

GEORGE AND JESSIE SHEPHARD
MILTON, WASHINGTON

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Jonlee: I am meeting with George and Jessie Shephard in Milton, Washington. Willis Shephard, their son, will also be here. October 27, 1998.

Jessie: You know where the Steel Mill is down in Youngstown? Well that's where I lived down in Youngstown. I recall very well what they named, what they called the Plank Road into a street, ran several miles out there and they had the chain gang, now that ought to be of interest. These officers had prisoners and they all had a big round ball like that chained to their ankles. Big ones, at least 12 inches across. They made what they called 26th Avenue and it went clear out to what they called Paul's Farm. That was all made by the chain gang. The officers stood over these men and they all had this big ball attached to the leg. So that's how that street was made.

Jonlee: I want to ask you Mrs. Shephard, you were born in 1901?

Jessie: 1900.

Jonlee: Was it your family that lived in Youngstown?

Jessie: Yes, we moved there in 1907.

Jonlee: What did your father do?

Jessie: My father was a City Fireman and in those days, it wasn't like it is now. They had to stay there night and day in the fire house. They slept there and then they'd be off a week until they got the platoon system and that meant they just worked during the day and then the other men came on at night.

Jonlee: How many children did your folks have?

Jessie: Three. Two girls and a boy. Now maybe you would be very interested in the house we lived in. It was a five room house. There was three houses together and we all had

outside toilets. There was a well about 50 feet that we all used the water from. I went to what they then called, the Youngstown school. We lived just two blocks from the school. We'd have to come home to our lunch and I recall they had a big fence around the school yard because there were cougars, there was nothing but woods and there was cougars around there. So that's why they had the big high fence.

Jonlee: Did you ever see one?

Jessie: Oh yes, and there was bears and we use to go blackberry picking. I recall one time especially that was funny. My brother was sick and so my mother didn't go berry picking, but we went out there with him and all of a sudden we heard him yell "Run for your lives" We couldn't figure what was wrong. He had been up on the stump picking blackberries and he fell and fell on the bear. There was a bear down below and of course the bear went one way and my dad went the other and lost his gallon bucket of berries.

Jonlee: How did your family heat the house? Did they have a wood stove? Did your mom cook with a wood cook stove?

Jessie: Absolutely, I can see that stove yet for heating, that's all we had. The cooking was a wooden range and we had on the back of that range or on the side was a water jacket.

Jonlee: For hot water, so when you bathed, when you took a bath you brought in what? Did you have a tin?

Jessie: We took a bath in the wash tub, put a curtain around the stove and got in that wash tub to take a bath once a week. Whether we wanted to or not.

Jonlee: Did you go to church?

Jessie: Well we children did. I went to the Congregational Church. It was about five blocks from our home. This is very interesting too, not connected with the church but there was a family lived down there, their name was Barnicutt and they had seventeen children. He was a janitor at the school-house.

Jonlee: Now do you know Barnicutt still has a service station at the Admiral Way. The Barnicutt family, some one still has a gasoline station at the Admiral Way Junction.

Jessie: The Barnicutt family lived or they are scattered around here, but they are still in West Seattle. One of them still has a service station up there.

Jonlee: I wanted to ask you to just tell that little bit of story again on when you were young and met your husband and how he bothered you. He had a mirror. Would you just say that part? I know it has been taped but I'd like it for this tape.

Jessie: Well in our study class, he and I were in the typing class together. But in the study hall, he sat ahead of me. I recall he had a mirror and he had sat there and I went home and told my mother, I said, "That darn George Shephard, he's going to get me in trouble". I said, "He sits there with the mirror and watches me". My mom, said, "Yes, and you'll turn around and marry that red headed George Shephard". Which I did.

Jonlee: I wanted to ask you when you and George were married, what was it like every day? Did you have a wood stove to cook on?

Jessie: He had a job and he had lost the job, that's his story. We had no money so my father had a small farm so we built a little shack ten by twelve made out of board and batten. It had two windows and a door. We had an electric plate that we cooked on. We lived there for about nine months until I got pregnant and then we built two more rooms, board and batten on there until we had our baby and got our home built.

Jonlee: Did you have your babies at home?

Jessie: Absolutely. Well not at home no, in the doctor's home. He lived at what they called the Junction up stairs and that's where I gave birth to a twelve pound baby.

Jonlee: How many children do you have?

Tessie: Just one now. We lost the first one with Scarlet Fever.
Willis Darn near lost me and she was very ill.
Jessie: And I had the Scarlet Fever too and I was carrying him. I was five months pregnant with him.
Jonlee: I want to ask you, I know you and I have not done the stories together, but I heard some that Willis taped. I want to ask you this question - What has kept you going in all those hard times and all those wonderful times - Do you have a faith in God?
Jessie: He was a traveling salesman and I had to raise Willis. My disease which is a kidney infection and they said I couldn't live more than three years and here I am. They certainly were wrong.
Jonlee: What kept you going in your spirit and in your heart?
Jessie: I don't know, I think it was just a determination to raise him.
Jonlee: Well he's raised and you're still keeping on.
Tessie: Yep, I raised him. But I think that was the determination and I was going to see to it that he lived and that he was a well child. I think I spent more time with doctors with that boy then anybody I know of.
Jonlee: Do you have a strong faith in God?
Jessie: I don't know, in those days I never even thought about it. It was just getting him raised. He was my one consideration
Jonlee: You did a good job, he's here and he's smiling.
Willis: But I'm not 98, I'm 76 this month.
Jessie: Our daughter would be going on 79.
Willis: I never saw my sister, she died before I was born, just a short time.
Jessie: Yes, just five months before he was born.
Jonlee: I want to ask George a few questions and then we will come back to you.
Willis: I should have had my tape going. This is information that I haven't got.
George: You should have, I thought you had all the information.

Willis: I thought I did too, but mom mentioned a few things there I didn't know about.

George She's talking about a man's point of view and hers is from a woman's point of view which is quite a bit of difference. A lot of it corresponds naturally.

Jonlee: Now I wanted to ask you because I don't want to duplicate what Willis has done. I wanted to ask you what it was like for you growing up. Your father was a contractor, right?

George Yes, my father was a contractor and builder in the woodworking business of course.

I was born August 22, 1899 and I was born in Portland, Oregon. Jessie was born in Harrington, Washington. My folks were brought up in Salt Lake City. My mother was married there and she had three children there and I was the last of one of the four in the family. My father evidently went to the Alaska Yukon Exposition as he came to Seattle in 1898. He made a tour to Alaska during that gold rush. Of course he never got nothing up there, but when he came back to Seattle one of his first jobs that I have record of was he built the Monroe Reformatory. Then he built a pipe line in Bellingham from the Lake there a water line into the little town South Fairhaven and we have a picture of him standing on that pipeline the day of my birth.

