

Log House Museum, Oral History, George and Jessie Shepard

George and Jessie Shepard Tape 1

IN: 00:00:46;22 OUT: 00:02:26;28 DUR: 00:01:43;04

I: So, Jessie, would you talk about what it was like as a little girl in Youngstown. And how you lived, how your mother lived, how the children lived.

J: Oh yes, I'll do that. It was very primitive, there was three houses in a row. And we lived in the first house. It was very primitive. Outside toilets and a well. And, uh, it was uh, we just walked (?) by the school, you know, about two blocks from the school. And in back of our, um, to the side of us was what they called the plank road. And it was after seven miles. And um, they decided to, uh, pave the street. Well, you could imagine it frightened the life out of us kids. When here they come with a policemen dones (?), and these men with great big balls tied to their legs and they paved that plank road. Clear out as far as it would go. Well, you could imagine it frightened the life out of us kids. We thought, oh, we'd just get around and peek around the corner to see what they were doing.

IN: 00:02:38;29 OUT: 00:02:57;15 DUR: 00:00:18;16

I: Those were the convicts?

J: Oh yes. So they, it, that plank road was paved by convicts. And that is the thing I remember very much because we were, we were, uh, so frightened.

IN: 00:02:58;12 OUT: 00:03:32;26 DUR: 00:00:34;12

I: Now, you also talk about a high fence around the school to keep the, some kind of animals away from the children.

J: Oh yes, uh, we children were never outside of the fence because there was cougars. And uh, no one was ever hurt that, that I heard of. But uh, goodness, I was only seven, uh, seven years old.

IN: 00:03:34;02 OUT: 00:03:52;28 DUR: 00:00:18;26

I: ~~Now~~, your father was a fireman.

J: Yes, he was.

I: Was that when the fire truck was drawn by horses?

J: Yes, to start with and then later on the, uh, they get mechanical.

IN: 00:03:52;20

OUT: 00:05:15;08

DUR: 00:01:22;16

I: Would you tell us the story of the two pet bears that the firemen had that you wrestled?

J: Well, uh, they would come, bears, they weren't huge bears you know. And my father and these firemen used to wrestle with them. Well, up above the, uh, fire station was, a, um, walkway and people used to stand up there, watch the men wrassle with those bears. Well, of course, being a darn little nosy kid that I was, I was standing there watching the people up on the bridge and one of those bears tackled me. There, of course, you gotta remember they was just cub bears. But I was, uh, frightened and the more I hollered, and I was so scared, the more those bears hugged me. It took four of those firemen to get those bears off of me. (Pause) That's just about all I remember of it. How frightened I was.

IN: 00:05:18;09

OUT: 00:06:08;26

DUR: 00:00:50;15

I: Would you say that your father was a fireman and how long he was a fireman and could you tell that.

J: I can remember from the time I was six years old and I think when he was through (?) in 1918, (pause) all those years he was a fireman in different places. He was in West Seattle and he was downtown. At one time he was uh, connected with the, uh, something downtown in the fire department before he became a real fireman. (pause) We learned a lot of things.

IN: 00:06:28;23

OUT: 00:06:39;16

DUR: 00:00:10;23

I: Could you just say for the tape, "My father was a fireman?"

J: My father was a fireman in Seattle.

IN: 00:06:43;27

OUT: 00:07:40;21

DUR: 00:00:56;22

I: Now would you talk about how you and George got together and that story that he took his motorcycle and followed you downtown, when he took the trolley and how much your mother said?

J (two shot): Well, I used to, uh, help my music teacher's mother uh, do hem sewing down to the YWCA in Seattle. And, um, instead of him staying in school and doing his study, he used to follow me, he had a motorcycle, and he used to follow the streetcar, all the way down instead of staying there and studying. But, uh, then he'd turn around and go back.

IN: 00:07:44;26

OUT: 00:08:22;00

DUR: 00:00:37;02

I: What did your mother say?

J: Oh yeah, I'd come home and I'd say to that, well, I'll tell you what started that. He said they had to be meet at (?) our study class, and he had a mirror and he used to set there looking at me in that mirror, and I told my mother, I said, "That darn little George Shepard's going to get me into trouble." She said, "Yes, and you turned and around and marry that little George Shepard."

I: And you did.

J: And I did.

