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INTERVIEWER

INTERVIEWEE

Jonku Joseph 1/16/01  
Date

Doc Eastly  
Date

**Dr. Eastly**

**January 17, 2001**

**for**

**Southwest Seattle Historical Society**

**by**

**JonLee Joseph and Pat Filer**

## **Dr. Eastly**

**Interviewed by: JonLee Joseph and Pat Filer**

**January 17, 2001**

**1st Oral Interview**

**Seattle, Washington**

**JonLee:** January 17th, the year 2001. This is JonLee, I'm meeting with Dr. Eastly who lives on Vashon Island, he's a retired veterinarian, from West Seattle.

**Pat:** Now, start again.

**JonLee:** This is an autoclave?

**Dr. Eastly:** This is an autoclave. This is full sterilization. An autoclave is a pressure cooker.

**Pat:** And it sterilizes your insrtuments?

**Dr. Eastly:** Yeah. You put your instruments in there and then you close it up and turn it on and the steam and the everything. Nothing lives after it comes out of there. it's totally sterile. Then you drag you tray out, set it someplace and get your instruments and do whatever you want to do.

**JonLee:** When you retired and sold your business, why didn't the next person want an autoclave for their practice?

**Dr. Eastly:** Oh, they got fancy things that practically talk to you, you know, now. I mean, great big fancy. This is an old archaic collector's item. And it's just [pause] And I had another kind of an autoclave, because I had the worst time for years getting these grommets, these "o" rings, that go around the edge of the door. I couldn't find anything to fit this so I bought another one. And, and, Johnson wanted it, which is new.

**JonLee:** Is Johnson the new doctor?

**Dr. Eastly:** This is one of these TV surgery kind of displays. And had he wanted it, it wouldn't have made any difference. He'd have had to cut my throat before he got this one.

**JonLee:** But what's the foot pedal do?

**Dr. Eastly:** The foot pedal raises the lid, so that you got cold sterilization. And when you have sterile hands you don't have to mess around with opening it up.

**Pat:** I don't understand what cold sterilization is.

**Dr. Eastly:** What, what?

**Pat:** What cold sterilization means is chemical sterilization.

**Dr. Eastly:** No, not very many people do. Not even these modern surgeries. I can take a product that I have, that they quit making thirty, forty years ago. And when I found out they were gonna quit making it, I bought the whole stock that they had. I've got enough to last me for fifty lifetimes. Because I've got all there is.

**JonLee:** Well, now, what is it?

**Dr. Eastly:** It's a solution, it's a stuff that's a kind of detergent, it's a powder, put it in water, and when you can squirt a syringe full of water into it and it froths like soapy, soap suds. Then you know you've got enough. And you can't over saturate it, I mean if you dumped a cupful in there it wouldn't hurt anything but, when you get a froth it's enough. Put that in there, leave your instruments in there, cleaning them. Leave them in there. And then take them out. And if you've been handling dirty feces and dirty dogs and whatever else is, you can put your naked hands in there and get those instruments and do sterile surgery. Because it kills everything. But that's too simple for these modern people. They have to have instruments that go to the moon and all the other stuff that goes into producing hospital staff infections. And one time just for the fun of it, I'll tell you a story about, we had this lady bringing in this German Shepherd that was having a terrible time with pregnancy. And so, it was very obvious that she wasn't going to make it if we didn't operate. So, we didn't have time, or we didn't think we did, or whatever, I don't care. Anyway, the point is we got in a big rush and shaved ( kind of) the abdominal area. And made an incision in the abdomen and here was an emphysematous puppy that was as big as my arm. One puppy that had rotted through the wall of the uterus and was laying

out of the peritoneal cavity. And the rest of the puppies in the other horn, the bicornate, two horns of a dogs uterus, like from here to there, and from here to there, and then the body is just very short, and then the cervix and on out. One of the horns was completely rotted out. And this emphysematous uterus, how that bitch ever stayed alive that long, I'll never will know, but anyway, miracles happen everyday.

