

TAPE TWO, SIDE ONE

KC: This is Tape Two, Side One, of the interview of Alma "Ziggy" Zeigler by Kathy Coughlin, on April 8, 1995. Ziggy, you were about to tell me about Dottie Hunter, and how you two became such close friends.

AZ: We became close friends, because, I don't know, it just developes, you know. However, I remember she taught one of our gals, most Canadian gals are real good knitters, and when you're on the road, or you have rain-out games or something, one of the gals, Pat Kiegle, came up to Dottie and asked her to teach her how to knit. So I watched them, and it was fun to watch them, and finally, I said, "Dottie, will you teach me to knit?" And she said, "Well, I'll teach you Zig, but I'm sure you'll never keep up with it!" (Laughter) To this day I'm still knitting. So I've kept up with it. One winter, good-old, kind-hearted Dottie, knitted every Grand Rapids Chick a pair of socks. And that was an ordeal, that was a big job.

KC: How many pair of socks would that have been?

AZ: She made about eighteen pair. Yeah, she was a great knitter.

KC: Now Dottie was originally from Canada, do you know what part of Canada she was from?

AZ: Winipeg, Manitoba.

KC: Do you have any other memories about her? Did you ever get a chance to visit her family up there?

AZ: Yes, I visited her family. One winter I went up there to visit Dottie and her family. And my, that's a remote area. And coming from California it was colder than a well-diggers keister in the Klondike! (Much Laughter) Anyhow, I enjoyed it, I was just up there a few days. She took me to one of their stores, called T'eatons, and they have beautiful yarn up there, and I remember I bought scads of yarn. Anyway, we had a good time. She's living in Grand Rapids today, even.

KC: Did she ever come down to California to visit you?

AZ: Yes, she visited me a couple of times in California, and stayed in our home, down in L.A.

KC: And this is when you were...

AZ: Playing ball.

KC: Still playing ball. And since then, you two have been, you've visited back and forth?

AZ: Oh yeah, and I'm gonna call her sometime, I call her now and then. Right now, Dottie Hunter, she had back surgery, and I think she had quacks somehow, she can walk with a walker, and she can no longer knit, 'cause her fingers, a couple, her little finger, and her ring finger, are curled up against the palm of her hand, if you can realize that. But she's a good scout about all this. And I think that would have been a great malpractice case. Having been a court reporter, I could see malpractice all over that, but of course, it wasm't. But she ca walk with her walker.

KC: Oh, that's really sad to have that happen.

AZ: Yes, it is. It certainly is.

KC: Ok, now that we've been talking about friendships, let's move into your leisure time. What did you do during the off-season, you went back home...?

AZ: I worked, of course. I worked and socialized, and that was about it.

KC: Did you socialize with Bill? Were you still going out with Bill at this time?

AZ: Yes! (Laughs) Yes, a few of the years, I was. And we go out double-dating, every Saturday night, with another couple. One of them was a softball player, but she never went back to play in our League. But she was a good one! We had a lot of fun doing things like that. But, and then, we'd play ball, in the summertime...

KC: Just to keep your hand in it?

AZ: Oh yes.

KC: When you were...During the season what did you do between the games?

AZ: Well, There wasn't much...during the season there wasn't all that much time, to do too much. You were confined to your quarters, and ball games took a lot of time, you know. So you'd shop, and maybe visit people you'd become friendly with. And the team, as a whole, we were invited to various social activities. Some of our fans, they belonged to a country club, they'd invite us out to play golf, or swim, or something, you know. So we did that as a team as a whole.

KC: Then, is this how you got started on golf, or how did that happen?

AZ: That's right. Actually we didn't go to those outings to play golf, 'cause very few of us played golf. They'd invite us out for swimming, and a great big luncheon. And a couple of those times, it was terribly, in August, it can get a little chilly in Grand Rapids, on certain days, and it was raining, not really raining, but cold and foggy-like, so they'd suggest we play nine holes of golf. And I couldn't wait until the ninth hole was over, I was so bored! The next year they invited us out, it was the same deal, the same kind of weather. So we didn't go swimming, we played nine holes of golf. I didn't like it, but I didn't mind it nearly as much as the year before. (Laughs) Finally some man came to town and talked me into getting some of our gals, he said he give us a good price on sets of clubs. I got at least six or seven of us to buy sets of clubs. So that's how we got started, hackin' away!

