

Howard Doherty

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Question: What I'd like to do is get your name, first and last name so I have it on tape.

Answer: Howard Doherty. Those Irish nuns, "Doerty, Doerty, come here." You aspirate the H. You don't say Doherty. D-O-H-E-R-T-Y.

Question: And you're a senior.

Answer: Well I am and she named him junior 'cause I was 3000 miles away when he got born.

Question: Let's, let's um talk about that a little bit. Well let's first of all, what branch of service were you in for World War II...

Answer: Navy.

Question: Navy. And where did you serve?

Answer: Oh gosh. Bora Bora (inaudible), all the little islands. To start I was on a small sea plane tender. We had a full (inaudible) PBY's, carriers, bombs and gasoline and we serviced these airplanes. Went from island to island. And ah, that's, I can't, there's a lot of names I can think of but I can't...

Question: And so while, while you were over there you had a bride back in the States who was pregnant.

Answer: Yeah, yeah.

Question: And so tell me about that, 'cause there was some letter writing back and forth and you had to name this child, how did this...

Answer: There was some confidences involved here. One doesn't talk about what he did during courtings. Ah, oh, Junior Chamber of Commerce in Seattle and I was a young lawyer, young lawyers got into functions. So I was also skied. Junior Chamber of Commerce had a spring ski carnival at Mount Rainier and they (inaudible) picked five pretty girls and they put her, put 'em on the court and one was the queen and the other princesses. And it was an annual thing, well done. And I said I got on the job, this is a good job I got, when I second year I got on the committee. And I was one of the, I was appointed to escorting Margaret Hatton and ah, that's Margaret Hatton, so, it was a good job so I kept it up afterwards. And what else, and that was 20, how many years ago? (Margaret says: Almost 59.)

Question: Almost 59 years.

Answer: Yeah.

Question: So you got married.

Answer: Yep.

Question: And then you went in the service.

Answer: Well I went in the service first. You know, I was in the service when we got married. I was in the Reserves, ROTC at the University. So I was, I was always on Legislature so I, they called me, I say can I, I can't come I gotta go to Legislature session. So, they said

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well when you get through let us know. So I gave them a call as soon as I got through with the session. And did I get married before, maybe before, she, yeah, yeah. Then I left and she had Mike, Michael Charles 'cause the father's name is Morten Charles and ah, so she named him Junior instead of Morten Charles, Michael Charles. He's always been called Mike ever since, privately he's Mike. And what people call up and say is Mike, is that your son? Yeah that's the son, yeah.

Question: So you wrote while you were over there, before you left you had talked, before you left for the service you talked about a name.

Answer: Oh yeah, yeah uh huh.

Question: But the boss was back at home and...(laughs)

Answer: Yeah. I told her when I got home she could take him down and get the name changed and she said no, she didn't want to. Did you ask Mike? (Margaret says: You did.) He didn't want to be changed.

Question: Hah. That's interesting I never thought about somebody leaving and not having decided on a name.

Answer: Yeah, same family, yeah.

Question: And so you wrote back and forth. I saw one letter from your, I saw a letter from your wife and she had written you because you hadn't written in a while, or she hadn't gotten a letter and she was worried that you didn't love her anymore.

Answer: (laughs) Oh, oh.

Question: Were you busy fighting a war is that what was going on?

Answer: I was, I was, well yeah I was, we had a more immediate enemy. The, I went through and saved all my letters and I, last couple of months, years, I've marked where Mike is, I took little Mike to the park today, little Mike did this and so forth. And I marked (inaudible).

Question: Do you remember how old Mike was when you came home?

Answer: Yeah.

Question: When was the first time that you saw Mike?

Answer: Wasn't he 16 months or something? (Margaret says: Five.) Five months.

Question: And that was your first son.

Answer: Yeah.

Question: Boy that must have been hard to be overseas and have a new son.

Answer: Well it, we had more immediate problems for you to worry. You knew you had a family back home and it was kind of reassuring. It felt like you had some reason for being where you were.

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Question: You were proud of your service.

Answer: Yeah, uh huh, yeah, yep. I remember, I remember I was in the Reserve and the ROTC and when I got out of, when the war, ah, anyway, I was in Bremerton in communications for a while and I was restive 'cause I wasn't where the war was, the war was somewhere's else. I was busy working this paper I had at Bremerton. So anyway I asked for CUE and goes to Mackinaw, M-A-C-K-I-N-A-C ah, tender to be built at um, Puget Sound a sea plane tender. And Mackinaw and Acastaw were two twins and I got on the Mackinaw and I was on communications on that, too. And I got out of communications and I got into working with my hands and working with the men. I didn't want to be a (ship goer, the open?). And I, I ah, oh, I got transferred (inaudible), I think I got communications again. But I didn't like communications, words and letters and things and radio. And um,

Question: So that must have been a big change for you because you were, you had been going to law school, right?

Answer: Oh, I'd been (passing hall?) the first couple of years in Hoagville in Seattle. In fact she was, she lived across the street the bank. That's where we met. But ah, 'cause, and I this, Junior Chamber of Commerce, let's see. I ah, my eyes, man butchered my eyes, I can't, I don't work well anymore.

Question: I know it's hard sometimes.

Answer: It's hell. You blink your eyes, and blink your eyes, and blink your eyes, wipe 'em and you, they're asleep, your eyes are asleep. But when you try to go to sleep you can't do it, 'cause your eyes remain open.

Question: Hah.

Answer: And the guy says oh, it'll take about 10 days because you know, he goddamn, you know. So what, I'm not making very good sense here.

Question: That's ok, that's ok, there's no...