But anyway, so, we got that rotten puppy out of there and there was enough of the uterus left to clean it up and sew it up and reopen the other one and we got the other puppies out and threw them away. And then there was so much adhesions in that abdominal cavity that it was just hard as a rock. You touched the duodenum and it was fused to the spleen. And you touched the spleen and it was fused to the stomach. Just hard as a rock. One whole mass of viscera. So, Pat, my ever loving assistant--

**JonLee:** Who's also your wife.

**Dr. Eastly:** Yeah, she got a pan of water with this stuff in it. And just, held it under the tap until it got kind of lukewarm and put enough powder in there to make it froth. And then she started pouring that warm mixture over my hands. And into this abdominal cavity and I gently, gently, I had gloves on, I wouldn't have needed to, but I had them on because my hands are too rough for the tissues and the rubber slides better. And we just gradually, gradually, gradually, gradually, loosened up all of the viscera in that abdominal cavity. Everything that was adhered to everything else. And we had the uterus sewed up by that time. (The guy said, this is a valuable bitch. And she's worth thousands of dollars as a breed bitch. But she's not worth anything, if you have to spay her, kill her. 'Cause

that's the end, I don't want her otherwise.) So, Pat poured water into that abdominal cavity and it leaked over the side and by that time we were walking around in probably ankle deep water, (I said a million times, I'd never exaggerate) 'cause we don't have fifteen or twenty people in the surgery like they do in human hospital. And we don't have the surgical contamination like they do in human hospital either. But we didn't have any sterilized anything, we just had this stuff.

And Pat just kept pouring it in until finally, I could run my hand around through that abdominal cavity and everything slid over everything, like it was supposed to. And when we were convinced that the kidneys were not gonna grow to the duodenum and the intestines weren't gonna grow to the liver, we quit. And we sewed her up and let her recover from the anesthetic. Six months later, she whelped eight normal puppies. No autoclave, no nothing, but cold sterilization. And I've told that story to a hundred surgeons and physicians. And they won't believe me. I said, "Come on, you idiots! We go out to do a surgery on a farm and the horse or the cow is laying in feces, knee deep, and you don't have a surgical sterile field, but you got plenty of this stuff. Smear it on, wipe it off, keep it coming. And it is, the beauty of the thing is, that it is not tissue irritating. It doesn't create irritation like iodine or betadine or all this new fancy stuff that everybody is always talking about, will burn the tissue until it, you create more irritation with the disinfectant than you do, than the bugs you kill.

But this, it happened to me and Pat was my assistant and that's all there was and, of course, we had to be our own anesthesiologists. Every once in a while we had to interrupt what we were doing to go over to see if she was still breathing, and all the rest. And six months later she whelped eight normal puppies.

**JonLee:** Wonderful.

**Pat:** Do you suppose they named that first puppy Dr. Don?

**Dr. Eastly:** [laughing] I have no idea what they named it! That's the beauty of having worked with Dr. McNutt. I bought the practice from Dr. McNutt in '57, I think, or '56, I can't remember which. Anyway, he was in the Army Veterinary Corps in World War I. And in World War I they didn't have autoclaves following around the canons, either.

**Pat:** Now, what would he have done as a veterinarian in that war? Manage the horses?

**Dr. Eastly:** Mostly Glanders was the big thing. Glanders was a horse disease that killed more soldiers in World War I than all the Germans. It was a disease that, I have never seen a case of Glanders. But McNutt had it in World War I to contend with and it was a son of a gun.

**JonLee:** It infected humans, too?

**Dr. Eastly:** Yes! It affected horses and killed horses. It was similar to the swine flu. Sit down. I don't have to stand up! Anyway Glanders is a disease that I don't know anything about 'cause I never saw it.

