

- 1 ALL: ((laughter))
2 JH: Everything is so, it's () you know.
3 BJ: Yeah, yeah. How did you meet each other?
4 JH: (((laughter)))
5 NH: [Oh boy.]
6 JH: [[Oh, your-your-your audience, they'll really laugh at this one.]]
7 NH: [(((laughter)))]
8 JH: I . . . you know, any like normal boy and I was always . . . short.
9 BJ: Mmm-hmm.
10 JH: I was never too heavy at times, except=
11 NH: =And I was a widow.
12 JH: ((laughter)) And you were a widow.
13 NH: Which didn't help me [at all.]
14 BJ: [No, no.]
15 NH: Believe me.
16 JH: And uh . . . she was visiting somebody that I knew his mother and his brother.
17 NH: Well, it was the woman in the, in the building [next to.]
18 JH: [Yeah, yeah.]
19 NH: I, we were in what they call Hecht's Flats and [[whenever they were building it they built,]] they built this building like this
20 JH: [[That's, that's on McCandless Avenue.]]
21 NH: and then they just connected another building on, and then another building on, and
22 BJ: Mmm-hmm.
23 NH: and I moved in this first building and I had to walk down the hill on McCandless Avenue to get on the streetcar to go to work every morning.
24 JH: From Home Street down to the trolley.
25 NH: ((clears throat)) And uh, and there, and there was a woman who lived next door ((stutters)). She was a few years older than me. And she would walk down to get on the streetcar to go to (Aspemaw). She did housecleaning for people in (Aspemaw) and we used to sit and talk to one another on the streetcar on the way, you know. And uh . . . uh and we got real close, we got real close together. Well, her son . . . loafed with Joe
26 BJ: Mmm-hmm.
27 NH: in a group, in a group of=
28 JH: =In a group.
29 NH: [a group of fellas.]
30 JH: [Right, right] caddy-corner from the firehall, at () store=
31 NH: And of course he wasn't a kid, he was 31 years old, you know.
32 BJ: Right.
33 NH: And um . . . and so he must have talked to her son. I don't know how that happened, but I didn't know him from Adam at the time. I, I never knew, [never met him.]

34 JH: [Adam's our grandchild now.]
((laughter))

35 JH: [[No, but see, we-we've always been raised like this, with humor.]]

36 NH: [[[keeps laughing]]]

37 BJ: Mmm-hmm. Well, that's great.

38 JH: But this is coming, this is coming [[[great right now. But anyhow.]]]

39 NH: [[[Oh. So I was coming]]] home from work.

40 JH: And it was a cold day and it's busy and [[[she got off the trolley]]]

41 NH: [[[[stutters]]]] And there was snow=

42 JH: =right by the=

43 NH: =this was February.

44 JH: And she's walking up the street. Real cold. But I knew she walked up
the street. [I had my dog with me.]

45 NH: [He was walking his dog.]

46 BJ: Oh.

47 JH: ((laughs)) And we walked up=

48 NH: =On a leash.

49 JH: And she's walking home and I said, "Hi Nellie, how you doing today?"
She's=

50 NH: =Of course, I'm saying, "Who is he?"

51 BJ: Yeah.

52 NH: You know.

53 JH: And uh . . . uh . . . she says something to the dog. And it was a cold day
even for the dog. And she had her boots on.

54 NH: And I, and and I leaned down and I petted the dog, you know. I said to
him, "Does, does he bite?" and he said no. I leaned down and I petted him.
And I said, "Oh you're a nice dog". I was talking to him. And then I stood up
and I'm talking to him and the dog lifted his leg on my boot.
((laughter))

55 NH: Now I wanna tell you something. If he hadn't been so nice I woulda
kicked the dog right in the head.
((laughter))

56 JH: [See, this is the kinda life we lead. We do that even here.]

57 NH: [[[continues to laugh]]] Oh, I tell you. He was uh, and he, he just loves
to tell people that story, it's=

58 BJ: =So I bet you were kinda embarrassed, right? Or, did you?

59 NH: No!

60 JH: Oh no.

61 NH: ((laughing)) No, he doesn't get embarrassed. ((laughs))

62 JH: She only lived another block up the street.

63 NH: Well then, then as it happened now, uh ((2-second pause)) he talked to
me and walked the rest of the way up to my place and said goodbye. And
then he, but he did say to me, "Can I see you sometime?" and I said "Yeah"
so. He musta got my phone number from Anna.

64 JH: ((laughs)) [Now, I didn't get any phone number.]

65 NH: ['cause see Anna, Anna and her son]—and I knew the son too—lived in this next building.

66 BJ: Mmm-hmm.

67 NH: And so somehow or other he musta gotten my phone number and he called and he asked for a date. So we said that we would go out on Saturday night.

68 JH: [(That Saturday.)]

69 NH: [And I] I had to work until six. I worked six days a week. And I had to work [[until six o'clock Saturday night.]]

70 JH: [[I had a pretty decent]] job by then.

71 NH: So uh I had to rush home and grab something to eat and then he was gonna pick me up at uh, what, eight o'clock or something like that. And, and we drove out to ((1.5-second pause)) oh this is, this is a real story. We drove out to ((2-second pause)). What was the name of the place?

72 JH: You remember. The () out on Route 30=

73 NH: =on Route 30. We drove someplace out Route 30.

74 BJ: Mmm-hmm.

75 NH: And we get into this um . . . uh, it's a night club I guess you would call it.

76 JH: I thought it was [first class.]

77 NH: [And they had] yeah, and [[they had dancing]]

78 JH: [[White tablecloths.]]

79 NH: Yeah and it had, they had dancing and all. And we—now I don't know him that well, okay? Only talked to him in the streetcar, you know?