IN: 00:09:05;09

OUT: 00:18:02;08

DUR: 00:08:56;29

I: So George, would you tell a story about how you met Jessie and what attracted her to you. But I want you to go back and talk about the road with that pond and that dug out canoe.

G: Uh, I was born in Portland, Oregon, closer (?) to 1899, in August '89, and my mother brought me to Seattle before the first of that year. So I was brought to Seattle as an infant and we first lived on Summit Avenue, in downtown Seattle. We didn't live there very long, probably, oh, maybe a year. Which would bring it up to about 1901. And then before 1902 my father decided to move to West Seattle and we lived down on what was known as Palm Avenue, 1509, I believe the number was on Palm Avenue overlooking Seattle. And at that time, of course, there was a high bluff, well, of course, there still is a high bluff to West Seattle. But they did have, since there was no street cars, or no cable cars running at that time they did have a long flight of steps running from the ferry landing to the top of that hill. And it was quite a struggle for everybody to crawl up that, up those stairs.

00:10:31;12

Uh, at that time too, uh, that was before the tip of West Seattle was gritted away, The tip of West Seattle was quite a little hill there right on the tip of Duwamish Head and that dirt was used to build the, uh, highway from Luna Park, or the tip of Duwamish Head, down to Bonaires (?) Station. And, uh, uh, that was created some time later. However, to start with the hill was very steep. And uh, they did have originally cable cars pulling it up, pulling it up there. However, when we came there, uh, there was a party known as Coolidge and, uh, he built new, uh, trucks to put underneath the bodies of the old cable cars. The old cable cars when they quit running it about 1899, or before, uh, they stored them down by the ferry landing on Duwamish, uh, by the ferry landing on the beach.

IN: 00:09:05;09

OUT: 00:18:02;08

DUR: 00:08:56;29 (cont.)

00:11:37;04

I can remember as a child, or as a young kid, rather, getting up on those cable cars and yanking at the bell. Which, of course, some people didn't like that when they stopped us kids from doing that. But, uh, that was my first recollection of the old cable cars there were, there were two of them and they were reconstructed to build electric cars. The road way at the time started at the ferry landing, that is about two blocks from where the present, uh, Hill Road and I think it's California Place, ends at uh, Harbor Avenue. It's about two blocks north of that. So it made quite a steep hill. From there it went up the hill to the north and uh, made a, a, turn to the west and right there was a little, well, we used to call it a lake, we kids did, but however it was just a pond. Uh, this probably was about, oh, a hundred feet to maybe two hundred feet wide around, and, uh, this, the streetcar made the turn going up there, uh, uh, to, onto California Avenue. There was an old red barn right there on Donald Street and, uh, right there is where the street met California Avenue. Uh, this pond was quite something. I do recall there being an old wooden canoe on the thing. Somebody had carved out of a log an old canoe of some kind. Of course the thing wasn't useable, it was rotten, and, but, nevertheless we kids used to love to play around on the thing.

00:13:22;17

It was a high bank right to the west and uh, we took, a, or..... (PAGE CUT OFF, MISSING TEXT)

IN: 00:18:07;13

OUT: 00:24:00;27

DUR: 00:05:53;12

I: I wanted to hear the story about you delivering papers then I want to, you to tell how you met Jessie and why you chased her downtown and back.

G: Well, uh, anyhow, coming back to the um, part of my life. I started carrying papers when I was a little kid about seven years old. At that time I would deliver what the paper, they call the *Seattle Star*. That, that paper did not have a Sunday edition to it, but fit into my life style at home very nicely. See, when I was nine years old, my mother died, so several years before she was quite ill. And then, of course, when the *Seattle Star* folded up I got a job with the, what was deliverin' for the *Seattle Times*. And I have been in the newspaper business, or deliverin' papers uh, up until the time that we were married or the year before we were married.

00:19:09;08

Uh, I used to, I just loved to uh, deliver papers, although it was the rainy season. I was well fixed up, I had an old Southwester hat on, and I had a beautiful paper bag that I carried the papers in, and this went crosswise. And I used to just love to be in the rain in this stuff strange as it may seem. But the rain never bothered me at all.