Jonlee: Where were you born? Up in Bellingham?

George No I was born in Portland, Oregon. Evidently I figured out from the information I have. My father went to the Alaska gold rush in 98' and evidently he made arrangements for my mother to come to Seattle. I doubt, he must have been there and must have made a trip back to Salt Lake, but however he was not there when my mother took the three children and they came to Portland, Oregon where I was born where her father was. Her father had what formerly was known as the Jantzen Knitting Mills. I don't know what he called his business, but I do recall seeing the work and sitting on the

balcony of that store he had down on Third Street. Knitting socks and sweaters. I also recall seeing a very funny ~~stage~~ *thing* of one my aunts there. She was young at that time and what I recall is a funny thing, they use to have high shelves in these retail stores and they would store shoes in boxes all the way to the top almost to the ceiling. Then they had a ladder that ran on the wheels and I recall so well my aunt jumping on that ladder and going up the ladder while it was still going in a forward direction. She'd go up on the third or fourth shelf and pick out some shoes that somebody wanted and that was quite a common thing in stores of that day. That was about in 1904.

Jonlee: When did you move to Seattle?

George I was born August 22nd and before the end of the year, my mother moved to Seattle. They lived up on Summit Avenue. They didn't live there very long, they moved about 1902 to West Seattle. West Seattle had no public transportation at that time. The cable lines that they had been using to West Seattle had been shut down and their cars, two of their cars were stored down by the old ferry landing, which was right at the bottom of the hill. Ferry Avenue ran right down to the ferry and of course now it is changed.

Jonlee: Some of the tapes I heard about you was that you liked to make box kites. That you were quite a box kite maker.

George I think I might have made a couple of them, but I don't recall too much about them.

Jonlee: Now when did you get your eye on this lady here?

George Well that was in our Typing Class in 1916 in the Fall. We had a typing class and one of the features in the typing class.....

Jessie: But George, I didn't start to Highschool until I was 18.

George: Oh yes you did, you graduated in 1918. Anyhow something rather interesting about West Seattle, they used to have an old school there called Howards School which was there located on about Sunset Avenue and I imagine about Holgate

Street now. Just where it was I do not know, but I do know that my brothers attended that for awhile when we first moved to West Seattle. That would have all the eight grades in the one room. That old Howard School was later moved up to the Lafayette location where it was used as a Manual Training Shop. I spent quite a bit of time in the Manual Training Shop when I was going to Highschool.

Jonlee: What were you learning?

George: Woodworking, all kinds of woodworking. I was rather a peculiar kid, I made pretty good friends particularly with F. Stu Gordon. He was a teacher that a lot of people still remember. F. Stu Gordon and I at the same time was sweeping out the school at night as a little job on the side. What I was going to say was the interesting part I thought was that in 1905 I started to the West Seattle Grammar School. That is the old Lafayette School which was eight rooms, four on the first floor and four on the second floor. That would take the first four grades and then the last four grades on the top floor. I started in there September 1905. Then a building was added to that, it was a high school was added on to the north end of that building and I graduated from there in 1917 all in the same building. So it was rather interesting that I spent all my school years in that one building.

Jonlee: Did you ever go to work with your dad? Did your dad teach you about building?

George: Only once did I ever go to work for my dad and that was in 1910. My father built the Library which is out on 23rd and Jackson Street and evidently some people were walking off with quite a bit of the lumber that was around the place. So he did hire me to work after school til about nine or ten o'clock at night to kind of keep my eye on the lumber situation as it stood around the building there. But he did build that library at 23rd and Jackson in 1910. My mother died in 1909 the year before then.

Jonlee: I wanted to go back and see what made you keep your eye on this lady here?

George: Oh, she flirted with me as much as she says she didn't pay any attention to me, but I think between the two of us, we got to liking one another pretty well. I think I told you the story before about taking the motorcycle and following her to work. She had a job at the YWCA as a teacher in sewing and after school, she would catch the street car and go down to the Good Will or Salvation Army, one of those places. They were teaching the girls sewing and that's what she was doing was teaching them. When she left class at West Seattle she had the last couple of classes, she would go down and catch a street car and go down town. Well I had an old motorcycle and I pulled that old motorcycle out and I use to skip class too and follow her down town on the street car. I'd wave at her a couple of times, I don't know whether she noticed but she probably did and of course I'd pass the street car and come back on the other side and wave her again. I followed her almost to Seattle, I did that on several times and that is the reason that she told her mother that I was going to get her into trouble. I kind of look at that as a very peculiar character that Jessies got. Jessie has always, from that time on always has been thinking of me much as she says not. But nevertheless, coming back from this motorcycle trip down town, she would scold me and say "Listen you're going to kill yourself some day on that motorcycle and you better be careful what you're doing". And ever since then, in all our lives she has always and even to this day she still thinks about me. It don't make no difference about what it is, "Well buy this coat, buy this, why don't you do something else". Always for me and I think that is the thing that predominated her thinking more than anything else except probably when Frances was born, she thought more of the girl, and of

course when Willis was born she had that challenge to raise him.

Jonlee: She said you were a traveling salesman at that point in life. What was your route?

George: Well certain times I was traveling the road. I was principally in the heating, ventilation and air conditioning business. On my first job I had (of course I was fired on my first job when I came back from my honeymoon) my boss fired me. Then we lived for awhile out on 30th and Union Street for a few months through the winter and then we came back and Jessie's father built this little shack for us that we lived in, where we lived when Frances was born. We lived there for quite a while and then we built another house over on Cannon Drive and 49th Avenue S.W.. We built that house, a 24 square foot house and we lived in there for awhile. When Frances died there, we came back and revamped the place quite a bit and Jessie said if we revamped, we would stay there for awhile longer. We did quite a few changes on that house.

Then when I was up in Bellingham one time, she sold the house, she didn't want to live there anymore. You can't blame her for that. We bought a new home up in West Seattle right north of the old Congregational Church.

Jonlee: The Alki Congregational Church?

George: No that was the West Seattle Congregational. That was right up on Hill Street and California Avenue, which is still the location of it at the present time. We lived just two doors north of that church. We bought that I think about 1928 and then along came the depression you know.

Jonlee: What kind of work did you have during the depression? That was very hard.

George: The depression was. I was doing repair work on appliances mainly at that time. Some selling whenever I got a little chance to do, I did a little selling and I was working for

what was known as the L.C. Werner Co. It sold out to the General Radio Co. and I went to work for the General Radio Co. for awhile. I was supposed to be a partner with them in 1929 and I think my salary was nothing. Oh it probably came to about \$25.00, \$35.00 a month, not much. Then I get a job with the F. B. Colony Co. at I think around \$135.00 a month, which was substantial quite a bit more and that was in 1938. At that same time, we couldn't keep up the payments, although Jessie's down payment put the full amount of the house we'd built as the down payment and when we lost our home up there on California Avenue and Hill Street.

