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Mary Murphy [00:00:07] Oh, so let's just do, let me put a little intro. So today is Tuesday, oh, no, today's Wednesday. We sound so competent. Today is Wednesday, July 20th, 2022. I'm Mary Murphy. This is Carol Doig on my left and Marcella Sherfy Walter, and we're here in Carol Doig's house in Shoreline, Washington to do an interview.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:00:36] And without further ado, Carol, we go back to your childhood and start with literally, what do you first remember?

Carol Doig [00:00:46] Oh, well, this may be just slightly off-center of that, but I was born on July 24th, 1933, in the depths of the Depression. I'm told that was really the worst year. I grew up during the Depression, and it was tough times even for a family like mine. I was an only child, as it turned out, and we had a roof over our heads. We had enough food to eat, enough clothes to wear. But even so, we had to be careful. I remember anecdotally being told by my mother that in order to buy a winter coat, she had to go borrow on a life insurance policy. This would be whole life. I mean, everybody now buys term, but whole life builds as you go. Right? And so, just to think about these days, you know, that non-credit time when you had to pay. And so at the time, of course, I didn't know any better. I was just growing up like every kid does, what seemed to me like a normal life. But it was really historic times.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:02:28] Tell me, what did your dad do? What were the sources of income in your?

Carol Doig [00:02:33] Okay, well... The sources of income were down to one, because when my folks married back then, my mother had been a teacher. Teachers were supposed to quit and go home and house keep. So that left one income, and because things were so tough, they had bought a little house in the suburb, and they couldn't keep up the payments. So what I remember first was we were in rented quarters until they could get enough money together. Which took a few years before they could buy something else. So he worked for a small insurance company back East, Colonial Life Insurance. And he kept working for the same company because in the Depression, if you had a job, you had some kind of income coming in, you didn't go anywhere else. And by the time he retired at 65, he'd been there over 40 years. That kind of stability, when we look back from 2022, looks a little bit incredible.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:03:41] What... Paint a picture of both he and your mom. Hype, personality, what he loved.

Carol Doig [00:03:52] They were small, neat people. My mother was five foot two and she dressed very well for her middle class but barely circumstances. And she was from an English background. My middle name is Dean, D-E-A-N, and that was from her family, the Deans and Bells, good working people from England. Her parents had come over as young people, and she too worked as she could. Her education was to get a teaching certificate, which you could do back then with something like community college now. And she actually went back to work when I went to college. That's how they afforded my college. They were just sturdy, good people. My dad was not tall. He was slightly taller than I was, and I at my height, was about five foot six and a half. But he was a great guy. He had a good sense of humor. He treated me like an adult and he treated me like an equal. And then his company, when he got in charge of some things, he would promote

women. Now this was back. Yeah, this was way back, right? We're talking about late 40s, 50s, and so on. And he could see past gender roles.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:05:39] Wow.

Mary Murphy [00:05:41] What do you think made him be able to do that at that time?

Carol Doig [00:05:45] That's a very interesting question because he was brought up, his father had been a dentist who immigrated from Germany. It was for a number of kids in the family, but his mother was mentally unstable. And for whatever reason, and I never asked, he was brought up by several main Aunts and and Uncle Bill. And so I remember their house because Granny, as we called her, was still alive. Granny lived to be unimaginably old for somebody. Some small kid, right? And she wore long skirts and sat by the fire and had a shawl around her shoulders and it was the whole thing. But they brought him up and they brought him very well. It was a household except for Uncle Bill who never did much. And those were strong women.

Mary Murphy [00:06:55] So was this in New Jersey? Yes.

Carol Doig [00:06:57] Uh-huh, Patterson, New Jersey, which was a decent working-class town at the time.

Mary Murphy [00:07:04] Big silk mill there.

Carol Doig [00:07:06] My maternal grandfather worked in the silk mill, so he made his living. They were good, plain people.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:07:16] When you say your parents treated you as an adult, can you remember those Depression era conversations? What did you hear? What did...

Carol Doig [00:07:28] Well, I didn't know it was depression.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:07:31] Right. Yes, right. What were the years between the war and getting there?

Carol Doig [00:07:37] That's right. And I do remember that I learned very quickly. There were a lot of newspapers in New York back then, and they were available to us. And I became a newspaper reader very early.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:07:52] Wow.

Carol Doig [00:07:53] And it was World War II, I know, when I was still in grade school. So a lot what we would have talked about would have been that news. Plus Edward R. Murrow, you know, on the radio, and our radio was a major piece of furniture, was as high as I was as a kid. It was a major piece of it. So it's one fancy thing we had in the house, and it was long before television. We never had television until I was a junior in high school. The only reason we did was because my dad was in a very bad train accident, and he was just badly bruised, but he had to stay home a while while he recovered some from that. And so we got our first little black and white television, you know, which went off, I think, about 10 or 11 o'clock at night, and then you would just get the CBS logo or whatever it happened to be. You know, there wasn't anything out there. Go to bed or read a book.

Mary Murphy [00:09:03] So did the three of you sit around the radio together and listen to the news?

Carol Doig [00:09:09] We all listened, whatever we were doing, you know, in proximate locations. But we also, I listened to the Green Hornet and the other popular shows of the night. Yes, right.

Mary Murphy [00:09:29] And so what was Ocean Grove like to live in?

Carol Doig [00:09:33] Well, we got to Ocean Grove when I got to high school, and it was a Methodist camp meeting town with an auditorium so big and old and wonky that it was used in a couple of movies, just the facade of the thing. It was Methodist in what I would call a more liberal sense. And it was a fairly normal town, except that. When I lived there, on Sunday, all of it was about a mile square. There was an ocean on one side, lakes on two other sides, and they would put chains across the streets on the fourth side, and everybody walked on Sunday. You either got your car out of town or you didn't have the use of your car. Right? That's a little bit unusual. That was later legally broken, which was a little bit, you know, I was a little sorry about that. That was after I was not living there anymore. But it was a wonky, special place, but ordinary people again, you know. Nothing fancy.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:11:08] Did your folks take you to church, given that?

Carol Doig [00:11:11] Oh, we always went to church. Yes. Our main church because the Ocean Grove services were only in the summer because it was still kind of a camp meeting place. And our regular church was in the town next door, Asbury Park, and it was a...[unintelligible] looking church. It looked like a mosque. It had a big dome on it. I don't know how it ever got built that way, but it did. But the churches, as they were used through the Depression and into my childhood, they were kind of community centers. You know, you did things. You had dinners. Yes, you went to Sunday school class, but then you also went on little trips. With the people there, with the kids there, you know, and it was not what I, by the standards of today, it was by no means religious quote unquote. But in those summers, you know, the Ocean Grove Auditorium would hold several thousand people. And on one side was a lighted cross, as you looked up front, and on the other was an American flag. I mean, it had those decorations. And they would bring in... Famous Methodist preachers from around the country. That's the way that went. It was all pretty harmless, you know.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:12:53] Did you pray before meals at home?

Carol Doig [00:12:58] Yes, you know we did, at least when I was little. Somehow or other we got away from that after a while and that was okay. My mother was quite religious, but in a very quiet way. She was quiet anyway, and there was none of the stuff we know about in 2022. I always manage to say now that it was a mainstream Methodist church. They took really seriously trying to help people not only in their community but overseas. We had our little offering envelopes with two pockets in them. One was for the local and one was for an overseas mission. They were nice people, you know, they were trying to help.

Mary Murphy [00:13:59] Why did your parents decide to move to Ocean Grove from Patterson?

Carol Doig [00:14:04] That's a really good question. Do I know how to answer that? Well, we had excellent friends. My mother's best friend and her family had a summer place in Ocean Grove, but they were better off than we were. And so, we couldn't have two houses, so at some point I think they thought it would be a good idea to get out of the city. And then I could go to high school down there, and that worked out very well, really. This little community that was about a mile square, and we lived at the far end toward the ocean, and the high school was at the... Exact opposite far end inland, so I had a had about a mile walk. But sometimes I'd go home for lunch. I can't believe I did that.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:15:07] And what's the architecture of Ocean Grove as you grew up? Was it the Victorian extravaganza like Cape May or what?

Carol Doig [00:15:20] It was sort of reflective of its roots as a camp meeting place. They were small places and what happened, I mean they really did camp on the beach I guess when the town began, but what remained of that was that there was a whole neighborhood of platforms, which had in it a kitchen, bathroom, and there would be a tent on it in the summer, and families would rent those and they would stay in the tent colony all summer long. And these got, these came down through the families, I mean, I think legally they were by the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association, which was a thing. But, in technical terms, families would sort of adopt various places, and they would come back year after year. I think some of that still goes on, believe it or not, although in a nice change, some of the big old rooming houses, and there were many, because that's what people could afford. I mean, you know, my family vacationed there before we moved there. And this was about 50 minutes from New York City and a little less from northern New Jersey. Well, the gay community of the time got interested because there were a lot of old houses. And as these people moved in, it was a real upgrade in how that little town was maintained. And I loved it.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:16:55] And this was in the 30s or 40s?

Carol Doig [00:16:57] No, this was much more modern. This was after I was well out here.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:17:06] And and did you zoom down to the beach and since you were close to the ocean was.

Carol Doig [00:17:11] Oh yes, and in high school, when I was 16, I got a good summer job with the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company as a long-distance operator, would you believe. And so this would have been 49, 50, 51. And and it was like the old pictures from the 20s. Long row of women sitting on high chairs plugging things into big boards that were, you know, about a block long. And when the people at Fort Monmouth, Fort Monmouth was in the home base for one of the Army units. And on payday all of the recruits wanted to call home. Some of them called collect. The others were going to put coins in and you had to learn how did quarters sound, how did dimes sound. At any rate, it wasn't a job I or my high school buddy, we both went to work there. It wasn't the job we particularly enjoyed, but the pay is good as we once chorused when somebody asked us why we were there. And then I would have to quit in the summer whenever my dad told me to, because otherwise he couldn't use me as a dependent. Not that I was making very much money, but back then, you know. And I thought, okay, I'll just go to the beach more. [Laughter].

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:18:59] Who did you date in high school, Carol?

Carol Doig [00:19:04] I dated occasionally. I was no, you know, I was not a constant dater. What I remember from high school was sleepovers, slumber parties, where of course nobody slumbered. But I did date a bit from the people at the church some of the boys. I don't remember how it got started, but I was dating one of the sons of a Greek family that owned one of restaurants on the boardwalk, because that's what they all did, and they were prosperous and very unserious. Stayed out of all that. I was going to college. I had made up my mind I was going to be in journalism although I thought I wanted to be because of World War II and reading Ernie Pyle and so forth. I thought I wanted to be a foreign correspondent which I never got to be but that's alright.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:20:09] But keep talking about the point, I mean, was it all through the 40s that you knew what you wanted to be and knew you wanted to go to college? And what did your parents think?

Carol Doig [00:20:21] Well, my parents wanted me to go to college and they left it up to me to say what I wanted to do. And I was a good student. And so we all agreed and back then you would buy a copy of the college guide, and it came to us from people who knew more about it than we did that Northwestern was very good in journalism, as it still is as we record this, I'm happy to say. And so, how they afforded it then was that they stopped paying off the principal on their mortgage. They paid only the interest, which meant that their mortgage would be prolonged. But by doing that, they could afford Northwestern because I was an only child. I mean, I had the grades and everything for a scholarship. But because I was the only child, it was thought that, officially thought at Northwestern that I didn't need one, although my dad, I think he was making less than \$10,000 a year then, and he never made very much. But as they did it, you know, those were the days when you could go to college, come out of college without debt, and that's how we managed it.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:21:48] Did you work on during college? Did you have jobs at Northwestern?

Carol Doig [00:21:53] No, I didn't but you know that's how Ivan got through, right, with the board job until he hit graduate year and then he got one of the big McCormick scholarships out of the Medill School.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:22:08] Did you go back home to New Jersey, summer times, holidays?

Carol Doig [00:22:13] Yes, yes I did.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:22:13] Took the train?

Carol Doig [00:22:16] Started out with the train, but somehow they also afforded, you know, the train took a long time and really cut into any vacation, and it got to the point where I could fly back and forth. And so we must have been more prosperous by then.

Mary Murphy [00:22:34] Did you ever wish that you had brothers and sisters?

Carol Doig [00:22:40] You know, I didn't. I kind of wish so now. But I think I had lots of friends, so that was fine, and I think I knew that my path would have been harder, you know, if they were trying to put, what, two or three kids through college. I don't know that that could have been done.

Mary Murphy [00:23:03] So let's talk a little bit about World War II, because Jan was fascinated by your autograph collection.

Carol Doig [00:23:10] Oh, yes

Mary Murphy [00:23:11] And I want to know when you started reading the newspapers.

Carol Doig [00:23:18] Well, interesting question. I was born in 1933. We got into the war, of course, in December of 41. I was reading some before that, and then avidly, I really did like the Ernie Pyle of columns as well as, I can remember reading about, you know, Tunisia, where is Tunisia? So then we'd get a geography lesson, and so on, and following the war, and I went so far as to memorizing the shapes of bombers and fighter pilots, you know, cereal box stuff where you could get this little deal to hold to your eye, and it would give you a black outline of a Stuka or, you know, a Boeing bomber or whatever it is you wanted. So we were into it, into it to the point where, and this was before we moved down to Ocean Grove, grade school. My dad was a volunteer fireman and besides that we were trying to be as patriotic as possible so we put in a victory garden. Everybody had the v garden. Well there was one little problem with our neighborhood that it had such clay-like soil that I do remember that the carrots screwed themselves into the ground. [Laughter] But we tried.

Mary Murphy [00:24:51] So do you remember the titles of the newspapers?

Carol Doig [00:24:56] Yes, the New York World Telegram it was by then, and of course that had started with the old New York World and the Telegram. And then it became the New York World Telegram and some, as you know, we saw what happened to the news business, but in the time of World War II, that's what it was. And there was also, there's always the New York Times, and there was the New York Tribune, those were very good papers also. And it was an era where you could do that. You could go out on Sunday and you could get an armload of newspapers, which we did, because something about my mother's Methodism did say you were supposed to rest on Sunday, which was the last thing we wanted to do. We'd sit around the house reading newspaper after newspaper to amuse ourselves.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:25:49] What about women reporters or women commentators like Edward R. Murrow from London, who stood out as a woman? No.

Carol Doig [00:26:03] No, not really. But it is interesting that by the time I went to college, and my undergraduate years were 1951 to 55, in my class at Medill School of Journalism, there were a lot of us females. And we were serious people. And when I went back to teach there in the summers thereafter, that was also the case, you know, there were a lot of girls from around the country determined to go into journalism.

Mary Murphy [00:26:42] What about photography? Where did you start getting interested in that in connection with the news?

Carol Doig [00:26:50] Yes, I would say so, and in high school I got to taking little pictures with a very modest camera, and this was still the time when you had to either go to the drugstore with your roll of film, or later on, you know, we would send in the colored pictures to Kodak and get them. And I was kind of interested in it in college... Some of the best fun I had academically was taking news photography course and I was not terrifically good at it, so it meant I spent a lot of time in the dark room trying to make things better. I mean

cameras they have now, you know, the iPhone kind of camera is astounding. We used to have to go through all kinds of machinations to get a decent printout. So, yeah, so I started off in a photography course lugging around a speed graphic camera, which is a huge thing, and you would have, in order to take flash pictures, you would have this energy pack over your shoulder that weighed pounds, you know. It was not very handy and of course because it was a speed graphic you got one shot and then you changed the film. And it is hard to remember now how impossibly manual all that was. And now, you know, you've got kids who are just taking pictures. They don't know what they're going to do with them all, you know, they're all digital. But I have heard professional photographers say that they're glad they don't have to go through that anymore and that now they can concentrate on other elements of getting the picture right.