IN: 00:18:07;13

OUT: 00:24:00;27

00:19:32;28

But I do recall one winter when I was delivering papers out on the street. I was on 41st Avenue and, about, uh oh, College Street. I had a friend of our, uh, a doctor in West Seattle, his name was, uh, very striking young daughter. Of course, I was, but nevertheless, this night, uh, his home was quite recent which, and it included electric lights in the kitchen that's all they had, just on light on you had no switches on the wall. You had to turn on the switch. Which they had in their kitchen

00:20:21;12

So when coming up to the house and it's dark, why, um, they opened up the kitchen door and looking at that bright light, I didn't know just where I was going. But I did know his daughter, Jean, oh boy, I thought she was, oh, she was attractive young girl, about my same age. They came out the door to pick up the paper from me. So, of course instead of throwing it down like I usually do, it was quite a deal to hand her the paper. So I did and I had the paper all folded up to hand to her and just as I went to hand her, to hand the paper to her, I went out of sight. What happened? Well, I fell down what they had a coal chute. In those days, almost all homes had a basement. And then, they had a, a, bin at one end of the basement where all the coal which is used to heat the house and do the cooking with, uh, was dumped. The uh, coal truck would back up to the spot and dump their coal down there and that's where I went down. Well, this was quite a shock of course to go out of sight and down that dark hole to the basement. I didn't go all the way to the basement 'cause I remember I hit the coal. But goodness, it caused so much excitement in their home.

00:21:36;22

I guess, she must have screamed and her father came..... (PAGE CUT OFF, MISSING TEXT)

IN: 00:24:07;27

OUT: 00:27:06;05

DUR: 00:02:58;06

G (two shot): This is my last year of high school and I was taking up typing as one of the courses to get a few credits. And uh, when I got into the classroom I discovered what, uh, Jessie was in there. Evidently we must've exchanged a few views because we kinda liked one another. And uh, I did take this mirror and kept watching her, I had a little pocket mirror and on top of that I had a little watch. I used to leave the watch on my desk for the time, watching the time. And I got a picture of Jessie, I guess she must've given it to me somehow. And I had a picture on the middle of that watch, too. So uh, when I went to study class, on the, the auditorium above the school. I usually leave my watch on the desk and there was a, a little, my little picture of Jessie. So, uh, the teacher came by one day and said something about, "Oh, this is the story of Jessie you tell (??)," and she told Jessie

IN: 00:24:07:27

OUT: 00:27:06:05

DUR: 00:02:58:06 (cont.)

that uh, "I saw you today, up in the auditorium." "Where'd you see me?" and uh, "it was on George's watch." So it was quite a stunt.

00:25:14:22

So then of course, uh, I was supposed to, I had seven, there was seven periods of school, and all periods of school I had taken up. Which I was supposed to be at school studying or doing something, 'cause I never studied at home. I never studied outside of class. But I did have this little motorcycle I bought from one of the boys in the, uh, in the school. And uh, I used to store it outside the school barn, outside the school yard. When Jessie took this little job she had down at the YWCA in Seattle, uh, I used to get wise to, that she was going down on the streetcar, so I used to follow her on the streetcar all the way, oh, as far as I could, possibly could. And of course, like a kid, I never followed behind, I followed past it and probably wave at her then wait a minute or two and cross over behind the tracks on some beside the road, wave at her again, which I thought was quite a stunt.

00:26:15:00

But anyhow, Jessie reprimanded me when we got through with this, this is a story I've been telling lately, that she started reprimanding me right away. And I can recall her telling me, "Listen, you're gonna to hurt yourself one of these days on that motorcycle." It wasn't anything about falling at that time, it was the fact that she was trying to reprimand me because I was gonna hurt myself. So she been looking out for me all along. That's a very strange thing. Yes, even today, Jessie looks out for me, "Have you taken your pills? Did y'drink your water?" All those kind of things. Still go on. See. So it started, that was the first recollection, as I look back on it, of Jessie starting to begin to think about me. Well, anyhow, we had quite a time. I could tell you the story of our marriage but that would be quite a long story.

IN: 00:27:14:22

OUT: 00:28:45:22

DUR: 00:01:31:00

I: Can you tell that story of how you kissed Jessie by climbing to the top of a tree?

