Mary Ellen Rathbun Kolb ‘46
Oral History Interview, Part I

November 23, 2013

Institute Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program
Mary Ellen Rathbun Kolb ’46 Oral History, Part I

MERK: Mary Ellen Rathbun Kolb
TAG: Tammy Gobert
JK: John Kolb
JM: Jenifer Monger

Key to Abbreviations
Sig Ep: Sigma Phi Epsilon
ASM: American Society of Metallurgists
Phys Ed: Physical Education
The Poly: The Rensselaer Polytechnic
Transit: The Transit yearbook
Chrysler: Chrysler Corporation

Note: This is the original transcript which was completed on February 28, 2014. This transcript follows the Baylor University Institute for Oral History Style Guide.

[00:00]

TAG: This interview is being conducted with Mary Rathbun Kolb, RPI Class of 1946, on behalf of the Institute Archives and Special Collections Department, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York. It is taking place on Saturday, November 23, 2013 at Atria Shaker Assisted Living Center in Albany, New York. The interviewers are Assistant Institute Archivist Jenifer Monger, and Automation Archivist Tammy Gobert. Also present is Mary’s son, John Kolb, RPI Class of 1979.

[00:47]

TAG: Okay so, our first question is about your background and I’d like to begin our conversation with finding out where you were born and raised.

MERK: I was born in Massachusetts.
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TAG: Where in Massachusetts?

MERK: Let’s see where was I born? Somewhere in Massachusetts.

TAG: Okay, and is that where you were raised too? Is that where you grew up?

MERK: No, I grew up in Hoosick Falls. It was very close here.

TAG: Oh, yeah, okay.

MERK: Palmer, Massachusetts.

TAG: Oh, Palmer, okay.

TAG: What were some of your favorite subjects in school when you were growing up?

MERK: Science.

TAG: Oh really? All along?

MERK: And music, a couple of others of course.

TAG: Uh huh, okay. Did your parents encourage you in particular areas of study?

MERK: No, just do your best in whatever you were doing.

TAG: Uh huh, so uh, how did you like mathematics? Did you like mathematics too?

MERK: Of course.

TAG: Yeah--who doesn’t love math?

TAG: Um, and what were some of your extracurricular interests when you were a child?

MERK: Let’s see there was music--there was piano and viola at that point--Also played drum on the band that was more fun.

TAG: I’ll bet.

TAG: Were you involved in any sports or outdoor activities?
MERK: There were really no times for activities during the war.

TAG: What about when you were a kid? A little kid?

MERK: You mean that far back?

TAG: Um hm.

MERK: The usual stuff I guess.

TAG: Just playing?

TAG: But you didn’t play any competitive sports?

MERK: There weren’t women sports at that point.

TAG: Okay.

TAG: What about games, and indoor games and things like that?

MERK: I mean you could play things like ping pong, I mean that’s an indoor game I guess.

TAG: What about table games, card games, that sort of thing.

MERK: All kinds of cards.

TAG: Yeah.

MERK: Right?

JK: Well you played pinochle, you played bridge, you played cribbage.

MERK: I played all kinds of games, kinds of card games.

TAG: Good.

TAG: Was religion a major part of your life when you were growing up? Religion? Religious activity?
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MERK: Just like other kids I guess. I mean you went to Sunday school--(unintelligible) church.

TAG: How about clubs, were you involved in any clubs when you were in high school?

[03:51]

MERK: I don’t think there was any time for clubs.

TAG: Okay. Were there many social events when you were growing up?

MERK: Social events?

TAG: Yeah, dances, parties, that sort of thing?

MERK: Well, my boyfriend was in a fraternity.

TAG: What about in high school, before that?

MERK: Can’t remember any, the usual things, I mean you’d have your proms--that sort of thing.

TAG: When did you graduate from high school?

MERK: ‘40 I think--1940.

TAG: And did you receive any awards or scholarships at that time? Did they have many of them?

MERK: I was just glad to get out.

(Laughter)

TAG: Okay so, after high school, we were looking at the RPI yearbook, the Transit, and it said that you went to Bradford Junior College before you went to RPI.

MERK: Girls weren’t admitted to RPI until the day I went there. When I was at a junior college which was just like high school, it was a pain in the neck.

(Laughter)
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MERK: Don’t print that!

TAG: What did you study at Bradford?

[05:15]

MERK: They had a lot of useful courses, and a lot of useless courses.

TAG: Such as--

MERK: It was just like high school.

TAG: Really, just general studies, that kind of thing?

MERK: I guess so.

TAG: Yeah.

TAG: How long were you there?

MERK: Two years to finish it.

TAG: Oh so you finished at Bradford? And what did you like or dislike about that school?

MERK: It didn’t go into things deeply. It hit the surface of the stuff you know.

TAG: And tell us about your decision to apply to RPI. What made you decide to go to Rensselaer?

MERK: It was an announcement in the Troy paper that girls were going to be admitted, which my mother saw.

TAG: Oh, she did!

MERK: So the next thing I know, I was in.

TAG: Great--so did she apply for you? Or did you have to go through an application process?

MERK: Since it was very new I don’t think they had gotten that far.
MERK: Being the first one there you don’t know what is all set up.

TAG: Yeah, I noticed that in the student newspaper too that they announced it one day and it seemed like immediately they had a few girls enrolled.

MERK: The comments weren’t all favorable. I know there were some adversements [adverse comments?] but I can’t even remember them now. I was really too busy once I got in the place.

TAG: I’ll bet.

MERK: I was glad to have some input into the study. You know? I was at a college where intellect wasn’t large.

JK: Actually Tammy, may be useful to ask--I know you asked earlier--but to--since your mother, mom, applied to RPI or saw the article, you may want to talk a little bit about what your mom did for her career and so on.

TAG: Sure.

MERK: I don’t know RPI sounded all right.

JK: But what did Daisy do for her career?

MERK: Daisy? She was a teacher. But, she grew up with a large family in the country and whatever the kids (unintelligible) had to do for themselves. So she got her way into school and became a teacher.

JK: And where did she teach?

MERK: Somewhere around Cooperstown.

TAG: Was she still a teacher when she saw that ad in the paper for RPI admitting women?
MERK: No I don’t think so, I think after she got married she didn’t do it I think.

TAG: But she was very interested in seeing that her children were well educated?