Mary Murphy [00:28:54] Were you did your high school have a newspaper?

Carol Doig [00:28:57] Oh, yes.

Mary Murphy [00:28:58] Did you work on it?

Carol Doig [00:28:59] Oh yes!

Mary Murphy [00:29:00] [Laughter] So what did you do?

Carol Doig [00:29:05] I wrote for it, and I'm trying to remember, was I editor of it? Probably. And, you know, in a sense, they were a little bit of training, but we were hampered, of course, by what you could or could not write. And so I didn't get seriously into it, I would say, until I got to Northwestern, which was very serious. I went from an A student to a [unintelligible] B. I mean it was that tough

Mary Murphy [00:29:48] So, apart from Ernie Pyle, were there other journalists you admired?

Carol Doig [00:29:53] Well, we all listened to Edward R. Murrow. Other than that, I don't think that I looked at bylines all that much. There were certainly a lot of distinguished ones that came out of World War II and a lot of the newspaper people went into early broadcasting. But it took somebody who really stood out, you know, human interest, actually, which is what Edward R. Murrow's. From Britain, you know, he [unintelligible] Yeah, the dispatches from there and he would be up somewhere in an air raid on the top of some building describing the thing. He was really good.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:30:41] Along with that, clearly early determination to be a journalist, I mean, did you see yourself in a family? Did you see, as you look towards adulthood, how wide was your, um, thinking? Family, husband?

Carol Doig [00:31:00] Who? What? [Laughter] I was being a professional journalist, right.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:31:07] And that was-

Carol Doig [00:31:07] Thank goodness, that was my focus. And I think this was rather more usual, again, at Northwestern, because if you're going to get in there and stay in there, the pros did not make it easy. You know, if you couldn't get everything right, I mean, everything. Spelling of names, ages. All factual things had to be. And I remember one poor kid, most of us lived on campus but he was commuting from Chicago, and one cold winter

day he was late and he said the trains had been delayed and the professor looked at him and said, take an earlier train. I mean, this was, they taught us and they taught very well. Don't mess up ever on anything, which has made me rather impatient sometimes when I was working actually in professional jobs and people weren't that good.

Mary Murphy [00:32:16] And so when you were, so did your parents ever pressure you to like, where's my granddaughter? Where's my grandchild?

Carol Doig [00:32:25] They never did. I'm sure they wondered because by the time Ivan and I married, he was 25 but I was 31. And I think they were delighted to see him.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:32:47] But they must have celebrated your accomplishments.

Carol Doig [00:32:53] They did.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:32:53] Through all of that.

Carol Doig [00:32:55] They did.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:32:56] That's not the way I should phrase the question, did they?

Mary Murphy [00:32:57] Well, did they come to your college graduation?

Carol Doig [00:33:01] What they came to was, I made mortarboard, which was the big thing on campus. And they came to a special program on that, and then they did not come back for the regular graduation, which is this big thing in a field house, you know, that was nothing special anyway. But I remember that the Dean of Medill, you know, he wanted all his people there at graduation so I sort of had to get special permission because I think I was working. I had gone back to Ocean Grove to go work at New Jersey Bell again and make a little money, of course. And so I got permission not to be there.

Mary Murphy [00:33:56] So did the journalism school, did they try to place their graduates in news jobs or reporting jobs?

Carol Doig [00:34:07] Well, yes, and they had a good reputation, so they were. I was in the magazine sequence, as we called it, and so my first job was at a small college up in the Finger Lakes area of New York, which was kind of fun. It wasn't a hard news job. Which I kind of regretted because I'd been so well-trained, you know, so I did their newsletter and I did news releases and had a little fun as a single professional upstate.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:34:45] And it took a while looking at my notes, but did you, along with your high school newspaper, I mean, were you a diary keeper? Were you an essay or poem writer as a young kid?

Carol Doig [00:34:58] No, I was not.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:35:01] And not in college, any of that?

Carol Doig [00:35:03] No. I remember Ivan saying, he tried for a while, I think pre-college, to do one of these, every five years, you know, you'd have about an inch a year to write, and he said that didn't amount to anything at all, and of course he became a good diarist,

and I really didn't start one until he asked me to, because we were going around, we were seeing some quite interesting things. And so the diary that I haven't yet turned over to the archives, but I quit at the end of 2015, which is the year he died, is a lot shorter in duration than his was. I did my best, but it's not my particular genre, I guess one might say there. I'm kind of a hard news writer.

Mary Murphy [00:36:05] So when you earlier said that you, you know, your desire was to be a foreign correspondent, so what happened? Why didn't that come true?

Carol Doig [00:36:17] Well, they weren't really easy jobs, you know. I wish I could go back and tell you exactly why I chose the magazine sequence, but I did. And the magazines were big then. Look, Life, the old Saturday Evening Post, I mean those were everywhere. Those were the mediums of the time and we had one extremely smart young man who got on with life and we thought, boy, that's the top of the world. Which it was at the time.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:36:56] But you must have then, even as you worked for other magazines, kept your eye on the political news and that that would have been...

Carol Doig [00:37:06] Yeah, okay, sure, we did.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:37:10] Or did you again, I said. [Laughter]

Carol Doig [00:37:14] Oh yeah, and you know, we thought things could get bad back then, little did we know, and through the, oh by the time the Pentagon Papers came around I was teaching and I used to teach that too. But we were pretty aware, and in terms of Ivan... He was working in downstate Illinois, a small group of papers, and what happened to him was that he was on the news desk when John Kennedy was assassinated. And they worked through, and I had invited him up, I was living in Evan- back in Evanston then with a magazine job and I had invited him and I invited some of the other people who had been students in the summer classes where I'd been on the staff, and he wasn't sure he'd come. But, after the work he did following the assassination, he said yes, he would come up. So one way or another, I took care of my summer students and he came up for dinner too, and that was a good thing.

Mary Murphy [00:38:39] Were your parents Democrats?

Carol Doig [00:38:45] No. Um... They were, what kind of Republican would my father have been? Kind of a low-key, you know, straight guy who didn't make much money but was in kind of the commercial world and believed in tithing, was a good citizen, always voted. So he was kind of a low-key conservative, and I don't know exactly what he had against the Democrats, but it wasn't... wasn't anything we really talked about.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:39:30] And not even an FDR? No dinner conversation about it.

Carol Doig [00:39:35] Well, he seemed to be there. He'd always been there, and he might always be there. [Laughter] He was a fact. It wasn't that my dad particularly liked that fact, but it was okay. It was not vehement. I mean, politics in our house just wasn't.

Mary Murphy [00:39:58] And was your mom of the same mindset?

Carol Doig [00:40:01] She was quiet. [Laughter] Um, hard to say. She wasn't political. You know, she kind of quietly did what she did.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:40:13] Of your two parents, who did you feel closest?

Carol Doig [00:40:18] Oh, my dad, by all means. Yeah, I was my father's girl, which is a shame because my mother tried as hard as she could, but from a rather... For an English family that was a little bit emotionally held back, you know, my dad was more voluble, he had a good sense of humor, and I just related to him in that way. But I liked, I knew my mother's family more. They were really nice people and her mother had three sisters all of whom were unmarried, except for one that married late, and I knew those people, they lived to an old, old age and we visited them eventually in California. It was the first cross-country trip. As was most of her family had moved out there.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:41:20] When was the cross-country trip and how was, that's its own topic.

Carol Doig [00:41:27] Well, we got in our old Hudson, which looked rather like a tank, with little front windows, you know, and we didn't have any air conditioning. We had this, when we got to the desert, we had this metal round box that we put outside a window and you filled it with ice. And then as you sped down the highway, the ice was supposed to melt and bring us cool warmth, cool feelings. And it sort of worked a little bit, I guess. But it was very, I liked to sit in the back seat and just stare at the country. You know, I could see the variations as we went by. Um, and, uh... I think maybe it made me a lot more aware of what the country was all about.

Mary Murphy [00:42:30] So how old were you then?

Carol Doig [00:42:34] I would have been junior high school age, I think, you know.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:42:41] And did you camp? Did you stay in motels?

Carol Doig [00:42:46] You couldn't catch my mother camping, I think, under any circumstances. We stayed in motels, not the most upscale ones, but nice ones, decent ones. We were on a budget. We always were on the budget. And that old Hudson putt-putted its way, but when it got to the Rockies, it had a little trouble, so I remember being stuck somewhere, like Albuquerque, somewhere unexpected while the car got fixed.

Mary Murphy [00:43:26] So how did you, so when you finally get to meet your mom's relatives out in California, what did you think of them?

Carol Doig [00:43:33] Well, you know, I had known them when they were in New Jersey, and her brothers both went out there. They both worked for Texaco, and clerk-like jobs, I think. And that, there's... It's a whole other story about the families, especially one of them. They got grandma and the baby and several kids into one little car. They had spare tires on top because you couldn't buy spare tires because it was World War II. And they had such a tough time getting out there that they said later that there was a point where they would have come back east. They couldn't stand the thought of doing that again.

Mary Murphy [00:44:16] Like the Jones.

Carol Doig [00:44:19] That's right. So they were good. They were good people. I liked them. I like the cousins.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:44:27] Were they in L.A.?

Carol Doig [00:44:31] Um, Altadena, which was just up the hill from Pasadena.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:44:35] Oh, okay.

Carol Doig [00:44:36] So, yeah.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:44:36] Mm-hmm. Yeah. Through various stages, if you weren't a diarist, were you a letter writer? Was your mother or your dad a letterwriter? When you were, I mean, I'm just, is there a, was there a body of correspondence?

Carol Doig [00:44:56] As close as that came, it was that my dutiful, once-a-week letters and phone calls when I was in college. It was very dutiful. I did it. But again, I don't think I was a natural doing that sort of thing.

Mary Murphy [00:45:18] Well, I spent a little time in the archive with some of your stuff before we came out last week, and was looking through the letters that you wrote home from when you were on your sabbatical in London.

Carol Doig [00:45:30] Oh, yes.

Mary Murphy [00:45:31] And they were fantastic letters that so vivid descriptions and.

Carol Doig [00:45:37] Mine?

Mary Murphy [00:45:37] Yes. You know in the archive, they're interleaved with Ivan's, so you kind of had to figure out who was writing, you know, who was addressed to. But I wondered when you started keeping carbons of your letters.

Carol Doig [00:45:53] Well, Ivan always did. This again, he was a natural clerk. And, you know, he would say, there's no reason you can't be a clerk and a poet both.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:46:05] Right?

Carol Doig [00:46:06] Which he was. But he would take, yeah, as he would answer letters that came in to him, he would flip it over, because they would most likely have been typed on one side of the paper, flip it, and he would put the carbon of his response on the back of that letter. You may have come across some of that. And I'm glad you say I was better than I thought I was. But over there, I mean, it was a whole new world. That was a wonderful time.

Mary Murphy [00:46:41] Yeah, we can move on to that but I want us to go one back, how did you learn to drive and how old are you?

Carol Doig [00:46:48] I think we could drive, I think maybe we could get a learning permit at 16 in New Jersey and get a full license at 17. My dad taught me. And I went out and I passed my test and I had, of course, we only had one car, so I came home very proudly and ran it up over the sidewalk. Okay...

Mary Murphy [00:47:16] And so then was there a negotiation about when you could use the car or did you, was that much of an issue?

Carol Doig [00:47:23] That wasn't really much of an issue, and one of the things was when we moved down into Ocean Grove, my dad commuted my train to his job, which was up north in East Orange, New Jersey. And so when I got back there quite a bit later to work at the local newspaper in Asbury Park, I could take him to the train station, pick him up at night. And I could use the car for whatever in between until I got my own car, which was fairly soon.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:48:01] And did your mom know how to drive?

Carol Doig [00:48:03] She knew how to, she even knew very early on, because she and her dad had, well she was a teacher, she was not yet married, had gone in on, goodness knows what it was, it had to have been a Ford model something, right, maybe even a Model T. She didn't like to drive. She wasn't a confident driver, and so she kind of gave it up. You know, she could, but she never did. And she was a good walker. She could walk anywhere.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:48:35] Was she a seamstress? Did you wear her clothes?

Carol Doig [00:48:39] No, the interesting thing was she didn't like, she had to do some sewing as growing up, she didn't like it. So she was a shopper, as much as you could on a limited budget. And she was good shopper. She could buy me, well, I would come home from college for Christmas, she would have gone out and I wasn't there, she would've bought me a Christmas outfit, you know, and she had very good taste, and usually they fit perfectly, she could somehow do that.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:49:21] Wow.

Carol Doig [00:49:23] Not like the, well it wasn't like the case of one of my classmates when we were still living in northern New Jersey in grade school. She was from a very big family, tall, skinny girl, very funny. And with lots of kids, she said, you were either a sewer or a riffer. And her mother had been a riffer. She never learned!

Mary Murphy [00:49:58] Was your mom, did she belong to any women's groups?

Carol Doig [00:50:02] Oh yes, but this was Methodist women's groups, okay, yes, and they even talked her in after very hard bargaining to be president of the local women's society at one point, but she was not cover- although she was a teacher, and went back to teaching when I went to college, she didn't like putting herself out front all that much. So, but she was very, she was active. She was a good, good baker. And when there'd be bake sales at the church, which there frequently were to raise money, they would ask ahead of time, people would come and ask for Mrs. Muller's apple pie. And she was truly, truly good at it.

Mary Murphy [00:51:01] And so did your dad have any hobbies?

Carol Doig [00:51:07] He was mechanical in a way, I mean he could fix things and there were always things that needed fixing. And he tried diligently when they built a little house later on, he diligently tried to be a gardener and he there were all kinds of garden potions

you know for the roses, for this, for that, and the tools. But it was a hard go down at the shore there you know and the salt air and so forth and so I'm not sure he was successful in that as he tried to be.

Mary Murphy [00:51:42] What about you as a kid? Did you, like, collect things, or...?

Carol Doig [00:51:50] Well, sure! You saw the autographs. Yep. Okay.

Mary Murphy [00:51:50] And how did that start?

Carol Doig [00:51:53] I was reading about the war and I just decided there were all these famous people. Do you suppose they would sign their names for it. Well, it turned out that there were lots and lots of kids doing that. But I just kind of sent them off, and I didn't announce much about that, and so it was a little surprise to them when, you know, something from Admiral Halsey would come in from General MacArthur's office. This was part of the war effort when the higher-ups would respond to the people, to the kids who are patriotic and would like to have their autograph. Some of them may have been, I don't know how they did it, I mean you can't believe they sat around signing autographs, but anyway here they were. So that's that's where that came from and nobody put me up to it. I got this crazy idea on my own.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:52:55] In a world where your folks, where your mom wouldn't consider camping, how did you make the leap from what was a fairly sedentary quiet childhood to hiking the northwest?

Carol Doig [00:53:11] I loved it! I came out west and I thought, finally I don't have to restrict myself just to going bowling. In fact, I gave away my bowling ball. And we said, look at this land, we ought to be seeing this. And we just started out. We started out with a plastic tent where you could make a little tent out of heavy commercial plastic material that was see-through. But you make a seam so that you just fold over a big piece. Secure the seam on the thing, and then you could tie it down actually and make it into a shape that was a tent, that was our first tent.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:54:08] And I was probably leaping ahead, but just, yes, yeah. And I wonder if now is a good break time. [unintelligible].

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:54:24] If you thought about a childhood question, hold on one sec... Okay. We're good. Okay. So libraries and reading. Carol, did Ocean Grove have a good library and were you?

