

SAN DIEGO— A WOMAN'S TOWN

The cities of Southern California are big, booming, and buzzing under the impact of thousands of women from all over the U. S. doing war jobs



BEGINNING AT THE PLAZA in the center of the city, Air Cadet and photographer O. C. Sweet picked women at random. He began with this group, typical of the city, gathered at the spot where buses stop. San Diego is full of WACS, WAVES, SPARS, as well as war workers.

SAN DIEGO wanted women for its war industries. Since the beginning of the war boom San Diego has cajoled, bribed, and appealed publicly for women. And San Diego got women, not only for the war industries, but for every other conceivable job. They became letter carriers, bus drivers, high-altitude window washers, milk deliverers, office workers. And not only that, because San Diego is also a naval base, because it is a busy seaport full of Army men preparing to go overseas, other women flocked to San Diego to be with their husbands. Southern California has always attracted women, where they seem to bloom and blóssom in the highly publicized sunshine. But never have they come in such droves.

While waiting for a street car on the plaza opposite the Grant Hotel, a spot where all buses stop and one of the busiest in San Diego, Air Cadet O. C. Sweet, who is also a professional photographer, was seized by the overwhelming impulse to show this woman's town in pictures. He spent every day of a three day leave, from dawn to dusk, taking pictures, aided by Miss Ann White, a reporter on the San Deigo Union, who he met the first day. He did not try to go into factories or offices, or private homes. He found his stories on the street and in the crowds. He found only one native of San Diego, Miss Flora Wong, a Chinese girl who works for Consolidated Aircraft.

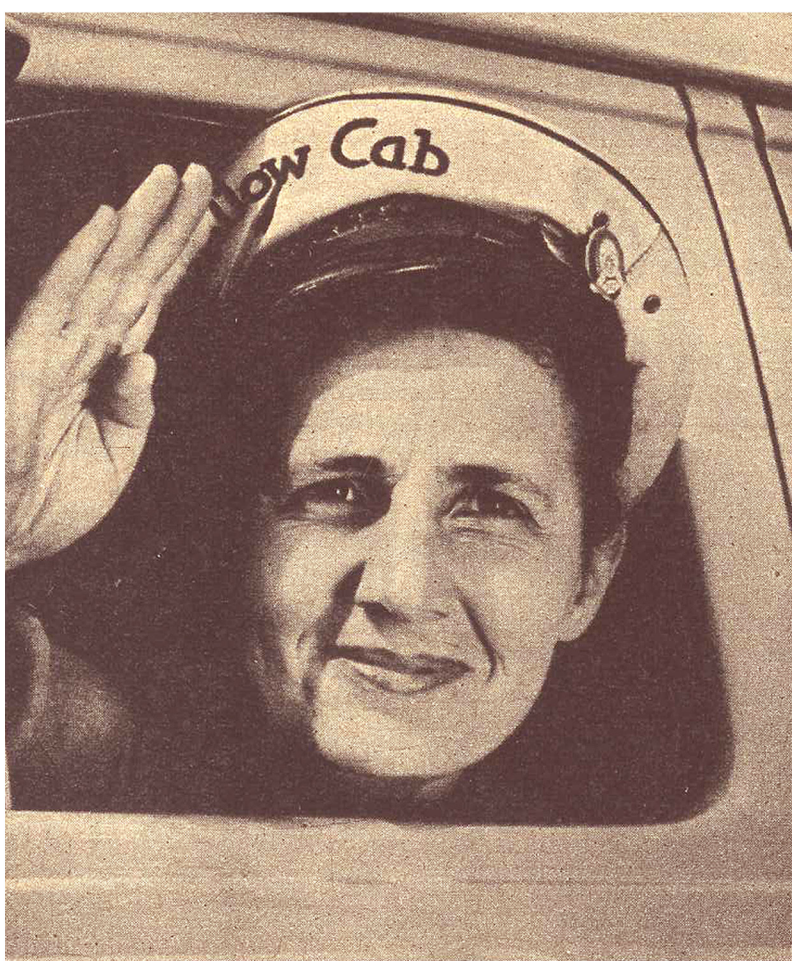
San Diego was at one time considered a resort town. But now, as Cadet Sweet shows in his pictures, it is a perfect example of an American city at war. Women from all parts of the U. S. have given up frills and ruffles for uniforms and overalls. The others are keeping the home fires burning.

Cadet Sweet had his troubles in approaching strange women on the streets. Most women cooperated gladly, however, when he explained his purpose. One day some sailors watched him, surprised at his success. Finally one of them came up to him and wanted to buy his camera, and asked Sweet to tip him off to his racket. Another time he chased a girl into a doorway to get her picture. He got two words with her when her escort, a Marine demanded to know what he was trying to do. Sweet had to talk fast to get out of that one!

WAR WORKERS



NO SET RULE OF DRESS IS FOLLOWED BY WOMEN IN WAR. THEIR WAR OCCUPATIONS MAKE ANYTHING ACCEPTABLE, AND BECOMING.