JK: One child.

(Laughter)

TAG: Oh, her one child!

(Laughter)

MERK: I had a brother who died very early.

TAG: I see. Was she or was anyone in particular an inspiration to you to go into engineering?

MERK: Well it sounded very interesting. I don’t think I knew anybody in it.

TAG: I’m curious what made you decide to choose engineering.

MERK: It was something you could dig into. I went to a girl’s college for a couple of years, it was very boring. You better not put that down!

JK: So before you chose metallurgical engineering mom, I think you were interested in geology?

MERK: Yes, I was interested in the sciences period--geology too.

[09:23]

TAG: Okay. So once you were accepted, how did they inform you that you were accepted into RPI, do you remember?

MERK: I remember my mother said she read it in the paper, then she called somebody at RPI for an interview and she met them.

TAG: Your mom interviewed?

MERK: My mother. Mother met whoever it was from RPI and said that’s my entry.
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TAG: Wow, that’s interesting, she must have shown them your grades.

(Tammy laughs)

MERK: I don’t know.

TAG: That’s interesting.

MERK: Being the first one in I don’t know what you had to do.

(Mary Ellen laughs)

TAG: That’s really wild.

MERK: Say that you want to go there I guess.

[10:11]

TAG: I guess so.

MERK: Lots of boys.

(Laughter)

MERK: They can have them.

TAG: What was your first day at RPI like?

MERK: I have no idea. Too long ago.

TAG: Yeah, it’s been 70 years!

MERK: I was really glad that the courses sounded like they delved into things. You know. I was sick of stuff on the surface.

TAG: Do you know what inspired you to go into metallurgical engineering specifically? Were they looking for metallurgical engineers at that time or was there a course that you took that inspired you in that direction?
MERK: I just took the regular courses. I don’t know--you have to remember there was still a war going on. It wasn’t your normal student relationship with the surroundings that you have now. The guy next to you was liable to be in the army tomorrow and liable to be dead the next day. I mean it was a very different atmosphere.

TAG: I’ll bet it was.

MERK: You’re also trying to get through as fast as you could.

TAG: I noticed that the same semester you were admitted they announced that they were accelerating the program so that people would finish a year ahead or six months ahead.

MERK: John, do we have that newspaper article?

JK: From the Troy newspaper?

MERK: About the girls finally being admitted or something like that.

JK: Yeah I’m not sure I have it but we ought to see between the three of us if we can dig it up.

MERK: That would be interesting for atmosphere.

JK: Right.

TAG: Yeah, we have the student newspaper, but we don’t have the Troy newspaper.

JK: I saw it once and it’s certainly not enlightened and looking back I can say “what?” But it had a tag line of something like, “due to the war effort RPI is forced to open its doors to women”. So it was not--something like that--

MERK: We were part of the war effort.

JM: One thing that we did find was Livingston Houston’s press release for that article which was very very interesting. But it sounds similar to what you--

JK: Yeah, I’ve seen it, so it’s around somewhere.
TAG: And they also didn’t promise that it would remain open to women after the war ended so it was a temporary measure at the time.

TAG: Okay, can you tell us a little bit about your classes? The classes that you took?

MERK: My what?

TAG: Your courses--the courses that you took?

MERK: I don’t know they were regular science courses I guess.

TAGS: Physics? Chemistry?

MERK: Yeah, all that stuff.

TAG: I was looking at the curriculum for metallurgical, well for engineering in general at that time and they had things like German language, and things like that, were you, did you have to take that or did they waive those courses.

MERK: I took it somewhere whether I took it before RPI, or not, I don’t know.

TAG: Okay. Did you have any particular favorite classes?

MERK: Favorite classes?

TAG: Yeah.

MERK: I liked science, chemistry is great.

TAG: Yeah? Do you remember any of your professors?

MERK: I liked geology to--my teachers?

TAG: Yeah. I’ve got a list of the teachers who taught in the metallurgical engineering department at the time you were there. Do you remember any of those individuals? [passed MERK the list on the table. See Appendix A. Metallurgical Engineering Faculty at RPI, 1940’s].

MERK: I think Nippes was in my husband’s fraternity, I know he was.
TAG: Oh really?

MERK: John Parks of course we knew very well.

TAG: He was a recent RPI grad right?

MERK: Who?

TAG: John Parks, I think he had graduated from RPI only a few years before.

MERK: I must have seen him after that. Cause he’s practically a teacher at that point. We were humanizing him. Whether successfully or not I don’t know.

(Laughter)

TAG: Do you remember Matthew Hunter? He was head of the department at the time.

MERK: You don’t know the head of the departments very well usually. He was around--said hello--nice guy but that’s about all. I think my mother met him.

MERK: When she saw in the Troy paper that girls would be admitted I guess--I think she interviewed with him, was one of the persons.

TAG: Okay.

TAG: Do you remember Professor Hess?

MERK: Jones we knew well of course--yes--Nippes--I knew all these people.

TAG: Yeah? Wendell Hess was the head of the Welding lab, do you remember him?

MERK: Who?

TAG: Wendell Hess, Professor Hess.

MERK: Wendell Hess, no I don’t remember him. Of course I took welding.

TAG: You did. We were curious about that.
MERK: Oh it was fun.

TAG: Was it? What was it like?

MERK: Well a lot of it I remember the front part. Somebody that was holding the bit of metal with a large pair of tongs--you were out here and the fellow was over there and you had a sledgehammer--you were pounding that thing and he was holding it, I mean that’s a good memory.

TAG: Wow.

JK: Mom you might want to tell them what building it was in too? Where did you have welding? Do you remember which building it was in?

MERK: Really? Why don’t you do that?

(Laughter)

[16:18]

JK: I believe it was in the Winslow Building at the top of the Approach.

MERK: Okay.

(Laughter)

Tag: What is that being used for now? It was the Junior Museum now it’s the--

JK: It has the Tetherless World Constellation in it now.

TAG: Right, right--

[16:33]

JK: But the--a little aside here--but the little entrance that you come in from the north now which is the main entrance just off the parking lot, there was no door there before. That was all closed off and that was the welding lab, you came in from the other side into that. When we
first went to renovate that it looked like it was a big foundry type of thing down there with all
the coal and everything else in there from their time there.

TAG: Okay. Did you like welding?

