

## THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1951

Description: In the opening segment, ER and Elliott Roosevelt respond to a listener's question about whether or not wives should follow their husbands while they are fulfilling military service. In the following segment, ER interviews Miss Michael Drury, author of the article "Women and the New War."

Participants: ER, Elliott Roosevelt, Michael Drury, Ben Grauer

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[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:] Mrs. Roosevelt's guest today is a young lady who has travelled more than fifteen thousand miles and expects to go nearly twenty thousand more inside the United States to find out what is happening to "Women and The New War." The title of a series of feature articles now running in *Good Housekeeping* magazine. She is uh Miss Michael Drury a freelance feature writer. Before we hear the very interesting stories Miss Drury has to tell and the advice she has to give. Mrs. Roosevelt and I will answer a letter from a listener who has sent in a question. We will get to the letter just as soon as we have a few words from our announcer.

[Break 1:08 -1:16]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Our question today is one which all of us wish there were no necessity for asking. It comes from the young wife of an army sergeant. "Dear Mrs. Roosevelt, I would very much to like to have your advice on the question of wives following their husbands to camp. Many people seem to think that this is a hardship on the hu-husband. That he would feel much better with his wife safely at home, but when it is possible, although maybe difficult, don't you think it is better for us to be together instead of parted?" (1:52)

[ER:] That is a-a difficult question to answer because it really depends so much upon the woman. Uh A man who's going in the service has certain obligations--he is obliged to give uh his first effort to the job, whatever it is. If he's new he's got to learn a great deal from the bottom up if he's already got uh some experience and has some rank he's responsible for the others who have to learn. And unless the wife goes with the uh realization that where she goes she's going to be crowded, she's going to find that there are other people who are there too, and that uh housing is scarce and uncomfortable, food may even be scare because in many of the places around camps uh the uh stores are not uh prepared for the great influx of people that sometimes comes. If she is the kind of person who can adjust to whatever the conditions are, who is resourceful enough to find ways of-of adjusting herself and realizing that she has to do it alone, that her husband can't do it for her, she has to do it and still can contribute something to whatever time he has free uh by uh being prepared at short notice to do what he wants, by being able to adjust the family to uh his particular hours and his particular work then I think she makes a great contribution by following her husband. But if she can't and there are people who just constitutionally can't, then I think she'd better stay at home because she'll make him more unhappy-eh instead of giving him a little bit of happiness and she herself will be unhappy and that will not make for better relationships between them uh so that I-I would say it was something that each individual couple had to settle for themselves according to their own personalities. (4:21)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well there are several questions that come to mind in dealing uh with this subject that I'd like to ask you about. Number one, when a young man is drafted into the service and uh has to leave uh his wife uh to go into the service uh isn't it true that it is--uh if possible uh advantageous that he uh be able to return to a home, an established home uh that he has to look forward to. The fact that there is a home to which he will eventually return.

[ER:] Yes, I think that is a great advantage but when a man is drafted into the service there are lots of occasions when of necessity the home is broken up and uh the family has to go and live with-with other family. I mean with the mother or the father or-or the parents on one side or the other um and I-I don't think you can lay down any rules for this sort of thing because there is a great deal to be said--camps are--are places of temptation to young men and there is a great deal to be said for a wife being there um to be with her husband. On the other hand um there are these --if it isn't going to be a happy thing then nothing is gained.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well there's a question of uh cost too uh isn't there uh in most cases when a young man is drafted and he doesn't happen to have an independent income uh it means that the uh young wife has to go to work. Um Isn't her opportunity of going to work much better in her home community uh than in following her husband and trying to pick up a job wherever he might be stationed? (6:18)

[ER:] That of course is largely a question of the children in the family. Eh All these--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] That is a question that I was going to come to next.