KC: Well gosh! From going to hating it, to being...

AZ: Being an addict! (Laughs) A golf addict, that's what I am now.

KC: I know the few times... the other times that we've talked, well we couldn't do these interviews on Tuesdays and Thursdays, because you were playing golf.

AZ: Yes, Tuesdays and Thursdays are golf days, yes,uh-huh.

KC: So do you play eighteen holes, play all day?

AZ: Oh yes, over in Morro Bay. I belong to the Morro Bay Women's Golf Club. We have..., every Thursday is Ladies Day on the Club. And we have tournements every Thursday.

KC: Yeah, I was gonna say, didn't you just play in a tournament a couple of days ago?

AZ: Yes I did! And we happened to win!

KC: Oh, wonderful, congratulations!

AZ: Yes, I had one of my better days, I had been in a slump. And both my partner, that was a partners deal, and I played well, so we won low gross.

KC: Great. Now if we could go back to the Chicks. How did the members of the Chicks get along with each other?

AZ: Good! There was very little jealousy, as I recall. And of course, in any organization, you pick out somebody you run around with; you can't go out with everybody. So if somebody appeals to you, you socialize with them.

KC: Well, who did you socialize with?

AZ: Well, I ran around with, Janie Bittner, she was one of our pitchers, and Beanzie, another pitcher, and our first baseman, Inez Voyce. She and I were good friends, we're still good friends, she lives down in Santa Monica here. In fact, I'm gonna room with her, that was Inez Voyce, and Anita Falk, at the reunion in October. We have a room for three of us.

KC: And how is their health today?

AZ: Their health is good, especially Inez's. She was our first basemen, and a good hitter. And, she's a real good golfer, too.

KC: I was just gonna ask that, are you ladies gonna to play some golf while you're down there?

AZ: Yes, that's one of our outings down there. And we may be on the same team.

KC: That'd be great! During the season, on the weekends, you must have had a Saturday free, or an occasional Sunday, if you weren't playing a game.

AZ: On Sundays, many of us would go to church. Beanie would, and Dottie Hunter and I would go to church, and a couple of the other gals would join us; then the good Catholics would go to Mass.

KC: What religion are you?

AZ: Protestant. I attend the Presbyterian church in Morro Bay.

KC: Did you ever go out on dates, on Saturday night?

AZ: No. But I did when we trained in Cuba down there, we trained in Cuba a couple of Spring Trainings.

KC: CUBA?

AZ: Cuba, Havana, uh-huh.

KC: Really?

AZ: Oh yes, we had spring training two years in Havana.

KC: Oh, you must tell me about that!

AZ: Well, that was very nice, the weather was fine and everything. The Cuban people, boy, would they come to see practice. There'd be scads of them around. And of course May Day was bad down there, we had to stay in the hotel those days. There was one of those Cuban boys who spoke pretty good English, he talked to me quite a bit, the first year. And the next year when we went back, I went out with him one time. We corresponded just a little bit. But we

AZ: didn't have the time to do much dating, you know.

KC: So playing for the Chicks affected your personal life, in relation to boyfriends, husband, everything else?

AZ: Well sure, like some of the gals who were married, their husbands would come up and stuff. And some of our gals dated anyhow, you know. I threw myself into baseball, and that was the big thing, you know.

KC: It sounds like when you start something, you're very much into it, that becomes a main focus within your life.

AZ: That's kind of true, uh-huh.

KC: What was the most difficult...was there a difficult change within your personal or social life that you had to deal with while playing for the Chicks?

AZ: I can't think of anything, other than a little sadness when one of our gals lost her husband in the service, you know. That was bad. But nothing much changed for me.