MERK: Welding was fun.

TAG: Yeah? We heard that they conducted secret research for the war effort during that time
period. Were you ever involved in any of that? In the welding lab?

MERK: No. Actually it was very busy. We were trying to get through school as fast as you could.
Get out and maybe do something for the war effort.

JK: So mom, with all those professors that Tammy just spoke to you about--Did you do anything
else with them like play cards, did you play bridge with any of those folks?

MERK: Let’s see. I stayed at Russell Sage which was very nice--still have a couple of friends
there. They were dating fellows at RPI. That’s how I met Ed, my husband. That was about it I
guess. So a lot of our activities were connected with Sig Ep.

TAG: Okay, I’m going to ask you a bunch of questions about that later.

[18:14]

MERK: Ed was president of the Sig Ep at that point.

JK: Let me prep a little bit more here mom but I thought you played cards with some of your
professors.

MERK: I always play cards whenever I have a chance.

JK: Do you remember which professors you played cards with?

MERK: No.

TAG: Did you beat them?
MERK: Of course.

(Laughter)

TAG: I’m afraid to ever play cards with her.

JK: You should be.

(Laughter)

MERK: I tried to teach my children.

TAG: That’s just like how my mom was.

MERK: I just tried, that’s all.

TAG: My mom is the same way.

TAG: Let me ask you. Did you have an academic advisor when you were at RPI?

MERK: I don’t remember any. There weren’t any women around really for a while. I remember we did get one woman instructor--can’t remember her name.

TAG: Was that in one of the science classes? Do you know?

MERK: Science?

TAG: The woman instructor? Do you remember what--

[19:26]

MERK: I might have had her for a lab. I remember her distinctly. I was walking by the school one day and I looked up at the window and she was there waving at me--I said “oh my gosh that’s an instructor, what did I do?” I can’t even tell you her name--German--or had been German--her name was German.

TAG: So they didn’t have a women’s advisor or anything like that on campus when you started?
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MERK: To advise one person?

TAG: Well there were a couple of others.

MERK: I probably could’ve used advice but no I didn’t.

TAG: I want to skip ahead to the schedule that you kept. In 1942 RPI accelerated the academic schedule, and that included shortening the vacations and compressing the semesters. [See Appendix B. Metallurgical Engineering Curriculum, 1942]

MERK: I was probably at Sage cause Sage was off and RPI wasn’t.

TAG: Oh, what did you do then?

MERK: Hm?

TAG: What did you do then, you lived at Sage right?

MERK: Trouble I had with housing was trying to find a place to stay, because I was staying at Sage which was very nice. All of a sudden I had no place. I finally ended up with my eye doctor’s secretary. I stayed at her house for a little while--that was in north Troy--I had a place to go. Of course I was running up and down the steps too.

TAG: You had to climb the Approach on a daily basis.

MERK: Daily day steps, yeah sure.

TAG: What forms of transportation did you use when you lived in north Troy? That must have been quite a hike.

MERK: I did a lot of walking. But they had trolleys, buses; they had something--buses I guess. I’d get down to the foot of the Approach and I’d run up the Approach every day.

TAG: Was it difficult to keep up with your studies when it was, you know during that time when everything was so compressed schedule wise?

MERK: You have to.
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TAG: Did some of the students struggle with that?

MERK: You had to keep up with your studies--for fun, Ed belonged to a fraternity, of course that was fun.

TAG: It helped?

MERK: The rest of it was all study.

TAG: Yeah.

MERK: I also was connected with a couple of the girls from Sage because I lived with them--Let’s see the first part of the school year I was at Sage and then they went on vacation and left me. That’s when I had to go to north Troy.

TAG: Did you live at Sage all three years that you were at RPI other than when they were on break or did you move somewhere else?

MERK: No, it was the first year I guess except I didn’t have the summer. RPI was all year around of course.

TAG: Did you end up moving somewhere else? Was there another place that RPI provided housing?

MERK: I don’t remember RPI providing anything except an education which I certainly appreciated. It was very nice having courses where you can delve into them. You didn’t skip along prettily on the top the way you do in some girls colleges--drives me nuts.

TAG: Those things have changed quite a bit these days.

MERK: But you could dig into something. They go back into how it started and how it developed and so forth--things you like to know about something.

TAG: I want to ask you about some of the other girls who attended RPI at the same time that you did. I have a list here of some names of women who were admitted in the fall semester of
1942. [Provided list of other female women students. See Appendix C. Women matriculated at RPI in 1942]

MERK: Good night! They never called her Camilla.

TAG: What was her name what did you call her?

MERK: I’m trying to remember. She came in later.

TAG: Later in the semester?

MERK: Betty English married John DeNike, I saw her last year.

TAG: Betty English?

MERK: Yeah, she’s still married to John.

TAG: Where did you meet her? I mean. I’m sorry you said you saw her recently?

MERK: Saw her last year at a reunion of some kind. Both she and John were here. John DeNike was--is her husband.

TAG: Uh huh.

MERK: I think she has three daughters or something like that. Of course I knew Lois, a good friend of mine--in the same class. Helen Ketchum, I didn’t know that one.

TAG: I’m not sure she graduated; we couldn’t find any records of her finishing.

MERK: Nobody else in metallurgy when I was there. That I knew of.

[24:57]

JM: I think we noticed that the next woman who had entered metallurgical engineering was not until 1947. So you were it for quite a few years.

MERK: I graduated in 1946 so.
TAG: Did you have any classes with any of the other girls?

MERK: Have any what?

TAG: Classes with any of them?

MERK: No, of course not. Lois is still my friend. Helen Ketchum, didn’t know her. Betty English, I saw her last year. She’s nicely married to Johnny DeNike.

TAG: Was she a friend of yours in school?

MERK: Yeah, of course.

TAG: You also were friends with some of the Sage girls you said?

MERK: You say girls, it should be maybe two.

TAG: Oh!

MERK: Maybe. It was Lois and myself for quite a while--only the two of us.

TAG: Yeah, well you were the first two to graduate. I think Betty English graduated two months later in June.

MERK: She was having a little trouble, she was a night nurse in Albany and so she would fold about Thursday of every week. But she got through very nice, married Johnny.

JM: Did you know Camilla Cluett? Do you remember Camilla?

MERK: Camilla, never called her Camilla. She was around that’s about all I can tell.