80 BJ: Mmm-hmm.

81 NH: And uh, er, rather, in the car on the way OUT. And I thought to myself, "Geez, you know, I hardly even know this guy. What uh . . . ((laughing)) you know, he could drop me off anyplace".

82 BJ: ((laughs))

83 NH: "And am I gonna get back?" Because I didn't even know where I was going.

84 BJ: Yeah.

85 NH: 'Cause I was never out of Sharpsburg with the exception of getting on the streetcar and riding to DOWNTOWN Pittsburgh and shopping once in a while and riding back again. That's the most I ever got OUT . . . of Sharpsburg.

86 JH: She shopped at R-Rosenbaum's.

87 NH: Mmm. And then uh=

88 JH: =Do you know Rosenbaum's?

89 BJ: No.

90 NH: Well I didn't even know my way AROUND DOWNTOWN because, you know, being raised with my father, who was Amish, you didn't get that far away from home.

91 BJ: Uh-huh.

92 NH: You were there . . . and he knew where you were and who you were with and when you were coming home. ((laughs))

93 BJ: Mmm-hmm.

94 NH: And uh, and I uh, so we get out there and we go into this, this place and um . . . we sit down and the waitress comes and takes our order. Now he ordered beer and I ordered a whiskey sour. ((2-second pause)) And um ((3-second pause)) and, and ((laughing)) the waitress brought the stuff and he sat. He took one drink of his beer . . . [and just like that]

95 JH: [It was out of a] frosted glass.

96 BJ: [[Mmm-hmm.]]

97 NH: [[Yeah]] it was in a frosted glass. Just like that, he was . . . up out of the chair. He said, “I’ll be back” and he went to the men’s room. ((1.5-second pause)) And he didn’t come back. ((laughing)) And I’m just sitting there and then finally he came back . . . very quickly, he came back and he says, “I seem to have a problem so you order whatever you wanna order—I’ll be back.”

98 BJ: ((laughs))

99 NH: And I sat there by myself. He came back later. We had one dance . . . He left again.
((both BJ and NH laugh))

100 NH: And every time he’d leave I’d think, “He’s going out the back door or something.”
((all laugh))

101 NH: Oh, I didn’t know where I was gonna be, you know. And that was terrible. And then, ah, and then finally whenever he got over this, we went home . . . Now ((2-second pause)) like a crazy woman

102 BJ: ((laughs))

103 NH: I says to him, “Do you wanna come up for coffee and doughnuts?” and he said yes. So he come up. We sat in the living room and we watched uh, whatcha-ma-caller on television. ((2-second pause))

104 JH: ((stutters))

105 NH: Who was on “The Tonight Show”? Remember?

106 JH: It was, eh, uh Milton Burle.

107 NH: No. No no no no no. He just died not too long ago . . . And uh, and here’s a comedian. And uh [we-we watched] that

108 JH: [Jack Benny.]

109 NH: and finally I said—no. And finally I said, uh, “Joe, you’re gonna have to leave ‘cause I have to get up early tomorrow morning to go to church.” And he says, “So do I.” See.
((all laugh))

110 NH: I had three rooms and a bath. That was it. And um . . . I said. And it was, it was pouring down rain and it was pouring down rain. And uh, and his car was parked right smack out in front of the building and everybody in that building . . . ((takes deep breath)) I lived in that building when my husband died, see.

111 BJ: Mmm-hmm.

112 NH: My husband and I lived in that building. And I’m saying to my-, “There’s no way that car’s gonna be parked there all night! This is it!”
((laughs))

113 BJ: ((laughs))
114 NH: And you know we weren't, we weren't kids. You know, I was twenty-
what? Twenty-eight years old, twenty-six.
115 JH: Yeah.
116 NH: Twenty-eight. Twenty-eight years old. I was twenty-six when I was
widowed and, and my husband was dead two years [before I married Joe.]
117 BJ: [Mmm-hmm.]
118 NH: And uh=
119 JH: =And uh, at this point=
120 NH: =so, I-I said to him, "You're gonna have to leave" and he said, "It's
pouring down raining OUT THERE." So he said, "You go ahead and go to
bed, I'll let myself out." And I ((laughs)) I thought I was gonna take him by
the [head of the hair and put him outside the door!]
121 BJ: [You, you. ((laughs))]
122 NH: You know. And I said, "You will not. You will not. You'll leave right
now." And then, that's when I thought I was gonna have problems with them
seeing. But he got up and left. But you know something. ((2-second pause))
From that day until we were married I think he was out of TOWN maybe
three times.
123 JH: Yeah.
124 NH: In six months. It was six months=
125 JH: =I traveled.
126 BJ: Mmm-hmm.
127 NH: We got married six months later but from that time until then, and until
we were married, he was . . . at my place every single evening. You didn't—
he didn't stay overnight, now. He, don't forget, he lived with his mother a
block and a half away.
128 BJ: Yeah.
129 JH: ((laughs))
130 NH: He didn't stay overnight. There was no hanky-panky going on
anywhere.
131 BJ: So it was just sort of [love] at first sight?
132 JH: [Mmm.] ((laughs))
133 NH: It musta been [[for him because]] in two weeks, we
134 JH: [[Well, uh yeah. I]] I knew a lot of girls.
135 NH: [[[But we only dated]]]
136 JH: [[[I always dated.]]]
137 NH: [[[[But we only dated for two weeks.]]]]
138 JH: [[[[But this was the one that I wanted]]]] you know. Of course=
139 NH: Two weeks and [he asked me] to marry him.
140 JH: [We're both], we're both all made of our different parts.
((laughter))