[ER:] Well all these--all these questions are difficult questions sometimes there is a little backlog and uh the family would rather be together until perhaps a man is ordered away, eh that--if it's going to be happy. Uh I think is-is a wise plan and um on the other had if it can't be done financially why there is just nothing that um--that you can do about that. I mean if there are children and she has to be near her family so they can be taken care of and she has to have a regular job um sometimes she might be able uh to-to pick up a job where he was going to be and to leave the children with her parents or his parents but that is only a temporary arrangement.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well uh--this question of--this question of children uh as I uh interpreted your original answer of where it is possible and where they are suited--suited to each other to-to have her follow, I gather that you meant in the event that they--that there were no children. [ER: Oh no I didn't.] Don't you think [ER: Oh no!] that having children go from uh station to station with uh their husband is bringing them up in a--in an atmosphere of constant change?

[ER:] Most of these children are young, it won't hurt them to change if it is done um easily if it is made a very great uh to do uh then it will be bad, then it will be and if--if the woman is resourceful it can be done if she isn't, it can't be done. I have seen a great many families in um--um--around the various camps. One family would be perfectly happy, perfectly well organized, the other family would be miserable. It's a case of--of personality; and they nearly always are young children. And--and there, there isn't the question of uprooting them from school, there is just the question of an added burden to the mother [Elliott Roosevelt: I see.] and if she's able to carry it well, she's able to carry it.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] What about the uh--uh the whole problem though of the proper care and feeding you mentioned, the uh the fact that in many of these camps they're located in many times in small towns that aren't adequately able to take care of the huge influx of civilian personnel that follows. (9:02)

[ER:] Well there--that's one of the things in point, if a woman can think ahead if she can order uh everything she needs for those children, and it all comes in tin cans today, eh if she can order it all and have it all uh that's her own foresight and her own planning. It can be done, and we know now that it isn't important that you have fresh milk for children, they can get on very well with dried milk if you know how to prepare it-it. But-but again it's how she plans and how she um think ahead.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well now uh there's one other phase of this whole question that I would I-like to take up and that is uh do you feel uh that the husband uh having the added responsibility--of worry of the settling of his family and so forth, do you feel that uh even though the wife may be uh very resourceful that it's too uh good for the husband in this new life that he's taking on to have to added worry of uh the uprooting of his family and their resettlement.

[ER:] Well you're talking Elliot as though everybody that was drafted into the army had a home. Now a lot of people uh haven't got a home that they're rooted in. Their-- They've got temporary um rooms, many of them, where they are living while a certain job uh is open to a man and now um if the woman doesn't put it all on the man, if the woman--and goodness knows I saw plenty of woman in the last war travelling alone with two or three children and--who didn't expect to be met when they arrived and who expected to--sometimes the man had been able to locate rooms for them but they didn't expect to find everything all ready for them when they arrived [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] and if it's that sort of a woman um well then it's sort of all right. (11:15)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] But what is the government doing to help the uh wives of uh soldiers who follow their husbands to these camps uh toward helping them to get employment if they so desire in connection with the army post or do they have an employment service?

[ER:] I don't really know. As I-I would only know uh what was done in the last war and then I don't think anything was done because I don't think they had any desire to encourage women to do this, um they would much prefer to have w-women stay at home but I'm not sure the government is always correct in that attitude. Therefore, I uh-I think it's a thing a man and a woman have to decide for themselves according to their own um ability to-to adjust. If it's going to be an unhappy thing, much better settle down in one place and stay there. But if it's going to be a happy thing, I think that's fine.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well I must say that I agree with you and the only reason that I've put all these uh questions to you is to try to uh get as many sides of the answer as possible to give uh this lady who wrote this letter, and many other young wives who have similar questions an opportunity to have your opinion on the subject and all of its various aspects.

[ER:] Well I don't know that my opinion is worth much to them but for what it is I'm glad you did it.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Alright well I think that adequately covers our answer to this question and now I see that our announcer has a word to say and then we will return to our interview of today.