TAG: Yeah I would imagine that there wouldn’t be much overlap between engineering and architecture.

MERK: The courses were different.

MERK: Betty English of course I saw her last year. Betty English DeNike right now.
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TAG: Were you able to spend much time with the other women students?

MERK: You talk about other women students there were only two of us.

(Laughter)

MERK: We did some school things. Um she stayed with her family of course, cause her father was a coach.

TAG: And you’re still friends with Lois?

MERK: Yeah. I don’t see many of these people.

TAG: What was your daily routine like when you attended RPI?

MERK: Well in north Troy, of course you grabbed a bus went down to the bottom of the Approach, crawled up the Approach, went up the rest of the stuff and then went to your classes.

TAG: And the classes were all during the daytime?

MERK: Yeah, no evening classes that I remember.

TAG: What about weekends? What was your routine like on weekends?

MERK: A routine?

TAG: Yeah did you have a routine? What was a normal day like?

MERK: Going to school.

TAG: Did you have classes on Saturdays?

MERK: Not to start with. But I think towards the end we did. I didn’t ever like that. We started going all year around. That wasn’t too much fun either.

TAG: I’ll bet.
JM: I think we discovered in the Polytechnic that the only day off may have been Sundays for a while.

MERK: What I like was having courses five days during the week and that was it. And we had the weekend off. Of course that didn’t last—we had one period off and one on and so forth. I really liked all the stuff together and you could do all your studying at one point.

TAG: Have a little free time afterwards?

TAG: Do you think your routine—your daily studies were different from the men who had physical education and military drills and things like that or did you have—

MERK: I really didn’t know what they had.

TAG: Okay.

MERK: Cause war time is a little different.

TAG: Did you have any kind of Phys Ed [Physical Education] classes when you first started?

MERK: When I first started there were just two of us. And we were in the men’s classes—there wasn’t any difference.

TAG: You went to the men’s Phys Ed [Physical Education] classes?

MERK: Not military classes, just studies.

TAG: And were there any separate policies that affected you and Lois, like curfews or anything like that?

MERK: There couldn’t be there were just two of us with a bunch of boys.

TAG: They just didn’t have anything like that set up at the time?

MERK: No she lived at home and I lived wherever I could find a place.
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TAG: And do you think that the expectations were any different for you and the other girls academically?

[30:17]

MERK: Lois, no we were both working on our studies. She was a good student.

TAG: Yeah I think she went on to get her PhD didn’t she?

MERK: I write to her maybe once a year, but I really don’t know too much about her.

TAG: Okay. Were there any particular challenges that you encountered as a student other than having to walk up the hill and that sort of thing? Did you encounter many attitudes about women students?

MERK: No, never. I’ve been asked that over the years and there was no animosity at all. A lot of liking--

TAG: That’s nice.

MERK: But we were all in the same boat, that sort of thing.

TAG: Uh huh. Yeah, we noticed a few letters and editorials in the Poly that talked about returning to an all-male school or that sort of thing but it didn’t really have an effect on you?

[31:23]

MERK: Didn’t bother at all.

TAG: Good.

MERK: I guess we must have noticed it--Didn’t bother at all.

TAG: Didn’t have time to worry about it.

TAG: Were you required to write a senior thesis?

MERK: Did I teach?
TAG: No, did you write a senior thesis?

MERK: No.

TAG: I think they dropped that maybe during that time period.

MERK: When did they start having thesis?

JM: Right at the beginning it was required for graduation.

TAG: For years and years.

JK: You should look because I know my, I looked up my dad’s, it is in the Archives; I don’t know if I ever looked up yours mom but I think you did a senior thesis but it was by department--Not necessarily by the whole school so -- I know the Civil Engineering department had them because I read my father’s--right next to mine when I found mine.

TAG: I don’t think we looked that up.

JM: We did look Edward’s up.

TAG: We did. And it was in the catalog?

JM: Yes.

TAG: Yeah we didn’t find one for Mary.

JM: We’ll double check.

TAG: Do you remember if you joined any professional or honorary societies as a student?

MERK: Didn’t have time.

JK: But certainly, are you going to ask that again afterwards?

TAG: I wasn’t going to but go ahead.

JK: Okay so [to Mary Ellen] you’re still a member of I think the American Chemical Society.
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MERK: Yeah.

JK: And there’s a Metallurgical Society.

JK: So, those are the two I’m aware of.

MERK: ASM.

TAG: Do you get newsletters?

MERK: What?

TAG: Do you get newsletters from those organizations?

MERK: I think I do.

JK: Yes you do.

MERK: It’s hard to get away from it you know?

TAG: I’d like to switch gears a little bit and talk about your living situation a little bit more.

MERK: It was chaotic. When Sage was in operation of course, it was fine I stayed near good friends. Walked the Approach every day, everything was fine. Then they went off on a summer vacation and I was left. So at one point I was staying with my doctor’s assistant up in North Troy I think.

[34:06]

TAG: Did you attend any freshman activities, orientation, or--

MERK: There were only two of us how would we have freshman activities?

TAG: I’m talking about for the whole school.

MERK: Didn’t pay any attention to them, they were just trying to get through--the war was going on you know.
TAG: Yeah.

TAG: Do you remember a song called “Ah Me, My Poor Freshie”? It was a freshman song that students were required to sing to upperclassmen.

MERK: No. I can sympathize with them but I don’t remember it.

(Laughter)

TAG: Did any of your classmates have to wear the little red beanies, the freshman beanies, do you remember those?

MERK: You mean all two of us?

TAG: No no I’m talking about the boys.

MERK: I don’t remember.

TAG: I know they dropped a lot of traditions around that time so--

MERK: We didn’t have time for a lot of extra stuff; you know we were mostly studying. Boys were worrying about when they were going to be in the army next--like the next day.

TAG: Sure.

TAG: We read that they lowered the draft age from 21 to 18 while you were in college so that must have been--

MERK: You were liable to lose your friend--the guy that was working next to you’d be gone the next day.

TAG: When you were at Sage did you share a room with any of the Sage girls or did you live alone?

MERK: There was a requirement that the students had to take one class I took a gym class. Rope climbing.
TAG: At RPI or at Sage?

MERK: At Sage. In fact I got my picture in the Troy paper climbing a rope.

