

**Mary Ellen (Winter) Atkins**  
Secretary, Representative Karl Le Compte of Iowa

## **Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress**

### **Dancing with Officers**

Mary Ellen Atkins describes entertainment provided for the residents of Scott's Hotel for Girls.  
*Interview recorded August 24, 2016*

Well, this girls' hotel had a wonderful banquet floor on the first floor. And we would have three– or four–piece bands and have tea dances every Sunday afternoon. Then every other Friday night, we would have formal dances, and the girls all had to wear formals. Only officers were invited to the dances. So, a friend brought him there. We would just all dance with all the fellas all around. In addition to the nice dances, we would have the round dances where we would change partners. We got acquainted with a lot of the fellas that way. I dated several. I dated Don, and I dated a Frank from Pennsylvania. Don is from Los Angeles. We started dating, and then I would have to go home for summer recess, but he would continue going, and he would dance with a cute, little red-head and good dancer. When I came back in the fall, it would take a while for us to get back together again. So, that was, that was great.