KC: When you were playing, during the season, when you played at other teams, on their fields, what were the fans like? What was the attendance?

AZ: Typical fans, all for the home club. They were very good, but strictly homers. They want their team to win.

KC: Was that hard for you guys?

AZ: No, because you learn that. And it was the same at our place. Our fans were strictly for us. That's typical baseball, you know.

KC: How did you travel from city to city?

AZ: Well, we traveled very often, mostly, by buses, we had chartered buses, and a few times in Grand Rapids, we flew. Like to the far places, like Rockford, Illinois. And in the later years, of the season, one of our fans owned a Buick agency, and he let us use three of their vans to transport people. And I was one of the drivers of one of them.

KC: How did you like doing that?

AZ: Well, it was alright. But I liked either the bus, I liked the bus best of all, because you know, we were all together then. We'd be coming back home after a series away, and we'd sing most of the night. (Laughter)

KC: Really? You didn't sleep on the bus?

AZ: Some of them slept, but most of us would sing.

KC: Oh! How wonderful! Baseball songs, popular songs of the day?

AZ: Sure, like, "Take Me Out To The Ballgame," or, all those old goodies.

KC: Hmmmm. There was a song for the All-American Girls Baseball League.

AZ: That's right. That was written by Pepper Pare, who is a very dear friend of mine. I saw Pepper just a couple of weeks ago, she lives down in Van Ayes, California. She wrote the song, and the tune, she's just a very talented person. She's very busy now in baseball card events that go on. Right now, some of our people are over in Hawaii, to a baseball card show.

KC: Really!

AZ: I was up in San Mateo a couple of weeks ago to one.

KC: What are these baseball card shows like?

AZ: Well, you sell them, you see. I can't get use to all that, 'cause I give mine away, you see.

KC: Right, I know you were kind enough to send me a few copies.

AZ: I don't charge people, but when you're at one of those shows, you do. People...The fans...the people come and we sell a lot of them. They sell for \$5.00 apiece.

KC: That's quite a bit.

AZ: I know it! Autographed cards you know. But I give them away here, whoever wants one. "Sure! Zig'll give you a card!" (Laughter)

KC: What were the good things about being on the road?

AZ: Well, some of the good things about being on the road were, well, that's when you pray for rain! (Laughter) We'd get some gin rummy tournaments together in some of the hotel rooms, and have fun things like that. Again, you'd go out shopping, and be back and have a very early meal, because you didn't want to play ball on a full stomach. That's why you'd have a sandwich or something after the game, because you'd be hungry by then.

KC: Well, yeah. What were the bad things about being on the road?

AZ: The bad, the only bad thing, in my thinking, about being on the road, were the long road trips home in a bus, like Rockford, Illinois. Say we finished a series, like last night being Friday night, we'd shower and get dressed, and the whole group would stop at a restaurant that we knew about. And we'd all get our

AZ: sandwiches and stuff, and that takes a good hour. And get in the bus, and by then it's almost midnight, and you'd have about 200 miles to go, and in a bus you don't travel too fast, you might get home about 5:30, five o'clock, six o'clock in the morning, and you'd have to play that night. A lot of the gals could go home and sleep, but I'm not a day sleeper. So I can remember, "Oh, God!" That was the only bad thing as far as I was concerned, were long road trips. We didn't have many of those, South Bend, that was not far. And Kalamazoo, and Muskegan, they were close, we could come home that same night. But you don't do that on a long road trip, you stay at the motel.

KC: Right. What was your favorite city to play in, including Milwaukee?

AZ: We liked Rockford real well, because the hotel had such wonderful food! (Laughter)

KC: Can you remember the name of the hotel that you stayed at?

AZ: I should remember it, I had it on the tip of my tongue. In fact I read about it in the paper not too long ago. You know I can't think of the name of that hotel, and that's terrible.

KC: It's not the Clock Tower Inn, is it?

AZ: No, it wasn't that. It'll come to me after we hang up, Kathy.  
(Laughter)

KC: Ok. Now, let's move into a little bit about the championship. What do you think about the quality of the season that the Chicks played, for that year, for the championship?

