

Judy Beard transcripts

FAMILY LIFE

Judy Beard talks about the impact of the postal service on her home life.

Basically the jobs for women in the postal service is you know, we see them in the window when we mail our letters, they're window clerks, they're clerks that work inside the building sorting the mail. And we work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the postal service and that was kinda awkward for me as well, because who would want to work on Christmas day? Or who would to work on Easter Sunday? When would you get to spend time with your family? But the postal service, because they sort the mail 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and I was working in a plant, our schedules was often working 9 days straight without a day off, and that was a norm. That was part of our schedule. And working Sundays and not spending time with our families, and even today you know working in the postal service, it's a 7 day operation in the plants. In the stations it's a little different where they sell the stamps. But in the plants they're working 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. So it was hard for you to tell your family that no, you had to work on Christmas day or no, I have to work on New Year's Eve. It's just very hard. Now I worked afternoons because I went to school in the daytime. At one point in my career I worked midnights for about 2 months and that was real difficult for me, because I wasn't accustomed to staying up all night & sleeping during the day. And I guess you know that becomes a routine part of some people's lives, where they could adjust, but I couldn't adjust to it.