Carol Doig [00:54:59] I'm not sure Ocean Grove had a library now that you mention it. If you want to know what I remember reading as a little kid, it was the Sears Roebuck catalog. They were huge then, that was the way you shopped. And I was allowed before Christmas to go through it and check off things I might like, but my mother said, but you must not expect many of these. So, I was forewarned, but, and the newspapers, you know, when I was reading the newspapers and I read Alice in Wonderland endlessly, I still have an old copy that I can show you later, and it was given to my mother when she was ten years old. And so there were a few favorites like that, everybody had A Little Engine That Could, right. I don't remember being an aficionado of the library, that the schools had libraries. I can remember in high school, I'm sure, you know, we had assignments, as a matter of fact, trying to introduce us to the library. But I didn't grow up reading the hundred greatest books or anything like that.

Mary Murphy [00:56:30] Nancy Drew?

Carol Doig [00:56:30] Actually not! I was a little before that, I think.

Mary Murphy [00:56:35] I can't remember when the first ones came out yeah yeah I don't know

Carol Doig [00:56:39] I don't know, I know they were a great hit, and I just, I guess, never got very interested in that. You know, it's peculiar, I'll now read anything almost that's put in front of me. Friends recommend books or lend me books all the time, but there was no great amount of that, I would say.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:57:03] Then what's fascinating then is the double importance of the newspaper.

Carol Doig [00:57:09] Yeah.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:57:09] That that really was your...

Carol Doig [00:57:11] I think that's right.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:57:13] [Unintelligible].

Mary Murphy [00:57:17] Was there a movie theater in Ocean Grove? Did you guys go to the movie?

Carol Doig [00:57:22] In Ocean Grove? Nooo.

Mary Murphy [00:57:25] I was going to say. I was thinking, hmm, did Methodists go to the movies?

Carol Doig [00:57:29] You know, there was a time when they didn't, and I think that was my mother's time. But there was kind of a fancy one next door in Asbury Park, and it wasn't very far, and so we could go. And I can remember in later years taking my dad to whatever movie was supposed to be the big thing. And he had an ability, we always kidded him, he could have been a politician. He could fall asleep and take a nap anywhere. Took him to this fancy theater that had, you know, images of clouds on the ceiling and so forth. And before long he had his head back and he was snoring.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:58:13] Did your folks take you into New York City? Did you see the wonders of...

Carol Doig [00:58:17] Oh, yes! This would be probably a Christmas time trip, or maybe a trip with some of the friends from the church or whatever. We'd go with the friends, and it wasn't holiday time, we probably would go to a smorgasbord restaurant. That was an affordable thing. Horn and Hardarts! Where you could put money in! I was a kid, I loved that!

Mary Murphy [00:58:45] But what's the name of that?

Carol Doig [00:58:49] An automat.

Mary Murphy [00:58:50] An automat, yes. My mother talked about going to New York to go to that.

Carol Doig [00:58:54] Yeah, absolutely. And then, when I was a kid, a couple of times we went up to see the Rockettes at Christmas. And they're still trying to do that.

Mary Murphy [00:59:08] You know, I realized that we did not get your parents' full names.

Carol Doig [00:59:13] Yes I think you should have them. All right uh this was so my dad was Franklin, well everyone called him Frank uh Muller m-u-l-l e-r. And my mother was Lucie, but it's, watch out for spelling, L-U-C-I-E, because she had an aunt who said, if you've got to call her Lucie, at least spell it in the French way. And I kind of, I kind of agree. It's pretty, L, U, C, I, E. Dean.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [00:59:50] Good catch. Yes, yeah.

Mary Murphy [01:00:00] So one of the things that actually came up from Kenning when we were talking about Prairie Nocturne. This is sort of leaping ahead, but it goes with these issues of like books and movies. Were you and Ivan interested in music from at some point? Because obviously music comes into play in many of Ivan's books.

Carol Doig [01:00:21] I think he was because he would have been in the pubs of White Sulfur Springs, you know, and he was always given a nickel or more to put in the machines there and and in his quick way He knew a lot more about it than I did. But, you know, we were Pete Seeger, Joan Baez, Peter, Paul, and Mary. That was my era of folk music. And what I do now is that I can tell you where classical music stations are in several places around the country, and I get them here. And I listen to classical.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:01:09] And, and did you grow up with that in your own home?

Carol Doig [01:01:11] No, I didn't. But insofar as they could, my folks were in the choir at the church and so forth. My dad could sing pretty well, actually. And even I, as a teenager, you know, went and helped out the Methodist choir at our church and we would go around and serenade at Christmas. But that was not my strong point.

Mary Murphy [01:01:45] So have you kept in touch with any friends from that period of time growing up?

Carol Doig [01:01:50] You know, I did for a while, but then they kind of fell away. In a couple of cases, I wish they hadn't, but I think some of them were on tough times and family situations and so forth, and they didn't particularly want to talk about that or write about that. So, we very much became people of the Northwest, you know, our friends were and are here and in Montana in a few cases, and you know I'm sort of regretful and I wonder could I have done something to keep in touch with these people. To tell you the truth I think I was busy and I wasn't paying enough attention.

Mary Murphy [01:02:39] Well, when you were, so when you graduated from college, did other, did you keep up with other journalism majors who went into different lines of work?

Carol Doig [01:02:51] Yes, in a few cases, particularly my roommate, who was from western Pennsylvania, her name was Peg Walz, and she was very much a person who

was, she was kind of a radical labor person. Yeah, and she went to work at a famous newspaper, the York Gazette in York, Pennsylvania. It was a labor-oriented paper. And then later on, she went to work for UPI. She wound up down in the Caribbean as their Caribbean editor, which means she really kind of oversaw a bunch of stringers because they didn't have full-time. Then, after Ivan and I were married, we went and visited her at... In New Mexico, she was working at the University of New Mexico. What happened in that case was she died of cancer in her not quite mid-40s. So you know, you can't always keep track of people. I did keep track a few of the people also from summer. And a lot of them were fascinating kids. You know when they'd come to the summer they'd be from all over the country. They'd be there to try and figure out that they wanted to go into journalism and wonderful smart kids, 16 and 17, and maybe they wouldn't talk to their parents but they wanted to talk to us all night and we lived it. It was exhausting. It was five weeks, and I loved it. I did that four or five times. And of course, it's where I met Ivan.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:04:50] How much, when you talk about Joan Baez and Peter, Paul and Mary, how did you live the 60s? Did you live the 60s and the opposition to the Vietnam War or that whole era of civil rights? And

Carol Doig [01:05:08] Uh, yes, so... Ivan and I married in 1965, so I was out doing things before that too, and I was never what you would call an activist. I mean, I really did have the point of view of the reporter. You know, get all sides. I never have liked to say both sides, there are usually more than two sides to things. But, get the information, sort it out, figure it out. Which over the years made me more and more, I don't know if you'd say radical, but liberal as I got older. I know this doesn't fulfill the stereotype, but you can't watch what goes on in the country and Vietnam was part of that, without concluding that we've got a lot of problems and we better you know, we better get with it and so far we have not at all. And right now, you know people are worried about the cost of groceries. You better be worried about your world. Because climate is it. Climate and trying to maintain our constitutional democracy, which is I think very much in doubt right now. That's what I mean about I've gotten more and more liberal. I would say sensible. [Laughter]

Mary Murphy [01:06:52] But to follow up on Marcella, the 60s would have been such a time of interest for journalism, right? Like you were saying, all these different points of view, the stories coming out of the South, the assassinations. Did you ever want to get in on that as a news writer?

Carol Doig [01:07:13] Yes, it would have been interesting to do as a reporter, I never had a job that really took me into that. So I had to be content with watching what the really good people did and some of my classmates and some my students didn't get into it.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:07:31] Were you still in Chicago in 68?

Carol Doig [01:07:35] No, we would have been out here then. I would have just have been starting PhD studies at the University of Washington. Yeah, so yeah, so I missed that lovely summer. It's a lovely, democratic summer. [Laughter]

Mary Murphy [01:07:54] So tell us, walk us through some of that work you had after you graduated. So you mentioned going back to New Jersey and working on a paper in Asbury Park. Was that right after graduation?

Carol Doig [01:08:05] No, not right after graduation. The first one was at a little place called Wells College. It was north of Cornell in Aurora, New York, which was started by the

guy who started Wells Fargo. So there was even a Wells Fargo coach there, and there was an old inn, and it was an amazing place. Tiny college, which then was just a women's college. I think it still exists, but of course by now everything is co-ed. And that was okay for two years, but I made a good friend there and we took off after two years. She used her summer and I was migrating then from that job. I was going to find something else. And so we went to Europe. And went to Ireland. I can't believe now that I did some of the things I did when I was 25 and 26. But we bought motor scooters and we had signed up for youth hostels.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:09:16] Okay.

Carol Doig [01:09:17] And we had to learn to drive those scooters on the wrong side of the road as we looked at it. And then we would stay for 50 cents a night maybe anywhere from 35 to 65 cents a night at these hostels. And part of the deal was you brought your own sheet sack and they would give you blankets, you know, they'd take a double sheet, fold it over, sew it up at one side and that was your sheet sack. And then you would do chores to help work off your night so. And we knew that if we got up early, which we wanted to do anyhow to get out of our way, we could maybe dust the stairway. If you got up late, you might clean the johns. And so we did that. I was actually in Europe for five months, but three of those months were the fun with this one friend who then had to go back and teach. And we, you know, so you meet a lot of people in the hostels. Australians, Australians go to college and then they go around the world, that's just what they do. And the Germans, which they still do, right? You go to a US park in the west and it's full of Germans.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:10:44] And Chinese.

Carol Doig [01:10:45] Yeah, now Chinese.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:10:47] So you went all around Europe?

Carol Doig [01:10:51] Yeah, British Isles in particular, you know, Ireland to Scotland to England, it was raining so hard in June that we put our scooters on a train. [Laughter] And over to continental Europe. We did not get to Spain, we kind of, but we, you know, it was France and Italy and back up through Austria and Germany and so on. And we had a good time.

Mary Murphy [01:11:23] So what did you do when she went home?

Carol Doig [01:11:26] Well I had another friend who was another college roommate, very nice woman and she was from sort of more of an upper class place in Pennsylvania and you wouldn't catch her hosteling so she and her family, her parents came over and then we went from hosteling to three, four, and five-star hotels. I liked the hosteling better. So I came home, I remember I came home at Thanksgiving time, just before Thanksgiving, and then one of the most notable ships in the world was the U.S. United States, which I took. Now I was down in the depths somewhere, you know, I didn't have a fancy room, but you could go sit on deck in a chair even in November. And they would bring out blankets and so on, so that was quite fine, but what I wanted when I got on that ship was baked potatoes. I had so missed that. Traveling around, it was just not American style. [Laughter]

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:13:00] Did you sell your scooter when you got it?

Carol Doig [01:13:02] Yes, we made a deal, and she left earlier, but we both made the same kind of deal. You could turn them back in to the same place, I must have sent mine back because I didn't go back to Ireland, and you would get a lot of your money back.

Mary Murphy [01:13:21] Oh?

Carol Doig [01:13:21] It was very reasonable.

Mary Murphy [01:13:24] So, you know, in the later letters from your sabbatical in London, you mentioned a lot of food of going to different places. So when you were in Europe, apart from missing baked potatoes, were there certain foods that did you feel like you were an adventurous eater? Did you try different things?

Carol Doig [01:13:41] Well, you know, when you're eating off the land, as we say, what I really remember is that in France, you could buy a bottle, an empty bottle, and then from town to town you could always buy what they called ordinary wine. And I remember the wine more than the food, I don't know what that tells you.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:14:06] Architecture and churches and museums

Carol Doig [01:14:10] Oh yeah, we did some of that. I remember the weather was still bad when we were in Scotland. We were in Edinburgh. And I remember when the sun came out one day, never mind all the churches and museums and walking the mile by the castle, we went and lay down on the grass in the nearest nice park. You know, I was okay with museums, you know, and I'd like to see plays if they were available. But I'm pretty middle-brow.

Mary Murphy [01:14:55] But that was such a, I think that was a time when it was cheap to go to Europe and lots of people did it either right after college and the whole hostel. I don't think people do that as much now, you know, so it was part of that whole youth culture at the time I think.

Carol Doig [01:15:16] Well, that's an interesting idea. I'm not sure how many of us did it, you know. But I take your point in that people now, they what? Well, some people go on hiking trips. But just to go over and they buy something like a motor scooter and take off. I remember sitting down at the border of whatever country we were going to go through next. To France or a... Austria and learning how to say "hello, where is the railroad station?"

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:15:52] At least it would have been a time without the overwhelming crowds that now plague Europe.

Carol Doig [01:16:01] Plague is the right word. Yeah.

Mary Murphy [01:16:06] Did you know that you were, well what did you, did you have plans for what you were gonna do when you came home from this trip?

Carol Doig [01:16:14] I was going to go job hunting, and that's when I got a job right back in my home area. A newspaper called the Asbury Park Press, which is still around, I think, and is a pretty good paper. I always like to say that the Asbury Park Press got better after I left.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:16:36] But at some point there, you must have said, my heart is also in Chicago, that you made a conscious effort to go back to...

Carol Doig [01:16:45] Well, I was making an effort to go somewhere else for some different experience, and it was a very friendly thing when I was able to find the job in Park Ridge. By the way, that was for a big Methodist magazine that lasted a few years. It was called Together, and was distributed through the churches. But it was out of the Methodist publishing house. It was a big deal in its time. And so I got on the editorial staff there, Park Ridge is a few miles west of Evanston, which is the home of Northwestern University. So what I could do then was I could get an apartment in Evanston handy to the campus and some of the students I taught in the summer, you know, they were still in college there. And so that was the famous Thanksgiving when John Kennedy was assassinated and Ivan came up and so forth.

Mary Murphy [01:17:49] So, to go back a little bit, what kind of writing did you do for the Asbury newspaper?

Carol Doig [01:17:55] Oh, um, interesting question because when I went there with my master's degree from Northwestern, they wanted to put me in the women's department on the society pages. [Laughter] And I don't feel like I was a very aggressive person, but I as much as told them I did not go to Northwestern and get a master's degree in journalism in order to write that. So I wound up, they heard me, I'll say that for them, they hear me, and I wound up being a regular reporter and then went on the night side where I would start night side operation. I've worked from 3 to 10 or 11. And there were four or five men on the night side and so that's when we would do our work and then head for the pub around the corner. Then I would go home to dry Ocean Grove of my parents' house where I was living for a while. [Laughter]

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:19:07] Evidence in your face and voice, what you thought about that.

Carol Doig [01:19:13] So, yeah, it was a good job, actually, you know, because it was straight reporting job or editing. Sometimes there were copy disks.

Mary Murphy [01:19:27] Did they, um, I mean, was it big enough to say, oh, you covered education, or somebody else covered crime, or you were just a general reporter?

Carol Doig [01:19:34] There were beats, yeah, and I did a lot of education at one point and I liked that education beat. But other times in that tenure, I was there for several years, I would just be general assignment reporter. Never knew what was going to happen. It was kind of interesting. And that's when, you know, it occurred to me that bad days for humanity were good days for news people. Things were happening,

Mary Murphy [01:20:08] And then when you went to the Methodist magazine, what so what did it mean to be on the editorial board? What kind of work was that?

Carol Doig [01:20:18] Well, it was the work of putting out that magazine, which was a monthly. And so there was a lot of feature writing. And one notable occasion they sent me, you know, Park Ridge, Illinois, they sent me to the west coast. By this time, Ivan and I were engaged, and so he took care of my car, which was a big old Thunderbird, a large size one, and it was snowy and icy back in there, and he described having to move my car because I think you had to do that every so many days, you know. And holding on... Both

doors were iced, they wouldn't really close and lock, so we've been trying to hold on to both handles to steer with his nose. And get that doggone car to some place where it would be illegal again. But I went to the West Coast and I went to, um, I did a story about a San Diego County jail minister. You know, he worked within the jail. Strangest thing there was to hear the clanging of the doors behind you. You know. Terrible terrible sound. So there was that story and a couple of others and then one notable one out of San Francisco. There's a place there. I still think it still exists called the Glide Foundati, and it was early on ministering to the homosexual community, when that was not yet done, the Glide Foundation had some Methodist backing and the head man was a Methodist minister and that opened my eyes a few degrees. So I once went up to Cape Cod to do a story, Provincetown story, there's another one you could do about the gay community, you know, I wasn't on the gay community beat, but it came a couple of times. So that was interesting. Fortunately, after a couple of years, I married Ivan and we came out here and started it out in different directions.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:23:00] What was, while you were working for that magazine, what was the overlap in terms of faith? I mean, was it a good journalism job and you just put the faith component to one side?

