

Karin Storla:

Played basketball on the first women's athletic team at my college. Was first woman to be hired as a System Engineer for technical computers at Hewlett-Packard Packard.

Paulette Alderfer:

I was the first in my family to graduate college but it took me a while. When I was eleven I told my father I wanted to be an engineer. He thought he would humor me and asked what kind of engineer I wanted to be. I said that I didn't know what they were called, but they built bridges. He laughed. In 1955 girls did not aspire to become civil engineers. Out of high school I went to a diploma nursing school and became a registered nurse. About twenty years later when our family moved to California, education became very affordable. Community colleges were free, then asked a modest tuition of \$50 per semester. So I began my college journey at Sierra College and then transferred to Sacramento State University. Then our family moved to Georgia. So now I had to transfer to Georgia Tech. After the 1989 summer quarter at GT, I graduated with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering.

Bertha Ulrich:

My grandmother was 15 years old when she was the first in her family to set foot in the United States. Back in Germany her father was an interpreter, and supposedly he wanted her to marry some "old man". So her mother helped her pack a trunk, and off she went to the United States. She first started working as a domestic servant in New York City. Later she moved to Philadelphia where she met my grandfather. Bertha's greatest desire was to become a dairy farmer. She loved cows. She was married with five children before August and Bertha could buy a small farm in Bucks County, PA. To generate income while the farm got up and running, Bertha worked in the "City", as Philadelphia was called by the locals, as cook in a hotel. She came home on weekends, not to rest, but to cook. She cooked the next week's meals for the family and went back to cooking at the hotel on Mondays. As the farm flourished, Bertha began bringing her siblings back in Germany to the US. She provided housing for them until they established themselves. Bertha spoke English so well that I never realized she was from Germany until I was older. She also spoke High German, Low German, Polish and Russian. She is my hero.

Vicki Thiemann:

I was the first girl to wear pants to school. In Wisconsin all girls wore dresses no matter what temperature it was. (These were regular pants not snow pants which were plastic material)

Dorothy Dillingham (Vicki Thiemann's mom):

Was the highest paid female executive staff member at Kimberly Clark in the 1960's. She worked on payroll and fought for equity in pay between men and women.

Mary McCoy's mother, Lorraine Bain (nee Nelson) was a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) during WWII. She was part of an elite, pioneering group of women that supported the war effort by ferrying planes between domestic locations, towing aerial targets so combat pilots could hone their skills, and taking repaired planes on test flights to ensure their airworthiness. The WASPs were an invaluable part of the war effort, providing a sometimes dangerous service (33 WASPs died serving their country) that freed male pilots for combat duty.

After WWII Lorraine married Jim Bain, himself a decorated WWII veteran, and they moved to Alaska, where they both worked as bush pilots. Lorraine often joked that neither of them had a car, but both of them had an airplane

In 2010, Lorraine, along with her fellow WASPs, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their service. If you'd like to know more about these brave pioneers, visit the WASP museum website at <https://www.waspmuseum.org/>.

Mary was extremely proud of her mom, as are the rest of her family. Lorraine and her countrywomen helped open doors for future generations of women.