G: Oh, yes. Anyhow, uh, Jessie and I had a few dates, of course. And uh, we went several places. And, uh, we were always trying to figure out something new to go on. Well, the street car line, running out to Lake Burien, had just been opened. And oh, it was a terrible, rough, street car line. However we did go out there one day. And right at Lake Burien, the real estate people had taken a big tree, probably, oh I don't know how many hundred feet high, but it was so big that about 100, 150 feet in the air, they had sawed it off and put a platform up there. And then had made a spiral stairway to go up there. So, uh, this is quite a stunt, and I induced uh, Jessie with me, we went clear up to the top of that little tower. Of course, that's the first time I had her where she couldn't move. Of course, she had to give in when I said, "Well, how about a little kiss?" Well, we, that's our first kiss we ever had at the top of that tower up there at Lake Burien.

IN: 00:27:14;22 OUT: 00:28:45;22 DUR: 00:01:31;00 (cont.)

00:28:26;01 (pull out to two shot)

So this was, uh, quite, as, quite an accomplishment for me to think I was able to get a kiss from Jessie. But that was one of our, one of the trips we went on before hand.

IN: 00:28:49;05 OUT: 00:28:58;10 DUR: 00:00:09;05

J: I don't know whether you know this or now, but we eloped.

IN: 00:29:04;17 OUT: 00:30:18;04 DUR: 00:01:13;17

G: We had quite a time of it. Our life has not been smooth. Don't let anybody think it has because we had a lot of tragedies in our life, we've overcome them, and we have got along ever since, fine. But we had quite a time of it to get married. Uh, we decided that uh, Jessie was quite sick and we decided to get married. And, uh, we picked out the date. The date was the first day of August, of course, 1918. And we picked out that date because that was the beginning of my two weeks summer vacation. I was working then for a Taylor (?) Trimming Company down in Seattle. And we planned it that way. So Jessie, uh, about ten days before that I had her pick, uh, pick up all her clothes. Now Jessie was sick at the time we was married, she couldn't uh, graduate, you know, but she had made her graduation dress and, and, so that was the nice deal she had. And she packed all that in her suitcase and gave it to me and I took it on my motorcycle to my home up in the north end of West Seattle.

IN: 00:30:18;04 OUT: 00:30:36;07 DUR: 00:00:18;03

J (pan from George to Jessie): They thought I had tuberculosis.

G(off camera): I put it down in my bed for about ten days so we get prepared as far as we could, uh, for this event that was coming up.

G (pan to George): Uh, and then in order, the reason why we had to do this...

IN: 01:01:54;05 OUT: 01:02:22;20 DUR: 00:00:28;13

(Timecode jumps from 00:30:36;28 to 01:01:53;27 for this clip only)

I: Now, I'm gonna ask you then to tell a little bit about you taking care of the people at the flu epidemic. We need some pictures of you listening to Jessie.

J: (off camera) I'll tell ya', I'll tell ya' something during the flu epidemic, it was terrible. You couldn't get a doctor, there wasn't enough doctors and people was just dying all the way round. And I had--

George and Jessie Shepard Tape 2

IN: 00:32:05;19

OUT: 00:32:38;21

DUR: 00:00:33;02

(Interviewer asks them each to tell how they met. There is some discussion about how to go about this.)

J: Well, I was uh, we met in a typing class. And uh, I was, they were going to choose me to represent West Seattle in the typing because I was so good at it. And suddenly I got sick and I only weighed seventy-nine pounds, so uh, they wanted my father to take me to the doctor to see if I had--

IN: 00:32:42;24

OUT: 00:38:11;01

DUR: 00:05:28;05

J: Now you want me to talk about how we eloped? Well, my father was Roger Crayer (?), he wouldn't let me go downtown by myself. Although, I was eighteen years old. So, my cousin was visiting and we persuaded my mother to let us go downtown and, and, take in a show. I went down there and I was to meet him and we were going to get married, get a license, his father was to give us a sign for the license. He had to have his father's consent. But I was eighteen, I didn't have to. So, uh, my cousin and I got out of that show and here he was waiting and his father had, was waiting. And we got back to court house and his father was gone. And he'd given me, but he'd already given his consent. So, we got our license to get married and he went and called my mother and wanted her to come down and she said, "Oh, you come on home." She said, "I get dinner ready for you." Well we, his sister was very much against our marriage. She had a girl picked out for him. So, anyway, we just, just, we went back to the depot but we were afraid his sister might be down there. And so just before there was a train came in we went dashing in and got on the train and got, went to Portland. And that's where his family lived. So we got to Portland and, uh, they had the same kind of phones there, then, in those days, that we've got now. So he began to call relatives and he couldn't get anybody he tried his grandmother, his cousins. And, finally he located one of his cousins and she said, "Oh you come on out," she said, "Did you get married?" and he said, "Yes." And she said, "Go clear to the end of the line and I'll meet you there." Believe it or not, the reason they couldn't get anybody they were having a family reunion. And that's what I walked in on. To a family rennin. That's how I was introduced to his family. And they've become my family. Very definitely. So that was about the only way we got married.

