

A Five-Minute Furlough With the Girls Back Home



IF YOU'RE wondering what the girls back home are doing, here's a pictorial letter giving you a resume of the typical Boeing girl's day.

First off, back home there's a definite manpower shortage. In fact, the word "man" seems very remote to most girls.

Right now the home front is a striking resemblance of a woman's world—but that's not the way the girls would like to have it. They're just as anxious for you to come home as you are to get back. And in the meantime, they're just biding their time.

While they wait for your return, their days go something like this:

1. At 5 in the morning the alarm blares out reveille for the lass who works first shift. **Maxine Burnett** yawns, sneaks a couple more winks and then gets up to meet the dawn.

2. Even though most of the men in a Boeing gal's life are "either too young or too old," there's a certain amount of primping that has to be done. **Verres Everts** puts on her "face," brushes her hair and dashes down to breakfast. (Incidentally, Verres is the daughter of "Ad" Everts whose face has been a familiar one

around Boeing for the last 15 years. He's Fabrication superintendent at Plant II.)

3. It's still dark when first shifters pile out of cars and buses to begin their day's work. Five early birds who drive to the plants together are (left to right) **Betty Sitton, LaVerne McGahan, Bettee Bell, Joan Wharton and Helen Mitchell.**

4. On the job—10 hours a day—**Mary Ann Breitenbach**, an inspector, finds that crawling around jigs and B-29 assemblies is hard work. By the time 4:45 in the afternoon rolls around, she's pretty well "done-in."

5. In fact, all the girls are lagging a bit by the end of the shift. You couldn't tell it, though, from the sparkle in **Margaret "Mike" Egan's** eyes as she clocks out. By the way, lads, she was the Plant I rodeo queen this fall.

6. But a woman's work is never done—darn it! After work, there's always a bit of tidying up to do, and **Dorothy Kaup** shows you what a neat job can be done. After clean-up time, there's a dash to the butcher's, the baker's, the corner grocery or a seat at the nearest hamburger stand. After all, a gal's got to eat!

7. In the evening it's more likely to be MAIL than MALE. Readin' and writin'

are the two favorite pastimes for the girls who build B-29 Superfortresses. And nine chances out of ten, she's writing to a man in service. When mail call comes around, you can remember girls like **Alva "Cuddles" Caudill**, who write to about a dozen servicemen every week.

And then to bed—to dream of the day when a soldier, or a sailor or a marine will be back home for keeps. That's a typical first shifter's day.

But on second shift, it's a reverse process:

8. **Alta Pfaffly** (left) arrives home from work at 4 in the morning. Roommate **Betty Kendrick**, who is a first shifter, gets up to have breakfast with her. Except on weekends, from 4 to 5:30 a.m. is the only time they have together. Then Alta goes to bed, and Betty goes to work.

9. About noon, when second shifters usually get up, there's the customary pressing of slacks, writing of letters and everything else that first shifters do in the evening—including baths. That's **Helen Clark** in the tub.

10. Then some of the girls dash out for lunch, to shop or to see a movie. Here **Rose Marie Crabtree** drops in for a coke with **Marie "Lollie" Betzen.**

11. Back home again before going to work. Sometimes there's a few minutes for playing records before changing into slacks and leaving for the plants. It's **Rose Marie** again—with certain tunes reminding her of a certain sailor.

12. They come from miles around. For lots of girls building B-29's also means a couple hours a day bouncing along in commuter buses. But **Katherena Eckert** (left) and **Alice Montgomery** look none the worse for extra hours of travel to and from their homes in Belle Plaine and Winfield, respectively.

13. And then to the night shift to take up where the girls on the day shift leave off. **Lillian Nigg** works on B-29 tail assemblies at Plant I. Her workday begins at 4:45 a.m. and ends at 3:30 a.m.

14. Back home about 4 a.m., and it's **Alta** again awakening **Betty** to read the latest from one of her servicemen.

First shift, second shift—all around the clock. It's a busy world, a fascinating world—but, with all, a curiously empty one for thousands of Boeing girls who wait at home for their men who have gone away to war.