Carol Doig [01:23:14] It was a general interest magazine, thank goodness, made for the community of Methodists around the country. You know, it was meant to foster, I think, that community spirit amongst the faithful, if you will, in a low-key way. It wasn't churchy, you know, and I never did really get into the churchy stuff. Ever growing up or later.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:23:44] So that you could actually do your job without feeling obligated.

Carol Doig [01:23:51] Yes, yes. Just give me my paycheck. I don't care where it comes from.

Mary Murphy [01:23:54] So how did you like, or how do I want to ask this? How would you explain, how would you describe editors you've worked with and being edited?

Carol Doig [01:24:06] Well, they come in all shapes and sizes, I can tell you that, and of course I've done some myself, but as a reporter, I just wanted somebody who would ask the right questions, make sure I was right, and to have some semblance of knowledge of style. And I had a pretty good relationship there. I can never remember any editor that I actively disliked, not as a professional. One or two I didn't like as human beings, but I could make the distinction as long as they could do the job. I could work with them. And I don't know if that's to my credit that I could do that, but I could, you know, show me your confidence and I will work for you sort of attitude.

Mary Murphy [01:25:05] Did you ever work with anybody that you felt was not treating you equally as a female journalist?

Carol Doig [01:25:14] You know, I wasn't so apt to think that, because I guess the way I'd grown up, just assuming that I can do anything, and I was a professional, and acted like a professional. And I tend to be treated like one, so I think I was lucky. But one of the people who was a summer student, who became one of my best friends over the years. She was a similar type, and she said she had a similar experience that, you know, be competent, be professional, act like it, don't fool around, and you'll get treated okay. And I know that doesn't happen everywhere or in every kind of job, but I guess I was lucky, no problem.

Mary Murphy [01:26:08] Would you have had the information to know whether you and the male journalists were getting the same wage?

Carol Doig [01:26:17] My impression was none of us were making very much. [Laughter] I didn't know. And you know, I worked, some of them, particularly on the night side, some of them were editors or had been there a longer time and obviously they would be getting more. But the couple of guys whom I worked with a lot, I have no idea.

Mary Murphy [01:26:45] It would have been hard to know.

Carol Doig [01:26:47] It would've been hard to know. And after all, I did have a master's degree from Medill, so watch out.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:26:54] Right.

Mary Murphy [01:26:58] I wanted to know if you could talk about how you got that job at the newspaper, the Summer Institute.

Carol Doig [01:27:06] Okay. The staff jobs at the Northwestern High School Journalism Institute usually went to graduate students. And my particular advisor as an undergraduate ran that program. And so, at the end of, you know, when I got my bachelor's degree. He asked me if I'd like to do it in the summer, and I said yes, thank goodness. And we were paid sort of a pittance, but it was enough. And over the years when I was working in New Jersey, they didn't need me that badly for that five weeks in the summer. And they didn't have to pay me if I wasn't there. So they were glad to let me go. Then that director took a job in Indiana University, which is another famous journalism school. And his successor, Ben Baldwin, became such a good friend of Ivan and me, he and his wife stood up at our wedding. So I sort of slid into it and said, oh, this is something I really like, and it in the eventuality turned me into a 30-year employee of Shoreline Community College.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:28:41] Right. Haha. And when in that sequence did you meet Ivan? Right from the start? Or?

Carol Doig [01:28:53] Now I had been there a few summers, maybe three. It was the summer of 1961. I know that because as we record this, last summer that class had its 60th. It was a Zoom reunion. And we were very smart staff people who came there. And usually students were going on in grad school or were taking a break before their first job or whatever. And so I enjoyed that company. And this particular summer, there was this kind of quiet fellow from Montana, Ivan Doig, and I didn't think anything of it, because I was the old lady. I've been out, working. And so when it came time, we worked, and when it came for the last blowout, we always had a big party, which we called Chicago Night Out, for the whole Institute. And there would be 108 or 110 of us, including the kids, from all over the country. And everybody was supposed to have a date. So Ivan asked me to go, and I thought, how kind of him. Nice young man. I didn't get it at all, but he just didn't care. I mean, you would think that at that age, you know, six years was a lot of difference in age. It didn't bother him. So then he went to, he went into grad school and then he went into the Air Force. He chose to go into the Air Force Reserve, six month active and six years, weekends and two weeks in the summer because he thought his folks might need the help and somebody had to get out and make some money and I think he's, he's read, written about that. Um... But, you know, then I came back, lived in Evanston and worked for that magazine. And he came out of six months and looked for a job, and he happened to get

one with a good small group of newspapers in Downstate, Illinois, so he was in Decatur. And he bought himself a little old Ford Falcon, and once in a while he'd come up. It was quite a long drive. Illinois is a big, long state, but he'd come up once in a while, and once in a while we'd go out, we'd do something in Chicago, and it was pretty good fun. It began to dawn on me. I was not too quick. [Laughter]

Mary Murphy [01:32:04] So this wasn't mad love at sight. [Laughter]

Carol Doig [01:32:09] I think maybe that's why it was so successful. We worked together and then we became friends and then we... began dating once in a while. It's a good way to go. Particularly if you've worked with somebody. We worked hard. We worked, I don't know, 12 to 16 hours a day during that five weeks. And we're always busy, always on the run, always grading something or going somewhere. So you can judge people pretty well. And mostly I like that summer staff. But once in a while, there was some fluke of a staff member who, you know, like one of the men so-called who wanted to date one of the high school students and that sort of thing. So I was convinced that having worked with him, you know he was a stand-up guy. That was no problem.

Mary Murphy [01:33:19] Uh-huh. So what kind of things did you do on date?

Carol Doig [01:33:24] Well, we went and there were a lot of jazz places down in Chicago, we did a little bit of that. We walked a lot. We ate. I had a particular favorite restaurant, Trader Vic's. And they had a particular drink, which at the time I thought was great. It was called Beachcomber's Gold, and it had rum in it, and that probably got me feeling good about the world. [Laughter] We did a lot of harmless things, you know, we might go to a museum or we might just walk around and see neighborhoods or go to the famous Maxwell Street in Chicago or there's a lot street salesmen and so forth. So we just got along, you know. We kept getting along, and so one day we were standing overlooking, it was from the old Tribune building, the Chicago Tribune, which sits over the Chicago River. And we're standing there looking over, and there was a training ship in from Norway with the cadets on it and so forth. I remember thinking... You know, out of nowhere, you know, this could get to be serious. I was having such a good time. So it was, yes.

Mary Murphy [01:35:15] So did you, so was there a moment, did Ivan ask you to marry him? Did you come to an agreement?

Carol Doig [01:35:20] Oh yes, there was, right. He was going home to make a little money, again, farming, ranching kind of job. And we'd been dating then, he was back and he'd gone to work for the Rotarian magazine, so he was around. So yes, he did ask me. Why I did this? I don't know. How careful can you be? I said could I have, because it was about to be summer, could I the summer to think it over? Why didn't I say yes? Let's go down tomorrow to the City Hall! So that's the summer. I had a former Journalism Institute student, and Jarrett was her name. She'd gone home to Texas. She had a boyfriend named Marshall Nelson. And Marshall was there waiting for Ann to come back. He had a summer job in Evanston. And I was waiting to make up my mind, although I pretty much had. And Marshall and I got to having dinner together once or twice a week, and we made a friendship that endures to this day. They live over on Bainbridge now. He became a big-deal lawyer here in town, and he was quite like Ivan in manner. Um, and, um... He was here a few months ago now, I don't see much of him, but I said to him last time I saw him, you know, I've always thought of you as my best friend. So that turned out very well all around. Marshall eventually married Anne. They have two great kids and four great grandkids.

Mary Murphy [01:37:26] And as Anne became Ivan's agent.

Carol Doig [01:37:29] Yes. Yes. As a matter of fact, yes. Good pick up on that. And she was busy with growing her family at the time. And, and she was looking for something to do. She was a good journalist too. So he thought, well, who is smart enough and swift enough to do this because he didn't have an agent? And she said, yes, anything to get away from all this motherhood.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:38:03] By the time Ivan asked you to marry, what had he told you of his dad and grandmom? How much of that of his growing up life did you have a handle on?

Carol Doig [01:38:16] Well, I didn't have a handle on This House of Sky. I mean, I knew he was a scholarship, fully a scholarship student at Northwestern, that he came from modest means in Montana, you know, that his folks were workers on ranches and that he himself worked as much as he could. So I knew the general outlines. I have not been there.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:38:46] Mm-hmm.

Carol Doig [01:38:47] I sure got there a lot afterward.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:38:49] When and did your folks meet his dad and grandma?

Carol Doig [01:38:55] At the wedding.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:38:56] At the wedding, uh-huh.

Carol Doig [01:38:58] We did that right. You know, we were out working. We were a little bit older. My parents were on the East Coast. His were in Montana. My mother said to me, oh, she'd be just fine if we wanted to come home and, you know, have the wedding at the Methodist Church. Of course, you'd have to invite all these people. And Ivan and I thought, nooo. [Laughter] So on the Northwestern campus was a theological seminary, Garrett Theological Seminary, which had a miniature European church. It held about 40 people, and there's a little balcony, and there were just a few little places. It was darling. And it was available to rent for a wedding. And so we did. And then we hand-wrote invitations to the people we wanted to be there, because we were out working, we were professionals. And we arranged that with a local hotel that we would have, you know, cake and cookies afterward. It was about what you can do in a family like mine. And we picked out the place where the... Dinner would be the night before, and we made sure that his parents did not have to pay for any of that. They paid to get out there. And it went off wonderfully. And I remember there was a woman who had worked almost forever at the Medill School of Journalism. She was kind of in charge of the office. And she was tough. And she tough to the point where when I came back from the sick leave once and I wanted to take an overload of courses, you know, to get back to speed where my parents wouldn't have to pay more money. She vetoed it. I mean she had the power to do things like that. Her name was Ms. McPherson, and we called her Ms. Mack. She became a friend, and she turned up at our wedding, and it was so nice.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:41:22] Who officiated?

Carol Doig [01:41:26] Ummm...

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:41:27] Unknown!

Carol Doig [01:41:28] Yeah, an unknown. Somebody from the seminary, I think.

Mary Murphy [01:41:32] So did your mom help you pick out a dress?

Carol Doig [01:41:38] Yes, not only that, but she got me to wear a hat.

Mary Murphy [01:41:42] I saw the pictures.

Carol Doig [01:41:43] Yes, absolutely. [Laughter] Yes, and I can't remember the whole sequence of how that happened, but she did. She got me to look like I was getting married.

Mary Murphy [01:42:01] Well, since you said that she was a good shopper and picked out really great stuff for you.

Carol Doig [01:42:09] And as I said, I think they were delighted that I finally decided to get married. Well, I was just waiting around. I didn't know I was waiting around for Ivan, but that's what was happening.

Mary Murphy [01:42:20] So what was, well, did they ever tell you what they first thought of Ivan?

Carol Doig [01:42:30] No? But I remember before they met him, because he did come back to New Jersey and meet them, an aunt and uncle of mine came by, and this was one of my mother's brothers, and I liked him very much. And apparently, in describing him to my parents who had not yet met him they described scrubbed clean, you know, he arrived looking so pristine. Well, he was not good-looking. You can say a lot for Ivan, but he was, you know, just the regular size and he didn't have a beard then and he had kind of tough-looking teeth and so this was not a handsome six-footer, right? None of that mattered at all. I was most amused when I finally got to hear about that. No, my folks liked him and they appreciated him and he was very good to them and he made sure when he started publishing books he would sign one to them personally and see that they got it and so forth. My mother did something I have never understood. Because she wrote weekly to me, right? So I get married. They like Ivan. She still continues for the rest of her life to write Dear Carol.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:44:15] What? Rather than...

Carol Doig [01:44:16] Rather than Carol and Ivan.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:44:18] Wow.

Mary Murphy [01:44:20] But you could tell from the letters that she intended that he could read them as well.

Carol Doig [01:44:28] Yeah, oh yeah! Uh, I don't know what kind of court that was.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:44:33] Interesting. Yeah. And was it Carol Doig or did she use?

Carol Doig [01:44:36] Oh yes, yeah, that was alright, sure. Yeah, it was just sort of out of kilter with everything else.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:44:44] And did you have a separate honeymoon, or was honeymoon coming to...?

Carol Doig [01:44:49] Oh, yes, we did. We flew off to Washington D.C., and it was cherry blossom time, so it was hard getting a room but somebody we knew did that for us. This will tell you about the Doigs. Our idea of a big time, spending several days in D.C. Was to go sit in on congressional hearings?

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:45:19] [Laughter] I love it!

Carol Doig [01:45:23] We went to other places too, and we walked and walked and I wore out a brand new pair of shoes. We walked so much. We went up to nice dinners and he had one of my cousins who was living there at the time went and visited his family and so forth. So we had a good time. But you know, we were that dorky.

Mary Murphy [01:45:45] Okay, here's the real test. Do you remember the content of those particular congressional hearings?

Carol Doig [01:45:57] Does anybody? [Laughter] We saw, I guess what we did was we saw how they proceeded, you know. No, I have no idea what we sat in on.

Mary Murphy [01:46:11] Well, how did you and Ivan come to write the book on the news?

Carol Doig [01:46:17] I was teaching out here, you know, beginning of my career, a couple, three years in, and I wanted to teach a little course on assessing the news. I could not find a book, and Ivan at that point was still freelancing. He had not started what I call his real career. And so I came home one day and said, yeah, I can't find a book. And we talked about it and we thought, could we write one? And as it turned out, we did. We would write separate chapters and then he would edit. When he got finished editing, I couldn't tell who had written what. He was that good an editor. But when we first got the contract, the editor we were working with came by with two sets of the contracts to sign, and we said, why two sets, and he said, for when you divorced. [Laughter] He was mock-kidding, but I can imagine that kind of thing would have happened. We were just flying together.

Mary Murphy [01:47:41] What year would that have been? Early...

Carol Doig [01:47:43] Oh, we could look and we could see, 65, 60, or 65 out here, I would think, give or take about 1970. Because it wasn't until 78 that this House of Sky came out. And yes, it was a pretty solid little book, but it had terrible cover.

Mary Murphy [01:48:14] So were there other opportunities for you and Ivan to work on a project together?

Carol Doig [01:48:22] I... No, we never did another project anywhere near like that, you know, he did some more freelance work and then he got tired of being underpaid as a freelance. He really wanted to be a freelance writer and back in the say 1930s you might

have done it for the big magazines. But he had all this education and he put a PhD in history on top of all the rest of it. And he was still not making a fair wage for what he could do. And he worked for a little magazine here, which is how he met one of his best friends out here, the author and writer and sculptor Tony Angel whose work is all over this house. The two of them thought that it was a woman from a famous family and she was really a good woman, but she had no concept of what it took to live because she was from one of the first families. So Tony and Ivan got joking about her and said they thought she was so much a skinflint that she probably darned her own stuffed [unintelligible]. So, in a way, he kind of felt forced into writing books, but he wanted to write one about his dad and he discovered it had to be about his dad and grandmother and he had to bring it somewhere too. So to what became This House of Sky. But if he'd been able to make a good freelance salary as a magazine writer, he might never have gotten to books. So that was that was the luck of it.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:50:15] He was writing poetry through those.