[Break: 12:58-13:12]

[ER:] Thank you, Elliott. I'm happy to introduce to you Miss Michael Drury, a freelance writer now on assignment to *Good Housekeeping Magazine* for a special series of articles entitled: "Women and the New War." Miss Drury.

[Michael Drury:] It's a great pleasure for me to be here, Mrs. Roosevelt.

[ER:] I'm so glad to have you here Miss Drury. I wonder if you would tell our listeners how you got the idea for this series of articles and where you've travelled to get the material.

[Michael Drury:] Well I can't really claim the idea it uh originated with the editor of the magazine, Mr. Herbert Mays, who like all good editors has a sort of feel for these things, and he seemed to know that the story was there and he sent me out to collect it, and I must have gone about twelve thousand miles in this country alone just uh visiting army posts and navy bases and military installations of every kind and uh a certain amount of-of civilian uh--oh you know such things as aircraft plants and so on. (14:12)

[ER:] Well now, what type of women did you interview?

[Michael Drury:] Well I interviewed the wives and mothers and sweethearts of servicemen and women who worked in civilian plants, the sort of thing we thought of during the forties as defense plants. And uh--oh just anybody who had any connection with it at all. Any woman whose life has been touched by this current crisis.

[ER:] I see well now who do you consider has the harder time, women who are working in factories or servicemen's wives?

[Michael Drury:] Oh golly, I think that's a very difficult thing to answer. Um I don't know-I don't know. It must be a very difficult thing to follow your husband around to these camps and-and so on. I tend to feel; now maybe this is a misstatement, that housing is better for the civilian workers. They don't travel around quite so much for one thing, and uh the housing can be built easily on-on a more permanent basis and uh the army wife-the military wife is uh faced with the problem of living in a suitcase and carrying around what she can, sometimes carrying her own suitcase and twenty pounds of baby on the other arm and making her own train reservations and she pretty much takes care of herself. I think it's a hard job, but its--they're doing a wonderful job. (15:37)

[ER:] Well um you-you think it's pretty well divided then, uh there's not uh--on the whole you'd think that the women who went into the factories had an easier time than the women who tried to follow their husbands round.

[Michael Drury:] I-I would say so; there are more facilities for them there are more um, such things as state nurseries where they can leave their children. On the other hand in some of the newer military bases such places as uh Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi, which was built only nine years ago and is now a humming community with something like forty thousand people in it, um there they have a great deal of facilities for these young wives. Um they have three nurseries there, which for seven dollars a month you can leave your child any day from nine in the morning until virtually midnight. Uh there are trained nurses in attendance, they-they just do a wonderful job and they can do it because they have six hundred families paying seven dollars a month. If you have two children you can leave them for twelve no, ten dollars and three in one family for twelve-fifty. (16:44)

[ER:] My goodness that is--and--any -any uh limitation of age?

[Michael Drury:] uh, I think up until they go to public school which [ER: Up until public they go to school--six years old.] is about six I think. I'm not sure what the laws are in Mississippi.

[ER:] And as they get older do they have nursery school uh-uh training for them?

[Michael Drury:] They have a grade school there which I believe goes up until the junior high school level. I'm-I'm not --

[ER:] No but they don't have nursery school in the nurseries for-for such children as are three and four and five?

[Michael Drury:] Oh yes, up to six years of age they have a certain amount of schooling, I guess like a kindergarten.

[ER:] Yes, like uh--well what would be known as a nursery school.