AZ: The quality was just great. It was a good team effort, and that's what it takes. I'd say, "It's not you or I, it's the whole club." And, we got along real, real well, and we played real well.

KC: You all pulled together?

AZ: All pulled together. Which helps. That helps all through life.

KC: Yes! I agree. What about your personal season for that year?

AZ: Well, I think I had a pretty good year that year. I even hit pretty well, as I recall. (Laughter) As poor a hitter as I was. You'd think I was real terrible, I wasn't real terrible. Two years I led the League in bases and balls. In other words, I got a lot of walks. That helps. I was a lead-off hitter, and you've got to get on base if you're a lead-off hitter. And that was my way of getting on! (Laughter)

KC: Oh! Ok, great. Were the emotions running very high during the championship against the Kenosha Comets?

AZ: Oh, always. In any competition like that, they do run high. And you get uptight a lot of times before them, you know, butterflies in your stomach. But the minute you start to play, you're alright.

KC: Ok, and you mentioned earlier that it was kind of hard to play the championship games in Kenosha, instead of Milwaukee.

AZ: Well, it was not hard, but it didn't seem to give us a fair shuffle, 'cause we were on the road. And you are not as well accepted on the road as you are in your home town.

KC: So you would have to travel down to Kenosha, play your game, and

KC: travel back to Milwaukee.

AZ: That's right!

KC: Did you play a game every day, or every other day?

AZ: Oh sure. During the championship play-off you play every game. In fact I thought we stayed at the hotel a couple of those nights, I think we did.

KC: Oh, so that made it a little more comfortable.

AZ: A little easier, that's right.

KC: Therefore it would have made a difference for your team, had you played in Milwaukee?

AZ: I think so. However, we won there in Kenosha at any rate.

KC: Which is remarkable, because you were playing against your home field, you weren't allowed to play there. It's kind of against the odds.

AZ: That's right. But as I said, we had a good ball club, good teamwork, and we did it.

KC: That's wonderful. Let's move into some of the time about World War II. Was your role as a professional baseball player seen as patriotic?

AZ: Well, in a way it was, because, you see, a lot of the people were working hard, and everything, in the defense plants, you know, for the war effort and stuff. And they had lost their men's organized ball teams and we provided needed entertainment for the folks at home. No matter what, you have to have a little diversion, you know? And ours was it.

KC: Were there any other things that you and your teammates did to help with the war effort?

AZ: Well off-season, I know I worked, doing a little riveting work. (Laughs) Just a little bit, at this outfit. I was working for Payne Furnace and Heating Company, and they were doing a lot of work for the war effort. And I'd go a couple nights a week and do that.

KC: Besides your regular secretarial work?

AZ: Yes, uh-huh, right.

KC: What were you riveting? What kind of things?

AZ: Things for parachutes and stuff like that, I can hardly remember, but I can remember that. Oh gosh, we were so pleased when the war ended, but who wasn't? But that's the way that went.

KC: What did you like or dislike about the riveting work?

AZ: Well, that's just plain monotony, doing the same thing over and over. That's why I became a court reporter, because when the baseball season ended with all the action we had, I couldn't think of going through life, I wasn't married, I couldn't think of going through life, thanking you for your letter of such-and-such, your order of such-and-such, temporarily out of stock, blah-blah. That's how I became involved in court reporting, and that became most interesting.

KC: How was court reporting more interesting, in what ways?

AZ: Well, because there's action. And in criminal cases, it's very interesting testimony, and of course we had civil cases too.

AZ: But it's not the same thing over and over, every case is different, you know.

KC: Do think that the role of women during the war was different than their role before the war?

AZ: Not to any extent, I don't believe so, Kathy.

KC: What about after the war, the post-war years?

AZ: You mean the role of what?

KC: Of women in work.

AZ: Oh! I think that's when the American family started to break down. Because during the war, the mothers worked, you know, along with, if they had husbands at home, and they indulged their children. Nowadays kids get absolutely everything. I think that was the start of the breakdown of the American family. Which is too bad. Nowadays, out of every marriage, 50% of them end up in divorce, some big percentage, and that's too bad.