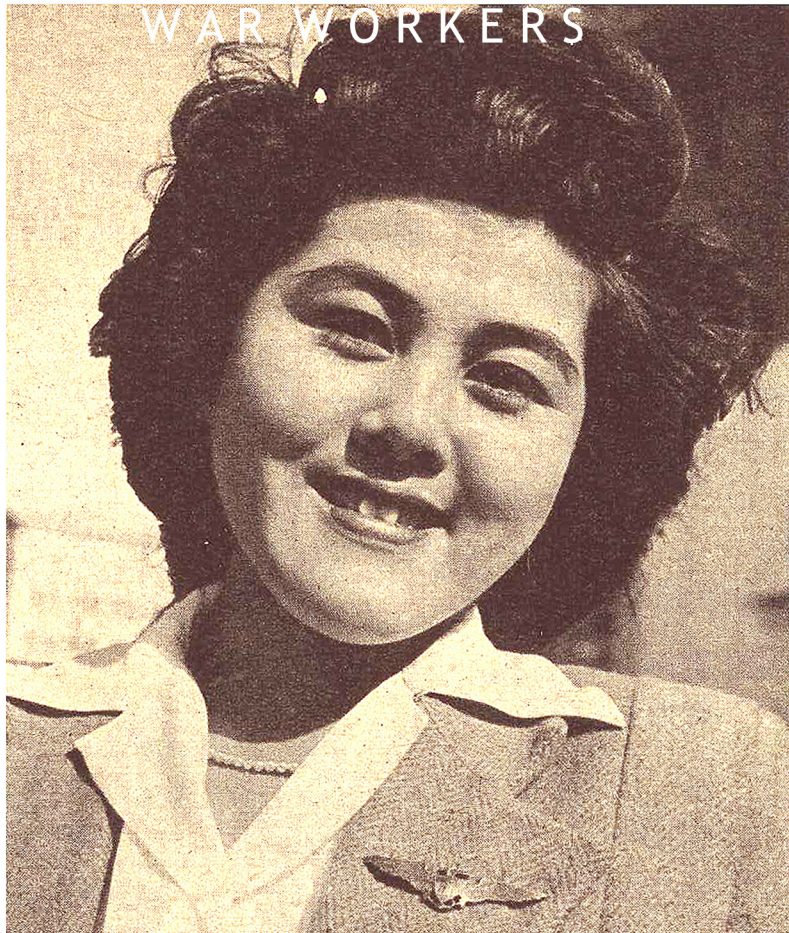
MRS. RUTH BROWN DROVE an ambulance on December 7th at Pearl Harbor, and stayed for two months more. Now she is on leave of absence, will go back as soon as she can take her children.



PARATROOPER COLONEL JULIA DOWELL has order of Purple Heart, commander-in-chief of Women's Ambulance and Transportation Corps, directs a group of women parachute jumpers.

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WAR WORKERS



ONLY NATIVE Cadet Sweet met was pretty Flora Wong, second generation Chinese, an aircraft worker. Flora is 21, preferred not to give information about the silver wings on her lapel.



LAVERNE WOODBURY, gives out tickets before swinging her bus into traffic. In spite of much over-crowding the war workers and service men keep their tempers.



VELMA BRANT DELIVERS "qualitee" milk, helps alleviate the local milk shortage and the acute shortage of milkmen. She comes from Denver, Colo., has brother in army.