TAG: Oh I want to see that.

JM: We’ll have to find that.

(Laughter)

TAG: I can’t climb a rope, how’d you climb a rope?

TAG: Did you have a roommate while you lived there?

MERK: I had two of them.

TAG: Oh you did.

MERK: Two seniors.

TAG: Oh my.

MERK: Both very nice.

TAG: Did they help you out at all.

MERK: Yeah they had dates with RPI Freshman--RPI people.

JK: You don’t remember their name do you mom?

MERK: Let’s see Betty English married Johnny DeNike, he was RPI I think. That’s the one I saw last year.

[37: 04]

TAG: You don’t remember any of the Sage girls’ names?

MERK: Let’s see there was Ruth Brown and Ruth Metz were both my roommates. Very nice girls.
Mary Ellen Rathbun Kolb ’46 Oral History, Part I

JK: So they were both Ruth? Their first names were Ruth?

MERK: Yeah both Ruth’s.


MERK: M.E.T.Z. I think her brother went to RPI. [John R. Metz ’45, 1 Rockridge Road, Saylesville, R.I].

TAG: And did you say that they introduced you to Edward, your husband.

MERK: My roommates were dating boys from Sig Ep.

TAG: Oh. So did you end up going to a party or how did you end up meeting him?

MERK: I went to work at a regular dance. The fraternity dance.

TAG: Did they have a lot of dances?

MERK: Fortunately the fraternity had dances there wasn’t much social life going on.

TAG: Yeah, I noticed in the student newspaper there were a lot of dances advertised but that was about all I found for social activities.

MERK: They had dances at the fraternities, I can’t remember any others.

TAG: Were there some dances in the ’87 gym?

MERK: I think that’s where we had them.

TAG: Oh. The fraternity dances were in the gym?

MERK: I really don’t remember.

TAG: What about in the student clubhouse?

MERK: I don’t know there weren’t too many activities during the war--Too busy. Besides, the boys were disappearing.
Mary Ellen Rathbun Kolb ’46 Oral History, Part I

TAG: Where did you usually take your meals? Did you eat at Sage or did you come up on campus for that?

MERK: I ate all over the place. Let’s see I usually made breakfast at Sage, then walked up the Approach, got something to eat at RPI for lunch. And I don’t know what I did for supper.

TAG: Did you eat in the big dining hall at RPI for lunch?

MERK: I don’t ever remember being in there when I was a student.

TAG: I think the military guys might have taken that over during the war.

TAG: Did you go to Troy restaurants and things like that for meals?

MERK: I don’t think we could afford anything like that. You know as a student you can’t afford anything.

TAG: Were there any places that you liked to hang out? Like the clubhouse or at Sage or any of those places?

MERK: Probably Ed’s fraternity was the closest place for hanging out. Sig Ep.

TAG: Do you remember a building called Thompson House? Does that ring a bell?

MERK: No.

TAG: How about the YMCA? I know they had activities for students did they have anything that RPI students went to?

MERK: There were that many activities going around, we were too busy with the serious things.

TAG: Trying to save lives right?

JK: Mom do you remember where Sig Ep was? You said you hung out at Sig Ep, do you remember where it was physically located at the time?

MERK: Where what was?
Mary Ellen Rathbun Kolb ’46 Oral History, Part I

JK: The fraternity. The Sig Ep fraternity, do you--

MERK: Where it was? It was across from the school someplace.

JK: Was it right on Fifteenth Street? That’s where it is now.

MERK: Oh really?

MERK: Wait a minute, where was it? What’s the main street that goes through there, Congress Street is what east to west? It should be a north south one someplace--goes by the school--a large street--what is that?

JK: So there’s several, there’s Eighth Street which is right at the top of the Approach, and there’s Fifteenth Street--goes right next to the fire house.

MERK: I think Sixteenth Street was where the--(unintelligible) Fraternity was.

JK: Okay.

MERK: So most of dances would be at the fraternity.

TAG: We looked at the yearbook and it listed several activities that you were involved in like the band and the symphony orchestra. Can you describe what that was--

MERK: Played snare drum in the band and viola in the orchestra.

TAG: Did you have many performances?

MERK: I don’t think I’d like to hear any if we had any.

(Laughter)

TAG: What instrument did you play in the orchestra?

MERK: Viola.

TAG: I also read that you were co-editor of the Transit.
MARY ELLEN RATHBUN KOLB ’46 ORAL HISTORY, PART I

MERK: The what?

TAG: The Transit, the yearbook. The Poly mentioned that you became co-editor of the Transit in your senior year. Do you remember anything about that?

MERK: I didn’t get that. That was a co-ed—what?

TAG: Oh co-editor of the yearbook? The RPI yearbook?

MERK: That doesn’t ring any bells.

TAG: Okay

TAG: Do you remember attending any sports? You know major games or anything like that?

MERK: There were only two of us, we didn’t have sports.

TAG: No, I mean attending school sports.

MERK: We had football games, basketball games.

TAG: Were they big events?

MERK: Couldn’t think of anything else that we played. But the boys played.

TAG: How about pep rallies?

MERK: We attended the school facilities whenever they were.

TAG: I know there were also major assemblies on campus where people would come with speakers and that sort of thing. Did you attend many of those things?

MERK: Visitors to the table?

TAG: Assemblies? Where they’d have speakers?

MERK: I don’t remember that. They didn’t have time for too much fun you see. Whether that goes under the heading of fun, or not I don’t know.
Mary Ellen Rathbun Kolb ’46 Oral History, Part I

TAG: Right. Were you involved ever in any of the GM day activities? The student elections and that sort of thing?

MERK: Probably not. We were all studying as fast as we could and trying to learn.

TAG: Any campus political activities that you were involved in or anything like that?

MERK: You mean all the two of us had activities? No--there weren’t enough of us. We didn’t form a team.

TAG: Okay. Did you date Edward Kolb throughout your stay at RPI?

MERK: Do what?

TAG: Did you and Edward date throughout your college years?

MERK: I dated Ed through the whole thing. I was introduced when I was at Sage, and that was very early.

TAG: Uh huh.

MERK: Ed was president of Sig Ep.

TAG: So that was the focus of your social life was the fraternity?

MERK: I was introduced by my roommates at Sage when I lived there which was when I started at school.

