [Mary Hallaren: Mhm.] that's very interesting, that's um--and how, when they get into faraway places like that, do you find that they stand up pretty well under the new climates uh both in health and in morale?

[Mary Hallaren:] Remarkably well, you know we were a little bit curious uh we have lowered the age to eighteen for uh our y-young women today and of course during the war the minimum age was twenty uh we were a little bit uh curious as to how they were going to react in overseas theatres and I had a letter from Colonel [Irene O.] Galloway [1908-1963], who's the chief nurse over in the Far East command, saying that she had never seen anything like the devotion to duty of those young women. When they get through their jobs in the headquarters they are over assisting in the hospitals, helping the nurses when they are short on uh help and uh writing letters for the boys and so on, working on into the night as long as they're needed.

[ER:] Well I think that's uh splendid uh record to have coming back to you, but I'm not a bit surprised because I was struck when I went into the Pacific in the summer of 'forty-three with how well the nurses were standing up. Little young things that had never been out of this country were standing up so well under the strain of-of new climates and new conditions which they'd never met before. Now I think Elliott looks as though he wanted to say a word so I'll turn it over to you!

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well I hate to interrupt at this moment, but I think that we uh should stop for just a moment to hear a message from our announcer and then we will return immediately to this very interesting interview.

[Break: 23:00-23:09]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] And now we return to our interview with uh Colonel Hallaren who is head of the uh WACs in our United States Army and uh I'd like to say before you start Mother, that uh during the war we did use a great many WACs in photo interpretation work in both the Eighth and Ninth Air Forces and after they came into the work our degree of efficiency and accuracy stepped up very remarkably.

[ER:] I-- (23:40)

[Mary Hallaren:] Delighted to hear that! [ER laughs]

[ER:] You know you didn't answer one question, how did you come finally to be head of this whole outfit? [ER and Mary Hallaren laugh]

[Mary Hallaren:] Well I don't know just--uh Mrs. Roosevelt we had when I went over to England I was uh staff director for the Eighth and Ninth Air Force WACs and then went on to uh the theatre headquarters, came back here and it was determined that we would uh introduce legislation to um make the WAC permanent, that was under General Eisenhower, and by that time I had seeped through to this job.

[ER:] I see, in other ways you had worked up to be in the job. Well, I uh-I think it must have been hard work in-in many cases but I think also it must have been very-very satisfactory.

[Mary Hallaren:] It has been.

[ER:] Well now Colonel Hallaren, um how about the present WAC program what are the requirements for enlisted personnel?

[Mary Hallaren:] Well now uh young women coming into the service for the first time must be between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five. Uh to enlist they must have a high school education or its equivalent, that's to take care of business school or commercial college. Uh they must pass mental and physical examinations, and then checks are made, character checks with the schools they last attended or their last employers. Uh they come into the service, report to Fort Lee in Virginia for basic training and then if they don't have a special skill when they come in, we train them.

[ER:] You train them in [Mary Hallaren: Yes, ma'am.] some special skill. Well now how are officers selected?

[Mary Hallaren:] We have three programs for the officers. One is uh what we call our college program, uh that's uh one school a year which starts in the fall. It's made up of college graduates they are uh appointed in the reserve corps if they have a uh degree and meet the me-- the other physical requirements and uh general background requirements. They, at the end of a six month training course at Fort Lee if they successfully complete it, are appointed in the regular army. Now we have another corps--uh-uh another group of officers appointed directly from civilian life and that's our specialist group. Uh, a woman who--they all have to have college degrees, uh for a minimum of uh -with one to three years actual experience in a specialty such as personnel administration, uh teaching, publicity, they may be appointed second lieutenant. If they have over three years' experience and under seven they may be appointed first lieutenants. If they have over seven years' experience they may be appointed captains and that goes up to age uh thirty-nine. And then our last course for officers is our officer candidate course and uh for that school we take our girls from the ranks if they have a minimum of two years of college and first they can get that right in the service through college courses, USAFE, and uh actually now for example own in the Pentagon, University of Maryland runs courses in the evening. Uh we take girls directly from civilian life who've have a minimum of two years of uh college for that course and they are appointed in the reserve only, not in the regular. (26:51)

[ER:] Not in the regular, well now uh can't uh-cant any of the um the ranks--the people in the ranks uh come in regularly and get promotions to an officer?