KC: Yes it is. And it is 50%, that's accurate.

AZ: It is that percentage, is it?

KC: Hmm, huh. What about, did any of your close friends fight in the war?

AZ: I had some I went to school with that did.

KC: Do you know where they were, were they in the Pacific?

AZ: They were in the Pacific. And one of my cousins was.

KC: He or a she?

AZ: He. Doug, Doug Connel.

KC: Would you know where he was?

AZ: Where was it when the Japs blew up the...

KC: Pearl Harbor?

AZ: Yeah, Pearl Harbor, he was stationed there. How I can't remember Pearl Harbor? (Laughter)

KC: Did he survive the attack?

AZ: Yes he did. He's still alive.

KC: That's wonderful. Was it hard for you to deal with him being gone?

AZ: Well yeah. We were pretty close you know. And it was hard for everybody, to have a loved one in the service, you know. And due to the fact that my brother had a heart murmur, they wouldn't take him in the service. And he was rugged guy! That heart murmur never bothered him his whole life!

KC: That must have been very distressful for him.

AZ: Yeah, it was, because he'd think, "God, I'm not a 4-F!"

KC: You mentioned earlier that one of the teammates lost her husband during the war, who was this?

AZ: What was her name again? She only played with us a couple of years...

KC: Was this Dorothy MacGuire?

AZ: That's Mac, yeah, she lost her husband, but she played with us a lot longer than that, she was quite a gal. And her son, today, is an associate member of our Players Association. And he's married and they just had a little baby. So he's carried on the family tradition.

KC: Yes, he has. Now when Mac thought her husband had died, she was playing for you, right? What was the response of the rest of the team?

AZ: It was quite a blow. Ah! What can you say? Words fail you. She had our total support, and she was a rugged gal, and she hung in there. She has since passed away.

KC: So she continued to play, then?

AZ: Yes. She had a little time off, just a little bit. But that was the best thing, to throw herself into it.

KC: Did she have any children at that time?

AZ: She had, one. And that was tough.

KC: Oh boy, it must have been terrible. Were the manager and chaperone supportive of her also?

AZ: Also, you bet. It's like a family deal, so you were supportive.

KC: Let's move on to after the Milwaukee Chicks. Now you moved on to the Grand Rapids Chicks, correct?

AZ: That's right.

KC: And did you play with any other teams besides the ...?

AZ: Never. Just the Grand Rapids Chicks.

KC: Ok, and what was your final year with them?

AZ: '54, the year the League disbanded.

KC: So you were with them right up to the end.

AZ: Eleven years I played with the League, the first one with Milwaukee, the next ten with Grand Rapids. The League was in existence for twelve years.

KC: Ok, 'cause you missed 1943, the very first year.

AZ: Because we didn't know about it.

KC: I understand that you were Player of The Year, in 1950?

AZ: Well, I guess I was. (Laughs) Oh, God!

KC: How was that established?

AZ: Don't ask me, all I know is that they told me, and I was embarrassed, but it was nice. They just have a night out at the ballpark and you get presents and stuff, you know...

KC: In front of the fans, then?

AZ: Oh yes, very embarrassing. (Laughs)

KC: The newspapers were there to take pictures and things?

AZ: Oh yes, there were pictures, and all that hefferdust.

KC: Even though it was embarrassing, it must have been quite exciting.

AZ: Well, it was quite an honor, but embarrassing.

KC: But still embarrassing. Could you explain a little bit about your final year with the League, and when did you find...

AZ: The final year was real tough, in as much as the League was a non-profit organization, and each city had their own Board of Directors, and of course, being a non-profit organization, you give the profits away. In Grand Rapids we built an electric scoreboard for the High School, which was a tremendous gift. We thought we were real rich, packing 'em in the ballpark. But they just away too much. You always save some for the rainy day. When the rain came and the dollar got scarcer and stuff, it got tougher for them to meet salaries. However, we all got our salaries,

AZ: throughout the whole League. They just went broke is what happened.

