

*Tape 1, side 1 :*

12 and 13 tell about how family didn't know how old Edythe was. . .  
15 and 16 six siblings survived till adulthood--three sisters

25 and 26 about how it felt to be thrown down after being choked--you hated the fall, but you were so glad to get the air. . . *ok*

28 It's a <sup>varvel</sup> she ever married because she truly hated her father

31 <sup>He</sup> Father had no choice about profession, was sort of owned by his family expected to be a <sup>minister</sup>, but actually so deeply endowed with musical talent, he should have been a musician: his instruments organ and piano

42 Called her Edythe last 20 years of E's life because P and E were good friends and E said no one ever called her by her name. Father called her "Mother," which just horrified her and the people in the town were rather in awe of her and called her Mrs. Draper. . .

58 She would never admit her age--she was older than her husband by about three or four years

Somebody would say to her, Well the reason you won't tell your age is because you're older than Dad, and she'd say, Well not very much--only about two years. She was not above trying to hide that very carefully.

77 She graduated from h.s. at 19. She had of course a very stiff classical course. Possibly after that she took some secretarial work because she worked as a public steno in the mountains in the summertime--Poconos

86 By the time I came along she was really sick of children. He didn't want me at all. I found this out too early. Not only was I not wanted but if she had to have me, I should be a boy. As my brother remarked, my mother wasn't the best child psychologist in the world. I found this out too soon and it was really a crushing thing.

93 Because to be personal beyond what she would ever allow to anyone <sup>body</sup> but me, she didn't care anything about the sex of marriage. I think, and she agrees, that it was probably because of her strong feelings about her father.

102 Taught at black missionary school, Peg thinks, not long before she came to Kansas. She read an ad somewhere for the Oswego School for Young Ladies

112 Her father said, What town in <sup>Kansas?</sup> ~~Kansas~~ she said Oswego, and he said, My God, not that town. After he preached the sermon why I'm leaving the Methodist Church one night in Minn. why he left the Meth church and became an insurance agent then his family which had nearly starved as children of the preacher came even closer as children of an ins. agent. She told me they used to scrounge thru the garbage pails in the summer when the summer resort people came up

126 When he came back from Japan they went to Ohio, which <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ where both <sup>they</sup> ~~his~~ parents were from but he was a bit outspoken. He didn't really care for having been a missionary. He ~~didn't~~ <sup>still his brother</sup> think you should try to persuade those beautiful people to be anything but what they were. They were coping quite well with their lives and if you tried to convert them to something else was to him a terrible waste of energy and a terrible



inliction of other people's views on them. So when he got back to Ohio I suppose he expressed himself too much so he got sent to Siberia which was Northern Minn.

135 On the way back to the states they had been around the world and had picked up various mementos and the only hat she had to wear one winter was a turkish fez and the children just really gave her fits.

138 Her parents used to say, This little girl can speak Japanese, and they'd say, Speak some Japanese little girl, and she rapidly forgot it on purpose.

159 At first her column was straight news, later they just turned her loose and let her do whatever she wanted to do.

164. P thinks she quit before she got her column. She was highly critical of herself and felt that this was really useless and on top of that, my father was not the most practical man and earning a living was a problem. She was very much ready for a change. I think she wanted a great change.

174 And she was afraid to apply for that PARSONS SUN job because of her age, so she asked me to go and talk to the editor. So I applied for the job for her. I went up and talked to Clyde Reed. He listened to me talk for a minute and he looked at me incredulously and he said you mean you are applying for the job for someone else, for your mother? Yes, she was afraid you wouldn't consider her ...here you have a real opportunity to get someone who can really do the job for you.

195 I just absolutely adored her. She was the most fascinating person.

My 198 My brother and his wife felt she would dominate them completely if they let her. I don't think this is true. But I can see how they felt that way cause she was very perceptive beyond what young people want their parents to be. One she said to me, years later, I mean after Jim and Va. had been married 20 years or so, What's the matter with Va.? At the time of her funeral my brother told me his wife had been an alcoholic for years. And she sensed that something was wrong.