Willis: That was a beautiful house. I'll never forget that house, central heat, attached garage even a post box in the house.

George: It was a nice place and rather modern. We had electric range and we did very good there. I worked for the F. B. Colony Co. until about 1942 I think.

Jonlee: Did you lose that house?

George: Yes, we lost it, we couldn't make the payments on the deal so the Home Owners Loan Assn. came out there one day and told Jessie, "You'd be better off".

Jonlee: So you moved to a smaller house that you could afford then.

George: No, then we started renting and we rented several houses in West Seattle up on top of Gatewood Hill, down in Gatewood itself and we moved back home (Jessie did all this) trying to save what we had. But even in spite of it we couldn't save it. I did file homestead on the place a time. They gave me thirteen more months to live in it before we finally give it up.

Then after that we bought a home up on back of St. Vincent De Paul Hospital on top of the hill. We lived there for several years. Then we bought another home up on 44th and Genessee Street. We had a nice place there. Then we bought a brand new home up on 42nd and Pine Street up by the school. We sold that and bought a home pretty close to White Center. Beyond White Center, Lake Burien. Then from

there we moved down to Bowman Hilton, that's a Country Club, we had a mobile home we bought. We flooded one time down there and we had two feet of water in our house. We had a lot of insurance. We were well taken care by the Insurance Company, but the Insurance Company didn't know as much about flood conditions as we did. All together, it cost the Insurance Company about Thirty-Four Thousand Dollars to settle this.

Then after that, we moved up here and since then they have had that big devastating flood that took the houses clear out down there. This is a very comfortable place where we are now. We enjoy this place very much. Our apartment is here on the first floor, we get in and out with Jessie fine and dandy. They keep the lawn up beautifully in shape. They take care of the houses. It's really is not as expensive as living in a mobile home the same size. We're very well pleased with what we've got.

Jessie: It's pretty expensive, but then we pay \$625.00 a month.

George: Very reasonable for what we expect today. Our expenses on the mobile home that we had, 1200 square foot home were equal to what we're paying here. The difference is the fact that you're living in a mobile home, you've got taxes to pay. You have insurance to pay.

Jonlee: Mr Shepherd I want to ask you the same question I asked your wife. When times were really hard, what kept you going?

George: Oh, I think her faith that she had. Jessie is a wonderful Bible student. She always had faith in God and she always has used that faith in other things she did. I do recall one operation she had and she's had a lot of them, gall bladder operation - the doctor did not want to operate on her and she said "She has perfect faith when she goes on the table to be operated on and the doctor that's doing the work". She has perfectly good faith. I think that characteristic has carried her through a lot of it.

Jessie typed a thousand-page book, a Bible Reference Book, Bible Work and Study Book. Jessie did the typing on this, you take a thousand pages that she has typed and how many times she had to do it over. I use to take her down in the basement to mimeograph and run off seven or eight pages of every one she did. I think she made seven books like that.

Jessie: I made four books.

George: I think it's wonderful she has done this. It gives us a lot of strength I think in the world with things that are going on. I have a little different opinion and Jessie has her thing. It's been a wonderful study. We haven't studied near to what we should have and now today I get quite a kick out of having these talking books, to read the bible over to me again. I get a lot of information now that I didn't ever know was in there before. So it's been very interesting, We do not go to church. We have been asked to leave a couple churches so.

Tonlee: Why is that?

George: Well, our disbelief and their belief. In other words some of the churches are very strict. And that's all right. They are doing their way and the people like it, They are doing their job. But as far as we are concerned, I will give you one example, one quick example. Jessie was invited and we were both invited to the Lutheran church in Seattle, down there by the Junction and they had Communion Services this Sunday and which we love to be a part of. They said, "Don't you belong to the church?" "No." Then they said "You can't take part in Communion here." So right then we got up and walked out of the church, we figured, we were asked to leave. If we couldn't take communion with the rest of them, we walked out. That's the way they felt about it, that's fine.

We went up to the Mormon Church one day. We had an idea one time, we were going to go to as many different churches as we could. We said, "Let's go to a different church every

Sunday as a study to see what people were doing." We went to many, we had some very wonderful experiences. But I'll never forget, we went to the Mormon Church (The Mormon Church is mainly from Salt Lake City you know) and they have their own Bible what they claim as fantastic stories I don't know how they came about. Now my people might have been Mormons, I don't know. They asked us not to show up at Church because he said "You wouldn't be interested in what they've got to offer". So consequently when they once found out that we were doing Bible study, we were asked not to show up.

The last church going had been down in Puyallup to the Christian Church. They had their services there which we enjoyed, that they gave once a year to any couple married over fifty years and we have attended that service up until last year or the year before last. We enjoyed that part of the service and we enjoyed a lot of the services that go on. But it just doesn't fit, it doesn't fit our belief, let's put it that way. So consequently, fine. So it's alright, people do what they want to do. They read one way, I have no objection to that. That's their way of life, but we have ours, we're just going our way too.

Jonlee: I interviewed a man named Stanley Maple and his family had a donation claim down where Boeing Field is. Would you have known him? He's a mere 92. Would you have known the Maple family at all?

George: I don't know.

Jonlee: West Seattle was so closed off from the rest of the city. They ended up on Beacon Hill, perhaps you would not have.

George: Yes it was, West Seattle was quite different from the other part of Seattle. I think it was about 1908 when West Seattle joined Seattle and after that time it was known as the City of West Seattle. Just like that Street we used to live on. All the Streets in West Seattle were named after

trees. We lived on Maple Street, later that name was changed to West Seattle Street, when West Seattle joined Seattle. But all those streets were named Spruce, Maple, all the different names of trees.

Jonlee: I wanted to ask you too, do you remember if there were any native Americans or Indians who lived in West Seattle or who stopped by because it's a good clam digging area? They would not have given that up willingly. I know there was an Indian war and a reservation created.

George: I was quite attracted by a little Indian girl. I used to deliver papers and the last paper I delivered down by the old Red Mill down there, these Indians had homes up on the side hill.

Jonlee: Where was the Red Mill?

George: Red Mill was what was known as that restaurant down there, oh no that was a novelty store. There used to be a saw mill down there.

Jessie: We had a grocer man that, I was only fourteen. Well later on when we were married and had a family. Years later, we run into him. He was a Bible student and the most wonderful one we have ever found. So he was an old man by that time and we were worried we'd lose all the things we'd learned because you can't keep all that in your head, so I asked him if we could have his notes. And he said, "Certainly". So I typed four of these books, his reference books.

Jonlee: And this book is called "Bible Notes"?

Jessie: We never did name it. It's his personal reference notes and it is wonderful. He considered what was in this book and he called it "Types, Symbols and Allegories". You just show that to a family and they stick their nose up. Have nothing to do with it and yet it's one of the most interesting and instructive books that you ever heard of. The meaning of the names, you would be surprised what a wonderful book that turned out and yet there's only four of them.

