

Dedication

for the women who worked at Basic Magnesium, Inc.

Angela M. Brommel

When you drive past BMI, you can almost hear
Glenn Miller and The Ink Spots in the background.
Nearly 15,000, how far did they travel?

From the Midwest, the South, from Baker, from across the nation
men and women arrived. She might have been a neighbor
who stepped up when her husband joined the war.

Answering the wartime call of wonder metal,
she follows the brilliant-white light of magnesium
that will make history and change the future.

Here a woman makes dollar-for-dollar with the men,
making more money in a week than what she once
made in a month. She's Geri in Statistics,

Gretchen the BMI Technical Librarian, Helen
in Technical Service, Rose and Juanita running the floor,
and Thalia, future Clark County Commissioner and Regent.

She's Loretta working over molten magnesium
while Thelma works in the chlorine plant. She's
Iona, a short fielder on the softball team. She's Irene,
who will one day be their historian.

Follow the water pipeline from the factory.
Pass the first library, pass the street
where the theater was, pass the old stores
with new names. See how your work
turned a townsite into the place we call home.

Magnesium Maggie, here, at this corner park
on a cool March morning, we gather to say thank you.

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