212 Japan-Ohio-Minn.-N.J.

216 She told about going to \_\_\_\_\_ (someplace in NJ) and the only place they could find to live was a Keely Cure place. It's an alcoholic--a dry-out place and the sign was on the front of the building they were living in in great big gold letters. And so any time of the night, particularly, inebriates would come and knock and bang on the door and demand to be let in, they'd had all they could take: They were having delirium tremens, could they please come in? So she said she and her brothers and sisters just spent hours and hours scraping off the KC sign so that so that people wouldn't come battering the doors down at night.

230 Then Pa.

245 Talked about dishes waiting for her <sup>from previous day</sup> after school and having to go outdoors and break up ice and heat it for dishwater.

249 Her mother was an intellectual who prided herself on this. She had graduated from Ohio Wesleyan. And she would get convenient headaches and go off to her room to read--she was a compulsive reader.



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That would leave Edythe with all the ~~ix~~ children and the dishes and whatnot. She said ~~en~~ <sup>she</sup> could never remember climbing a tree as a child w/o passing the baby up first.

290 Connie was a socialite in Cuba for years. *[married a dr - very wealthy - left when Castro came in - that end of form. very little about it.]*

306 She was way ahead of her times, as Gene DeGruson says. "he wrote about the feelings of the blacks long before this was popular. and she wrote in a kind of stream of consciousness thing before that was accepted at all.

353 Pop always had a job. We felt ourselves quite ~~poor~~ poor, yes, ~~but~~ we never considered ourselves poverty stricken. We always expected to go to college, which we all did. And this was not true in a little town of everybody, I mean.

368 She would get these great big ideas that she was going to help out with the family finances while doing things like raising chickens and I don't know what else. That was the big thing at least.

373 She and he couldn't have worked together; they weren't all that compatible. And one time when she got \$500, *I think*, in two different checks, I think from Household Mag., in one month she ~~said~~ <sup>thought</sup> Oh joy what can I do with this money we need it so much and think of the things that I can do. and she went down and discovered that at the clothing store and the food store they owned all that money.

408 (When E got the job, he quit the job he'd worked at for years and he got the job as the ins agent and he wasn't making much and she felt she needed to work then.) I think she felt her writing would never bring in any money. And I'm not sure she felt a satisfaction in it about that time. (30s)

416 And she took this job (Sun) and did very well with it and I think surprised herself that she could manage the business end of it. And what she really enjoyed about it was the kids, the paperboys. and people.

422 At the end of her life when she knew she was going to the hospital and that she might not come out, we went to a groc store line at the ~~small~~ <sup>in a</sup> groc store and she told the woman she was going to go to the hosp.

and the woman said, Well Mrs. Draper you must come out ok. We can't do without you. And she was terribly affected. She said it's ~~just~~ <sup>just</sup> only in the last couple of years that I've felt that I belong anywhere and here she was 82 years old. She felt the town still considered her a foreigner, an outlander. And she discovered in those last years that people really loved her. People came in her hospital room and just cried. It was very affecting and she had felt a foreigner until right up to the last.

446 Perhaps we were poor but we always had enough to eat. And ~~xxx~~ we always had somehow or another some clothes. We got poor boxes, I thought it was from Cuba and I'm sure that one or two did come from Cuba, but my sister said no it was from somebody else. We used to get boxes of clothing which my mother would take to the local dressmaker and have made over for us.



496 Those were potboilers. She got \$8 a story and she needed it.  
(newspaper short shorts)

And they would misprint them so that you couldn't get the point at all ... It was really dreadful.

527 She told me that in S.C. she felt afterwards a very bad taste in her mouth by the way that the blacks had been treated just automatically. And that they brought her bath water and all this sort of stuff. And she said, as if I had been better than they. And she didn't like that.

532 I wasn't close to my mother during those college years. I was at Lawrence five years. (E convinced P go to go into public school music.)

544 Her father was helping her some in college, she didn't send herself thru totally, and he was just aghast at my political views. I was a wild radical as far as he was concerned. And my mother didn't think this was fair of me to get into a political sort of field when he was helping me thru college.

564 Edythe supported me so much thru those really awful years (when her husband was ill)... Men don't understand these things but women do...