Jonlee: Whose notes are they, your notes, his research?

George: George Sherman's notes. George Sherman wrote that book. Jessie told him, we have to have some kind of record for us to carry on with and will you let us have your notes and he said, "I'll write them up". This is what he has written up and a lot of pages there he had done himself and then we carried on. Jessie typed almost all of his notes.

Jonlee: And what will you do with this? Will you pass it on to Willis?

Jessie: Oh yes. I don't know what will happen then because...

George: Only people that are interested in that sort of thing. I got really interested in it. I was about thirteen years old when I went to those classes with George Sherman. Now he had one student, one of the people that went on the air was on a radio station in Seattle. Her name was Mrs. Orth. She taught what he had in his book and of what he was doing and of course he kept correcting because she kept getting a little bit out of it, you know going on her own tangent.

Jonlee: Since you have the microphone, I would like to come back to you. Will you tell me do you remember any of the Indian families in West Seattle?

Jessie: When we were little kids, I can remember this. They called them "Siwashes" and they used to sit out on the street. They made baskets and they'd sit on the street, you could smell them a mile away.

Jonlee: What did they smell like, wood smoke?

Jessie: Selling these baskets they made. You never hear of the Siwash any more.

George: What was the name of that girl that lived down there on Alki Point on 63rd that you knew so well? That was from the Duwamish Tribe. I don't recall her name.

George: Were indians still digging clams down on the beach?

Jessie: Oh yes, we've done that.

Jonlee: Didn't the indians do that too? Dig clams and dry the fish and clams?

George: I imagine they must, I didn't have any actual experience with them.

Willis: Oh yes you did, the clothes barrel out on your back porch.

Jonlee: We have that story. That's all the gaps that I had. There are a lot of gaps I don't know about to ask you.

Jessie: Would you like to know about what the women wore in those days? Well they wore long skirts, I can see my mother out in the back yard with this long skirt feeding the chickens. They were just running all over the yard and they wore what they call shirt sleeves. They were long sleeves up close to the neck. Another thing I recall. I have a picture in one of those books of my mother and my grandmother. Did you ever hear of plumes? I don't know what they were made of, feathers or something. They were about eighteen inches long and they wore these great big hats and some of them would have as many as three on their hat. They were very light weight, With the long skirts and the long sleeves and these big hats. They were a sight for sore eyes.

Jonlee: Did you dress that way when you were first married?

Jessie: Oh no, Skirts were shorter then. There is a picture of us over there on our wedding pictures and I had on a long dress that I'd made at school.

Jonlee: Styles are much more casual today, aren't they? Thank you very much. I'm going to ask George a couple more questions. Mr. Shephard, before the telephone rang, you telling me about a little Indian family down where you delivered your newspapers.

George: There was something I was going to tell you about. The Indians lived in those homes just back of the old red mill.

Jonlee: I just wanted to place where that red mill would be, what would be there today?

George: Well it would be just south of that restaurant down on the waterfront now. Then it is Salties is what was usually the Old Novelty Mill and the Red Barn was just south of that and that barn was used for fueling steam ships because they all

had to burn coal at that time. They would bring the railroad cars up on the second floor, shove them up above, then they would dump the coal out to the side of the bins and from the bins they put them in the boats. That's what we called the Red Barn. But that's what it was used for.

As I was telling you the story of the Indian girl, I used to love to give her the paper, oh boy, what a thrill it was. Let me tell you of another thrill I had at one time. Jean Phisay(?), that's a doctor who lived in West Seattle, he's a very good friend of ours and a beautiful daughter, oh boy. These houses that they had in those days, they did have electric lights and lights would hang from the middle of the ceiling on a cord and then the people would have to reach up there to turn on the light. It was quite a novelty to go into a home and see it with these lights, electric lights on. So this particular home, Phisay's home, they had the light in the kitchen and of course they had a shed entrance into the back door to their kitchen. However they did have right next to the kitchen door was an opening that they dumped coal in. Coal was dumped down there and go into the basement where they would have to keep their furnaces going. Well this night I was delivering papers and it was raining. Someone opened the back door to get the paper and who was it but this Jean, this doctor's daughter. Oh boy, was my heart thrilled to hand her the paper. I was just about to give her the paper when I stepped into this coal chute and down I went into the basement with my newspapers on my back and everything else. Goodness, what a furor that started. The doctor came out and they finally got me up and he wanted to know if I had any broken bones. Of course by that time I was so embarrassed. No, I was perfectly ok. I'll never forget that incident. I started carrying newspapers when I was about seven years old or close to seven years old and I carried the paper what was known as the Seattle Star It was

a weekly paper. They did not publish Sunday's paper, but I carried the paper from the ferry landing where they unloaded the papers to me, all along Alki Point, around past Haller Beach clear down to Bonaire Station and I ended up at the old Homestead Building. The old Homestead Building was my last customer and at that time you did have a little walk up to the Luna Park, but from there on everything was trestle with a bridge and you went from a bridge from there to Bonaire Station. At extreme high tide, the only way you could do was walk down that bridge and go in each one of these walkways and deliver your paper. If the tide was down a little bit so you could walk down the beach, I would take the beach route and throw the papers up on the porches up the hill. I'll never forget coming to the Chittendon home. Chittendon is, by the way, is the man that built locks out at Salmon Bay. I took this paper, rolled it up and threw it up on the porch and I guess she just had dinner all set up on the table or something and I guess I just cleaned everything off of the table. I heard about it after. They were very good to me as a kid.

George: I started delivering the Seattle Star the last of the AYPX position 1909. About 1910, then I switched over to the Seattle Times. I was about 10 years old. I do remember my cousin came out to Seattle to keep house for us after he died and May went with me one night to the AYPX Position. We were done delivering papers until about 11:00 o'clock at night and so May went with me and I had delivered all my papers very late at night.

Jonlee: I wanted to ask you in listening to Willis' tape, your stories - your father was a contractor but there was no such thing as an allowance that you got.

George: I don't think my father ever gave me an allowance of any kind that I recall. I don't think he ever did because I had to mow the lawns of places my dad bought a big house across the street and I had to mow those lawns. I was quite

disturbed with all the work they give me to do. But I was always busy, one thing about me was that I never was without work to do. Jessie use to call me a workaholic. I think I was. I'm not trying to kid anybody but when electricity came in for example, which came to our place was about 1907, I, as a kid had double pull switches going for upper in our stair well, but I'd run the wires in this from the wires on the wall and they were hot. I wasn't thinking about it then, the switches were little pieces of copper and you'd reach out and there was charge. But I'd switch them back and forth and I knew what I was doing.

