

COTUIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INTERVIEW WITH DOROTHY JACKSON

JULY 25, 1978

Q BETTY PECK A DOROTHY JACKSON

Q SAY WHO YOU ARE.

A DOROTHY JACKSON. WE RENTED THE HOUSE THE FIRST YEAR WE WERE IN IT, AND IT WENT UP FOR SALE AND WE BOUGHT IT. WE PAID \$12,000. FOR IT, AND WERE PARTICULARLY AMAZED WHEN WE FOUND - UNINTELLIGIBLE-

MRS. SHREVE HAD RENTED IT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YEAR SHE TOOK IT. BUT SHE DID NOT LIKE THE PAPER IN THE LIVING ROOM. SO SHE GOT SOME PERFECTLY LOVELY PAPER, AND TOLD THE MAN THAT IT WAS THE ROOM TO THE LEFT OF THE FRONT DOOR THAT SHE WANTED. SO THE MAN CAME IN THE BACK AND DID THE WRONG ROOM, DID THE BEDROOM! SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT MRS. SHREVE DID FOR THE REST OF THE SUMMER. BUT SHE DID NEVER HAD THE PAPER CHANGED, BECAUSE I THINK THE PAPER WAS STILL ON WHEN WE CAME HERE.

ONE THING ABOUT THE HOUSE THAT I DID'NT QUITE LIKE, THE DOORS. THEY WERE SORT OF PAINTED AND ALL. TURNED OUT THAT MR. RYDER, WHO WAS THE PAINTER, CAME EVERY YEAR TO LOOK AT THE DOORS BECAUSE HIS FATHER HAD DONE THE FEATHERING. AND I LOVE THE, I'D LONG RESENT ANYBODY WHO'D PAINTED OVER THE DOORS, BECAUSE I LOVE THEM NOW.

Q DO YOU KNOW WHICH RYDERS - WHICH SON AND WHICH FATHER ARE YOU REFERRING TO?

A WELL, IT WAS THE PAINTER - FISH AND RYDER. FISH -

Q FISH?

A FISH. MR. RYDER?

Q YES. WHAT YEAR WOULD THAT BE, BEFORE YOU BOUGHT IT IN 1924?

A 1923 OR 24.

Q AND THEY'VE NEVER BEEN REDONE?

A WHAT.

Q THE FEATHERING?

A NO, THEY ARE STILL JUST THE WAY YOU SEE IT. JUST THE WAY MR. RYDER'S FATHER DID IT. WELL I LIKE THEM NOW, BUT I DO KNOW I DIDN'T QUITE LIKE THEM AT FIRST. WELL, THEY ARE VICTORIAN.

Q SURE, SURE.

A BUT I LOVE THEM, NOW. THEY PUT THE, I DON'T KNOW WHO PUT THE FIREPLACE IN, BUT IT WAS PUT IN AFTERWARDS. THEN WE HAD - HAD TO HAVE THE CHIMNEY FIXED, BECAUSE IT HAD GOTTEN SO OLD. IN FIXING THE CHIMNEY, BECAUSE THE WALL IN THE BACK BEDROOM WAS WET. I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE INSIDE WALL WAS WET. WELL, IT WAS FROM THAT CHIMNEY. UNTIL THEY FIXED IT.

APPARENTLY, YOU SEE, THERE WAS AN EXTRA LITTLE SHELF IN THERE AND THEY DROPPED SOME PLASTER DOWN, AND WHEN WE DID THE FIRST FIRE AFTERWARDS IT DROVE US OUT AND IT WAS SMOKE, AND EVERYTHING! OH, WE HAD A FIT. AND THEY FOUND OUT THEY HAD LEFT THIS LITTLE LEDGE. WELL, THERE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN A LEDGE THERE IF IT HAD BEEN BUILT WHEN THE HOUSE WAS BUILT. QUITE AMUSING, SMOTHERED.

Q AND YOU'RE FROM ANOTHER PART OF THE COUNTRY, YOU'RE NOT A NATIVE - MASSACHUSETTS.

A NO, I'M FROM COLORADO.

Q RIGHT. AND YOUR HUSBAND, TOO?

A YES, BORN IN COLORADO. BUT OF COURSE, HIS FAMILY WAS ALL NEW ENGLAND. HIS GRANDMOTHER WAS FROM BOSTON. HE WAS - STOP THAT, I CAN'T THINK ANYMORE.

TAPE PAUSES.

HE WAS DOWNTOWN AND HE WENT INTO, WHAT ARE THOSE RESTAURANTS CALLED - THOMPSONS - REMEMBER THERE USED TO BE A THOMPSONS? MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW BOSTON. AND HE WENT IN THERE AND SAT NEXT TO A MAN, AND THEY GOT TALKING AND BY JOVE, IT TURNED OUT TO BE

THE EDITORIAL WRITER OF THE GLOBE. AND BY THE TIME THEY HAD FINISHED AT THOMPSONS, AND THE PLACE ABOUT TO CLOSE, HE SAID, YOU'VE GOT A JOB AT THE GLOBE, AFTER YOU'RE MARRIED. SO PAT CAME HOME, WE MARRIED, SO WE CAME AND HE WENT ON THE GLOBE. AND HE WAS ON THE GLOBE UNTIL - THE SACCO AND VENZETTI CASE CAME WHEN HE TOOK A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM IT AND WENT DOWN TO THE NORTH END. SO AFTER IT WAS ALL OVER THEY WERE WILLING TO TAKE HIM BACK, BUT THEY WOULDN'T SIGN HIS NAME.

SO WE JUST LEFT, WENT TO WASHINGTON. BECAUSE THE VIOLENCE -

Q HE WAS A COLUMNIST?

A WHO, PAT?

Q YES.

A OH NO, HE WAS JUST A STRAIGHT REPORTER.

Q BUT THEY WOULDN'T USE HIS NAME?

A NO, THEY WOULDNT USE HIS NAME, BECAUSE HIS NAME WAS ANETHEMA, APPARENTLY.

Q SO YOU MOVED TO WASHINGTON, BUT YOU CAME BACK TO -

A YES, WE CAME BACK IN THE SUMMER, TO THE CAPE.

Q SO THE CAPE WAS THE ONLY PLACE YOU CAME? YOU DIDN'T EVER GO TO THE NORTH SHORE OR ANYWHERE ELSE?

A NO, NO, WE CAME RIGHT BACK TO THIS HOUSE. NOW THINK IT WAS VERY FOOLISH, REHOBOTH, OR OCEAN CITY OR SOMEWHERE NEAR OR NEXT TO WASHINGTON - THE CHILDREN -

Q THEY'VE ENJOYED GROWING UP HERE.

A OH, THEY LOVED IT. OF COURSE, I THINK, KIND OF THINK IT'S BAD.

Q YOU STILL THINK IT'S BAD?

A WELL, I DON'T KNOW, I SOMETIMES THINK SO. I'M NOT SURE AT ALL

IT'S A GOOD IDEA. MY SISTERS JUST THINK IT'S DREADFUL.

Q OH REALLY?

A OH, YES. CHILDREN BROUGHT UP, SUMMER AFTER SUMMER IN ONE PLACE, NEVER GROW UP - REALLY DON'T THINK -

Q THEY GOT INTO THE SAILING VERY HEAVY?

A MERCY, YES. I MEAN, MY SISTER HAS AN IDEA THERE'S SOMETHING BESIDE SAILING IN MIND.

Q WELL, YES.

A BUT THEY DON'T. I'M NOT SURE IF SHE - LET'S TURN IT OFF AND REST.

TAPE PAUSES.

END OF TAPE