580 When he was a child, she understood how completely flattered I was for the sake of my child and ~~no~~ <sup>father</sup> ~~body~~ else ~~did~~ understood the way she did. And she was flattened by it too.

586 His father (WS) was a business assoc of my father.

602 The camp meetings, the revivals, made a big impression on her and I kind of believe that there were times when she was stirred by them and looked back on it and thought, how stupid. how silly.

610 One time which was kind of a turning point in my life, I was about 10, in a little town like Oswego you could call up the central office and find out where the fire was when you heard a siren. And my brother and sister were at the movies and so my mother called up and found out that the fire was there and she was just hysterical, just beside herself. And my dear father had prayed with his children every day of their lives and was very serious and conscientious and a good man and so I said to my mother, well, mom let's pray. and she said Peg, that ~~won't~~ wouldn't do any good.

621 She had been working at the sun. This was in her last year or two of life. She was very tired and she was in the groc store and somehow or other she was talking out loud to herself and she was ruminating to the extent that she said, To think of the years I've wasted sitting in a church pew. And somebody in the little town groc store overheard her and said, Oh Mrs. Draper you can't mean that. She says ohnonono, of course I don't mean that.

629 ...she used to go to sleep as soon as the sermon began. when she was in her 70s or so and so we'd say well, mom, why do you go to church with



pop? Don't you think it's more insulting to the minister for you to go to sleep immediately than for you not to go at all? And she would say, I owe it to your father to go.

640 My aunt remarked one time, Your mother never had to grow old.

643 She was a beautiful woman, in her full possession of her faculties and walked around that town vigorously until three weeks before she died.

647 broken bone stories

655 I'm willin' these bones to knit

She was just that kind of a person.

659 bruise dripping blood

666 He worked for Deming Investment Co. until about the time E got the job at the sun and then he was a real estate ins agent and whatnot. He was never terribly successful at it. The drapers were always so honest the always lost money in whatever business they went into.

He'd go home for a couple or three hours in the middle of the day.

680 My sister and I disagree quite fervently on it. She is sure my mother never loved my father and I don't feel this at all. I think in her way and up to her capabilities of loving any man, that she loved him and that setting table story (689)

692 I felt she did love him and she did respect him in certain ways. There wasn't any strong bond of deep affection when they were old. funeral--I married a special person, didn't I?

700 I do know not from anything overt, I just know, and my sister knows too I don't know whether our bro does, that our mother fell very deeply in love with our father's half bro. Clint who was considerably older than my father...he was a really fascinating mature person who had an extraordinary life of his own. He had a stepmother who hated him. He lived with his aunts who couldn't get along with him. And he left home at age 13 and went to play in Goldman's band and then he was a professional minstrel performer for years and finally married his second cousin over in Mo. His widow may still be alive, which is one thing you should know. If she is she's very, very, very old. They never had any children, ... He was the first son of the doctor who was my father's father.

720 She didn't want to be buried there (in Oswego). She wanted to move (?) her body to the KU Med Center and Pop wouldn't do it so. Also her father-in-law told her when he was old he did not--they were very, very good friends, which is possibly why she loved Clint so, but there was never any consummation of that, it was just that (did he know it?). I'm sure he did. He was very perceptive too. And one time when she took this terrible, terrible trip back East in that car with those people, I suppose you've read those letters on that...that was I would say in the late 20s '30s. Well not so late either, because I was still in high school. She rode with some people--I can't remember now who they were--to Pa. to visit her family for the first time in cons and when she came back she



stopped <sup>at</sup> Lebanon, Mo. where Clint lived and it had been a terrible experience--she'd been frightened ... it was really a traumatic thing. And she threw herself in his arms and cried and cried. And his widow once told me, Well, I knew it was just because Clint looked so much like Jim.

743 I loved him deeply too. He was the person to whom I was most attached as a child. My mother--I was jealous of my mother's typewriter because when I'd come home from school there she'd be sitting at that typewriter, and I'd go in and say something to her and she'd look up at me with this dazed look in her eyes and I knew she was not really with me at all and I was crushed. I really was insatiable as far as her attention was concerned. I never could get enough of her attention.