IN: 00:32:42;24

OUT: 00:38:11;01

DUR: 00:05:28;05 (cont.)

00:36:05;16

And his brother and his wife went up to the court house, uh, with us when we got married. And there's one little thing that happened. The minister said, "Now don't drop the ring." He said, "The last bride, the they got married here dropped the ring." Who dropped the ring? He did. And we were all on our hands and knees trying to find the ring. And we finally found it and we got married. So, after we were married his brother and his wife didn't know what to do and she said, "And where you gonna go?" And his brother said, "Let 'em alone, they know where they're going." We were going to Vancouver but there was a strike on up there. So we decided to go to Portland, instead. That's how we eloped.

00:37:10;15

And when we come back my father met us at the fire station and he said, "You little suckers!" Was all he said. So then when, the, we didn't have any money, we, his boss had fired him because he got married. And uh, we only had about \$75. So we builded a little shack down in my father's farm. Ten by twelve, board and bat(?). And we lived there until I was expecting our baby and we built two more board and bat (?) rooms on. And we had, I had the baby there. And, uh, until we got out house built. So that was, that was our marriage.

IN: 00:38:15;14

OUT: 00:47:15;28

DUR: 00:09:00;14

I: George, do you want to add some to that? 'Cause when you told the story, you told that you forgot her suitcase and you had to, I remember the story you told you forgot her suitcase and you had to go back to West Seattle, then you saw your sister so you were almost late for your own wedding.

G: I could tell you the same story, just add on to the other story. If you get ready, let me know. Okay? Anyhow, uh, this story about taking the suitcase, yes, I took it to my home and I had it under my bed there for about ten days. And to explain the situation, Jessie mentioned something about my sister was four years older than I was and when my mother died in 1909, she sort of felt that I was uh, under her control, which I was to some extent. And uh, we felt, and I do know that had she ever dreamed that Jessie and I were going to get married, why she would have stopped it, would have stopped our marriage. So we realized it was that situation. Why, I had to the night before, or the day before we got married, I had to get my father's consent. And uh, he didn't want me to get married. He told me, "You should wait until you're thirty, then you'll know better." Well, anyhow. Uh, he wouldn't give his consent for us to get married and I had to have his consent. So, my sister-in-law intervened for us and uh, the next day, which was August the first, he said, "I'll call up from Seattle." So he did call up about oh, ten, eleven o'clock on the day we got married, August the first. And they told my cousin, he said, "You tell George to get that girl of his down to the court house and I'll sign the papers down there for him." So I immediately called up Jessie and her cousin that, who was staying at Jessie's home, and gave her the message and that's the reason they made a dash downtown to go to the theatre. They got

IN: 00:38:15;14

OUT: 00:47:15;28

DUR: 00:09:00;14 (cont.)

tied up in the theatre quite a while and when we get to the court house, my dad had already gone home at five o'clock. My sister-in-law was still sittin' at the desk, at the chair outside the courthouse and she, or just outside the courtroom, and while, she, "Your Father's gone." We like to die. She says, "You go up and wiggle that, that uh, uh, little window there and maybe he'll open up for you," and he did. "Oh," he says, "you're the one wants to get the license, well here it is all fixed out." So, Jessie and I come up and signed the license and uh, we went outside the building and we called up Jessie's mother and invited her to the wedding, and all this stuff. But in the meantime, my sister-in-law, who sort of helped us out, she said, "You and Jessie come on out to Fort Lawton," they lived out at Fort Lawton, she says, "And we'll have dinner." I said, "Oh fine." But I had to get the suitcase, 'cause it had all of Jessie's things in the suitcase. So then I rushed down and I caught the ferry to West Seattle, and I run up the hill and I got the suitcase and started back down again. And who did I run onto, climbing up the hill, you got to remember at that time we had no street, oh yes, there were streetcars running, but they, they, they, people who took the ferry used to walk on the path and come up to the top of the hill where we lived. Well, I also went down that same path. And I was carrying Jessie's suitcase, you know, and all of a sudden I saw my sister coming up the hill. And what would I do and she was busy tugging along trying to climb that hill, so the first thing I could think of was to get rid of the suitcase and I threw it over the bank. And then I, I got some bushes out and I hid behind the bushes and she went by. Well, as soon as my sister went by went down retrieved the, the suitcase and fortunately it didn't fly open. I went down to... (PAGE CUT OFF, MISSING TEXT)