**Pat:** But tell me, how do they get the disease from the horse?

**Dr. Eastly:** Just by being around it. I'm not really sure. I've had personal experience with equine encephalomyelitis. There's several kinds. There's Eastern, Western, Venezuelan encephalomyelitis. And that's sleeping sickness, or brain fever, or all the terms, and a mosquito bites the horse that's got encephalomyelitis in his bloodstream. And then the mechanism of a mosquito, as a flea, and I think Glanders was spread by fleas, but I'm not really sure [pause] The mosquito has a keen little mechanism whereby or the flea, too, where he sticks his proboscis through the skin and gets it into the bloodstream. And then he regurgitates through that proboscis into the tissue enough anticoagulant to keep the blood from clotting his siphon closed. When he gets his belly full of blood and goes away, whether it's a flea or a mosquito. And in the process if that flea has bitten a sick horse and then he gets on me and regurgitative anticoagulant that he's pumping into the wound to keep my blood from clotting his siphon closed, then that process will allow the flea to transfer the disease from the horse to me.

**JonLee:** Now, malaria gets transferred that way, too, right?

**Dr. Eastly:** Malaria, yeah, Yellow Fever.

**Pat:** Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

**Dr. Eastly:** That's a tick borne disease. Yeah, right. And my surrogate son was one of the two that discovered Lyme disease at Hamilton, at the research station at Hamilton. Hamilton, Montana was created to contend with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

**JonLee:** Would you please tell that story about you and Leonard, is that your surrogate son?

**Dr. Eastly:** That's Leonard.

**JonLee:** About inoculating the dogs? How you had that assembly line set up?

**Dr. Eastly:** Well, McNutt was a real, real nut about rabies. He didn't want anybody to get rabies, 'cause he was in, and that was another big thing in World War I. A rabid dog would run through the place and half the horses would die of rabies and some of the guys. But anyway, McNutt didn't like rabies because in the history of medicine, there's only one case where it's even fuzzy, that has ever recovered from rabies. You get bit by a rabid dog or a rabid bat or a rabid cat, (mostly rabid cats are what kill people in this country). And you get bit by one of those rabid animals and a week to two weeks later, you start feeling a little bit woozy, you got a little bit of a headache, you're dead. Hundred percent. Not one has ever recovered from once you get the symptoms. But if you get bit by a rabid animal and you get the Pasteur Treatment quick enough you can develop an immune response that's big enough to withstand the onslaught of the wound attack.

So, McNutt didn't like rabies because he had a lot of his friends had died of rabies. He told about this one guy who got rabies and he [laughs] and they thought he was a real loner, well rabies is a, it's the first Viagra. Man, I'll tell you. A guy that gets rabies is horny. And he doesn't care where. Yeah. That's one of the first symptoms, you know.

**JonLee:** I've never heard that part. What happens to females?

**Dr. Eastly:** Well, wait'll I finish my story, I mean, McNutt told me about this guy, this doctor, that was one of his buddies in the '20's or '30s, I can't remember just when it was. Anyway, he came over to visit George and he was feeling kind of, you know, and Doc asked him, "What's the matter with you?" And he said, "Well, I don't know, I feel kind of weird." And Doc said, "You better go to the hospital. You've got, maybe you got bit by a mosquito, sleeping sickness or something. A little nervous symptoms that I don't like, go to the hospital." Well, in the meantime, McNutt called up the hospital and told them that he had sent his friend down there and he was acting like he had maybe encephalitis or [pause]. But, McNutt mentioned to the person at Swedish that one of the symptoms that this guy was exhibiting was kind of reminded him a little bit of a rabid dog. And when McNutt went to visit the guy, a day or two later in the hospital, he was raving mad. He was just insane. He said, "You dirty-so-and-so, you called them up and when I walked through the door, five orderlies grabbed me and put me in a padded elevator and hauled me up here and spread-eagled me out on this bed and--" Just rabid. Just crazy. And, of course, he was dead within the matter of a week. You don't survive rabies. And McNutt had these personal experiences with it.

And I thought I'd been bitten by a rabid dog one time and scared the bejeezus out of me. So I've vaccinated myself with dog vaccine which hadn't been cleared. The food and drug people are strictly the puppets of the drug industry. They, outdated material. For God's sake, an expiration date on distilled water? It's that way now. An expiration date on salt pills? They've been laying in the

mountain for fifty million years and now we've gotta put a three year expiration date on them. Come on!