[Mary Hallaren:] Uh they must acquire two years of uh college training and [ER: then they can.] Uh yes, they must pass the examinations, now they have a special two years level uh test that is given uh to the girls and if they pass that test they may attend officer candidate school.

[ER:] I see. Well now you spoke of basic training, what is basic training in your case? [Mary Hallaren laughs]

[Mary Hallaren:] It's a long time since I've had it. Uh it's a um--the girls have nine weeks in which they get a general indoctrination uh of the Army. Uh they are taught the organization of the army, administration, uh customs and courtesies. They have drill and PT and so on to get them in form and to train them to go out to serve as soldiers. Now of course in addition to that as I mentioned before, if they don't have a specialty when they come in they attend uh medical training school, or uh communications school, or finance--uh we have over one hundred different job fields in which we use the women.

[ER:] That's very interesting. Now uh--I wondered if WACs are trained in the use of guns and other fighting equipment.

[Mary Hallaren:] Well uh we do have what we call an-a um familiarization course at Fort Lee uh that's only to familiarize eh our women with the different types of guns used by the Army. Actually the women may volunteer and ninety-five percent of them do to fire, but that's strictly voluntary.

[ER:] I see. I-I should think it was very valuable thing to learn how to use the guns. I should think that would be something that uh almost every woman would want to know.

[Mary Hallaren:] Well, frankly Mrs. Roosevelt, if this country were invaded I'd much rather face the enemy with a gun I knew how to use than with a first aid kit.

[ER:] Exactly. What advantages are there from your point of view for women to take this military service?

[Mary Hallaren:] Well uh of course they have, um let's take it from the enlisted women's point of view. I think perhaps the number one advantage she feels is the opportunity for travel. Uh just a year ago over in the uh--when I was overseas I checked with the girls to find out just how much travelling they were doing because I felt that there was something equally important to tapping a type writer and running a switchboard and that was learning to know the people of these foreign countries where they were serving. Find out what made them tick. And so my first question in talking with individuals was "how much have you been around, how much have you gotten to know these people?" And uh the first girl that came up in line said " Well, Ma'am I uh--" she was stationed over in Germany and I've been over to Luxembourg and I've been over to France, Switzerland, Italy, uh the Netherlands, but she said "I've only been here a year. After I've been here three year tour I really have gotten around." And I found that many of our girls had visited as many as twenty-two countries in their three year tour of the European theatre. (29:58)

[ER:] Why I think that's wonderful, do they learn any languages?

[Mary Hallaren:] Yes they do, uh French and German, uh not too well, I'm afraid but they do get enough of it to be able get along with the people.

[ER:] Um, I'm wondering if um we shouldn't uh do a little more in our schools about making languages--uh languages that are spoken and not just languages that one can um read or write, because many a high school uh graduate has taken four or five or sometimes more years of uh French or German and-and could no more say something you could understand in that language than fly to the moon while she insists that she can read it and-and um-and write it.

[Mary Hallaren:] Exactly and the lack is felt so greatly when the girls are serving overseas.

[ER:] Well that's exactly why uh it seems to me there ought to be an effort made to change that. Do you try to get--

[Mary Hallaren:] I do agree wholeheartedly. Well as far as the girls are concerned the opportunities are there for them to study the language. Of course we found that in Germany, this held: uh the Germans are learning English so fast that uh the additional effort of learning the native language--

[ER:] That-that's what worries me everywhere, because wherever they're stationed the people are trying to learn English so fast they-that I think it puts us at a disadvantage [Mary Hallaren: It does.] because we don't learn the language of the country. [Mary Hallaren: It does, decidedly.] Well now you've said that the opportunities really in this are for travel. Are there any others that you see uh--

[Mary Hallaren:] Well now uh that's from the enlisted woman's point of view, she loves to travel the average enlisted woman, and uh as a rule she is--as soon as she comes in she volunteers for overseas. We usually keep the girls on duty for a year here in the states before they serve overseas, however. Now, there are career opportunities. Uh we have for example in medical service which is our second largest. Uh our girls are trained as x-ray technicians, dental, surgical, medical, laboratory technicians uh their courses

extend all the way from eight weeks up to a year. We have a practical nurses training course uh which opened just a year ago at Walter Reed and it's in accord with the highest standards of practical nurses training in any of the forty-eight states. So that it gives a girl an advantage when she returns from uh the military to civilian life-- she has a specialized training.