[Michael Drury:] Well as a matter of fact it's hard to distinguish between the nursery and the kindergarten. The nursery is for very young infants, you can leave a very tiny baby there, few weeks old if you want to. [ER: Yes, I see.] They also have uh some wonderful facilities at Keesler, um clubs and hobby shops and that sort of thing. The general's wife there invites every new girl who comes on to the base to come to her house for morning coffee. There are at present I believe one hundred and fifteen families a month coming onto that base and Mrs. Powell sees that a written invitation goes out to each girl and unfortunately only about half of them go, I-I uh I think that's a great mistake, but uh I don't know-- [ER: They're nervous--] Well they get shy and they think they don't have the right hat and all that. You know it's silly because all generals' wives were once lieutenant's wives. [ER and Michael Drury laugh] They knew all about this long before those girls were born and uh Mrs. uh Powell helps them find the beauty shop and commissary and the nursery and all the--

[ER:] Tells them about [Michael Drury: Yes.] well that's a wonderful thing. [Michael Drury: It is.] She must be a wonderful woman.

[Michael Drury:] She's a fine person.

[ER:] Well now, do you think for your observations that it is wise for women to follow their husbands to army post, navy bases and so on? Living in a suitcase so to speak? Uh Or don't you think so.

[Michael Drury:] Well, I'd hate to advise anybody but uh personally I would say under most circumstances it's a good idea to follow the men, not to his basic training. This is a six weeks or eight weeks course when they transfer-trans uh--what do I want to say--they make a uh soldier out of a civilian and this a very rigid and difficult time and they don't let the-the men off of the base very much and--if at all and uh certainly not then she should wait until he gets an assignment, but then go. You-you miss so much of living if you don't, it isn't easy and-and you can't say that everyone should go, there are circumstances; maybe a child is ill, or maybe uh mother-in-law needs the family at home. But in general uh they seem to be going, it's rather an academic question I guess in a way that the services certainly recognize families now and uh I think it's a wonderful thing for them to go, they-they--they're real pioneer women these girls. I don't know whether they know it or not but they are. (19:39)

[ER:] They really are, well that's wonderful. Now I know that you visited the Convair [Consilated Vultee Aircraft] Plant in San Diego, how many women are working there today?

[Michael Drury:] Uh I think about four thousand or forty-five hundred and the total employee number is uh around eighteen thousand five hundred, it's close to a third of-of the women--of the workers are women.

[ER:] The workers are women [Michael Drury: Yes.] Are most of them married women do you think?

[Michael Drury:] Uh would say ninety percent of them are married and most of those have children.

[ER:] Well what happens to their children while they are working?

[Michael Drury:] This flabbergasted me, too, I said "my goodness how can you do this?" They work from seven thirty in the morning until three thirty in the afternoon which gets them home not later than four o'clock. [ER: Hm.] And uh this means they're home when the children get home from school if they're that age. If they're younger than that there are state nurseries. I think California is the-the only state that kept these state operated nurseries which were quite prevalent during World War Two, California has kept them up and uh although there's an in-income limit, uh a level above which you cannot go and leave your child in this-this nursery but they take them there at the age of two. And uh the nursery runs twelve hours, from six in the morning till six at night.

[ER:] What do they do-what do they do with babies there?

[Michael Drury:] They leave them mothers or mothers-in-law or sisters. Very often they will have a sister who has a couple of children of her own and has no taste for working in a-in an aircraft plant and she will take care of them. But they make arrangements, it's amazing.

[ER:] Its arrangements uh made within families then? [Michael Drury: Yes that's true.] Now are most of these women whose husbands are home or whose husbands are already in the service?

[Michael Drury:] The women in the Convair plant? [ER: Yes.] Um I would say, I-I don't know too much about that but I think that the women--the-the husbands in general are civilians in that case [ER: You think they are.] Uh -uh few of the younger girls that I talked to had husbands or brothers in the service, but by and large they worked there during World War Two, so you see they're a little older.

[ER:] Oh I see. They're a little bit older then. [Michael Drury: Yes.] Yes. Well now is there adequate housing for these families around a big plant like that?

[Michael Drury:] As a rule yes, these plants have been there for a long time. Aircraft is now the third largest industry in California. I think um--I don't know whether fishing or-or shipping or oil would come first and second but uh--

[ER:] Oil I'm sure would be--[Michael Drury and ER laugh]

[Michael Drury:] Probably the movies, too. But um-uh they do have very good housing. [ER: They do?] The houses are um-- (22:19)

[ER:] And an adequate amount of housing so there's no great overcrowding?