Carol Doig [01:50:17] In grad school.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:50:19] In grad school.

Carol Doig [01:50:21] As an outlet in grad school. He thought he wanted to teach, that's why he went and got a PhD. But academia was not for him. I think there was not enough elbow room there for him, and so he began writing a little poetry but he said, he had a few of them published. He was decent at it. But he quoted, and I forget which poet it was, as saying that a good poem closes like the lid of a well-made box. He said he didn't think he had that talent. Well again, thank goodness. If he'd been that good a writer like our friend Linda Bierds out here. MacArthur winner and all the rest. Superb! Genius of a poet. Um, well, he then thought he could have done that, why, he might have just wound up in poetry. That would have been a great loss for the literary world.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:51:36] So kind of post Washington D.C., how quickly did you begin to eye moving and again, you're thinking and coming to Seattle.

Carol Doig [01:51:48] Well, right away, we didn't think about Seattle because we didn't know where it would be. But he knew he wanted to go to grad school. He thought, first of all, he wanted to teach journalism, but he didn't think the journalism PhDs were worth the effort. And so he wanted the degree to be in history. And so pretty soon after we were married, he began applying, and he was accepted not only at the UW, but also at Duke, which had a very good reputation, and at one of the California schools, which had a good reputation too, and I preferred not to go south. I was in luck, I just didn't want to live in that culture. I was lucky that there was the UW that offered him a teaching assistantship, and we gave up two reasonably good jobs to move out here.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:53:01] And did you know what you would want to do?

Carol Doig [01:53:04] I wanted a job. It took a while to get it. I was, in a sense, overqualified, and so I worked for the Navy for a brief period of time, doing newsletters and PR for them at a big Navy base that used to be at Pier 91 on the Seattle waterfront. The only advantage to that was that I could eat at the officer's [unintelligible]. It was good. I had good lunches. Then a job came open at the old Everett Herald, as it was then. It's now called the Herald and it covers a larger territory. I went up there and again, after about a year, I was on the early desk. And I was a telegraph editor, which means I took in the AP

and UPI copy. Well it still came in by machine overnight and it would pile up and pile up and pile up at the back of the machine. And I would go in early, early in the morning and deal with all this and write, you know, tens and twenties and thirtysome headlines on deadline. They once took a, it was some kind of film of what I was doing because they were going around and trying to explain what the newspaper was like and somebody looked at it and said, Was that on extra speed? We worked like fury in the morning! And that was okay. It was giving us, Ivan was in grad school. I would commute up in our old car to Everett. There wasn't much traffic on the freeway back then. And my luck was that after a year or so there, the job came open at Shoreline Community College, which I mean took. Which I don't think I expected to be in for 30 years, but that's... When I was, and after 30 years they gave me the little clock that sits on top of my Dad's old desk. And I thought, they're right, it's time! I retired at the end of that quarter. [Laughter] I was tired. I loved the teaching, but I was tired.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:55:43] Where did you and Ivan live in those very first years when he was in grad school and you were...

Carol Doig [01:55:50] We had a rented house that was up beyond what is a big shopping area now called University Village. We lived up in a little neighborhood. It was a house that some people owned as an income property and it was pretty good for graduate living and we could do it between his assistantship. As a matter of fact, people were wondering whether they would sell the house. He had one year to go and we said, if you give us one more year's lease, we'll pay it up front. We could do that. And so we figured that was going to be much less disruptive, and then we began moving, you know, as I got a job at Shoreline Community College, we rented a house up in this Shoreline area.

Mary Murphy [01:56:53] So this has been another hour, and we've gotten to Seattle, so I think this is a good breaking point. [Laughter] That one's good. Okay. Okay. All right. So I'm going to put it this way. Change. All right. Okay, so we have gotten you to Seattle and see you were young and there's a lot more.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:57:28] But let's do the quick step back into Montana, and more of your own very first impressions of Montana.

Carol Doig [01:57:39] Oh, yes, okay. We were taking a plane that was supposed to come down in Bozeman and then go on to, I guess, Helena. Anyhow. His folks were meeting us at the second stop, and when we got to Bozeman and it was snowing, and they wouldn't let the plane off, we had to stay overnight in one of the hotels there that had been built quite a while ago. And Ivan later said, well, if he'd known the kid, the parents could just have driven to Boizeman and picked us up. And probably their little car could have got us to where we needed to go, which was Ringling. It was to Grandma's house. And Grandma's house was, it was a home, but it wasn't much of a house. And that's when I discovered that his dad had, in honor of my coming, they put in cold water instead of having to go to the well quite a distance next door. And he put on a new boardwalk to the outhouse. And I was charmed. And, of course, Grandma gave up her bed, which was... The most private room in this little dwelling, which wasn't very private anyway. And so we spent the night, had a good night's sleep, and in the morning the windows were up high. But I heard this bell, so I kind of lifted myself up to the window sill, and there was a goat coming down the road. I was more charmed. [Laughter] So, I liked it, and I've liked it ever since, you know, but it was a hard life for them. A very hard life.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [01:59:49] Did you, did they drive you around? Did you go to White Sulfur that trip or how much did you?

Carol Doig [01:59:55] We went around some, yes, and yes, they went around with us some, and then Ivan and I would take the car, and, you know, there was no place to have, there is no bathtub, no shower. There were sulfur springs around, and Ivan knew where they were. And if you could find them off the road, you know, you could paddle around for a while. It was like a fancy resort that wasn't.

Mary Murphy [02:00:28] What kind of stove did she have, do you remember?

Carol Doig [02:00:33] Oh yeah, good question. It must have been a wood stove, but I don't have a visual picture of that.

Mary Murphy [02:00:48] So, was the first time you met Ivan's father and grandma at the wedding?

Carol Doig [02:00:53] Yes.

Mary Murphy [02:00:55] So, all of the parents met for the first time there and you met all the parents? Wow.

Carol Doig [02:01:00] That's right. Yeah, wow

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:01:03] Did they, did they talk? Did they?

Carol Doig [02:01:06] I mean, you know, everybody got along fine, they didn't know each other, but everybody was amicable and pleasant.

Mary Murphy [02:01:19] So do you think that Ivan's father and grandma were as happy that he got married as your parents were that you got married?

Carol Doig [02:01:26] I suspect they were. [Laughter] Except for the fact that he'd married an older woman. I mean, I didn't get any feedback on that. And everybody was as gracious as they could be, you know, nice people all around.

Mary Murphy [02:01:46] Did you meet many of Ivan's other relatives on that trip?

Carol Doig [02:01:49] Well, yeah, I did meet some, you know, he had aunts and uncles and cousins and one aunt in particular uh made the best fried chicken everybody admitted to that and so you know I got I got a real taste of Montana food which I liked.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:02:07] What about White Sulfur's Main Street bars? Did you cruise the bars?

Carol Doig [02:02:12] Well we looked at several. It was research right? And there were still quite a number although not the same number that Ivan recorded in This House of Sky. And the town was not much. I mean Sarah had not come to town yet and given it a shot in the arm.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:02:38] And did you go from Chicago or did you fly in from here, from Seattle?

Carol Doig [02:02:46] It was from Chicago.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:02:49] But not on your way west, not on your great trip.

Carol Doig [02:02:53] No, no. That was its own discreet trip to show me Montana. I saw quite a lot of it and still at all I didn't see much of it.

Mary Murphy [02:03:04] Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Carol Doig [02:03:05] Montana's is like that.

Mary Murphy [02:03:08] Well, so grandma was a cook. That's how she helped make a living. Do you remember what her food was like?

Carol Doig [02:03:16] Um, it was pretty much ranch house food. I mean she could do a lot of things. It was, but it was like feed the crew and that's what she had done, you know, for a living and so you would not go hungry and she could, she could bake a bit. You know, it was meat and potatoes, or very often chicken, and whatever else you could find in those days in Montana, which was real different from now.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:03:56] And you would have met Shep the dog?

Carol Doig [02:03:59] I did meet, yes, I met the remaining dog.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:04:05] Dog, yeah, and maybe it wasn't Shep, yeah.

Carol Doig [02:04:08] Whichever one it was. Nice dogs. I mean, they had trained them, you know, and so no problem. I think those were dogs the way dogs were meant to be. Ivan never wanted a dog in an urban area. We never so we never had one. Said dogs need work to do and they need room to run and try that out on all the people in the Seattle area. It is a fact that in the city of Seattle there are more dogs than children. You can get those statistics.

Mary Murphy [02:04:44] I'm sure that's true in Bozeman as well, there's probably more dogs than people. Well, I think we will kind of circle around to things, but when, when you and Ivan moved out here, did he ever want to ride a horse again or go hunting or?

Carol Doig [02:05:05] Ivan didn't even want to get near a horse. He had two uncles who were killed in horse accidents. His dad was badly banged up, and Ivan wanted really no part of that, although there were photos of him on a small horse almost before he could walk. And he was no cowboy, and he couldn't see why anybody would choose to wear cowboy boots. They're the most uncomfortable things you can imagine.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:05:53] So when you did land here, and we got a little ways into that this morning, so we got you at Shoreline, what were your first teaching assignments? How did they evolve over the years?

Carol Doig [02:06:10] I was hired, and that wasn't my first job here, you know, after working for the Navy on Pier 91 and then on the old Everett Herald as I described this morning. But I was hired to do the college newspaper. Pity anybody who has that assignment. But it was a way to get in. And so I did that for a couple of years. And there

was then, when Shoreline Community College started, why a number of people came over from the public school, public high school. And one of them became, was he dean of students or something like that. And he was one of these people who thought he knew everything and knew so little it was pitiful. And he just didn't want any trouble, you know. Well, a student newspaper is always going to be trouble. So, I had a couple of uncomfortable years and then someone else was hired to teach English and journalism and I got out of that. And after that, I always had to teach some English because it was a community college and everybody had to take freshman English. But I also got to the point of teaching little semantics and the media course which I really liked. And was enough to keep me occupied for 30 years.

Mary Murphy [02:07:50] So tell us about how you came up with the idea for your sabbatical project in England.

Carol Doig [02:07:59] Ah, well I came up with it because we wanted to go to England.

Mary Murphy [02:08:05] That's all good sabbatical projects.

Carol Doig [02:08:07] And the contract we had, the faculty had at the college, there was provision for sabbaticals and you got a little more money each year up to, I don't know, six years or something. And I could see what was coming. There weren't that many people who wanted sabbaticals yet, but there were going to be, because a whole bunch of people were hired in the year I was. So I took one less than I could have gotten in pay, and took it a year early. And then we were free to roam. I mean, it wasn't big money back then, heavens knows, but we managed to do all these things. And we had a very good year. We had several months in London. We walked a lot then. And we rented the downstairs of an upstairs-downstairs, if you remember that old TV deal. Much more modest, of course, but it's what it was. It was the old servants' quarters and a very nice area, a block of old houses where, you know, prominent people had lived. And our landlords were Dutch people. He was working for an American corporation in London just then. They were very nice people, they would invite us up for ginger wine and... And so on. So yeah, boy, we liked it and we found that our favorite neighborhood restaurant was a pizzeria of all things. [Laughter]

Mary Murphy [02:10:02] So you had, so when I was looking through your file of letters, you were analyzing British journalists on American politics.

Carol Doig [02:10:15] That's right, I was.

Mary Murphy [02:10:16] And so it's not, I mean it sounded like you and Ivan had just a ton of fun reading like six papers a day, renting a television, a radio.

Carol Doig [02:10:25] Yep we did and there was a particular news program and the BBC I think it was the news at one anyhow these great British voices. Ah, and so yes we did that and they were they would read books. This is before we got into listening to books on radio here, but we did some up there and we had a thoroughly good time. We went to a lot of theater and a lot a walks along the Thames and a lot of lunches out. How did we do it? We didn't have a whole lot of money back then.

Mary Murphy [02:11:10] Well your letters did talk about how it was more expensive in London than in the United States.

Carol Doig [02:11:16] Ah okay, alright.

Mary Murphy [02:11:18] But did you, um, did you have to, was part of the sabbatical, did you have write up something? Did you have publish something after that?

Carol Doig [02:11:27] Yeah, I did. That ought to be in my file somewhere, but I don't know if it would be worth looking up in particular. It was a nicety. It wasn't like a Ph.D. Exam or anything.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:11:44] Was Ivan working on a different project, or you two worked together?

Carol Doig [02:11:48] No, he was working on a project. He thought he was working on a play.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:11:54] That's right. I forgot about that.

Carol Doig [02:11:57] And he joked afterward that he couldn't manage that because he couldn't get all those horses on stage. And so eventually that became sort of the preliminary notes for This House of Sky. So it was very useful for him to take time off from freelancing to think about what he wanted to write.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:12:22] Back at Shoreline, talk about the student population, ages and ethnicities and what the kids, what the adults were there for and if that changed over time.

Carol Doig [02:12:39] A lot of them were typical kids who had come out of high school, and either they couldn't afford to go someplace like the University of Washington, or they weren't prepared. So that was part of it. Another part of that were older students who had gone out in the world and gotten jobs they didn't like. Got their heads screwed on right, came back, they were a few years older, or in some cases I would have the occasional student, more women than men, who had raised the kids to a point where they could go back and continue their studies. Those were lovely students to have because there was a certain maturity there that I really liked. And I tried to take care of them, I remember one exam period when a student, I would let students go out to the restrooms. I mean, those were the days when I made them write in blue books. And this woman did not come back and did not come back. And I went and got her out of there. She freaked out. And I said, just come to my office after the exam is over and you will have time to finish. So, those are the rewarding things especially about the teaching.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:14:15] Were your days pretty standard or were the schedules quite different? Did you bring work home?

Carol Doig [02:14:25] Oh, yes we brought work home because there was it was always freshman English there were always papers plus the blue book exams really making the students write or whatever it was. I like to teach early we got up early anyway, so I used to joke that I got through with my teaching day before I even woke up.

Mary Murphy [02:14:49] But what was your course load?

Carol Doig [02:14:52] Well, again, community college, three classes, five days a week, but, you know, they were classes where you might teach a couple of sections of freshman

English and maybe a couple of mass media. So there's that to be said, and then when I got smarter and older they let me put a double section of mass media on, so I didn't have to go into a classroom three days, three times a day. Although I didn't really mind that, it was hard physically. I had a few faculty colleagues, I remember one man especially. He just gained enthusiasm all the way through the day. And I'd be through my day, and I'd be going, oh my gosh, there'd be office hours. And he was just roaring away. He's a different kind of metabolism. But they were good. My colleagues were mostly very good. We even had a few PhDs who for one reason or another, and some of them because they wanted to teach rather than research. And our salaries were reasonably competitive back then that they would prefer community college.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:16:22] You taught in heels and dresses too, didn't you?

Carol Doig [02:16:26] I dressed up as a way of honoring the students. I thought I'm a professional and I'm going to go in there. And by the time I was through, there were these wonderful new teachers, you know, they were in jeans. I mean, the women, they all were. It was kind of unisex. But it was in my head that I, it was part of being a professional, and I would do that. Yeah.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:16:55] Did you have that really wonderful group health right from the beginning too?

Carol Doig [02:17:00] No, we didn't need it. I didn't have anything for the first, I guess, five years. We were so healthy. And then we decided, well, maybe we really ought to do this. And group health back in those days would cost so little money and the, you know, an appointment with the doctor would be five dollars. It was wonderful. We all loved it. Preferred it, as a matter of fact, to the new medicine where we talked about, you know, you might get your 15 minutes. That's about what it is. There are ways in which I guess one could say the current medicine is better, but long time. It would be a long time coming and I will never see it when I can get another doctor like Pat Cotto who saw me and Ivan through I guess at least 25 years.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:18:02] And that was through, Shoreline [unintelligible].