IN: 00:47:24;10

OUT: 00:50:25;11

DUR: 00:03:01;01

I: Please go back to the Lumber Exchange Building.

G: Oh yes, well, go back to the Lumber Exchange Building in Seattle. Yeah, I worked there.

J: (off camera) Go ahead.

G: Okay-ty, go ahead. Well, I was at the Lumber Exchange building there in Seattle, we were up on the sixth floor in the northwest corner. We had a beautiful location. Nice big windows to the north. Big windows to the west. And on this day we had both of them wide open and it was lovely. But I did hear somebody coming down the hall. And uh, so I got up and sneaked down, looked down the hall and sure enough, here was my boss a-coming down the hall and he was drunker than a hoot owl and hittin' both sides of the wall carrying in his hands almost a full fifth of whiskey. Which he was drinking, of course. And uh, when he come down to the door and he looked inside and I was sitting at the desk, he sure give me a wonderful start. I'm telling you something, he looked at me and said, "What are you doing here?" And he called me every name he could think of. And, uh, I was, of course, you gotta remember I was only a kid, eighteen years old

IN: 00:47:24;10

OUT: 00:50:25;11

DUR: 00:03:01;01 (cont.)

at the, you know, I guess I was nineteen. But anyhow, he, uh, he came up to that door and reached in his pocket and pulled a key out of his pocket. Went up

behind to lock the doors and he said, "I'm gonna kill you, you--" and he called me a bunch of names again and picked up the whiskey bottle and he fired it at me as hard as he could. Of course, he couldn't see where he was throwing it. And out the window the whiskey bottle went clear down to Seneca Street, below, six floors below and I heard the thing plop. Well, I lost no time. As soon as he threw the whiskey bottle he tripped and fell, flat on the floor 'cause he was just a drunk. And I reached in his pocket and got the keys out unlocked the door. And that was the last I ever saw, I never saw him again after that. He went back to Montana where he was from, he was left Montana, on account of, I understand it, of being a drunk and evidently he died shortly after that. Uh, his wife wanted me to come back to work again, but uh, the experiences were too much for me. I got a job in the shipyards as an electrician. And, so, that was one of the first things, we had, it was a nice things to be getting married, coming home, and losing your job and getting fired right away. So then, uh, that was our start, that was our beginning. We had a rough time, during, her father sure helped us out with this little building he was, she told you about, he built for us. 'Cause we were glad to get in any place at all.

IN: 00:50:25;25

OUT: 00:50:49;26

DUR: 00:00:24;01

J (pan from George to Jessie): And then he went to work on the road, traveling salesman, and I had to raise Willis by myself. It was quite a job. And he worked, he never quit working until he was seventy-five. So it was quite an experience.

IN: 00:50:51;15

OUT: 00:54:55;28

DUR: 00:04:04;13

G (pull out from Jessie to two shot): Well we've had a lot of uh, a lot of tragedies. In other words, our girls was--

J: We lost our first baby--

G:--two years and four months old when we lost her to Scarlet Fever. And, uh, 'course, we had a lot of differences. I was kind of obstinate in a way. I'll never forget I'll put this on the record. We were sitting at the restaurant, up at the Junction, and had Francis with us and some, one of our neighbors come in and sat down at the table and talking to, "Well," he said, "I just came from my home and my boy's got Scarlet Fever."

J: But I found out since you don't get--

G: And gosh, right now, Jessie jumped right out from the table and she grabbed Francis and away she went home. Why it, it, it--

IN: 00:50:51;15

OUT: 00:54:55;28

DUR: 00:04:04;13 (cont.)