783 My sister and her husband came and cleared out the house and gave to the people of the community the things that were my father's and my mother's because my mother had told her (Lucy) that she did not want her things sold when she died to get money out of them and so forth, so Lucy put an ad in the paper that the things in the Draper house would be given away on Fri morning starting at 8 o'clock and anyone who wanted to get a memento--of course the people loved Edythe, they really did. 796 Although she possibly held herself aloof in early years there. You see the college was the social life of the town. <sup>fact,</sup> and the fact that she had been a college teacher set her apart. And that church was the social church in town. (Presby.)

806 (She's just said the stained glass windows on that church cured she and her sister of ever liking stained glass windows because...) the family always went to church every Sunday morning, and Sunday night and sometimes Wed. night's and Christian Endeavor and blah, blah, blah. But my mother must have been just horrified at having to spend all that time in church again after she had gotten away from it.

828 My mother kept the floors absolutely polished shining and had little area rugs and paintings and Rembrandt prints and whatnot on the walls. She had a marvelous sense of how the inside of a house could look.

844 He (her father-in-law) and Edythe were good friends and so he took her for a ride in his buggy and he told her when he died, he wanted her to see promise to see that he was buried next to his first wife. and not his second wife. . . . who was the mother of his five children... His first wife died at the birth of his second child, who also died and so Clint, at four, was motherless, and so he married this woman who was a school-teacher--she was my grandmother then and she was a very different sort of a person. Anyway when he died all his progeny were about and my mother was not popular with them anyhow and so she just absolutely could not carry thru on that promise. She felt very, very bad about it but So he's buried next to his second wife.

867 She always felt that keenly. And she felt the lives of the people in the town.

(The college brought a more educated sort to the church, so there was a distinct social group and her father and mother were members of it.)

882 College closed about 1920.

887 Then I think she was getting into her writing and she didn't take part in the town and the activities of the town. She wanted to spend time out



(4)

there alone in that little house while all us kids were shipped off to school. And so she didn't know people but people would stop by and see her particularly the blacks who felt a perception of them would come and talk to her and some of the really poor people would come and talk with her. Because she was kind, she wasn't . . . a person who turned anybody away. But she was not a part of the commercial life or the school system or anything until she started working on the SUN then she became very much the possession of the town.

910 M.E.H. was over at Oswego a time or two but I think my mother was distressed...that her clothes and material possessions weren't up to what my mother felt was needed to associate with a college teacher at that time. She had beautiful clothes for the town when she came there. She wore to church the first Sun. ... she wore a blue serge suit and Ks. weather being what it was, she suffered ..and black kids clothes and so forth, but that was what she thought was expected of her.

932 Edythe had early leaned to (me)--P: conform.

TAPE 2--side 1

12 I was lucky to get to know her those last 20 yrs cause I knew her better than anyone else...

24 M ... because one of the things she shed tears over in the days before she went to the hospital, she began to cry and say, my only son didn't graduate from college--he was within five hours of it--I said, if he's wanted to badly enough, he could have. And she said, I guess that's right, and stopped crying.

28 She had this sense of, this really is the end and she talked to Jim a lot. If you would want to call him up, he would help you. He's a real fascinating guy.

32 She wasn't pretentious about all these things she knew. She decried herself down for not having graduated from college, which is stupid in the long shot but she felt that it was pretty terrible that she hadn't graduated from college x and she wanted all of her children very desperately to be college graduates.

36 3-Greek, 1-Latin, 4-German 3-Greek 1-Latin 4-Latin

37 She went there to teach of all things secretarial science and one time ~~year~~ she had to teach a whole year of college botany and she had had one sem. of h.s. botany... She said she read ~~desperately~~ to try to keep ahead of the x classes and somebody who had this class with her ... said she made that class so interesting--we really learned a lot in that ~~class~~ botany, and my mother used to laugh about that. And she taught German to people who spoke Ger. She was quite a linguist. She felt that having been bilingual as a little child helped her --langs were easy for her and she did very well with them. (She taught members of the Ger. farming community in Oswego Ger. grammar.) She was quite a singer in her early years...and did a lot of solo singing around town.

55 She was a director of the choir and of the junior choir in that church for years which made it the thing tolerable for her. The kids who were in that choir were just fascinated by her and loved to talk about her.