Carol Doig [02:18:07] Uh, yes, that was through Shoreline and the state. Yeah. That's the way that worked.

Mary Murphy [02:18:15] Good.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:18:16] When you were talking about students, I'm going to dig in a little bit on ethnicities. To my eye in the Seattle airport, I see colors that of course don't.

Carol Doig [02:18:28] Now you do.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:18:30] Yes. So did you or was that? No.

Carol Doig [02:18:33] No, not for the beginning years. It was largely white. Occasionally there'd be a black student, and the Asians had not shown up in the numbers that they do now. Monochrome.

Mary Murphy [02:18:53] Lots of Scandinavian people, people of Scandinavian descent, like thinking about Ballard and some of the other communities.

Carol Doig [02:19:00] Oh, some of those, yeah. They were, we considered them white.

Mary Murphy [02:19:04] Yes, yes.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:19:07] Talk about your favorite colleagues because I know when you were the executor for at least one friend.

Carol Doig [02:19:17] Yes, I had an older friend for whom I did that. Nobody should have to go through it, but everybody needs one. So yes, Margaret Svec, good Scandinavian name, right? She also taught English. She was a precise little person and a good teacher. And a group of us, partly because some of us taught in the same area, but not necessarily, we had a little group that met and we pretended it was for scholarly studies. And we had this acronym that spelled out GLASS. And you can imagine, we got together in an afternoon and had a high old time. [Laughter]

Mary Murphy [02:20:21] Well, was the faculty unionized at Shoreline?

Carol Doig [02:20:25] Oh yeah, I'm still a retired member of the AFT, American Federation of Teachers. We didn't have much power because it's built into the state constitution that teachers can't strike and besides teachers don't want to strike. And so it really is all dependent on how you can relate to the higher-ups and to the board.

Mary Murphy [02:20:59] I saw in the files that you were on the negotiating committee a couple of times.

Carol Doig [02:21:05] Yeah, I was more than once.

Mary Murphy [02:21:06] Yeah. How was that?

Carol Doig [02:21:07] Well, it was better in the very early years because money was not so short, and so we got along with the president, who wanted to be popular, and therefore we got pretty good raises. But as time went on, when we said we want to be members of the AFT, then the administration said, okay, if you want to play like that, we're going to play like that too. And so what would happen is we'd come in with our position and they'd come in with a completely different one and they pretty much get what they've got, what they wanted. And it was an interesting experience, but not an entirely satisfactory one.

Mary Murphy [02:22:01] So when did you start teaching the literature of the American West class?

Carol Doig [02:22:06] That was quite late. What happened was when Ivan got to be quite well known, I was asked did I want to teach a course on his work and I said that didn't seem to me to be the way to go, but I had gotten to know a number of the writers and I could teach something a little broader than that. So I would, and you know, When the Beards of the Poet came one time, Ivan came... Time or two and whoever was around to be grabbed I tried to grab. And that was quite fun. I only did it one, I think I did it in the spring quarter and I did it a number of times on spring quarters.

Mary Murphy [02:23:00] But that was, you had another sabbatical in Arizona. Was it Arizona? It was somewhere in the Southwest.

Carol Doig [02:23:07] Ah, yes it was. Tucson, yeah.

Mary Murphy [02:23:10] To do more on Western literature.

Carol Doig [02:23:13] Yeah.

Mary Murphy [02:23:14] Or that was the-.

Carol Doig [02:23:15] So go to Tuscon.

Mary Murphy [02:23:15] Yeah, exactly. [Laughter] So, I was looking at that, at the syllabus, one of the syllabi that you had there. And so, you know, you had Ivan and Linda Bierds and Richard Hugo and Stegner. All of the class, what are now the classics. Would you, how would you teach that class now? Would you add any other different writers?

Carol Doig [02:23:42] Oh gosh, I'm so out of date now, although what I do think is that that was a good time for Western writers and Bill Kittredge was good about getting us all together. So that I wouldn't know who to pick today, whether there would be people whose work would be more interesting. More highly honed. I can hardly think that it would be more highly honed than Ivan and a couple of the others who were at work then, particularly Jim Welch, who wrote about the same geography that Ivan did, but from Native American perspective. And Ivan always said, he was so glad Jim was handling that because it was not easy to do. So, you know, I do feel that that was a particular time, but it may simply be that I lost track.

Mary Murphy [02:24:59] Mm-hmm.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:25:01] This is a domestic question again, but did Ivan do much of the cooking? I remember you both being crockpot masters.

Carol Doig [02:25:12] Yes, absolutely. He was very good about that. He was working at home and so he was happy to do that. What he worked particularly good at was the barbecue, you know, our little home grill and he did a lot of it. Weather like this, he'd be doing that a lot times a week probably. And a few times this summer it would be big burgers with Walla Walla onions and some kind of cheese on it. But most of the time it was salmon. We ate salmon whenever we could get it, which was a lot. But he was very generous. I mean, you know, he didn't mind doing that.

Mary Murphy [02:26:01] So, can you go back a little and talk more about that decision that the two of you made for you to, basically for you, to support Ivan when he decided to try and become a fiction writer.

Carol Doig [02:26:16] I don't know, did we make a decision? It just seemed to me it happened. It was the most natural thing in the world. And I did once to say to him, way back there, please don't ever take an assignment just for the money. We can get along. We're fine. And I think he heard me. Because we did know people, some of them newspaper people, who were trying to do other things but who felt that they had to, partly because maybe they had a bunch of kids that are growing up and you know they had more pressure than we did and that was part of our point. You know, we were going to put all

our energies into what we were doing, his career and my teaching. You can't do everything and you don't have money to do everything.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:27:10] And talk a little about your mutual decision not to have children and how early that conversation occurred.

Carol Doig [02:27:17] Oh, well, yeah. Well, we sort of agreed when we married that if either one of us wanted children, because we weren't that much inclined, that we would bring it up and then we would talk about it. Neither of us ever brought it up. It settled that. And, you know, we enjoyed kids, we would enjoy friends' children and so forth and so on. But we thought that was, to do it right, it is labor-intensive, in the extreme. And it would be that many things that we would not do in our chosen professional areas. So, I don't know that. I don't know what to make of that. That was our decision. I don't regret it. At this point in my life, it might be nice to have family. On the other hand, maybe those kids wouldn't have turned out so well. How can you tell?

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:28:25] And I'm remembering that, and I don't know which couple, but one of your couple friends made the same decision, that that was one of the bonds you had with friends.

Carol Doig [02:28:37] Oh, well, yeah, our friends, about half of them had kids and the other half didn't, I mean, you know, and it was okay, either way, except that while the kids were growing up it was easier to hike and do other things with those who did not have children, but that was not a big thing about it.

Mary Murphy [02:29:03] So it seems to me just, you know, hearing you talk about your life and then, well, looking at like the art around the house, that you and Ivan had a gift for friendship, that you have had lifelong friends.

Carol Doig [02:29:19] Uh-huh.

Mary Murphy [02:29:19] And you told us how you met Marshall and Anne, but tell us how you met some of the other people who have remained such long-time friends.

Carol Doig [02:29:27] Okay, I guess I did earlier at one point, or maybe yesterday, just talking to you without the machine on, Tony Angel.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:29:38] Mm-hmm.

Carol Doig [02:29:40] Because they worked as freelancers on the same local magazine. And two more different people you cannot imagine. And yet they became best friends. The Tony Big Bluff guy loves to tell stories and put on accents and dominate a room. And Ivan would never do any of that. And Tony was a practical joker. Once he called up and pretended he was Walter Cronkite. And I told him at that point, don't ever do that again, it could have been Walter Cronkite. [Laughter] So they got that settled. And yeah, and the Domburgs. Mark and Lou Domburg. And we're talking about people who are going to be here for my birthday on Sunday.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:30:43] Sunday, right.

Carol Doig [02:30:45] And Mark was an electrical engineer, and we had a mutual friend for a while, a couple who were here because he was in the journalism school, nice guy,

but he'd rather teach than research and you can't get along at the UW if you're not doing that. So, he later went to California, and I think had a very good career down there. But anyway, they had a backyard party, and a lot of us were there, and lot of us were new around Pacific Northwest, and this particular fellow had a wife who was very good-hearted and very abrupt in how she seemed to speak. And so she got hold of the two couples, who had not yet become friends, and said, you two have a lot in common, you know, you hike, you do this, you do that, you should be friends. [Laughter] And she was right. So there are, you know, several people like that. Other people who were coming to my birthday would be Linda Sullivan and her husband Jeff Sager. They now live over in Port Townsend. And she had actually been married to a former summer student at the Northwestern High School Journalism Institute, a very nice guy. And the thing was that Linda said she realized at some point that he just wasn't career-minded at all, and he wasn't going to concentrate on what might happen to them in the future, and they might wind up out on the curb later on. And so out of that, she decided, no, can't do any more with him. And she went on to a very successful career, and he about did before he died, and he died at age 70. He didn't take care of himself. I used to kid him, I'd say, you know, you took yourself down in any job you've ever had. He just didn't want to do the stuff, he wanted to do his own thing. And he was very good at doing his own things, as a matter of fact. But now there's one I probably shouldn't have on tape because, you know, she's still my friend. She's one of my best friends.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:33:36] Your Montana friends, Mike Malone and the writers of Missoula as well, may not fall in the same category.

Carol Doig [02:33:47] No, no. And, you know, our particular friends in Missoula were Jim and Lois Welch, with whom we always stayed. They were wonderful friends and Ivan enjoyed not only Jim but Richard Hugo.

Mary Murphy [02:34:05] Do you know do you recall when they all met?

Carol Doig [02:34:09] Yes, it was, we met what we called the Missoula Gang when House of Sky came out and it was 78. And they were very generous. You know, we did not live over there. Ivan had nothing to do with the University of Montana. They really took us in. I was very impressed. And that was a center where any writer could come through, I think, and in a sense be taken care of. You know, it could become part of the community, and that was wonderful period. I don't know if they're doing that or not, or whether because the University of Montana seems not to be thriving in recent years, whether there's the same spirit.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:35:10] Langs, you stayed with the Langs before we got to host you.

Carol Doig [02:35:15] Well, that's true. Bill Lang was then, he was editor.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:35:22] Montana the Magazine.

Carol Doig [02:35:23] Montana the Magazine. Yeah, and he was a historian. So there was kind of a natural, that was Mike Malone too. Ivan was greatly impressed that Mike as president of Montana State University still set aside an early hour or so every morning to do history, bless his heart. So some of it did come out of there. Oh, we got to fraternize some with the committee that put together the Last Best Place, a couple times we were out when they were meeting and that was kind of fun, we liked those people.

Mary Murphy [02:36:20] Part of that was Margaret Kingsland.

Carol Doig [02:36:23] Oh yes, Ivan been greatly admired Margaret Kingsland.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:36:29] How did your paths cross with Linda Bierds and her partner?

Carol Doig [02:36:34] Well, we once went to a poetry reading down at the UW, and they had a then semi-famous poet, whose name I can't remember right offhand. But before the famous poet, they had junior poets, so to speak, and one of them was Linda Bierds. And Ivan was very impressed listening to her, and so then she was giving a reading at Elliott Bay, and he went down and he was impressed again, he went up to her and he said, I hope you know how good you are, and then he hired her to read one of his manuscripts and to give him pointers on how to make his writing more vivid or particular. And we started seeing Linda and Sid, and became fast friends. Linda and Ivan seemed to play off each other. It was a great thing. He would like to find things she would like to write poems about, and she taught him some of the how-to of poetry. And I still see them every now and then. They live over on Bainbridge now. And they have taught, both of them have taught in the English department, and they are just now retiring. And Linda was Ivan's age, and Ivan would be, let's see, I'm 89, so he would be 83.

Mary Murphy [02:38:32] Whoa, I feel like a piker.

Carol Doig [02:38:37] And Sid, around the same age, I think I have it wrong about Linda, she's a little bit younger, but anyway they just kept going and they traveled widely besides, you know, they were, they had a lot of interests, but they were both excellent teachers and they both stayed at it for longer than many of us could imagine. I did use to tease them about their idea of a work week being two classes, two days a week.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:39:13] And you were doing three every day.

Mary Murphy [02:39:17] But you, you know, one of the charming things in your correspondence were some of the letters about your teaching and from students, and there was one in particular that really struck me. It was a student who had started to take your literature of the American West class, and at some point had dropped out, but then he wrote about how it had opened his mind to a whole other world, and he had gone on to read all of these authors. He was very turned on by Edward Abbey, but then he listed in just a sentence why a certain writer was important to him, or what it had. What impression it had made and I think it was the kind of letter any teacher would be thrilled to get.

Carol Doig [02:40:09] I'm sure, I'm sure!

Mary Murphy [02:40:12] So did you?

Carol Doig [02:40:12] I mean, how nice!

Mary Murphy [02:40:13] How nice that you got that. How did you feel about your work by the time you retired? About the impact that you had made?

Carol Doig [02:40:24] Oh, I don't think you can tell, particularly on the quarter system, you know, be this flow of students and some of them would take two or three of my classes,

but some of them I would just see once. You can't tell, there was a point where maybe 20 years had gone by and I began to get a few letters. These were people who had established careers. They wanted me to know how they were doing in life. Of course, the ones who would let you know, were doing well in life, and so you can take a bow as a teacher, then you have to wonder about all the ones who didn't check in, how are they doing?

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:41:09] Were there students who sought you out in person?

Carol Doig [02:41:13] Um, how do you mean? Students in my current classes who would...

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:41:18] But just kids who would stop by your office after they had graduated.

Carol Doig [02:41:24] Oh, there were a few who did. It didn't happen a lot, but it could happen. I wrote a lot of letters of reference, I remember that. Glad to. Kept all my grade records for years years and years, finally sorted them out and began just chucking them after I retired.

Mary Murphy [02:41:53] So were you ever, did you ever regret not stopping writing for newspapers and magazines to become a teacher?

Carol Doig [02:42:04] No. That's what the Northwestern summer students taught me, if you will. I said, yeah, this is the way to go. This is fun. Now, you didn't get the Northwestern summer experience teaching in the community college because we had in the summers five intensive weeks and very bright students from all over the country. You're not going to replicate that in a hurry. But there are still some elements of it in there. And which more direct way, I guess, of interacting with the people I really enjoyed, you know, the students who came around and wanted to learn something. Well, I'll tell you what I know, best I can. And I would always say to classes, you know, I know this, I will teach you as much of it as I can. You know a lot of things I don't know, so let's share. I would always rather have a conversation with the class than just get up and lecture. I'm thinking that's what you do.

Mary Murphy [02:43:17] I do have conversations with the class. But I also remember probably a year after I started teaching I took a class down at the Buffalo Bill Center and there were two classes with very well-respected historians, one who strictly lectured from his notes and would even step aside to another place on the floor to tell a personal story.

Carol Doig [02:43:49] Oh yeah, okay.

Mary Murphy [02:43:49] So this was the scholarship and this was a personal story. And then the other one was very interactive. And even though I had spent of course years in graduate school and being taught and working as a teaching assistant, that was the first time I consciously thought about how to teach and thought back to some of the professors I had and the one in, because this was such a stark contrast. So, did you think about the professors that you had at Medill, Medill? I always pronounce it wrong, Medill?

Carol Doig [02:44:23] As models? I don't think as models. They were different types and yet it was all of the time, I think, you know, they were there to make us perform and there were some differences within that. But it was in the summer, and there too, the staff that I

worked with. Maybe had more influence on it because you can see in small groups what these other people were doing even if they were still a graduate school level.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:44:59] Can you talk more about your mass media classes and then how that would change now in the land of MSNBC and...