WAR WORKERS



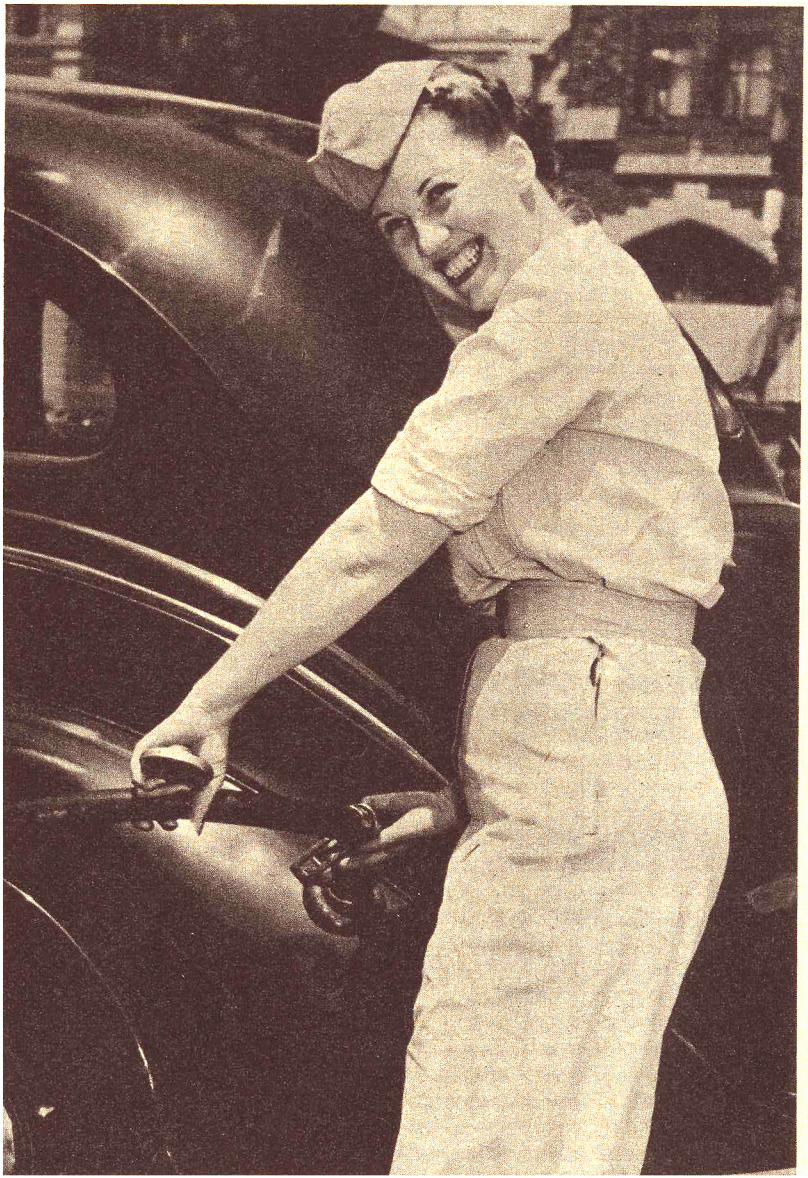
MRS. JUDY MATTOCKS covers 61½ miles a day delivering mail, while her husband, Corporal W. E. Mattocks, drills recruits at the Marine base. Mrs. Mattocks was second to apply for this job.



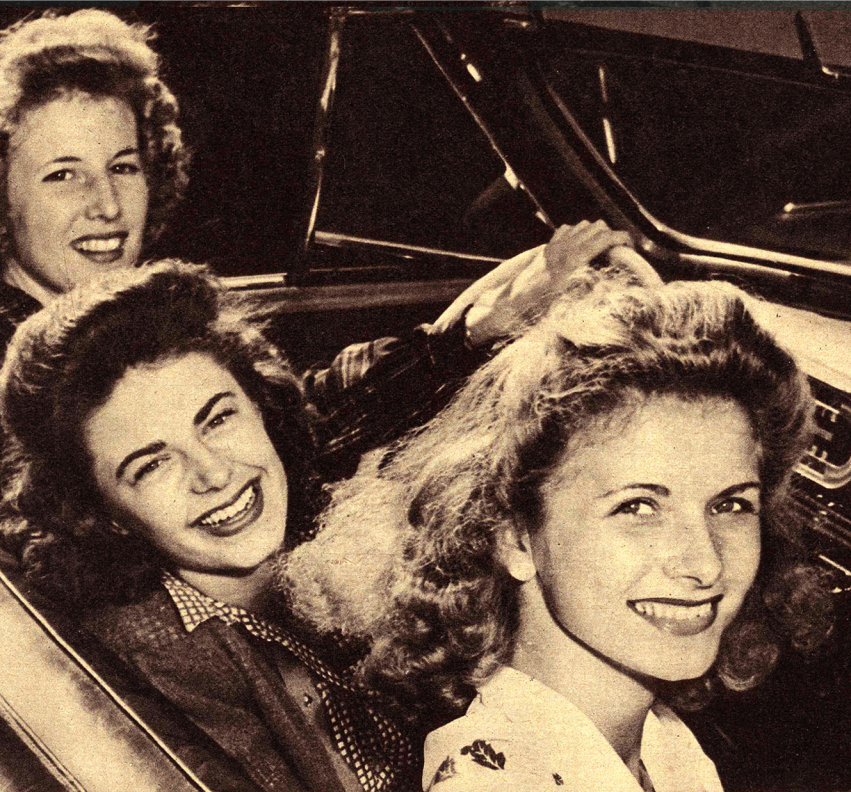
TRUNDLING BAGS for guests is one of the duties of husky Jo Ann Stites, bellhop for one of the largest San Diego hotels. She was originally a teletype operator in St. Louis, but she likes her present job much better than any she has had. After all, San Diego is near Hollywood.

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WAR WORKERS



FELLOW WORKERS call Mrs. Syble Boyle a grease monkey, but she likes outdoor work and driving, and she finds that her present job, as a gas station attendant, is a lot of fun, not too tiring. She takes care of 3 year old daughter in her spare time. Her husband is now away at sea.



HELEN COX, CORINNE WRIGHT, AND MARIE LOUDEN HAVE FINISHED HARD DAY AT AN AIRCRAFT PLANT, NOW PLAN HORSEBACK RIDE.