Then I'll tell you another thing I did as a kid. I organized a telegraph system. I almost got my sister in a jam for this. I took our Telephone Company line and I had a ^{leiden} ~~laden~~ jar, I don't know if you know what a ^{leiden} ~~laden~~ jar is. There little round gallon jars, you put a zinc crowfoot in the bottom, pour in some blue on top of it. On the top of it you would have a zinc crowfoot just like your hand sitting right on top of it hooked over the edge and that was a battery. You would have three of those and that would generate six volts for you. So I was quite interested in electricity as a kid. So we had a telegraph. I had a telegraph cylinder and keys and I had five boys on my telegraph system. Nelson was on one end the other end was Joe Bleek, Leon Parret. So anyhow I had five outlets and it worked pretty good. My sister got a job as telephone operator just a block up the street. So I took our telephone line and broke it off and hooked it up to my telegraph system. So I gave all these kids free telephone service at the same time. But I was always doing something like that. I was a busy kid.

Jonlee: You haven't stopped. Right?

George: No I don't think I've stopped today. Goodness sakes alive, I've worked on the boats going to Bellingham. I worked on

the City Angeles for one summer up there. Oh, I loved that job. And I worked on the boats going to Tacoma for awhile. You probably have heard of the actress Lillian Gish. Lillian Gish was quite a popular movie star at that time and she took a trip to Hoods Canal leaving the Colman Dock and by boat and boy did we kids ever have fun on the boats then, we grabbed the suitcases and carried them on the boat for them. How our hearts throbbed when we saw Lillian Gish coming on our boat to take a ride up to Potlash. I've been on those boats going up and down the Hoods Canal. Oh yes, we were always busy. You would be surprised, I'll tell you something else funny. You know one time I was president of the Evergreen Gas and Oil Company for awhile. We drilled a hole over by Yakima, a few miles south of Yakima. We drilled 3300 feet, then we drilled some down in Aberdeen, Hoquiam. We drilled the last ones up on Skunks Bay, Hoods Canal.

Start of Tape 2

Continuation of Interview With George and Jessie Shepherd

George: I think it was Sands Motor Company and he was selling automobiles up on about Broadway and Pine Street. He had this country home up there at Skunk Bay. He drilled a well and he got enough gas flow out of there to run a little gas stove. So we made arrangements with him to drill for oil. We figured the gas was up there and we were going to get oil. So we sat up this drill and we bought the drill from somebody up in Bellingham. The funny part is, we drilled that well down 800 hundred feet and then we hit a pocket. There was nothing and everything dropped down when it did. The pipes all got kinked so we figured we had to go up to 1000 feet, it almost broke the company. I'll tell you something else funny. We had all kinds of meetings down town at different hotels, and according to the deal I tried to be as honest with the people as you can (some times it don't pay to be too honest) so I got up there to tell every body "Now here's what happened, we're almost broke, got no money left, we think we should drill that pipe out and go on through it. There's a possibility of hitting and we got some reports from the University of Washington that were on the way. We should do this thing. However we're broke and there's where it stands, I think we should at least try to go through it anyhow". The funny part is I tried to be as honest with the group as I could and tell them ~~nothing~~. I told them everything as to where we stood. Somebody asked me if I was going to put in more money, I said, "yes, I'm going to put in another Hundred". Boy that started a stam-pede, you'd be surprised. I think we raised about two or Three Thousand Dollars. So Jessie and I went back up to that oil well and Twitchell was the name of the secretary we had hired. He was some fellow out here in Renton and Twitchell came up there. We said, "Well let's try to run the drill". So we did and I didn't know nothing about

running drills, neither did he. We had all this equipment, goodness it was One Hundred Thousand Dollars for that drill alone that we had up there and here it was all set up. I'll never forget that bit that runs down there weighs over two thousand pounds. We're going to try to run that drill. I put the rope around the bit and I was going to ease it over to the hole to get it down in this pipe and goodness sakes alive when he pulled that bit up, that thing took me across the road and clear up the other side. It's a wonder I didn't kill myself. The funny part about it was, we had to break that pipe off. When it fell it kinked. So the only way we could do it is blow it off from there. We've got forty sticks of dynamite, put the forty sticks of dynamite inside of another tube, we figured we could drop that down the well and blow the thing to pieces. Well, the ignitor worked fine and dandy on one 12 volt battery. So we figured that would do it. So we put it down in the well, we never figured that much resistance, it wouldn't set it off. We hit the battery - nothing happened. So we ran our car down there, we had another 12 volt battery in the car. We put the two batteries together and hit it and Bang!!!! it went off. They felt that explosion clear down in Bremerton. I've had some people remember that but didn't know what had happened.

But anyhow Twitchell and I decided to drill and that's when we drilled through the thing. Well we run the drill for quite awhile. We couldn't go no place. Oh but, we had a great time up there. I ~~am~~ have to tell you the story, Jessie and I set a tent up there in Skunk Bay and here comes the skunks and we had a little baby dog. Jessie had to hold her back by the bed because if she had gone after those skunks we'd of had a mess. She had twelve quarts of blackberries we had picked and had them in the jars. The skunks

got into them and ate about half of them. We had quite a time.

Jonlee: How did the skunks get into the jars?

Jessie: I don't think we had them in the jars yet.

George: I'll tell you another funny story about Skunk Bay. We came out of there one night - oh we were always late - always one thing about Jessie, when we saw the sun go down, I'd want to go home. Oh no, not her, no we can do some more. so we keep on and we'd always catch the last boat coming home at midnight. Anyhow we came out of the drilling deal that day. Right in the middle of the highway and you couldn't^{go} right or left because you had to go down between the trees, there was a little mama skunk with about seven little skunks and they were all on parade going across the road and oh what a sight. We stopped right there. Pretty soon she herded all seven off of the road and we got by and came home. It was a wonderful experience.

Jonlee: Did you catch the Mosquito Fleet Ferry home to Seattle from Skunk Bay?

George: No, the Mosquito Fleet was in competition with the Puget Sound Navigation Co.

Jonlee: Where was your dock?

George: I figure it was the Colman Dock.

Jonlee: On the Kitsap side, where did you catch it?

George: They landed where that restaurant is now, Ivers? Yes right along side is where they docked.

Jonlee: But where from Skunk Bay did you catch the boat?

George: We had to come clear back to Poulsbo. In Liberty Bay. It was a funny deal, they called that a Mosquito boat and do you know what they called the boats going to Seattle and Tacoma? The Flyer. And do you remember seeing the adds in the Seattle Times "Fly on the Flyer to Tacoma". They'd have a great big picture of a great big fly on the paper. That's part of their add. The ship going to Seattle/Tacoma was called the Flyer, it was a wooden ship. Later on they

bought the Indianapolis and hauled it in here from the Great Lakes. The Indianapolis and the Chippewa and the Iraquoi. Three steel ships they bought from the Great Lakes came around the Great Horn in South America. I don't think the Panama was built yet.

