

Women in Forestry

Esther Carini

Women's Timber Corps



Before the war women did not wear trousers, only female movie stars were seen wearing slacks in fashion magazines. In fact, it was regarded as unacceptable for women to wear trousers in the 1940's and even for decades later. But the Women's Timber Corps uniform included corduroy jodhpurs which were designed to fit all shapes and sizes and were very generous on the hips. As a result, jodhpur clad women were considered provocative for daring to show off their curves. So maybe that was why Esther Carini was only allowed to keep her working shoes, stockings and shirts when she was discharged from the Women's Timber Corps. Those Lumberjills were among a generation to pioneer a new fashion in trousers for women.

As part of their uniform the Lumberjills also received two pairs of khaki dungarees, which they often chopped off and made into shorts. Two cotton aertex shirts, one green woollen pullover, one three-quarter length khaki overcoat and three pairs of woolly knee-high socks, brown leather walking shoes and working boots. For stormy days they had a pair of wellingtons, one oil skin raincoat and a massive sou' wester. The bottle green beret was worn to distinguish members of the Women's Timber Corps from those of the Women's Land Army, whose hats were trilby shaped and fawn.

The Lumberjills pinned a brass-crossed axes badge to their arm and a Women's Timber Corps Bakelite badge of a fir tree to their beret as seen in Esther Carini's photo. These badges were worn with pride.