Anyway, the bottom line is that McNutt knew about rabies and about all this stuff that had gone on with these personal experiences. And he said, "You know, we don't have very many cases of rabies, around the Seattle King County area. As a matter of fact, there hasn't been a case of rabies in King County for twenty years. But, so nobody cares, you can preach your head off with Mrs. Jones when she brings her cat in. And she is not gonna send five dollars or ten dollars on a lousy rabies vaccine that maybe is not a very good vaccine anyway. We didn't have any vaccines in those days that was worth a hoot.

But anyway, George told me, he said, "If we could vaccinate seventy percent of the animals in King County, we could contain a rabies outbreak. 'Cause the rabid animal will go along and by the time it bites all these immune animals, somebody's going to be alerted to the fact, and they're gonna kill it, or something, to get rid of this dog or find out it's rabid. Then the next one that got bit that wasn't vaccinated they're gonna put that in quarantine. And so, take seventy percent of the pet population to control a rabies outbreak. And then at that point, in the city of Seattle there was less than one half of one percent vaccinated against rabies.

'Cause we hadn't had any. If the disease isn't around you don't vaccinate. There isn't any such a thing as smallpox anymore, anywhere in the world. So you can't convince me I've gotta spend ten dollars to vaccinate my kid for smallpox, which is a disease that doesn't exist. So it's just a matter of economics.

Anyway, George got to talking, we had our vet meetings, wherever we could find a place to rent to have one of the professional meetings. And no, Doc, he kept yakking about rabies

and the need for rabies clinics and all the other stuff. And finally, he convinced everybody that we should [pause] convinced the vaccine manufacturers that they should sell us rabies vaccine by the tens of thousands of doses at a much reduced price. And then we'll get the auxiliary, all the wives, in those days it was all wives, who were all the auxiliary. (The women hadn't taken over the profession yet.) And I remember at West Seattle, we had thirty or forty women sitting at card tables, writing vaccination certificates for the people that come by. And we were able to give, I think it cost by the time we paid for the vaccine and we gave the women, I think, twenty five cents, for writing out the certificates and that was their fund raiser. And then we had all the other expenses of buying refrigerators to keep the vaccine before the clinics and all the rest and that was my job. I had a garage there at 4729 42nd Southwest. Had a garage full of refrigerators, so that when the rabies clinics came around I could take a refrigerator full of vaccine to this fire station or that one. But anyway, my job was the West Seattle Fire Station. The day of the clinic was scheduled. I think we charged them three and a half dollars. I'm not really sure I remember how much. But there was a little money left over, so that we didn't lose money. We paid for the vaccine and we paid for the refrigerators and we paid for the women to write the certificates. But anyway, West Seattle really responded. Unbelievable. And it was absolutely a religious experience to see the response that came out of West Seattle. I mean, there were lined up for four blocks in front of that fire station, that is now the parking lot behind Mort Kugnits Pharmacy there, behind the bus stop places there? There was a fire station there and Leonard Mayer, this kid whose mother got a Ph.D. in Stupidity and so I said, "Well I think she's probably dumb, too. She should have thrown you in a

dumpster and gone and played the field like your dad did. But in the meantime, you can move in with me." And so he did. He lived with Pat and I. And he was subsequently went into the Navy and became a dental technician and was loaned to the Marines for Viet Nam. And he was one of thirteen medics that was on that Navy loaner program to the Marine Corps that came back. The other twelve didn't come back. But Leonard did.

Anyway, and I'm not really sure whether this clinic was before Viet Nam, I think it was before Viet Nam. But anyway, he had been helping me around the clinic, the West Seattle Animal Hospital for a number of years. And he, (that's how I met him), after school he'd hang out. He'd rather have me yell at him and knock him out of the way of a dog that was gonna bite him or whatever else, 'cause I'm not the most gentle guy in emergency situations. And we just, it was a love affair that's still going on. And Leonard would mix up his tanks, the little bottle containing, I think it was a hundred doses of rabies vaccine, but maybe there were, I'm sure there were some bigger ones that had a thousand doses in them. But anyway, Leonard would mix those up. The distilled water would mix up the vaccine. And then he'd fill a 10cc syringe full of the vaccine and he would give it to me and I would, my job was to give cc of this vaccine to each animal. And then I'd change the needle and throw it away and put another one on and it just went down the line.