KC: That's too bad.

AZ: It's sad, really. I think better management. These men probably would not have run their own businesses that way, of course not, they're not non-profit organizations. By the same token, you must save some money, you know. I don't think they saved enough.

END OF TAPE TWO, SIDE ONE

Tape Two, Side Two

KC: After the league ended and you went to back to California, did you continue as a secretary, or, you were speaking about becoming a court reprter, how did that come about?

AZ: Yes, I continued doing secretarial work, except having had such an action-filled life for eleven years, it was hard for me to think of returning to monotony. I heard about court reporting, and I checked into it, and went into it. I kept my job working all day, and I'd go to night school. You make a little slower progress, but at any rate I became a court reporter, and I passed a state exam. and then I was happy.

KC: How long did it take for you, by going to night school?

AZ: Oh, it took me about, at least, two and one-half years. You know, you maintain an apartment, and you socialize, and you work all day, and go to school at night; you've probably had an experience like that. And progress is slow. If you were rich enough to go to school all day, you wouldn't have to go... So that's the way it was, but it was worth it.

KC: Now did you set out right from the start to be a court reporter?

AZ: Well either that or a deposition reporter, where you go to attorney's offices and take depositions; of their opponents or clients.

KC: Deposition reporting sounds similar to secretarial work.

AZ: It was, except it's more interesting because of the different events that occur.

KC: What motivated you toward, instead of being a deposition reporter, a court reporter?

AZ: Primarily, your future. In deposition work, you have no retirement building.

KC: Oh you don't?

AZ: You don't, no. You have to have your own, if you want one, and most people do. But in court reporting, you have a retirement building up and that's what I'm living on now.

KC: Then you worked for the county or the state?

AZ: The county.

KC: Well it must have been a fairly good program then?

AZ: Oh yes, court reporting down in a large city is most lucrative. But then I moved up to where I am now. I moved up here because I wanted to breathe fresh air, you know in L.A. they have a lot of smog, and I wanted to be able to play golf, which I can do up here. And I knew I could become a court reporter up here. In a small town, salaries are never commensurate with large cities. But money has never been my God, so I was happy to be here.

KC: Now you mentioned earlier about wearing spike heels as you walked down the marble floors as a court reporter.

AZ: You know, you Dressed. And I wore high heels all the time that I was a court reporter in L.A. Up here I still wore heels, but not spikes. (Laughter) It's more casual in a smaller area.

KC: What about, I wanted to ask you one more question about the movie, *A League of Their Own*. What did you think of that?

AZ: Well I thought that they did a pretty good job with their starlets on it. I thought most of it was very true to our style, except some of it wasn't. But you know, it's a movie. You saw it, I'm sure. And the only thing that was gross, was when Tom Hanks came into the clubhouse, and urinated in the gals... They never did anything like that. Our managers would never do anything like that. By and large, it was good take-off in our League. They did a good job teaching the starlets, and we had a...Pepper Pare was our consultant, player consultant on the movie, and she did a good job with them on it. And people sure enjoyed it. Did you enjoy it?

KC: Yeah! I thought it was great movie! And there was quite a lot of feedback about the movie. Where people started thinking about the Milwaukee Chicks, here. Did you find renewed interest about the team when this came out?

AZ: Of course! The movie has brought out a lot of interest, you know people say, "Oh and you have a baseball card?" All this and that. Yeah, the movie brought a lot of renewed interest. They didn't even know about it until the movie came out.

KC: So it was a very positive experience in many ways?

AZ: Beg your pardon?

KC: So the movie brought about a very positive experience?

AZ: Yes! it certainly did, Kathy.

KC: Now when you moved back to California, after the League ended, you had already been playing golf for quite a while. When you moved back, did you continue to play golf, or did you continue to play baseball?

AZ: No, we continued to play golf. I did a little umpiring for softball, but that was about it. I didn't really play. Our action then, we played golf mostly.

KC: Did you umpire for more than a couple of seasons?

AZ: No, just for a couple of seasons.