J: He was a gro--, he worked for a grocery store and he was in houses, I think he brought home the scarlet fever. I don't think, you can't pick up scarlet fevers that way. The way he thinks they did.

G: Well, anyhow--

J: We lost our little girl.

G:-- how it happened. Any how we lost a girl to scarlet fever.

J:--and I was five months pregnant for him. And I had it to, but it worked out okay.

G: So a lot of troubles like that, but we had, one good experience we had uh, with our little girl. I was driving a truck at the Junction for a grocery store, and uh, Jessie used to ride with me an awful lot and she carried Francis with her, you know and anyhow being I was a truck driver, and I was a rough son of a gun and I worked like the dickens. But nevertheless I felt as though that a good truck driver had to have a good vocabulary of cuss words. And I did. And I had a lot of them evidently. So one day we was riding with Francis there and something just wasn't going just right and I'm telling you Francis let loose with a whole bunch of cuss words and Oh gosh, it startled me to death. And I looked at her, what was I going to do, I couldn't let this little baby get away with talking like that. And Francis was a very smart girl, she talked really young and I'll never forget Jessie turned to me, "Don't you touch her, you taught her all those things." And so, anyhow, it was kind of a, kind of a funny thing to look back on today, how Francis used to pick those things up so fast. And we've had a lot of troubles. And on Lewis' first birthday, we had a fella from Auburn in a brand new star car hit his head on the truck. Came up the road the wrong way and hit the truck and turned it clear around and dropped off my load and, and, fortunately, oh I don't know fortunately or unfortunately, Jesse's father was on the streetcar right there as we passed. He come home at night, six o'clock at night, and he recognized the truck and get off the car right now. Quick and took Lewis right up to the hospital, on up to the doctor's office.

00:54:05;21

G (zoom in to Jessie, off camera): And they held him for quite a while, he wasn't, they thought he was going to pass out or something.

J: Well, he had a concussion.

G: Yeah, to see what his condition. So, and we've had a lot of them a lot of troubles all our life, there's just so full. Our lives have been happy and we've....
(PAGE CUT OFF, MISSING TEXT)

IN: 00:54:55;24

OUT: 00:56:40;20

DUR: 00:01:44;24

I: Would you address that one point because when I asked you before what kept you going in terms of your faith how did you keep going you talked about a friend of yours who had a compendium that you typed. And so it was like a belief in God that helped you, was it not?

G: I would say what's kept us together is we've just had so many things happening all the time and we believed in one another. We had a perfect faith. We believed in the uh, Christian religion and, uh, we believed we were married, we should stay together and do the best we could. And that's what we did. And Jessie, meantime, disagreed with a lot of things I did and I disagreed with what she did. We had a lot of little arguments, but they all seemed to work out fine and dandy. Then another thing--

00:55:47;14

J (off camera, pan to two shot): I don't know anybody that don't have.

G: Another thing about Jessie she was always looking out for me. I don't give a darn what we did, we built a house, bought a boat, and did everything, she was thinking about for, about for me. She come back, I'll never forget, one day, when I come over to a friend of ours house, she said, "Well, I bought a boat." "You what? You bought a boat." "Yeah." "Well, where is it out there." My gosh, the boat that she bought you should see. She bought it for me so I wouldn't be workin' so much. We could go out and do work. And we did. She bought the boat from, from Sacramento. And that's (something) and the going fishing, boating again. Although as a kid, I did an awful lot of fishing down in Elliot Bay. I fished all over Elliot Bay.

IN: 00:57:02;22

OUT: 01:01:11;07

DUR: 00:04:08;15

G: (off camera, medium close up of Jessie): But I was carrying newspapers and one of the jobs I had toward the end, this was about 1915 or 16, was on every Saturday night I had to catch the last streetcar from Seattle, which left Seattle, West Seattle about oh, one o'clock Sunday morning. I would go downtown to Second Avenue and Union Street. I would go up to the Times building on Second and Union and go up on one of the desks they had leaning up against the front window and I'd sleep for a couple of hours until the first editions were run off, the Sunday editions. As soon as the editions were run off, and the men started trying them off in bundles and would label them where they were to go, I was awakened and I would take these bundles of papers and lower 'em up consecutively so that they could be taken off the street cars in the right order. And the first trip I took was out to South Park. The second one was to West Seattle then to Fauntleroy, then, and then to Alki Point, which would be about six o'clock Sunday morning.