Well, Leonard and I, one night at the West Seattle Fire Station vaccinated some over nine hundred dogs, just the two of us. But we had thirty-five or forty women writing certificates. And so, I don't know, it took three or four hours. But, that made me a West Seattle-ite, if nothing else did because of the tremendous support of West Seattle. The poor pay more.

And we had a clinic over on Capital Hill in the black ghetto over there. And we, even decided after a year or two, to do it free in that one clinic, at that one fire station. And maybe two or three people would straggle in, you know, I mean, it was a maddening situation. you couldn't convince those people that there was anything to worry about it.

**Pat:** How did you convince, what do you think you did to convince that many people to turn out? Did you advertise in the paper?

**Dr. Eastly:** Oh! *The West Seattle Herald* was the West Seattle paper at that point. Oh, you bet! And *The Times* and *The P-I* and everything. We had a preparatory meeting with all the veterinarians and the wives and we had four or five hundred come to the Hilton Hotel. We went through the whole procedure of how we were doing it and what vaccines we had and who's scheduling what and who's in charge of which clinic and call me up and I'll bring a refrigerator over and all the rest. And so the veterinarians and the papers wereunbelievable. *West Seattle Herald* was West Seattle paper. Long before it was sold and became a whatever.

**Pat:** So they advertised for you.

**Dr. Eastly:** Oh, you bet. Free.

**Pat:** It's just like you said, though, if the disease didn't exist how you got that many people to think that it was important enough to be able to get everybody do that.

**Dr. Eastly:** It *did* exist.

**Pat:** Oh, it did.

**Dr. Eastly:** Smallpox doesn't exist now. But, people had gotten to the point of thinking rabies didn't exist. Because there hadn't been a rabid case in King County for a number of years. This guy that McNutt was instrumental in committing to the rabies isolation ward in Swedish, when that came out in the paper that he had rabies, twenty-seven women went in to get the Pasteur Treatment. I mean, that guy spread it around. I mean, it was just an amazing story. [pause] But, preventive medicine is a big part of veterinary medicine. Vaccinating and isolation and all the other stuff.

**Pat:** I remember when I was a little girl that there was rabies. I'm from the Midwest though, and there were a lot of kids that lived on farms, and things like that. I remember rabies, kids getting rabies shots, people getting bit. And isn't the rabies, don't you have to get the shot in the stomach?

**Dr. Eastly:** That's the Pasteur Treatment.

**Pat:** It's like seven terrible shots in your stomach.

**Dr. Eastly:** And that's terrible.

**Pat:** And I was always, I guess maybe this is just a myth, a childhood myth, but you had to take the head of the animal in. The head.

**Dr. Eastly:** The brain.

**Pat:** You cut the head off and you take the head in and they could test it and see if the animal is rabies--

**Dr. Eastly:** If he's got Negri bodies in the brain, then the animal had rabies and then you had to take the Pasteur Treatment.

**Pat:** But if not, you didn't, you know. But if the animal then, the problem was that if you were bitten by a rabid animal oftentimes it would get away, so you would have to have the treatment--

**Dr. Eastly:** So you better have the treatment anyway just in case.

**Pat:** 'Cause they told terrible things like your back would arch and you'd snap.

**Dr. Eastly:** Opisthotonus, they call it, when the back. The muscles that hold your head up are ten times stronger than the ones pull them down. The muscles that clamp your jaws, that's why they call it lockjaw, are a lot stronger than the ones that open your jaw. So all the strong muscles, all the muscles were going full blast. [tape stops] --the reason for that term.

**JonLee:** --In your imaging of that as a?

**Dr. Eastly:** And you're dealing with a disease for which there has never been a recovery. Until this one case in Canada that is still iffy. The scientific community is still having big debates whether or not this kid really survived rabies. But, a hundred million of them, people and animals that have died, against one possible survivor. That's not very good odds. And the tragedy is that with that Pasteur