Jonlee: Thank You

"11/10/98 The first interview with George and Jessie Shephard, she was sitting in a wheel chair at the table. She wore earrings and rings, and had taken some care with her appearance. Their only son, Willis, was present at the interview. Jessie was ebullient and telling stories, and I explained that I wanted to know how they and their families and friends lived during this 20th century. Jessie was very forthcoming with speaking of how women dressed, from her grandmother through to her".

"The second interview, Jessie was in her chair and didn't feel like talking. She napped during most of the time I was there. George obviously loves telling stories, and continued to tell them for the both of them. Willis was also present"

Jonlee

GEORGE AND JESSIE SHEPHARD

Jonlee: November 10, 1998. This is Jonlee Joseph. I am interviewing for the second time Jessie and George Shephard and their son Willis Shephard will be present.

Jonlee: A book about the Congregational Church said, "this minister went to the Congregational Church up on the hill by Admiral as well as the one down by Alki". Mr. Shank, do you remember him? Charles Shank. Do you remember the minister from the Congregational Church?

George: No, I wouldn't remember him. At the time of your wedding -

Willis: No, we went to the Alki, we were married in the Alki Congregational Church. I can't remember the year, the wives are suppose to remember those things.

Jonlee: You must have been married about fifty years.

Willis: It was fifty years this year.

Jonlee: So that's 48'? That would have been David Rose? I remember David Rose, I went to the teenage youth group there.

Willis: I don't think I knew who he was when I got married there. I was in a fog.

George: I remember that minister speaking to me up there and if you recall Burton and Bob were taking to light the seven candles that you had and Burton lit his alright, but the other boy went right by the candles going out and I remember him saying, "now where does he think he's going"? Then he came around and came back in and lit the candle. That's all I recall.

Jonlee: Mr. Shepherd there is one story that I would have liked to have heard from Jessie, but you knew part of it and when I looked at the photograph of the bear with the chain, she said her father as a fireman in Seattle, they had a pet bear.

George: At that time there was a bridge that crossed all the railroad tracks. It went west all the way over to Marginal Way.

Since then, that has been torn down and that bridge made a circle for the people on First Avenue South to get on it and in that loop was the Fire Station. The Holgate Fire Station. Of course in the meantime, that's all gone now. That is where the firemen had the two bears and they were cubs.

Jonlee: Had they killed the parent, the mother? Is that why they were taking care of the cubs?

George: I have no idea. But the firemen probably got these two cubs and raised them. And what they did, was play with the little bears. They were lots of fun, the bears would wrestle with them and they'd trip them and throw them upside down and all that sort of stuff.

Jonlee: Did they cut the claws, do you remember?

George: I don't remember whether they clipped the claws or not. I don't think they did. One day Jessie was out there and standing in front of the place and she was looking at the people that were standing on the bridge above watching the bears play. Then one of the bears decided to get her. So they came up and began to wrestle with Jessie. The firemen had quite a time getting that little cub off of her at that time.

Jonlee: How was she? Was she scared?

George: She was scared to death. She was then, That must have been about 1907, I would say she must have been about seven or eight years old. It was quite an experience for her.

Jonlee: Do you remember because she told you the story? Is that why?

George: I remember the story because she has told it to me many times. I think probably I might have had some verification coming from her father. Her father was a fireman at that station.

Do you know something very odd too, something that is historical is that all of First Avenue South was paved at that time with bricks that were made out of rocks. They

were rocks that were about four inches square and about eight inches long. Those rocks were all, as I understood came from island up in the San Juans where they sent the people who were convicted up there to trim those rock and make them. That was a job that the fellows who were arrested and had to go to jail, had to do. Those rocks are still there. They are still in the street although they have had pavement spread over the several times and that went all the way from Jackson Street all the way to Stacy Street. Stacy Street is the one Street north of Lander. That is where the tide water came to. It's rather interesting to know that when you took the streetcar from West Seattle to go down town, you are on a bridge all the time until you get right to where Sears Roebuck is or Lander street is now. Right there I do recall that at the end of the streetcar line was the first dog kennels that the city operated, and that was right on the edge of the water. When that was filled in, it changed the whole structure down there entirely.

Jonlee: Do you remember when Harbor Island started to be filled in? The fellow who had that dream wanted to dig through Beacon Hill, a canal to Lake Washington that way and then Chittendenham had the idea along with Burke. They did a lot of political shenanigans in order to get the canal through there. But there was an idea. From what he had started cutting off Beacon Hill, that was the fill for Harbor Island.

George: A lot of it was dredged out of the Bay too. Out of the river, because the river had to take the present shape it was in and that had to be dredged. Then I recall in order to hold the silt and the fine dirt brought in there, they brought young fir trees and planted them all around the edges to hold the dirt back. Oh yes, I recall seeing the dredges out there working and that must have been about 1907 or 08'. I think that was all done before the AYPX position was started.

I thought it might be interesting to know where those rocks came from.

Jonlee: Well you know we still do see them. Sometimes there's a place in the pavement where the pavement has worn off and you can see the old brick.

George: It's rather interesting to know in that day when the convicts were convicted, they weren't treated with kid gloves, they had to work. The judge would probably put them to work. That's the reason why, I think we told you before Jessie remembers seeing the streetcars that were particularly outfitted to carry the prisoners with chains on them. Of course I never saw them in Youngstown, but I do remember seeing them go down to the highway, from Massachusetts street on the west side of West Seattle down to Bonaire Station. That road was probably all built with convicts labor. There was a trail down through there but the roadway was finished up with convict labor. I can recall seeing the streetcar stopping down there and all these fellows getting off and each fellow would have this small ball about four to six inches in diameter, a little cast iron ball and they'd hold it in their arm and in their other hand they'd probably carry a shovel or wheelbarrow or something else and that's the way they would go down to go to work.

Jonlee: There's a story about a fellow named Coolidge who graduated from West Seattle High, who was an electrical engineer and he understood what to do about the old trains.

George: He designed the electric station down by the ferry ending that the streetcar operated on and it's rather odd at that time that the streetcar - a church in West Seattle, the Congregational Church had electric lights and those lights were all in series. In other words, they had to be 110 volt lights or they had to have five of them in a row. It was necessary to have the five hundred volts to run the streetcar and it was rather odd for a long time and the church services as the streetcar would go up and down the hill and

go back and forth, the lights would dim and practically go out at times and come back on as the streetcars were going up and down the hill. It was quite something to have electric lights in the homes and of course at that time we used the old carbon filaments. Carbon filaments were made out of bamboo, real thin bamboo and a circuit and put inside this globe and heated up and turned to charcoal and therefore they carried electricity and lightened it up.

George: The tip end of West Seattle was entirely taken away and used to make Alki Avenue all the way from the Duwamish Head to the Bonaire Station. The tip of that changed the shape of the roadway there. Because before that, there was a pond or a little lake right up on the tip of the hill, the top of the hill.