[ER:] Well now do you need more enlisted women?

[Mary Hallaren:] Yes ma'am, we need thirty thousand of them.

[ER:] Well what about officers Colonel Hallaren, are they needed too? (32:34)

[Mary Hallaren:] Uh yes, we have a campaign on right now for two thousand officers. Uh the only reason on the limitation on numbers is that uh we are limited to two percent of the strength of the regular army.

[ER:] Well now do you think women should be drafted if enough do not enlist to fulfill the requirements?

[Mary Hallaren:] Well now as far as national defense is concerned we go on the assumption that we can procure the number needed by voluntary recruitment. Uh as I uh mentioned a little earlier in the program uh the reaction of some of our young women themselves was that if the country really needs us they'll draft us.

[ER:] Draft us--well what can the public do to support you? We've only got a few seconds.

[Mary Hallaren:] Right, now I just wish that our women would come down to the local recruiting station. There they'll find a wealth of information. Our teachers we want to glean as much information for the vocational guidance courses as possible and we invite the parents to come to the nearest post where their daughters are serving.

[ER:] Thank you very much, I'm so glad you were able to come today Colonel Hallaren. It's been very interesting and I wish you the best of luck.

[Mary Hallaren:] Thank you, Mrs. Roosevelt

[Break: 33:40- 34:17]

[ER:] We have a few minutes left today so I would like to read to you a letter which was sent to me while I was in Europe commenting upon a program which was on the air before I left. When my guest was Amelia Igel, of the Department of Welfare. Mrs. A.J. Kerouac of Pawtucket, Rhode Island writes: "My dear Mrs. Roosevelt, while listening to your very interesting program as usual this morning, subject foster parents, I could not refrain from telling you that though I am the mother of nine children, I am real proud to be able to say that during the forty years of my wedded life I acted as foster mother to exactly thirty-five children during the time I raised my own family. In my case I took in new born babies, one of which had been given up to die. Two doctors could not find any formula that would agree with him." Mrs. Kirouac then gives details as to how she saved this baby's life and continues. He grew to become five foot ten and a half inches tall. Radio intelligence assistant pilot of World War II who downed five Japanese airplanes while their plane was a disabled wreck and within just fifty yards from the enemy he maneuvered his plane, though wrecked, to fire the last shell to down the last enemy plane. Then he crashed in Japanese territory. "The pilot's body was found but this boy's has not and no one ever knew what happened to him to this day. Then I fostered problem children and I succeeded very well in teaching them right from wrong so that their parents who could not do a thing with them are proud of them now. And all children in the neighborhood from far and wide would come to me from far and wide would come

to me with their cuts and bruises, torn clothing, socks, etcetera to mend to avoid a scolding from their parents. And regardless of color or creed they were always welcome and I became Ma Mere, nickname for grandma in French, my own nationality. Though we were in very modest circumstances, somehow I could always find a way to economically cook up extras for emergencies to feed extra hungry mouths. You see, I love children though now I'm in the sixties. Through a great deal of suffering for thirty eight and a half years with my legs, I still sew for needy children. (37:04)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] And now it's time to close the program and remind you that you've been listening to the Eleanor Roosevelt Program which comes to you each Monday through Friday at the same time. And this Elliott Roosevelt speaking and wishing you all good day.

[Break: 37:19- 37:29]

[Repeats beginning]

[ER:] Good day, this is Eleanor Roosevelt. Every Monday through Friday my son Elliott and I have the opportunity to visit with you here from my living room at the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City. Each day it is our desire to bring interesting guests that we are hopeful you will enjoy meeting. Elliott, will you tell our listeners today's plans?

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Much of the mail Mrs. Roosevelt receives these days deals with the indecision of young women as to what course they should pursue--

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File(s): 72-30 (181)

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