[Michael Drury:] That I couldn't say. I imagine there's always a certain amount of crowding, but this housing was built during World War Two and the plants are not running at full speed at twenty-four hours a day. They run sixteen right now, two shifts not three so that the um housing I imagine is-is adequate.

[ER:] Is adequate in numbers [Michael Drury: Yes.] for the numbers of-of people there.

[Michael Drury:] These people own um deep freeze units and vacuum cleaners and that sort of thing and they tell me that they couldn't possibly run homes, most of them do their own-their own housework. They don't have any maids or-or any outside help and they couldn't do it without this modern equipment. It's really wonderful, they-they have um trucks which service these large housing areas; they come in with bread and meat and all dairy products and sometimes vegetables. And they keep uh keys on a great enormous ring like a bailiff and they let themselves into these houses and uh put the things away in the ice

box or the breadbox and-and uh they have become a part of the family, like the family doctor and the lawyer, minister. It's really very amazing.

[ER:] They're real--the delivery man is really part of the family and helping to run the [Michael Drury: Oh yes.] the family life.

[Michael Drury:] He takes a great interest in the children's birthdays and he will leave a note saying uh we're having a special on ice cream next week and this is--this is uh Johnny's birthday you know don't you want to take some ice cream?

[ER:] And then will he pick up orders that are left for him?

[Michael Drury:] Oh yes they write the orders out, he'll even answer the telephone sometimes. And I know they leave an extra cup of coffee for him now and then.

[ER:] I think that's a wonderful thing to have uh to have that kind of service and I think it's wonderful for them to have um Frigidaire's for instance because out of those their--their evening meal comes fairly quickly.

[Michael Drury:] That's true and out of electric ovens with timers on them that you can set and put the food in before you leave and then it's uh all cooked when you get there. (24:26)

[ER:] All cooked by the time you get back. Well that of course is really uh a wonderful um future it uh s-seems.

[Michael Drury:] It's an exciting thing it seems to me it's a growing thing and a way we're learning to deal with--

[ER:] With the life of--of today--

[Michael Drury:] Yes, yes with the modern woman.

[ER:] Well I see that we have to stop for a minute because our announcer is anxious to say a word but we'll come right back and [Michael Drury: Alright.] talk some more on this subject.

[Break 24:52 -25:00]

[ER:] Now we come back to our talk with Miss Michael Drury who is doing a special set-set of articles on "Women and the New War," for *Good Housekeeping Magazine* magazine. Now I'd like to ask you about some of the articles you have written there entitled "I Live on the Airbase," "I Cook for Several Thousand Men," "My Husband was Wounded in Korea." Which do you consider the most interesting of these particular three or is there another one that you think more interesting?

[Michael Drury:] Oh well I think that's awfully hard to pin down. I get so excited about every girl I interview. [Michael Drury laughs] I have a terrible time, I think that uh--um the girl whose husband was wounded in Korea is one of the most inspiring stories I have ever heard because that girl had a very active faith in God and she said "I'm not going to uh just believe that he won't get well," which is what they--they told her the chances were that--that recovery was questionable. He was in an airplane crash in combat in Korea and uh she refused to believe it and she said "I wanted him to get well and I knew that he wanted to and I felt that the doctors and nurses in Japan wanted him to and were doing everything in their power and I knew that God wanted him to, and my job on this end was to do for others as I felt others were doing for

my husband.” And she went out and did errands for friends, and helped a friend move, and took care of children, and went to the hospital to see a girl who had just had a baby, and uh it worked--it worked beautifully I can't explain it, she said it's not a miracle exactly but uh the man is back here now and is on the road to recovery.

[ER:] My that is one--Well is he in the hospital in San Diego?