Carol Doig [02:45:11] I haven't the foggiest notion how I would teach now, it has changed that much, and it seems like nobody knows how to handle what's out there now. How do you get to people who don't think when they can get onto all of these websites that do nothing but tell lies and spread controversy. Because, you know, I grew up in the old model. There was ABC and NBC and CBS, there were newspapers. So there was, there was a limit. And they were mainstream, and everybody paid attention, it seemed, if they were going to pay attention at all. But today things are all over the place and people just lie and lie and lie. Who? Donald Trump am I talking about? But that whole gang of them. They outright lie.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:46:20] Right. Yes.

Carol Doig [02:46:21] And why people believe them I don't know but that's because they didn't read News, A Consumers Guide.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:46:27] And when you were teaching, was your emphasis on how to analyze?

Carol Doig [02:46:34] Oh yes. I mean, it's not hard. You know, you've got to find, I mean there are a number of steps in this, of course, but the first thing is you you have to find trustworthy sources, but we all know how to do that. And and a lot of people today apparently do not or they wouldn't be falling for all of these terrible things that are out there. So I would be baffled. I wouldn't know how to do it. I listen to MSNBC for my major news. Nicole Wallace's show I think is very good because she brings in experts from various areas, including people who have been high in administrations. And none of them seem to have an answer to this. Even some who had been in the Trump administration and had walked away in disgust and had tried to do something better, and are still trying to do something better, they don't see either how you get to people who are willfully ignorant and who seem to enjoy being, the politest word would be negative. How do you reach these people? I don't know.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:48:05] I wonder if the class is still being taught at Shoreline.

Carol Doig [02:48:10] I don't know that either when I left, I really left.

Mary Murphy [02:48:17] Well, to circle back to Marcel, the question about friends, I don't think we talked about this on tape, but tell us a little bit about Jean Walkinshaw and how you met and how that all developed over time.

Carol Doig [02:48:32] Gladly. Jean's husband, Walt, read Winter Brothers and said to Jean, who was working at Channel Nine, our public radio station here, and she was a producer. He said, you should read this and you might want to do a program on it, and she did. Now public television being what it was, and I gather still mostly is, Jean had to get the funding for whatever she wanted to do. So she decided she wanted do it and called Ivan and we did not know the Walkinshaw. And in due time, she got the funding. They didn't spend much on productions back then. And so it was arranged that she and a

photographer would go with us to the Olympic Peninsula and go around to the places that Ivan wrote about. And of course, we did this in... In the winter, the weather was not good, and my inking on this, how I came to be a friend of Jean Walkinshaw, was when they came, she and the photographer came back in the pouring rain from the end of the earth out there. I had gone to our old Buick and opened the trunk and I took out our little camp stove and I brought along black cherry jello and brandy. And I went back and I conjured up these nice warm drinks for them and they were so impressed that I've been a friend of Jean's ever since. [Laughter] That's not the whole story, but if you want to know about Jean Walkinshaw, you can look up both Ivan and Jean on Wikipedia, of course, but there is also a quite wonderful, more local link out here, and it's called HistoryLink, one word, historylink.org. There's a piece on Jean and one on Ivan, the one on Iván. It was done by a woman whom I don't know, she just went and did it, and it's a real job. She couldn't have been paid enough because I don't think they pay people a whole lot. The two of them, Jean and Ivan, have had their own impacts in their own ways, because Jean did thirty-some programs for Channel 9 here about ordinary, so-called ordinary people who weren't ordinary at all. She has quite a background, and she's a remarkable person. She came up from a prominent family in Tacoma. After World War II, the first thing she did was to volunteer for a peace mission to Japan.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:52:08] Wow.

Carol Doig [02:52:10] And they went over and helped rebuild some of what had been destroyed. She, she's still kind of interested in that, she's anti-nuclear, you know, we've got this big nuclear facility, the Navy does, over across the water here, and she's done many, many things that her memory has been great. I mean, she can go back, I mean I've checked her on this. Over on the Olympic Peninsula. She can name the names of the places she went as a kid with her sisters when they were all growing up where her dad, who was a civil engineer, was building the road out to the Olympic Peninsula. He had one section of it, and there was a time when they had to take a boat to get to that section, and it sounded wonderful. Well, you know, I checked her data on that because she was just reeling it off, and she was absolutely... And just right about every bit of it, spot on. And she would come like you have come with notes and notes and notes, right? And so it's I guess not surprising that she had all the outtakes that she provided for what is now in the archive. And she still lives on her own in a big house in Capitol Hill. Her three children and more than that grandchildren and now some beyond that. It's kind of a big wonderful family and they see to her. And she is in an old house, it does take some upkeep, and she's trying to decide, should she do anything about that? Well, at age 96, I think she just ought to keep living in her house. As long as she wants.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:54:27] This is, I know we'll go back to friends again, but to your camping and hiking, were those weekend trips did you actually, did you also take a week or two and go out? I, it was, you're talking about Jello and Brandy.

Carol Doig [02:54:48] I guess the longest hiking camping trip we ever did was actually in the Bob when we went into the DeFoyer side. And took several days to do that. More usually we would go in a weekend or maybe three days, not long ones, but they didn't have to be long ones. I mean we've got all of this within easy range around here and again it was... In a time before it got nearly as crowded as it is now. Because one of the real problems now of the people overseeing the campsites is the poop detail, you know, it's just too many people in too little space.

Mary Murphy [02:55:41] My in-laws, who were very proud Northwesterners, were extremely proud of their low REI membership numbers.

Carol Doig [02:55:50] Oh, right, I wish I had my old card. I had one of those. [Laughter] Absolutely. You can go in and, you know, the young, as little as ten years ago, you could take one of these old cards in, and the people working at REI would say, whoa.

Mary Murphy [02:56:12] I think that must be like a secret Northwestern club, you know, those of low REI members.

Carol Doig [02:56:17] I don't know what happened to my card. We had one, and I haven't been able to find it. Alas, alas.

Mary Murphy [02:56:25] So, you know, I was thinking about when you were talking about Jean and following Ivan around the Olympic Peninsula in regard to Winter Brothers, were you, did you go on research trips with him for that book?

Carol Doig [02:56:40] Mainly no, I was teaching and he was following the day-by-day journals of Swan. So no, not unless it just came in one of my breaks and then I might go out for a bit. Kept him well busy for the whole winter, I will say.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:57:06] When you did go camping, hiking on your own, Ivan continued his diary. Was it the movement, was it the joy of seeing, or were those ever research trips?

Carol Doig [02:57:23] Hiking and camping trips, those were just for the fun of seeing the northwest and being out in the territory, which was, for somebody who grew up in New Jersey, it was just great to be out. Of course it was nothing new for Ivan, he'd been maybe in all too much, solitary in Montana but but this was such a different area, you know.

Mary Murphy [02:57:55] You know, I know a million people have probably said this about how intimately he writes about the landscapes of Montana in all of the novels and works to get that geography correct. Yes. And what about here? Did he have that passion to learn the Pacific Northwest geography or was it different because it was sort of pleasure versus work?

Carol Doig [02:58:22] Uh, yeah, it wasn't mainly what he was writing about except for the Sea Runners and the Swan Book. I don't think he looked at it in the same way, you know, it wasn't where his professional focus was, and in a sense it could be more fun here because he didn't have to work at it. Now, I didn't go back into his diaries to check and see what he may have written about some of these trips. You haven't either? Well, my goodness Mary! [Laughter]

Mary Murphy [02:59:03] I'm putting it on my list.

Carol Doig [02:59:05] Yeah, you do that.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [02:59:12] Just, I'm thinking how much you both understand climate and plants and, I mean, Ivan's gardening, but you remain, I mean the table in the living room with your bird book and your, that you remain students of this place.

Carol Doig [02:59:33] Yeah, I don't consider myself so much a student as someone who dabbles about but really enjoys it. If I get serious and want to know what something is, I ask Tony.

Mary Murphy [02:59:48] Did you and Ivan like maps?

Carol Doig [02:59:52] I liked maps, yeah, I think he thought maps were okay, but I thought they were sort of one of the wonders of the world.

Mary Murphy [03:00:00] When did they start becoming really interesting to you?

Carol Doig [03:00:04] Oh, I think when we moved out here, you know, here is, here's the territory. Let's see what we can see in the first couple of years we were out here. We would just drive around the state of Washington just to see what does it look like. So I don't know, do you like maps?

Mary Murphy [03:00:28] I do. And Dale loves maps. So our house is full of maps. And I once took a seminar at the Newbury Library on cartography, the history of cartography. But I do, I think maps have that romance of, you know, capturing an adventure, trying to figure out more than one way of going someplace, kind of like a writer, right? How do you get to the end of your book. You have many paths.

Carol Doig [03:00:58] Or somebody who simply likes to travel. How about you, Marcella? You've got a lot of places. Do you love the map part of it?

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:01:04] I love the map part of it especially after. I'm not very good ahead of travel to scope to picture it on the ground but once I've been there then I really want to see relationships and and I would love I rarely have a window seat but I ended up taking a window seat. That's not how Meredith set it up. I mean, why have I always huddled so much on the aisle?

Carol Doig [03:01:36] Because you can get to the john.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:01:38] I know, that's it. Because, because yeah, that just flying over land has been wonderful to see relationships. And that was true in Montana in my work to be able to, you know, the helicopter trips every now and then to see it.

Carol Doig [03:01:57] Right. Oh, I always get a thrill of flying over to Montana, you know, as soon as the Rockies come into view.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:02:05] What about urban Seattle? Did you love being in urban Seattle.

Carol Doig [03:02:10] Yeah, we did, but it wasn't nearly as urban.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:02:14] Oh, that's right.

Carol Doig [03:02:18] It was more Boeing's town, it was more a working class town, in other words. And yeah, we loved going around. Now it's much richer in a lot of cultural ways, and I think if we were young again we would certainly enjoy it probably as much as we ever did, but it's really another era.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:02:44] You've taken me to the Museum of Seattle History and the places you already knew that you...

Carol Doig [03:02:55] Right, yeah. We enjoyed the city, I think we did, and its restaurants, its plays, its museums, and a lot of walking.

Mary Murphy [03:03:06] Pike Street Market.

Carol Doig [03:03:08] Yes, absolutely. I haven't, because I don't walk very well these days, I have not even seen the front of Pike Place, you know, because they re-did a lot of it. And I would love to. I guess it's a great hit, nice place. But the old market was fun too.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:03:33] I'm thinking of the gift you gave Ivan's grandma of taking her to the World's Fair in a wheelchair.

Carol Doig [03:03:41] Oh, that was in Spokane.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:03:42] Oh, okay, yes, but someone needs to offer you that for Pike.

Carol Doig [03:03:48] Oh!

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:03:50] Where you can go to the head of the line.

Carol Doig [03:03:52] Yeah, well, I now do that when I get on airplanes, which is very often.

Mary Murphy [03:04:01] Well, this also was a good area for independent bookstores. Yeah. Do you want to talk about some of those that were your and Ivan's favorites and the literary community, maybe?

Carol Doig [03:04:16] The first one that we patronized a lot was U Bookstore, as it was then, which was I think much more literary than it is now. And the next one would have been Elliott Bay and its old housing downtown, Pioneer Square and so forth. And And we liked the new one, too, up on Capitol Hill. Ivan did a couple of readings there while he was still active. So there was all that. There's a favorite one in Edmonds, where I don't think I'll take you to the bookstore, but we'll go to Edmonds tomorrow and look around. And it's a nice, crowded, because there's a lot of books and not that much room. And it has had a lot of longevity. The last owners have just sold off to one of their employees. And she's very good. And people take care of that store. A lot of us pitched in to make sure they were all right during COVID.

Mary Murphy [03:05:36] I saw that you pitched in with giving a couple of Ivan's books.

Carol Doig [03:05:42] Yes, they did, in fact. And we want to. And a lot of people in town here, I know several younger women in their 50s, mainly, who will make a point of buying what they need here. And Edmonds Bookshop was very smart during COVID in that one of their, well the husband of the then owner who had been a publisher and was retired, he would bring books, he'd call up, he would order something and I would say, are you still delivering? Yes. And very often I would have a book within three hours. So those, and there were good bookstores, and still are, I think, in Bellingham and a few other notable

places, Eagle Harbor over on Bainbridge. This is a good area for independent bookstores, and I think they are appreciated.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:06:58] And and you have friends in Montana independent bookstores.

Carol Doig [03:07:04] Well, we made friends, and yeah, I mean, it's, you know, we even literally would put Ivan's new book in the back of the car when he began to build a reputation, because if the bookstore ran out during a signing, which could happen, we could replenish him and keep selling books.

Mary Murphy [03:07:27] Well, I remember at the Doig Symposium, Ivan's editor from New York talking about Ivan as being the most business savvy author that she'd ever worked with.

Carol Doig [03:07:39] Yes, and the article in Montana magazine, she ran that, as she said, ran it through the typewriter again, the old phrase. And it is an excellent article on their relationship and how she found working with him. It's one of my favorite articles about how he... Proceeded as a true professional.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:08:10] So turn loose in Country Bookshelf or the Edmonds Bookstore. What do you buy for yourself?

Carol Doig [03:08:21] You know, I never had to buy much because I would just pick from the armload of books that Ivan would bring home. [Laughter] So, what I have been doing, interestingly, I'll read the occasional new book. You know, *A Gentleman in Moscow* was a favorite, but I usually catch up with things a few years after they've come out. I've been doing a lot of re-reading. I am still a child of World War II, I like some of the history that comes out of World War II and there are still books around here that Ivan bought that I haven't read and I try some of them and I just don't get it. He would buy things because he wanted to see how an author puts words together. And some of those I don't find fascinating, but others I do. So part of the answer to that is that Ivan left me with such a wealth of books, I don't have to buy a lot of them. I more or less buy books for other people, for Christmas presents and so on, and you know we know a couple of our friends the Davids, David Williams and David Laskin are authors, and they do a good job, and I gave a number of copies of David Williams' latest book. Which is just standing up on the bookshelf over there. I gave a number of those as Christmas presents last year, you know. So that's the kind of thing. But I don't run into a bookstore very often, or why very many at a time, for myself. I don't really have to.

Mary Murphy [03:10:18] When you were talking about Ivan's work process, and still down on his bookshelves are lots of books about writing, would you ever talk about how what he was learning about the writing process could be used in your writing classes.

Carol Doig [03:10:39] He was about 35 steps above what I taught in my writing class. I mean, I don't know how sophisticated you can get with writing, but he was always learning. And so I could. I once in a while would take in a paragraph that he had written and break it down for students, that sort of thing. But I would also take it from other writers. And I think in that way it's fair to say, yeah, I did use some of it. But mostly, we always talked about things, but we didn't talk a lot about process. Now and then we did, and he'd want my opinion, and usually when he'd give me a chunk of manuscript to read, he'd ask me to figure out how it moved. You know, was it proceeding fast enough? Probably the most

help I ever was to him in Last Bus, where he got in this dilemma of, you know, the nasty aunt and her card games.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:11:56] Right, yes.

Carol Doig [03:11:58] And he got all consumed by telling the reader, you know, how to play cards. And one useful Sunday I remember that he asked me to read some pages because he needed to cut it down. And I said, Ivan, the reader doesn't know how to, doesn't have to know how to play canasta. The kid didn't know either, that's part of the plot.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:12:36] Right, yeah.

Carol Doig [03:12:37] And so I exed out quite a bunch of stuff and he accepted that but that's as much as I ever did. Usually he would, it's only sort of a joke when I would say over the years when I was asked this question that I would read what he wrote and I would say that's nice dear keep going. Because by the time I saw us something, it would have been publisher, publishable. He would go back and he would make it better, but that was beyond the scope that I could do. I mean, I'm a decent writer, but he was something else.

Mary Murphy [03:13:17] I wondered if he showed you more in those last four books after he got sick, did you feel like there was more for you to do then or did that really make much of a difference?