TAG: The last time we met with you, you mentioned that you ended up being a match maker with some of the Sage girls and Ed’s fraternity brothers.

MERK: Yup. That was standard.

TAG: You were a go-between?

MERK: Yeah, I was because it was a bunch of boys and a bunch of girls and nothing in between.

TAG: Did any of them ever stay together?
Mary Ellen Rathbun Kolb ’46 Oral History, Part I

MERK: Of course.

TAG: Oh good.

TAG: One of the things I read about in the student newspaper was that there were things called “vic” dances. Do you remember anything about a “vic” dance? Do you know what that was?

MERK: No idea.

TAG: Okay, it never described what they were it just advertised them.

TAG: Okay, here’s another thing, the Poly also indicated that you were president of the Women Students Organization at RPI. What can you tell us about that?

MERK: Not much. [Unintelligible] I think we had a couple meetings, I don’t remember much about it.

TAG: Do you know what its goals were?

MERK: At that point we had maybe five more girls turned up or something like that. I’d love to get together. They were of course all younger than I was. Lois and I were the only ones in our class.

TAG: Do you remember what you were trying to accomplish with the organization?

MERK: I think we just first got together and that was it. We didn’t have much time.

TAG: There was a girl named Eileen Bloomberg who was listed as secretary, do you remember her?

MERK: No.

TAG: And RPI’s registrar Miss Burke was listed as the club’s adviser. Do you remember anything about her and what her role was?

MERK: No.
Mary Ellen Rathbun Kolb ’46 Oral History, Part I

TAG: And lastly Lois Graham was the Sports Committee chairman, any idea was she was trying to accomplish with that?

MERK: No.

TAG: No? Were you trying to get access to the gym?

MERK: We may have just said that we were starting the group but we didn’t do anything in it, we were too busy otherwise.

TAG: Um hm.

[48:36]

TAG: A short lived organization?

MERK: What fun I had was with Ed’s fraternity.

(Laughter)

TAG: What can you tell us about how you celebrated holidays during that time period?

MERK: How I did what?

TAG: Celebrated holidays?

MERK: Celebrated holidays the same I think.

TAG: Gift giving at Christmas and the normal kinds of things?

MERK: We were home for that—we weren’t at school.

TAG: Even on short breaks you were able to go home?

MERK: Um hm.

TAG: Did the Institute have any ceremonies for holidays?

MERK: We went home. Our holiday was getting off of school and going home.
Mary Ellen Rathbun Kolb ’46 Oral History, Part I

TAG: I’ll bet.

TAG: Were there any campus characters that really stand out in your mind? People that you remember specifically?

MERK: Of course I know Lois, she’s still my friend. Betty English I knew she came a little bit later.

TAG: How about the men?

MERK: But they didn’t see Betty too much cause she was a nurse, she worked at Brady hospital in Albany—nights--and she’d fold about Thursday every week because she’s going to school during the days.

TAG: It must have been exhausting.

MERK: She married Johnny DeNike of course.

TAG: Other than Edward Kolb, do you remember any other of the men students specifically? Do you remember any of their names?

MERK: All the students? Perhaps if you mentioned some I would recognize them but I don’t really. Lois and I were the only ones for a while and then I know we picked up Betty English. And there were about five girls that came in after that I don’t remember their names now.

TAG: Let me ask you a couple of questions about the WWII era specifically, I know you’ve mentioned some things about that. I’d like to start off with the Curtiss-Wright Cadettes. They came on campus in February of 1943 and stayed until December on a short term training program. Do you remember much about the Curtiss-Wright Cadettes?

MERK: I know the Curtiss-Wright Cadettes were there for a while.

TAG: Did they just have their own classes separate from everybody else?

MERK: They weren’t doing the same work that we were. They were doing—I would characterize it as kind of—lab work.
MARY ELLEN RATHBUN KOLB ‘46 ORAL HISTORY, PART I

TAG: Oh okay.

MERK: I don’t know what they were doing.

TAG: Did you ever meet any of them?

MERK: One was from my home town.

TAG: Really?

MERK: I know her. Yeah.

MERK: But I don’t know what they did.

TAG: Did you ever socialize with any of them?

MERK: No, we just weren’t around them; they must’ve done things separately some place.

TAG: Did it have much of an impact on campus when they were there?

MERK: I really don’t know because we were in separate spots, you know, separate classes. They were doing more classes you would have if you were doing manufacturing and that sort of thing.

TAG: I see. What was the atmosphere like on campus during WWII particularly in regard to the effects of the draft and war news--

MERK: I think everybody was kind of worried. They didn’t know who was going to be in the army next. We didn’t know--we hoped we were going to win the war but that was hanging over our heads you know. Our country was at war, we were fighting. And of course you’d hear what was happening overseas. You tried to believe it all.

TAG: Were people scared?

MERK: Of course.

TAG: Was it hard to keep up spirits?
MERK: You expected to win the war of course even though there’d be terrible things that happened. People die that sort of thing. But there was also a little thought, maybe you wouldn’t win but not much—we had a lot more confidence in our country.

TAG: We’ve read about buying war bonds, and donating blood and collecting scrap metal for the war effort. What do you remember about those things?

MERK: They were just things that you were doing, that’s all.

TAG: Anything to support the war effort?

MERK: We donated because you were supposed to donate them. Do what you were required to do or asked to do.

TAG: So pretty much everybody participated in those kinds of things?

MERK: Yeah, we were all working for it indirectly if not directly. Mostly we were just trying to get through school as fast as we could without getting inducted into the army in the process.

TAG: Do you remember much about the military presence on campus?

MERK: Well a bunch of kids were in it of course because that was how they could stay in school. You were just there.

TAG: Were there a lot of drills and things like that out on the fields?

MERK: I can’t remember any. I suppose there were.

TAG: Were Navy men and ROTC students in your classes?

MERK: Yes, there was ROTC there. But not recognizable, you would happen to see them if they were walking around some place.

TAG: So they weren’t usually in uniform?

MERK: [shook head “no”].
Mary Ellen Rathbun Kolb ’46 Oral History, Part I

TAG: Did the military effort, did that focus have an impact on the curriculum that you studied? Did it change the courses in any way that you can tell?

MERK: I wasn’t involved in any military so I don’t know very much about it. I just knew some of the kids who were in it that’s all.