[Michael Drury:] Uh no he's--he's here in this locality and um he is um--he's not in the hospital as a matter of fact they let him go home because he's been--

[ER:] He's here, you mean in-in the east now?

[Michael Drury:] Yes indeed he's been here six months and uh he's now out of the hospital except that he's facing long months of plastic surgery. He had a very serious head injury.

[ER:] That--that so often happens with an airplane accident, I suppose it's burning.

[Michael Drury:] I suppose so, yes. They--they let him go home as soon as they can, this is wonderful for their morale, you know, and they put them into wheelchairs and scoot them around like little bugs it's wonderful. [Michael Drury laughs]

[ER:] Well is she as wonderful now that she has him home as she was when--when he was first--

[Michael Drury:] She's a very terrific young lady. I sat in her kitchen and heard her talk and I suddenly realized that the power of love is a very great thing and that these homes are something really worth preserving and worth fighting for. (27:43)

[ER:] Well I think that probably makes the men um fight because it is a wonderful thing.

[Michael Drury:] Well her um husband's one of --one of the--not his commanding officer in combat but a man who was his superior officer while he was in the hospital told me that they attributed part of his recovery to his wife's great love and faith and courage.

[ER:] I think that's wonderful and something we ought to be very proud of.

[Michael Drury:] Yes, I think she should be.

[ER:] She certainly should be. Do you think it's wise for young girls to marry a man who's already in the service and apt to be shipped out shortly thereafter?

[Michael Drury:] Sure I do, provided--provided she loves him already. I mean if they were going to get married anyway that's one thing. To-to get married simply because there is uh a question of there being a shortage of men or some such nonsense, no, heavens, I don't think anyone would recommend marriage on--on that kind of a set up. But uh if you've known a boy for a certain length of time and--and your parents approve and--and his parents approve--if uh --if you are a young couple you can't postpone your life, this is the only time we've got at least what these girls have told me. And um--you know it's an amazing thing to me, they were children in grade school, when Pearl Harbor happened. They were in--in the fifth and sixth and seventh grades. [ER: Yeah.] They were just--they know nothing except this--this time of crisis that we have now and um if they go ahead with good sense and courage, who are we to stop them? I-I--

[ER:] I-I think you're right of course uh I think perhaps they're better equipped uh just because they have lived in a time of crisis and have grown accustomed to meeting critical uh decisions and situations which were difficult.

[Michael Drury:] That's true and service wives are half of a team. A man's got to know that his wife can close up the house if she has to and get the bills paid and the train reservations made and the suitcases packed and get to his-her-his new station without his help, not always-not always but sometimes.

[ER:] But most of the time.

[Michael Drury:] And he's got to know he can rely on her. She's the other half of a very important team.

[ER:] Well now in general how did you find the morale of women at all the various places you've visited? Many of them must have gone through the same thing in World War Two, so how did you find their morale was standing up? (30:13)

[Michael Drury:] I found them on the whole without complaint, without regrets, without bitterness. By golly, this is their country and they're-they're equipped to realize that and-and to handle it. Um I must have interviewed hundreds of women, literally, all across the country and they--I heard one or two stories which seemed to be legitimate complaints and-and sometimes the hardships are quite severe but they face up to them, and that it seems to me is a triumph, it's a wonderful thing.

[ER:] Oh I think it's an enormous triumph because

[Michael Drury:] It's a whole--

[ER:] It's uh-it's--half--a thing you face is halfway beaten of course. You want--

[Michael Drury:] That's very-very true and very good advice.

[ER:] Well, I'd like uh to go back to the woman that you wrote about who cooked for seven thousand men, would you tell us about her?