IN: 00:57:02;22

OUT: 01:01:11;07

DUR: 00:04:08;15 (cont.)

00:58:08;19

However, this one Sunday morning, uh, there was a huge explosion, oh, it shook Seattle. It was just at the beginning of the war.

00:58:16;22

G(pan to George): A strict censorship had been set up. So that you didn't even dare talk about it. you talked to your neighbor, you were told at that time that people, the enemy could read your lips. So consequently, we, we didn't talk. Nobody was to talk about this explosion. But nevertheless, when it shook Seattle, Seattle was very fortunate. This was uh, a barge loaded with dynamite, or explosives, was tied to the end of Harbor Island. Now it was a barge, though, it probably would have been four or five carloads. I believe this was the biggest explosion that has ever occurred that a man produced, outside of volcanoes and things like that. But nevertheless, it happened out over the water on the barge and it happened at 2:30am Sunday morning, when few people were out around. The people very scattered, very few people out. That explosion was so huge that, uh, the barge was completely demolished. You couldn't even find parts of it. Uh, an aviator flying over that spot reported that he saw a big crater right directly underneath where the barge had been, had been stored. Albert Brothers Milling Company had a warehouse on the waterfront about three hundred feet, and it would've collapsed except it was held up for this straw and hay that was packed there. Second Avenue and all that hill, Second, Third, First Avenue, Western Avenue, all that hill, almost every window of any size was broken and thrown out into the streets. As well as the window I was sleeping against. This went out, it was a plate glass window, it went right out into Second Avenue. And uh, when the explosion occurred of course, immediately I ran out like everybody else did into the street to see what happened. I think I was probably the first person to enter the street. As a matter of fact, I was almost blown out there. And, uh, the *Seattle Times* stopped printing right then and there. I assumed that they soon and about two hours later they were going to have a wonderful story to write up. But censorship evidently had stopped them from doing any printing about it all. And I think nationally there was no (something) at all. Because how foolish it was, if you look at it, that the United States would send all its troops..... (PAGE CUT OFF, MISSING TEXT)

IN: 01:01:13;16

OUT: 01:01:27;00

DUR: 00:00:13;14

I:--explosion. Would you talk about that?

J (off camera): But we lived at the other end of West Seattle, so we didn't know what it was.

IN: 01:01:28;10

OUT: 01:01:52;06

DUR: 00:00:23;26

I: Well, but did you wake up, did you go outside?

J (off camera): No, it was, it was it, where we lived was so far away that we just didn't know what it was, uh, we just talked about it--

George and Jessie Shepard, Tape 3

IN: 01:02:50;18

OUT: 01:04:09;03

DUR: 00:01:18;13

J: I was only nineteen years old and I had my family, there was my grandmother and grandfather, my father and mother, my sister and brother and George. All down at once with the flu. Gee, I didn't know what to do about it. So I had a friend call me and she said, "Jessie, if you don't mind a homeopathic doctor, he'll come out and see you right away." It was the best thing that ever happened to us. He come out there and what he suggested was absolutely so simple. You take one teaspoon of dry mustard, put it in a glass of hot water, and dip a piece of flannel in it, and wring it dry, put it on your chest and back, and cover it. You won't have the flu the next morning. And that's how I got, took care of all of my family.

IN: 01:04:24;07

OUT: 01:05:33;01

DUR: 00:01:08;24

I: This was during the flu epidemic, wasn't it, when thousands and thousands of people died in Seattle and all across the country.

J: Oh my gosh, they were must dying like flies and it was, that flu was different than this flu. People were passing blood, and just, they just dropping dead everywhere. And this, this homeopathic doctor, I'm telling you something I brought that whole family out of that flu, every one of them with that homeopathic remedy. And it'd be wise for you to remember too. One teaspoon full of dry mustard and a cup full of hot water and dip a piece of flannel in it, and wring it dry, put it one your chest, your back and cover it. You won't have the flu the next morning. It's a wonderful recipe. But it's homeopathic.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 1998-99

Interview Subject: GEORGE E JESSE SHEPHARD

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