Jonlee: Now which hill is this? Would that be at the end of Admiral?

George: That would be right at the top of Duwamish Head. You could look over the top of that down to Luna Park. The streetcars use to come up and down there. They had a very peculiar switch on there. They had the dead end of the streetcar line and the conductor had to get out in front and step on the switch in order for the streetcar to go on down the hill. That was made purposely that if the streetcars got out of control, instead of going all the way racing down the hill, they would go off the tracks. There was a pond there and there was a little canoe on there and I think that canoe was a dugout canoe. By that I mean it was a log that had been dug out. Of course nobody around was using it because it was a real small pool. But I do recall, there was a long rope tied to a tree overhanging that pool and we kids used to get up on that rope up on the bank and jump onto the rope there was a little cross bar they had there, and swing way out over the top of this little pond and come back again.

Jonlee: Do you remember from what I am reading in the early history books that say Alki used to be pronounced 'Alke'? And now

there's a trend now to call it 'Alke' rather than 'Alki'.
Do you remember that?

George: I remember the controversy we had about calling it 'Alke'.

Jonlee: Was it called 'Alke' in the early days?

George: I imagine it was. We always called it Alki.

Willis: An Indian might be able to give you the right pronunciation of that.

George: I recall when I was just a baby, oh before I was six years old, I must have been about three or four. our post camp at Fauntleroy Beach, there was a dock there then a small dock, there was a boat I think it was called the Falcon. It ran from Seattle and out there, it gave community service. I can recall quite well standing on the beach and looking out towards the, I don't remember the point name, but now it's called Lincoln Park. I can see it very plainly. One night I recall my brother, probably he walked out there quite early, and he got into a hammock to sleep the rest of the night for some reason the mosquitoes about ate him up.

Jonlee: Do you know every year, there are whales that migrate pass that point and they've been tracked. They come back generations of the same family, do you remember whales coming by?

George: I can recall quite well going in this little boat back to Seattle and seeing a whale out in the middle of the bay and actually spouting some of the water up in the air. We were all quite concerned because we didn't know there was that kind of a whale in there. We've had a lot of experience, Jessie and I have with with the black fish. As a matter of fact we've had a large porpoise come up right along side of our boat and bump up against our boat. I think he probably was trying to rub himself on our boat, he shook us up quite a bit. But we've been around where the black fish have been.

Jonlee: They like to play, I lived in Hawaii for a year and they like to play. They come and they play in the wake and the whales too. You know in Hawaii, that is one of the places

they breed and have their calves. So I remember one day I was hiking, there were fifty people sitting on a seawall of a little Hawaiian village looking at a whale and her baby and they came up close to look at the fifty people sitting on the seawall looking at them. So we're as curious about each other as can be.

George: That's something that is hard to realize. There is something about the animal world that people just don't understand. It's just like those little bears playing with Jessie that time down there. It's hard to understand that the cubs just wanted to play.

Jonlee: What happened to them when they grew up?

George: I have no idea what became of them. They probably gave them to the Woodland Zoo I imagine.

Jonlee: Was that going then?

George: Oh yes, talking about the Woodland Zoo. One thing I remember as a kid, talk about sanitary conditions, they had a spigot just an ordinary iron pipe stuck up out of the ground and on the end was a faucet and on the end of that was a chain with a tin cup on it, and everybody who wanted a drink turned on the water and drank out of the tin cup. We often thought about sanitary conditions, what a difference there was then, then there is today. We wouldn't think of such a thing. I do recall when the first drinking fountain came in. My goodness, we thought that was a terrible waste of water.

Jonlee: Where was that drinking fountain?

George: Oh, I don't remember. But I do of course remember the one out at Woodland Park.

Another funny thing that people don't do today. You take for example in the home, well you had to do it, you washed your dishes and when you get through, you take the dish pan outdoors and throw it as hard as you can so that the water will spread all over the ground. That was the thing to do.

I can recall that so well, I can remember my mother, we lived in West Seattle on Palm Avenue about 1500 Palm Avenue. That was overlooking Seattle. You had your little outhouse sitting on the end of the deal out there. I do recall another thing happened down there. A man named Longfellow lived there in West Seattle, pretty well known. He had a an engine, a boiler and a steam engine and a big wheel and the wheel was a circular saw and he'd go from house to house and saw up their cord wood. I remember he came down in front of our place down there and he had quite a pile of cord wood. He would get that engine going and steam a flying and pretty soon he'd get the steam going and he'd run the cord wood up on there and cut it up to make it stove size.

Jonlee: What's the wood called when you chain saw it? It would be like a chain saw wouldn't it? A steam powered chain saw?

George: No, he had a regular circular saw, just like they used in the saw mills. I imagine it is about 24 inches in diameter. I can recall so well him coming back, and what struck me was to look at this boiler and he piled wood underneath it to get up enough steam to make the steam engine run. He had it all mounted on a wagon and then his horses would come along and pull that thing around house to house.

Jonlee: I wanted to ask you later on when Luna Park was going, was that a respectable place? Did you and Jessie ever go dancing there after you were married, because there were lots of dance halls?

George: No, I don't recall us ever going down dancing. We swam in the swimming pool many times. I don't recall there being a dance hall down there. There probably was, but we didn't do much dancing. They had a big figure eight, I believe they called it where they hauled those little cars. You'd get in this little car with four wheels on the deal of course and they'd pull you up the hill up high, maybe a hundred feet high. Then they'd turn the car loose and it'd go around this figure eight and make several loops before it came to

the bottom. That was considered quite a deal. Than they also had another thing that I remember was what they called the canals of Venice. They had a little boat and you'd get into the thing and you'd sit in this boat and go through this little canal. You would go in and they'd draw the boat through and make its different circles and they'd have scenes of different kinds and it came from Venice.

Jonlee: You know that kind of thing is still popular in amusement parks, even in Disney Land and Disney World, you've got these little boats that go through these tunnels with these different scenes and settings. Isn't that fun that it continues the tradition.

George: Our biggest experience was to go on the merry-go-round. At that time, the merry-go-round was the largest in the world of course. I don't know how big it was. What we use to do was sit on the outside seat and as you went pass the little arm sticking out, you could grab a little metal ring out of a holder. Pretty soon if you got a brass ring or gold ring, that entitled you to a free ride. We use to go on that merry-go-round a lot. When I went down last year to the Puyallup Fair, Darned if I didn't ride on the merry-go-round. I had a lot of fun.

Jonlee: Every year there's a very beautiful old merry-go-round that is brought to Fourth and Pine at Christmas time and people get to see it, line up and ride on it. Beautiful old one with a calliope.

George: A calliope? That's an organ played by steam whistles and a fellow would play a tune on the steam whistles. They use to have that in the parades.