[Michael Drury] Oh yes, she is a wonderful person. That is Mrs. Virginia Beadle and she is in charge of the cafeteria for the workers at Tinker Field in Oklahoma City, it's near Oklahoma City. Um this too is another place that was a piece of grazing land nine years ago and is now uh a terrific community. I think there are around uh nineteen thousand employees there. It is a repair base for um Air Force planes, it's run by the Air Force but the majority of the people are the workers-- are civilians. So Mrs. Beadle cooks for civilians but she also cooks for General [Fred S.] Borum who is in charge there and his staff, I don't know this runs something over one hundred officers, Air Force officers. And uh I have never eaten such institutional food in my life. She is a woman who uh says that there's no necessity for quantity cookery being dull and tasteless, and uh she really puts it into practice. She-she runs this kitchen much as she would run her uh-her own kitchen and she plans her menus and buys her food and stores it by color. In other words she'll go out into the stock room and she'll say "well I see we're low on yellow vegetables." So she'll buy yellow vegetables and then she plans accordingly. She has a uh credo, she says "it's got to look pretty and then you have to back it up with taste." (32:34)

[ER:] I think that's quite wonderful because I do think that when people cook things in enormous quantities they are apt to be tasteless, you feel that they were cooked in a wash boiler. Don't you know?  
[ER and Michael Drury laugh] That they-they haven't the uh the taste that it has when it's cooked in small quantities.

[Michael Drury:] Well that- that is true and Mrs. Beadle set out deliberately to overcome that, she said it wasn't necessary and I think she's right. She um resented having to make pies in big square tins, she said "who eats a square piece of pie it doesn't taste like pie, I want mine wedge shaped." One day um uh a salesman, a bakery equipment salesman from Chicago was in the office and she said "large bakeries, big commercial bakeries make round pies, why can't we make round pies?" And he said well "you buy a thing that looks like a clothes ringer and this rings out the crust, can turn out one crust a minute." So she bought one and they're now on their second one, they wore the first one out. And she makes round pies, this makes her very happy. And it makes the workers happy. (33:38)

[ER:] Well I can understand that because you see it's more like the food they would get at home.

[Michael Drury:] That's true; they have a retail bakeshop in one corner of the cafeteria, their bakery uh goods are-are so tasteful and delicious that [ER: They take them home.] people buy it there and take it home to eat at home at dinner, breakfast whatever they--

[ER:] Well I-I uh think that's a wonderful achievement for woman [Michael Drury: I do too.] because I-I know it's not easy to do, I know it's very difficult.

[Michael Drury:] She's been offered uh more money to go other places; she's a very desirable cook. The place where she worked in Oklahoma City before uh Tinker Field came there, before World War Two uh was known all over the city as the best place in town to eat and uh she-she is often lured by people who say look here, hotel men and so on, you know, "I'll give you a great deal of money to come away." But she has a son in Korea and a daughter who's married to a medical student at Oklahoma University and has a three months old son and uh many of the girls on her staff have people in uniform and she said, "like any mother, I ask what I can do to help and it's right here, cooking for seven thousand men."

[ER:] Well I-I just think that's the spirit which in this country makes you very proud. Now in closing, what is your best advice to women and the-in the new war?

[Michael Drury:] Oh Mrs. Roosevelt, I couldn't give advice, I just couldn't. But I-I would like to say this, that you go through the country the way I did and talk to these people, listen to their stories and I don't know if somehow you're not afraid any more. You-you know that they're living courageously and with a great deal of faith and I don't know--I think something good comes out of this. There's-there's nothing bad about any of it

[ER:] I'm very glad to hear you say "I'm not afraid anymore" because in my philosophy, it's fear that makes us do the silly things. You haven't any judgment when you're afraid. [Michael Drury: I agree.] And so I'm very glad to hear you say that because if that comes from the young people that you've been contacting, then this country is as safe as it could possibly be.

[Michael Drury:] I couldn't agree with you more. I-I think it's just a wonderful, wonderful thing.

[ER:] Well, I'm so grateful to you for coming today. And I want to thank you very much, our time has come to a close, but I'm--have enjoyed it and I'm sure our listeners have enjoyed this talk, Miss Drury.