TAG: You don’t think they tried to change the courses to have more of an application to a military purpose?

MERK: [shook head “no”]

TAG: What was it like having all of those students coming and going all the time? Was it, well, I think you used the word chaos earlier, it that how it felt on a regular basis?

MERK: You get used to it. The guy working next to you wouldn’t be there that’s all. You’d still be working really hard at what you were doing.

TAG: Was it hard to make friendships under those conditions?

MERK: I don’t know how well they would have lasted. I just don’t remember. Kids were there and then they weren’t.

TAG: Um hm.

TAG: Next I’d like to talk about your transition from college student to engineer. Can you describe commencement for us?

MERK: Not much I didn’t do much engineering.

TAG: What was your commencement ceremony like?

MERK: Can’t remember that either.

TAG: We read that you worked at Chrysler after you graduated?
Mary Ellen Rathbun Kolb ’46 Oral History, Part I

MERK: Let’s see I remember going with one of my favorite teachers. We were both going to a job down at Jersey or someplace. So we were just waiting to hear--They were on a strike--The company was on strike.

TAG: Wow.

MERK: By that time, Ed came by and said, “Let’s get married”.

(Laughter)

TAG: What did you do at Chrysler?

MERK: We didn’t get there they were on strike.

TAG: Oh, you never really started working at Chrysler?

MERK: No.

TAG: Okay, we didn’t know that. Do you know, you said you were going with a favorite teacher, do you know who that was?

MERK: He went to another school; he came from a school in the Midwest. I think he was a chemistry teacher. I liked him very well.

TAG: Was his name Professor Arnold?

MERK: Arnold, yeah--Dr. Arnold. Very nice guy--nice family.

TAG: We read that in 1944 he went to work at Chrysler.

MERK: 44? [1944]

TAG: Yeah, that’s what it said in the Poly, I think in the newspaper.

MERK: I graduated in ’46 and he was still there.

TAG: I wonder if he was doing two things. He might have been working both places. Boy I’m surprised anybody was on strike during the war.
TAG: So you went down to New Jersey you said, to interview for a job but they were on strike?

MERK: Yes [shook head yes].

TAG: So then Ed Kolb proposed to you?

MERK: Ed turned up and we got married.

TAG: So did you end up working outside of the home after that?

MERK: Um hm.

TAG: What other kinds of employment did you have?

MERK: His health hadn’t been too good since he was a kid. So we decided to have children right away, which we did. At the end of my school I think. Bringing up kids was a job.

[59:59]

JK: So there were a couple of years in there though mom. So Mary Jane is the oldest child, and she was born in 1947 and at least according to the documents here you graduated--you were Class of ’46, but you graduated in 1945. There are a couple of years in there.

[1:00:32]

MERK: I graduated in ’46.

TAG: The newspaper says that because of the accelerated program you finished in ’45, April of 1945, even though you were Class of 1946.

MERK: The whole thing was mixed up at that point. I don’t know what to tell ya.

TAG: Yes, very mixed up at that point.

TAG: But to your memory you got married soon after you graduated and didn’t work outside the home?

MERK: I can’t remember.
JK: We may need to come back and revisit this one because Mary Jane was born in November of ’47 so there are a couple years in there somewhere.

TAG: Okay, well we’ll see what we can dig up some things and jog her memory.

TAG: Lastly, I’d like to switch gears and talk about RPI’s impact on you and your family. Did you stay involved in RPI activities after you graduated?

MERK: Well, let’s see a couple of my kids went there. Mary Jane was there too wasn’t she John? And you--anybody else?

JK: Um, no so Mary Jane was a Biology major and graduated in ’69, and then your son went there and graduated in ’79.

MERK: That I think you should ask John about.

TAG: I think he might be next.

JK: What, the fact that they’ve already graduated?

(Laughter)

TAG: Did you ever attend any of the Alumni reunions?

MERK: Did I do what?

TAG: Did you ever attend any of the Alumni reunions?

[1:02:15]

MERK: Alumni meetings?

TAG: The Reunions?

MERK: I remember one that we missed. We got the wrong floor on a building. They were having several events for various college years, we got the wrong year.

(Laughter)
JK: I remember one you went to, you went to--

MERK: Well I went to one of Dad’s--Dad wasn’t around for some reason or other--anyway.

JK: You also went to one at Shay Stadium, you went to the NY Mets.

MERK: Really?

TAG: When was that?

JK: Really.

(Laughter)

JK: I think that was in the eighties or nineties. Davie Johnson was the manager of the Mets at the time so we can figure that out in terms of whenever he was manager so--and one of the METS owners, I don’t remember the guy’s name anymore, was an RPI alum and took over a spot in left field for an alumni event.

MERK: Went to a baseball game. We were in the bleachers.

TAG: Nice.

MERK: Left field bleachers.

TAG: Looking back what do you think was RPI’s influence on your life?

MERK: Well I like the way they studied. I like the way they went into things. Once you dig into a subject it’s great and then you know all there is about it from the beginning.

TAG: Is that a standard thing for you, you really like to delve into issues?

MERK: Yeah. That was my gripe with the girl’s college I went to. All they did was skim over stuff.

TAG: Did you encourage your students to go to RPI?
Mary Ellen Rathbun Kolb ’46 Oral History, Part I

MERK: Hm?

TAG: Did you encourage your children to go to RPI?

MERK: You can ask one.

JK: Oh, I had a choice?

(Laughter)

MERK: Except for that. Who is sitting over there.

(Laughter)

MERK: Well that was the only school we knew I guess really. I liked being there I liked the courses. Were you encouraged honey?

JK: Just an addendum to that. So Mary Jane went--graduated in ’69 with a biology degree, Paul is two years younger than her, went to Colorado State, got a degree in Zoology, Jean was two years younger than him, went to Syracuse, got a degree in Chemistry, I was five years younger than Jean, got a degree in electrical engineering from RPI, and my younger sister Nancy, went to BU and Penn State and got a degree in chemical engineering. So do you think there was any influence of RPI in, you know, a biologist, a zoologist, a chemist, a mechanical engineer and a chemical engineer? (Laughter) I don’t see any influence of RPI in there at all.

TAG: I think I see your mother’s influence there and perhaps your father’s.

(Laughter)

JK: I think it was very strong at the end of the table here.

MERK: They all went into science somehow.

