

# *Women's Labour History Project*

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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### KEEPING THE HOME FIRES BURNING

WOMEN, WAR WORK AND UNIONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

SCRIPTED AND DIRECTED BY SARA DIAMOND

COLOUR VIDEO: 3/4", VHS OR BETA, c. 1988

49 MINUTES OR IN TWO PARTS:

WOMEN AND WORK: 29 MINUTES, WOMEN AND UNIONS: 25 MINUTES

AVAILABLE FOR PREVIEW, RENTAL OR SALE.

COMBINING ORIGINAL CANADIAN WARTIME PROPAGANDA; INTERVIEWS WITH WOMEN WORKERS; ORIGINAL FOOTAGE AND PHOTOGRAPHS; MUSICAL SOUNTRACKS AND DRAMATIZATION, KEEPING THE HOME FIRES BURNING EXPLORES THE UNIQUE EXPERIENCE OF CANADA'S WORKING WOMEN DURING WORLD WAR TWO.

### WOMEN AND WORK

THIS SECTION HIGHLIGHTS NON-TRADITIONAL WORK IN THE AIRCRAFT, SHIPBUILDING AND WOOD INDUSTRIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, WHILE REMINDING US THAT WOMEN CONTINUED TO DO THE VAST MAJORITY OF TRADITIONAL SERVICE JOBS. DEPLOYING PERSONAL MEMORY AND HUMOUR, WOMEN DESCRIBE THEIR SOMETIMES ROCKY INTEGRATION INTO THE LABOUR FORCE AS WELL AS THEIR CHANGING CONSCIOUSNESS TOWARDS THEMSELVES, OTHER WOMEN AND WORK BOTH DURING AND AFTER THE WAR.

### WOMEN AND UNIONS

THE 1940'S WERE A TIME OF RAPID GROWTH FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA'S TRADE UNIONS. NOT SURPRISINGLY, WOMEN WERE SWEEPED UP IN THE TIDE OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION, SERVING AS ORGANIZERS, STEWARDS AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS. THE REASONS FOR AND RESULTS OF WOMEN'S UNION ACTIVITY EMERGE THROUGH AGIT-PROP DRAMATIZATION BASED ON THE WORKERS THEATRE OF THE ERA AND PERSONAL TESTIMONY.

KEEPING THE HOME FIRES BURNING IS PART OF AN ONGOING VIDEO SERIES BY THE WOMEN'S LABOUR HISTORY PROJECT ABOUT CANADIAN WORKING WOMEN IN HISTORY. IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR GALLERY AND EDUCATIONAL USE.