

Looked over August 3, '98 Probably not anything here for book

JO DOUGAN SCHMIDT: Tape 3, side 5: Jo and Jackie 3/21/79

Did this in 79--there must be more! The other two in '93

I was put to bed for a nap up in that room that we used to sleep in.

We were talking about that second room and Mother's dresser was against the wall there by the stairs and I mentioned finding the candy. The Easter candy from the hunt. And there was an atomizer on there.

I wasn't sleepy, I didn't feel that I needed a nap. I was looking for something to do, I got up and went over and got the atomizer. I think I climbed up on the dresser. I sprayed the atomizer into my mouth, I wanted to see what it tasted like. I knew what it smelled like, it smelled delicious and I thought it would taste delicious, too. I was so shocked and horrified it was just awful. And it choked me. It was highly alcoholic and awful. I sprayed it into my mouth and I coughed and sputtered and cried and Mother came up and was very stern...spanked me as I recall...

It's had to imagine the violence of Mother in conjunction with you and her when you clashed in temper and so forth. But I know that there were scenes at the lake where Mother chased you with a hanger.

Oh, yes, I remember being hit with a hanger. I jumped up on the bed and she'd come after me and whack me around the legs with the hanger. Of course when the hanger hit my shinbone--that's when it hurt. It stung anywhere, but that's the worst I ever remember being punished by her.

I never really punished my kids, but then I never got into those kind of...except a little with Meghan towards the end. But I wasn't punishing her then.

Well, I punished mine, boy. I had those two boys. And Peter...Oh! I don't remember Mother spanking or punishing much at all. I just remember that hanger thing.

Maybe it was the anger that I remember from that day.

She got really furious that day.

You and Mother clashed with great...

We probably did. But not physically.

You had a temper and I found out what a temper was. I don't really have one. The first time I really felt strong anger, it was accompanied by the realization that this is what Joanne must have to fight all the time. I (something something) Nancy Gary (?) and I felt that anger rising in me just like a tide that I couldn't even control! I was astonished at the violence of my own anger and realizing that I had had no conception of what you had to put up with. I simply...I wasn't born that way, but that I was capable of anger. Most of the time I'm rarely angry. I get angry in my dreams. I get furious with Bob and beating on him and so forth. So it comes off somehow.

I wonder why you never had it.

People are made differently I guess. Paul, when he was here the other day, was saying how much fun you were to bait. And how he did it all the time.

I remember.

You'd get so furious.

And he'd do it over the dumbest things and I'd get just furious! It was so stupid.

About the license plates, IL and WI, and he named a few other things that you did. How angry you would get and how he would tease you. You would get more and more furious....He was a big boy, he shouldn't have done that. But he did. He loved to get you angry.

He was seventeen, as I recall, seventeen and I was eight. Seventeen and eight, now that was mean.///

RAD?...the same kind of haste when washing our hair over at Gramma's house. Scrubbing it down with the soft water.

I remember something else that haste, and...when he took over the child chores. I remember his giving me an orange, the orange sections, you know, cutting them and putting them into my mouth. His fingers smelled of onion. And I didn't enjoy the orange the way I did when Mother did it. I don't know why, but her fingers never smelled of onion. Now why his did, I don't know, I can't imagine. But I remember his very, very, I was going to say irritably, trying to hurry me up and eat that orange. Hurry up! Finish it up!

He still has that. Moves the plates off the table before you're quite done. And he's gentle with Mother awhile and then he gets impatient and irritable. ///

Yeah, we talked about that last night. Going up every evening, after supper wasn't it? We'd go up and water all those trees and things? And I found out some interesting things.///

End of Side 5

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