JM: Mary, your granddaughter graduated from RPI as well--Kristie--was that exciting for you?

MERK: Good school--
JM: It’s quite a legacy.

MERK: It’s nice having somebody there, I like the President too--she’s a nice gal.

TAG: Oh, you’ve met her?

MERK: Shirley. I see her she throws her arms around me--so I must like her right?

(Laughter)

TAG: Is there anything else that you’d like to comment on about this?

MERK: I really enjoyed it. I enjoyed the way the courses went into things. I hate the stuff on the surface, they just skim over it a little bit--

TAG: I think you liked being one of the few girls on campus too?

MERK: That didn’t seem to matter at all. You were just another student.

TAG: Yeah?

MERK: I’ve been with boy students every place I’d been--I guess there was no difference.

TAG: Well I’m sure this interview will be very interesting to future researchers in the Archives and I want to thank you for spending time with us today and sharing your experiences.

MERK: Oh it was a pleasure. Nice meeting you.

TAG: I’m glad. Great to meet you too. Thank you.

[1:07:24]
Appendix A.
Metallurgical Engineering Faculty at RPI, 1940s

Wendell Hess, Head of the Welding Lab
Matthew Hunter, Department Head
Augustus Jones
Scott Mackay
Ernest Nippes
John Parks
Harris Sullivan
Enrique Touceda
Appendix B.

Curriculum for Metallurgical Engineering, 1942.

RENSSELAER
POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
BULLETIN

CATALOGUE NUMBER
March, 1942

Undergraduate and Graduate Courses, Including Those Arranged for Officers Detailed to the Institute by the Government of the United States

Geographical Distribution of Graduates

TROY, NEW YORK
### Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

#### Division D: First Year

**For Students of Engineering, Chemistry, and Physics**

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<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Units in Courses</th>
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<tr>
<td>4.01 General Chemistry Theory</td>
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<td>6.04 History</td>
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<td>8.01 Engineering Drawing I</td>
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<td>9.08 English Composition</td>
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<td>11.01 Algebra and Spherical Trigonometry</td>
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<td>11.03 Plane Analytic Geometry</td>
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<td>15.05 Hygiene</td>
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<td>15.10 Gymnasium I</td>
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**Second Term**

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<td>4.03 General Chemistry Laboratory</td>
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<td>8.02 Engineering Drawing II</td>
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<td>11.04 Calculus I</td>
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<td>15.15 Gymnasium II</td>
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<td>16.01 General Physics</td>
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#### Summer Work

4.08 Qualitative Analysis (Chemical Engineering, Metallurgical Engineering, and Chemistry)

12.11 Elementary Shop Work (Aeronautical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Physics)

**For Students of Business Administration**

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#### Students who elect one of the options in Engineering indicated on page 80 must substitute 6.01 Engineering Drawing I for 6.20 Business Graphics I and must take 11.05 Calculus II.

**For Students of Biology**

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<td>11.00 Solid Geometry and Plane Trigonometry</td>
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<td>2.10 Architectural Design I-A</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.11 Freehand Drawing I-A</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.12 Graphics I</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.02 History</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.05 English Composition</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.11 Mathematics</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.12 Mathematics</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.05 Hygiene</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.10 Gymnasium I</td>
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**Second Term**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.10 Architectural Design I-B</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.11 Freehand Drawing I-B</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.12 Graphics II</td>
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<td>6.02 History</td>
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<td>9.05 English Composition</td>
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<td>11.11 Mathematics</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.12 Mathematics</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.05 Hygiene</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.10 Gymnasium I</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a description of the subjects listed, see pages 86 to 170.

For schedules of Divisions C, B, and A, see pages 81 to 93.

Special programs are arranged for students enrolled in the Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps.
# COURSE IN METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING

## DIVISION D: FIRST YEAR, SEE PAGE 80

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRST TERM</th>
<th>SECOND TERM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.10 English Literature Since 1832</td>
<td>4.11 Quantitative Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.06 Calculus III</td>
<td>4.12 Quantitative Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.11 Elementary Shop Work</td>
<td>11.07 Calculus IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.05 Elementary German I (or 14.15)</td>
<td>15.25 Gymnastum IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.10 Elementary German II (or 14.20)</td>
<td>16.11 General Physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.15 Intermediate German I</td>
<td>16.15 Physics Laboratory</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.20 Intermediate German II</td>
<td>17.10 Mechanics</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.20 Gymnastum III</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.10 General Physics</td>
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## SUMMER WORK

- 5.18 Surveying

## DIVISION B: THIRD YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRST TERM</th>
<th>SECOND TERM</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.06 Electrical Engineering Laboratory (3/6)</td>
<td>4.31 Physical Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.26 Electrical Engineering</td>
<td>4.32 Physical Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.25 American Literature</td>
<td>4.34 Physical Chemistry Laboratory (3/6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.41 Steam Engines and Thermodynamics</td>
<td>12.84 Mechanical Laboratory (3/6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.20 Metallurgy I</td>
<td>13.21 Metallurgy II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.16 Strength of Materials</td>
<td>13.22 Metallurgy Laboratory</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.32 Materials Laboratory</td>
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## DIVISION A: FOURTH YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRST TERM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.36 Chemical Thermodynamics</td>
<td>6.62 Business Economics I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.41a Chemical Engineering</td>
<td>6.64 Business Economics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.31 Metallurgy Laboratory</td>
<td>9.40 Applied Composition and Public Speaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.32 Physical Metallurgy Theory</td>
<td>10.21 Economic Geology and Metallurgy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.34 Electrochemistry-Electrometallurgy Theory</td>
<td>13.33 Physical Metallurgy Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.35 Electrochemistry-Electrometallurgy Laboratory</td>
<td>13.99 Graduation Thesis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a characterization of the work of the Department of Metallurgical Engineering, see page 155. Special programs are arranged for students enrolled in the Naval Reserve Officers’ Training Corps.
Appendix C.

Women Students Matriculated at RPI in September 1942

Camilla Cluett (Architecture, June 24, 1946)
Elizabeth English (Biology, June 22, 1945)
Lois Graham (Mechanical Engineering, April 22, 1945)
Helen Ketchum (Architecture, unknown graduation date)
Mary Ellen Rathbun (Metallurgical Engineering, April 22, 1945)