[Michael Drury:] Well the pleasure has been all mine I assure you.

[Break 36:21- 36:30]

[Ben Grauer:] Friends, this is Ben Grauer speaking. Here's a quick trick for more satisfying warm weather meals. When the weather calls for chilled salads and cold cuts, start the meal with big bowls of delicious Habitant Pea Soup. Takes only a couple minutes to heat and serve, there's nothing to add and Habitant Pea Soup really just hits the spot. You see it's a real old style Quebec style soup, hearty and nourishing. It's the kind that makes dad and all the youngsters say "more!" There are other Habitant warm weather favorites too, Habitant Vegetable Soup, just chock full of tender delicious garden vegetables, and Habitant Onion Soup the real French kind made with rich broth, new onions and plenty of butter. Stock your pantry shelf with Habitant soups for quick, easy, thoroughly satisfying warm weather meals. Now here is Elliott with today's question.

[Break: 37:25-37:34]

Right Elliott, and before we meet today's guest with Mrs. Roosevelt I'm going to take a look at the program schedules for listening on WNBC tonight. There's family comedy at eight with *The Truitts*, a very pleasant warm weather listening and at 8:30 another in that series of uh speculative dramas, *Dimension X* in which we go behind the scenes of the actual into the supernatural. That fine edge in this amazing, complex age of today with the mechanical marvels we have, rather hard to draw the line between what is and what just might be, certainly in the realm of technology and scientific development. Well, *Dimension X* uh probes and explores that area with great artistry and with great critical acclaim. We very warmly suggest it for your listening pleasure tonight. There's a brace of shows following at nine and at 9:30 in which we'll have dramatizations of actual cases from police files. At nine o'clock there's *Dragnet*, these are true cases, the stories are based on true cases from the files of the Los Angeles police. And then at 9:30, a visit from *David Harding, Counterspy* in which the uh larger realm of government files is used as the source for our stories. And then at ten o'clock, distinguished listening with *Screen Director's Playhouse*; uh William Holden [1918-1981] plays the role of a rising young lawyer in the DA's office in the drama titled "Remember the Night." There's some listening suggestions for tonight, on station WNBC and not to meet our guest and introduce our guest, here is Mrs. Roosevelt.

[Break 39:14- 39:21]

And I think I can speak for our listeners and say we enjoyed it too Miss Drury. Uh Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt in her interview with today's guest, Miss Michael Drury, freelance writer who spoke of her special series of articles in *Good Housekeeping Magazine* entitled "Women and the New War."

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Before we bring the program to a close, there is a special announcement I'd like to read to you. The WAVES's national reunion for 1951 will be held at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on Saturday the twenty-eighth of July, 1951. This reunion marks the ninth anniversary of the passage of legislation authorizing the procurement of women for active duty in the US Navy. The first WAVE reunion in New York City, New York in 1947 resulted from the enthusiastic response to a spontaneous idea that Navy women might enjoy getting together once a year to bat the breeze with old shipmates. The reunions are planned and managed by a committee of inactive WAVE reservists or veterans with assistance from the assistant personal officer for women in the district in which held and are attended by WAVESs of the regular Navy, the Naval Reserve and WAVE veterans. The fact that from five hundred to fifteen hundred WAVES have at their own expense attended past reunions is evidence of their love for and loyalty to the United States Navy. As a result of invitations graciously extended by the mayor and the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce the WAVES who gathered in Chicago in 1950 chose Philadelphia for the 1951 reunion. When plans are completed information will be sent to WAVES in all parts of the United States. Meanwhile those interested in uh attending the reunion should write to WAVE's Reunion Committee, Building Number Four, US Naval Base Philadelphia Twelve, Pennsylvania. Hotel reservations should be made individually by writing Mr. Robert C. Bennet, sales manager Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Ninth and Chestnut streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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