KC: Ok, why did you get out of baseball, do you feel like? Were you getting tired of it?

AZ: Well, not really, but you get involved in other things. Golf became my sport, is all I can say.

KC: Great. Now your present life. You live...

AZ: I maintain a home here in Los Osos, which is a nice area. And we're right on the ocean, almost. We're five miles from Morro Bay, which is where I play my golf. And here in this area, it never gets too hot in the summer, or too cold in the winter. So it's a nice area.

KC: It's sounds great. You mentioned earlier when we were speaking, you let your cats in. You have cats, how many?

AZ: Yes, I have Miss Emily and Mister Andy. (laughter) And I have an outdoor apartment. They go through a little door, through my bedroom, which is carpeted, and they have their sandbox out there, and a couple little posts. Right now they're reclining on the

AZ: carpeting, I peeked out the window. They are nice little cats. I got them from an outfit called, AFAR, Action For Animals Rights. Before you get their cats, they come out to look at your house, (laughs) they check you out! When they came and they saw what I had and everything... these are the first two cats I've ever had that I've had my choice. Others have come to me. But they're nice little, I call them, "Nice Little Lumps." (Laughter)

KC: What kind of cats are they?

AZ: Plain cats. She's a calico, and he's an orange-and-white. They're nice, they're from the same litter, and I had to pay \$100.00 for the two of them. But, they were both neutered and spayed, he was neutered, and she was spayed, and if you're gonna have pets, that's the way to go, you know. And then, they had their shots, so they were well worth it.

KC: Great. Well cats are, I think they are wonderful companions.

AZ: They are! They're kind of fun! She gets into everything.

(Laughter)

KC: Now in closing, I'd like to ask you what do you feel, out of everything that we've spoken of today, or things that we haven't spoken about, what do you feel are your most important memories of your time with the Milwaukee Chicks and the All-American Girls Baseball League?

AZ: Well that was our introduction into the League, and that was very important, you know. We had, in softball, you play before a crowd of people, and the introduction to our League left a little bit to

AZ: be desired, because we didn't draw too well in Milwaukee, as we have spoken about. And the fans were loyal, the fans we had, and it was an experience. I think Milwaukee is a great city, and you have some excellent restaurants. Naders of which I thoroughly enjoyed. I don't know if it's that great now, but it sure was then.

KC: Yes, it's still in the top ten. It's considered a significant restaurant in Wisconsin.

AZ: Well that's wonderful. But the memories aren't as great, because we were only there one season. But I learned what a league was like to play in, plus Milwaukee. So we grew from there, sweetie.

KC: Hmm. Do believe that your role with the Chicks was significant, and why?

AZ: I don't know if mine was more significant than anyone else's, except I sure learned the value of teamwork. And I happened to be Captain of the club, so if there were any problems, so very often, I'd try to iron them out before they got to anybody. But, life is a job and teamwork is an effort, it's a necessity, no matter who you with.

KC: Do feel that being a member of the Chicks and the All-American Girls League changed your life in anyway?

AZ: Why I don't think it changed my life, it enhanced it, but it didn't change my style, I don't believe. If you want to say that I have a style, everybody does.

KC: Hmmm. How do you perceive the significance of the All-American Girls Baseball League in the history of the United States?

AZ: It was the inception of women in sports. I interrupted you, and I apologize for that.

KC: Oh, That's allright.

AZ: I think there's a definite place in sports for women, and we opened the gate for that. And I hope there will be another league for women. I know there is a team of women, playing baseball now, and if they can get enough together to form a league, it's gonna be great. But right now, they're having to play against men, and that I don't enjoy.

KC: You don't feel they're on equal footing?

AZ: No, I don't think women should ever compete with men. They're stronger. It's different, you know. But we opened the door to women in sports, I think. Nowadays at colleges they have great sports for gals.

KC: Yeah, that's right. I agree, I think that's very significant. Why do you believe it's important to share your personal experiences about the League?

AZ: Well, because you called me! (much laughter)

KC: Touche!