Jonlee: The only place I really hear that anymore is in Mississippi on the stern wheelers. They have calliopes.

George: Too bad we can't give up those things, we've got to give them up, you can't see them anymore. Going back to this electric deal that Coolidge made. He made to put motors in those old cable cars. See West Seattle use^d to have a cable

car system. Cable car house was up by I believe on the back of the fire station on Holgate Street someplace. I remember seeing some of the concrete foundations that were use to run that cable line. That cable line ran all the way down to the ferry landing and back up around the other side of the hill. I never saw that in operation. It was discontinued I think about 1898, before I was born. But I do recall playing on those old cars down by the ferry landing and ringing the bell. It still had the bells on with that little rope hanging down for the motorman to ring the bell.

Jonlee: 1916 - Mr. Shapherd is talking about a very bad snow, he was sixteen years old.

George: The street cars were stalled at that time. One of the was stalled right in front of our place up there.

Jonlee: How deep was it?

George: Four feet. My dad rigged up a rope for me to put it on the chimney so I could sweep the snow off of the house. I got a little change for doing that. What we got so good at, the Telephone Company finally sent linemen out to put the lines.

Jonlee: I heard on a tape that Willis did that differs from the story here. Jessie said her dad didn't let her go, didn't let her finish school and that's the point that you two went away and got married. She'd been sick and out of school and she wanted to finish, she liked school but she didn't finish. So I just wanted to clarify that.

George: She was ill, and he wouldn't take her to a doctor. They refused to let Jessie continue to school, they wouldn't be responsible for her. They felt that she was gone into Tuberculosis. Tuberculosis was quite a common disease at that time.

Willis: Didn't somebody offer her a job right after that happened?

George: Yes, she was a typist at school. Jessie was so good at typing that they offered her a job at West Seattle Bank and he wouldn't let her take it. When she went to take it, he made the statement, "no daughter of mine is going to work".

Jonlee: Well you know what the difference is? Women have always worked. Sometimes we get paid for it. That's doing things around the house and taking care of children. Looks to me like it's a lot of work. You see when her dad says that, I don't know what he's thinking that women do, or don't do. But the fact that they also go out and get a job and get paid for it says a lot. Says a lot about what he considered what his own wife did at home, as work.

Jonlee: This is the story of Clyde, Jessie's dad. Kind with children, but a bit of a villain, right? That's why he left the Fire Department?

George: He didn't leave the Fire Department, he was fired. He was a Lieutenant of the West Seattle Fire Department Station. The war was over and the two platoon system came in at that time. The Chief of the Fire Department sent out an order that all of the men leaving the station should line up and all those coming to the station on the job for the next day would line up. They would line up and then they had to salute the flag and give the Pledge of Allegiance. Well, Clyde was just kind of independent and he said, "I'm not going to have those fellows do it. They're loyal enough, you don't have to have this kind of discipline". So consequently they fired him for insubordination.

Jonlee: Did he still get a pension?

George: No.

Willis: They didn't issue pensions then did they?

George: No, Clyde had several jobs after that. I got him several jobs from the work I was doing and we had quite a time. The odd part about Clyde was that he was a reprobate, but a lovable man. Everybody liked him

Willis: He wanted things done right.

Jonlee: Was he a Socialist?

George: I think probably he was.

Jonlee: He was for the working man.

George: He didn't like this order coming down from above telling him the men had to line up for something like that. The war was over and they didn't have to line up. They were workers and for that reason, he stood for what he believed. So he didn't have his men do it. The result was they fired him and then used the word "insubordination".

Willis: That's too bad because he had a good career going there.

George: Oh my yes, Clyde had a marvelous character if he had only had a direction. I would say he is something like a lot of kids, they don't get direction and then consequently their ability is gone.

Jonlee: Well maybe he would have made a good Wobbly. The Wobblies were very much for the rights of the workers.

George: I heard something the other day from a friend of ours who lived up here on Orting and he said, "Oh yes, you're talking about old times. Do you remember the Hobos?" I said, "Yes". "Well I definitely do" he says, "at the end of the line up in Orting? A hobo came to our door one day and wanted some food, I remember my mother giving him some food and he stayed all night and the next day he wanted to work for them". They asked, ⁱwhat can you do[?] and he chopped up a whole bunch of wood. He was considered a hobo and he got on a train and he was gone. But he said that was one of the traits of the hobos. Traveling on trains, they got free rides. It was a new experience, I've never heard of anyone talk about them directly like that. Of course we've had experience with the Indians down where we were at. John Ely was a full blooded Duwamish Indian. You couldn't ask for a better friend then John, his wife and his kids.

Jonlee: Were you raised with them?

George: Well no, Jessie and I got to know about them. He lived on 63rd out there by Alki Point.

Jonlee: Did he fish?

George: I don't know what he did for a living, but I remember he was dressed up very nice and had a nice wife. They belonged to our Lodge. They were very sophisticated people.

Jonlee: Your Lions Lodge, Masonic Lodge?

George: No, it was the Knights of Pithiest.

Jonlee: What was his name?

George: John Ely and he died, I don't know where his children have gone. Finally after he died, they moved out to Mirror Lake. Somewhere out by Renton I think. We visited them. Jessie and I went out and visited her a couple of times. Jessie was quite responsible in getting the girls, young children doing what they were doing in their life style. I think one of the girls went into the Catholic Church as a nun, I believe that was the position she took.

Jonlee: Was Johnny's wife also Indian?

George: No, she was not a Indian, she was a white woman. Very nice people.

Jonlee: How much prejudice was there against a mixed marriage like that?

George: As far as they were concerned, None whatsoever that I know of. No one ever mentioned it. It's something like this girl that came here to do our house. Her grandmother was a full blooded Cherokee Indian and through that connection, she and her husband are getting service through the Cascade Hospital here in Tacoma for Indian Health.

Jonlee: This is a story on Clyde. So frugal.

George: At 85 he bought a beautiful pair of shoes. High top shoes. I don't know if you've ever seen a high top shoes the women used to wear, with buckles on them, buttons on them. You had to use a button hook to fasten them. You couldn't button them yourself, you had to use a hook to button them. They were high heels. Believe it or not, he took those shoes and cut the heels off. Then he took the blacking he had and he made them all black, shined them all up. Jessie and I went to the Junior Prom at West Seattle High and I

used to kid Jessie, (I don't know whether I told you the story or not) but in dancing a woman always put her hand on the man's shoulder. But Jessie, instead of putting her hand on my shoulder, she put it around my neck and on the other shoulder. And boy, I was snuggled up to her tight and after we had danced several times I said, "One thing I like about you when you dance with me you snuggle up to me so close". "Well", she says "I was afraid of falling". I look back to it and I remember so well, she was wearing those high top shoes her dad had cut off and fixed up for her. So it was quite a story.