AZ: No, we've, I've done this before. I've talked to classes, a few classes at Cal-Poly, and that's embarrassing too. (laughter) But anyhow, the question was, the significance...?

KC: Why do you believe it's important to share your personal experiences?

AZ: So people who don't know what women can do, know about it. They're aware of it now.

KC: Have you shared this with your family?

AZ: Oh yes, oh, yes. My family and friends.

KC: Hmmmm. Could you tell me a little bit about the paper that your great-niece wrote for school?

AZ: She's, I'm walking right over to another room, but I'm talking. That's Jill, she's a real sweet gal, I'm going to her graduation soon, and she's a smart gal. She had to write a paper, it wasn't a thesis, I don't know what you call it, but anyhow. She got a lot of information from me, she said she'd send me a copy of the finished product. And the title of this is: "Beauty and the Baseball Diamond, or Pass Me the Lipstick, Coach, I'm on Deck." (Laughter) It's well-written.

KC: Did you say, or what was the second title?

AZ: The first one was, "Beauty and the Baseball Diamond, or Pass me the Lipstick, Coach, I'm on Deck." In other words, she's ready to hit, you know. That's the title. In other words, we had to look like ladies and act like men. So, passing the lipstick, instead of the bat. (Laughter) And it was quite a deal, twelve pages, thirteen pages. It was all about our League and stuff. She got an excellent grade on it! She did a good job.

KC: I'm not surprised. You mentioned that she mailed this paper to Jim Nitz, here in Milwaukee?

AZ: No, she sent me this, and I made a copy from mine, and mailed it to Jim Nitz. He was really impressed with it.

KC: Great, well I'll have to contact him, and see if I can get a copy of that.

AZ: I'll send you a copy if you want!

KC: Oh, that would be wonderful, thank you.

AZ: You know, I don't think I have your address.

This ends the questions, but while chatting, Miss Zeigler, started talking about Cuba again. I switched on the tape in the middle of a sentence.

AZ: in the country, the cows are very thin, you know, and they don't have much grazing land, it's so sad, you know.

KC: In Cuba?

AZ: They'd feed us steaks and somebody would say they were alligator steaks. (Laughter)

KC: Really?

AZ: No, they weren't, they weren't. But it was an experience, you know, to be down there. It was well worth it.

KC: What was the weather like while you were down there?

AZ: It was warm. You see, it's real nice down there around about April, lovely. But it was different, and we were glad, and then on the way home from Cuba, you play exhibition ball games in the Southern states.

KC: When you went down there, did you fly or take a ship?

AZ: We flew doan.

KC: Could you give me a year when you went down there?

AZ: I'm trying to think back. I think it was '46 or '47; or '47 or '48 right in there.

KC: Hmm. At this time America and Cuba were friends, and Americans were very popular down there as tourists, is that correct? Did they have casinos that you could go to or anything like that? Were you girls able to do that?

AZ: We didn't do that. But they did have them. Also we'd go, they'd make beautiful alligator handbags and we'd go shopping and buy leather goods and stuff like that. It was different, but we didn't like the food so much. And then, needless to say, I liked it less! (Laughter)

KC: Now, what about language barriers?

AZ: Well, it was difficult, but we didn't have much contact, much personal contact with them. Except this one fellow, a nice fellow, he spoke broken English, but I could sure understand him. But we didn't have much contact with them. Again, it was all work! Spring Training, practice, work, work, work, and sleep. That was about it. We didn't have any spare time.

KC: How long were you down there?

AZ: Two weeks, nign on to two weeks, about ten days.

KC: So, it almost could have been a vacation, had you not been working so hard all the time.

AZ: That's right! A paid vacation.

KC: Well, I want to thank you, once again, for your willingness to do this, and the time you have given.

AZ: It was my pleasure, Kathy. And I wish you all the luck inthe world on your grade effort, is that what you'll get on this?

KC: Yeah, we get graded on this.

AZ: Well. I want to know all about that.

KC: Well, I'll be sure and write you and let you know.

END OF TAPE TWO, SIDE TWO.