Carol Doig [03:13:35] It didn't make much of a difference except about the card game, you know, in the last book. And even then, he was definitely at charge, and he was still playing with words. A friend, David Laskin, who lives in his neighborhood, came down and edited with him within a couple days of his dying. And the book was then in galleys, in proof. And it was always the words, you know, he said time and time again, it's always the words.

Mary Murphy [03:14:16] We've been going for more than an hour. Wanna stop? Or keep going? It's ten to four.

Carol Doig [03:14:23] Ten to four, how much more do you plan to do with this? I want us to take tomorrow off maybe.

Mary Murphy [03:14:29] Okay, well maybe we could do one early thing in the morning.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:14:34] A morning.

Mary Murphy [03:14:35] Because Jan and Jodi had some questions coming from the archive. Or at some other point. Or we could be done.

Carol Doig [03:14:48] Yeah, no, it's alright, but I didn't expect the questions from Jan and Jodie.

Mary Murphy [03:14:52] Oh, well, you know, we were talking about, um, I went up to talk to Jan, because of course originally she had hoped to come, and she knows the archive better than anybody else.

Carol Doig [03:15:05] She does!

Mary Murphy [03:15:06] She is now the world's expert on Ivan.

Carol Doig [03:15:08] Yes, she is. I agree with you.

Mary Murphy [03:15:12] And, um. And so, so let's just continue then, if you're okay with that. And you had mentioned, I think that she's very interested in the relationship that you had through your respective diaries or journals. And you mentioned earlier today that Ivan had asked you to start keeping a diary. So when was that and why did he want you to keep it and how did that all come about?

Carol Doig [03:15:43] Oh, wow. Could I have a break of about five minutes? [Laughter]

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:15:51] So that you can do a good job with the next people.

Mary Murphy [03:15:53] This is the, you are my last oral history interview. I'm retiring. Let's see.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:16:00] We'll see how successful you are.

Mary Murphy [03:16:02] I know. My department chair says, Mary's just fake retiring. [Laughter]

Carol Doig [03:16:11] Well, you can say no to things now.

Mary Murphy [03:16:13] Yes, exactly. I did just say no yesterday to giving a talk, and somebody had said something about volunteering. I said, my door is closed for six months, maybe a year.

Carol Doig [03:16:30] Well, and you also said, you know, what a big job it is to oversee graduate students, and you don't have to do that.

Mary Murphy [03:16:38] Exactly. That's going to be, make a lot of time. Yeah, yeah. Okay, so keeping a diary. Tell us how that all came about.

Carol Doig [03:16:54] Ivan had long been keeping a diary, and after he got past the kid stage of trying to have one page cover five years when he said about all you could put down was what the weather was and got into serious diarying as an adult, it wasn't every day, even he didn't do every day was when he had a chance. As he got into his career and got better known and we went more places, I think he felt that if I had another point of view, or if when we went on one of the fabulous Paul Allen cruises or something like that, which he liked to document, he just got a big kick out of that, that I would be hearing some things that he was not. And I would have maybe a different perspective and would I start keeping a diary and so I agreed I would and it was also episodic and I didn't think I was particularly good at it but I was willing to pitch in. That was what we did in our lives. We pitched in for each other. And so there it is, and it will eventually go to the archive. I don't think you found much of mine in there, did you? No, I've got it. And as I said, I quit at the end of 2015. I figured I'd said all I had to say by then. So it isn't a natural thing for me to do. Writing a news story is natural. Writing what I'm going to teach in class next day is natural, but that was not particularly. It wasn't anything I was particularly drawn to. But you will eventually see.

Mary Murphy [03:19:14] Well, so what happened after you both had written in your diaries? Would you?

Carol Doig [03:19:20] Nothing! Our diaries were on bookshelves, and they were available to each other any time either one of us wanted to, but we didn't habitually read what the other person wrote. You seem strange, but you know if there's some reason we wanted to or wanted to check notes, fine. But it was just real easy, you know, okay, yeah, you wanted me to, I do, so you know. And have at it if you want. [Laughter]

Mary Murphy [03:19:57] So yeah, I guess I was thinking you gave the example of the Paul Allen cruise, and you must have treated just in conversation your perceptions of people.

Carol Doig [03:20:06] Oh yeah, oh yeah. Those were rich times because there'd be people from all over. And we hung out with the librarians, because unfortunately, his mother, who was still up and going and his dad was a librarian, and his mother Faye Allen, was very well read in Western American lit, and I wouldn't give her full credit for that, because she really knows what she's doing. And our friend Betty Mayfield. Um, worked as Paul Allen's personal librarian, um, and actually was kind of a pal with his mother too for quite a long time. They would go down to Salvation Army, they would go all over looking for gems of books. They had a lot of fun. And then what happened in that case was that Paul wanted more people doing more things, he wanted, you know, he wanted movies, and he wanted other things invented that he could look at wherever he happened to be in the world. And so she oversaw a staff of, I think it was ten, before she quit. She said that wasn't primarily what she wanted to do, and meanwhile his mother had developed dementia, and so was not working very well anymore. It's a... It was quite an era that she was there. Then she went on. She went on, I'll see her Sunday too, and she went to be a consultant to the zillionaires. She's worked for a lot of people who are just super famous, and she always has to sign a document that says she won't tell. But they all seem to want libraries. Isn't that interesting? Now, the Allens were book people. That was legit. But they wanted libraries, and they wanted the same library in every house and boat. And so she would get to go to London or wherever Paul was buying property now and oversee the library there. And they wanted, seems to me the deal was they wanted to have the same library, having books in the same places so that they could reach wherever they were. They could reach for the book that they wanted. I mean you can't imagine living like this.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:23:02] This is a different kind of question that I didn't even put down. It always when I tell people there when I told people though I was coming out here and my long-standing friendship with you and Ivan and I described you to others, part of what I always say is you mastered through the years being Ivan's most gracious gatekeeper in that you.

Carol Doig [03:23:34] I wasn't always gracious. [Laughter]

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:23:38] That business of realizing that there were a lot of people that wanted to see him or wanted both of you and to find ways to make them feel good and still get Ivan home for a nap. Was that a conscious conversation with Ivan? How did you develop that skill?

Carol Doig [03:24:02] I just think I looked over what would happen at readings or events and people were generally very nice and I really didn't have to do much about it. Once in a while someone would come by, and this was more often male than female for whatever reason, who were just fervent about talking to him and would just sop up time. And I

remember once in Kalispell inviting one of these men on a walk and I took them on a long walk. [Laughter] I mean, you know, he's busy selling books, that's his business! And he's only, Ivan was the ultimate gracious person, as you know, about talking with people. And he was really interested, because people would come by and they'd tell him little stories. And that was all good for him, good for a storyteller to hear all that. But the occasional pest, that was my specialty.

Mary Murphy [03:25:09] Years of teaching no doubt helped you.

Carol Doig [03:25:11] That could be too, yes.

Mary Murphy [03:25:14] But that man was probably thrilled. He probably told everybody, I went on the long walk with Carol Doig.

Carol Doig [03:25:19] He got the idea after a while, I didn't really hide it. I hope he learned a lesson and behaved better with writers in the future.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:25:35] Did you actually think through beforehand the range of things you could say?

Carol Doig [03:25:42] No, I just decided to listen to him, but I kept saying, mm-hmm, mm, mm. And after you do that for enough blocks, even he got it. But there was very little of that really. People liked Ivan, and he liked them. And it was good in both directions, I think. He did get ideas for things he was trying to write. From talking to some of these people.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:26:15] But you did protect his time.

Carol Doig [03:26:19] When I had to. Absolutely, why wouldn't I?

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:26:26] He was lucky to have you in doing that.

Carol Doig [03:26:31] Yeah, I mean, nice a guy as he was, he also had a stainless steel spine, he knew what he was up to, and he wanted to do it. He was exacting in how he worked, and I was glad to help, whatever way I could.

Mary Murphy [03:26:49] When you, so what year did you retire? Oh, it's on the clock.

Carol Doig [03:26:56] On the clock, the end of 97, I think that was.

Mary Murphy [03:27:00] So did you and Ivan have to adjust your patterns here in the house?

Carol Doig [03:27:08] It's a big house. So we didn't have to adjust much. I had to adjust some when I wasn't teaching, simply because I wasn't teaching, which is something I liked to do. But we were not a noisy household, we went about our own interests. Came up at five o'clock every day and we'd have a drink in front of the window or whatever. We really just always made room for what the other person was doing. And there was not even a fuss about it, and in a house this size, there shouldn't be.

Mary Murphy [03:28:03] I think that COVID tested some of people's abilities, a sort of almost pre-retirement thing. I know for us, I felt like. This is like what it's going to be later. And I think as a teacher too, you know, we do a lot. You come home, you have your

papers, you do a lot. I was lucky I didn't have to be on campus every day, so I had that. But I think we all have our little routines and sometimes, you know, when there's a big shift, you just wonder if then there has to be some recalibration.

Carol Doig [03:28:40] We were so well calibrated, I do not know why we were, with our different upbringing. But we were. We didn't get in each other's way. We were supportive of each other. We talked things over, but we weren't talking. I mean, Ivan was in his head a lot of the time. And I could tell even when I was around for lunch, he'd come up for lunch. I could tell when he was in the middle of somethin. He was thinking leave the man alone so I would so it was just a remarkably happy relationship.

Mary Murphy [03:29:25] Would you do anything special to celebrate the publication of a book?

Carol Doig [03:29:31] Oh, we'd probably be in a bookstore.

Mary Murphy [03:29:36] But when you got the first copy, when Ivan got the first copy.

Carol Doig [03:29:39] Oh, yeah. We would look it over and make sure we liked the look of it, you know, when everything had been done right. And once in a while I would do something special. There's, of all things, one of Tony's sculptures of a snake in the living room there. And I gave him that, and I can't even remember for which book. I gave him that for one of the books he finished. And so we would do something like that once in a while. And uh... I don't know. You know, we never had an argument. Never wanted to have an argument, neither one of us grew up wanting any part of that. And we didn't. We figured we're adults. If we disagree about something, which we rarely did, we could talk about it, but we've had the same instincts toward money, you know, toward socializing, toward almost anything that came up. There's no reason that should have been, but it happened. It was a lightning strike.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:30:59] One of the routines that you and Ivan had for so many years, was that morning walk. Was that, did you talk on that? Was that?

Carol Doig [03:31:11] No, we did not talk on that because he was thinking about his day's work, and we would get from our other little house, although we did the same routine here, it was just we started from a different spot than we had before, but part way along we would come out to a street where there was a hill, and he said he could tell that about halfway up that hill, some idea for the day would come to him, and then he'd come home and get to work on it. But it must have been something, you know, physical? Physiological? I don't know what it was, but he could kind of count on it. I was not about to talk to him when he was, when he had all that in his head. And I think one of the things was, probably my greatest gift to him was leaving him alone to be creative when I knew he wanted to be. I don't know what he would have done with a talking wife. [Laughter]

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:32:24] That's the title of your book! [Laughter]

Carol Doig [03:32:24] I don't know, it was great chemistry.

Mary Murphy [03:32:33] Yeah. So did you have a lot of parties here? Did you like to have friends over dinner?

Carol Doig [03:32:41] Well, we did have parties, but again, during the week, generally not, and we seldom went out during the weeks because Ivan said he would come home, go to bed, and replay all the conversation, and this was not very good for work. But we were the ones who started Thanksgiving, you know, we would always host Thanksgiving, and this was long before we were in this house. In the little house, sometimes people would be spilling out. But that was fine, everybody comes, everybody brings something, we'll do the turkey. One year the power went out and it took moving that turkey to three different households to find a neighborhood where power was on, but we got it done. And yeah, and Sunday, you know, these are people whom we introduced to each other. And we didn't know we were doing it. We didn't just say, oh, we're going to do all this, you know, but it just naturally came out of the people we saw and invited. And I'm sort of, you know, I sort of love it that on my 89th birthday these people I've known for Ages and ages and ages, who became such good friends? We'll come back, and yeah, we pretty much introduce them to each other.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:34:17] I mean, that did, at least to me, always seem like that dichotomy that you guys could both concentrate and then when you want to host people, you're focused, both of you, focused on that event and those people and, um...

Carol Doig [03:34:36] I think that's probably fair, and it just kind of came naturally, if something like that can come naturally.

Mary Murphy [03:34:50] But where you are, I mean, thinking about that, okay, you know, I'm gonna stop after this, okay? Were your parents, did they entertain? Did you have neighbors for supper or friends?

Carol Doig [03:35:05] Not so much neighbors, but again the church was the community and particularly through the depression years, that's where they found their friends. And they would do things that didn't cost money, you know, like for example have a progressive dinner where everybody would go from house to house and everybody would prepare one dish. And I think that was kind of a lovely way to get through a tough period of time. Or there would be some event, again when I was a small kid this was mainly, but some men at the church. When I was very little they put on some production and I was supposed to get up and sing and that was a bad idea. I got up and I just stared. It was very embarrassing for them, but they shouldn't have put me up there in the first place. I was the least likely person to become a teacher at that moment.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:36:11] Maybe we should say this one, but I want to know when you gently pushed the church clear out of your life.

Carol Doig [03:36:23] Well, when Ivan and I went to college, we each, separately, because we didn't know each other then, sort of halfway tried. Maybe the families would like it, you know, there was a Lutheran church in town that he and his folks went to, in White Sulfur, I guess that was. I tried a little bit to see what was going on with the Methodists, but I was just sort of past it. Even though I went to work at that one point for the Methodist Publishing House, it wasn't a churchy job as such. And I think we learned the lessons. We learned what anyone should, and we didn't feel enclosed by our religion. And by the time we moved out here, I looked up when we decided to come to Seattle, and I found out that Seattle was the, raked as the least churchy place in the country. Church is great out of doors. We're going hiking. It's Sunday. That's pretty much what we did. So, you know, none of our friends are very churchy. Some grew up Catholic, more or less. Some grew up Jewish, more or less. They're all over the place, and it doesn't come up,

except if somebody's talking about what their family's doing. And that's good. I mean, we've really expanded our horizon by a lot, which seems like a lot of people might benefit from these days.

Mary Murphy [03:38:23] It was new territory for both of you coming here.

Carol Doig [03:38:28] Yes, it was. I can still remember. We drove out, you know, across country, and we got to the state of Washington, oh boy. So we stopped and we picked up maps and so forth. But then the real thing was when we came over the Cascades and looked down on what we were coming to and we thought, whoa, this looks like we could put up with this. But a lot of us migrated to the West somehow or other, right?

Mary Murphy [03:39:04] Yeah, Montana lost a good portion of its population at during the war. You know people enlisted or came out here to work and they didn't go back.

Carol Doig [03:39:16] Well, yeah, that was the jobs.

Mary Murphy [03:39:20] Water, and green, and no drought.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:39:24] And less winter.

Mary Murphy [03:39:25] Yeah. Yeah, all those things.

Carol Doig [03:39:28] So you helped to repopulate. [Laughter]

Mary Murphy [03:39:39] Okay, we'll call it a day. I'm going to get this one a little right. Okay we're good. Okay. Yep, all the red lights are in the right place.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:40:25] Do we need to tell the machine that this is Thursday? That we're starting? This is Thursday the 21st of July and we're beginning again. So back and forward a little bit, Carol. Given Ivan's writing we know so much about or we know quite a bit about his dad and grandma. So while you, after you moved out here. What were your parents doing? How often did you go back to see them? What were their lives like?

Carol Doig [03:41:00] Oh, okay. Well, they still live back on the East Coast, Ocean Grove, New Jersey. And we would ritually visit, I will put it that way, you know, that at Christmas time, one Christmas we would go to New Jersey, the next Christmas we'd go to Montana. And in the summer my folks would come out here and there was always this negotiation with my dad about what were we going to do and how long was this going to be and so forth which is right down his alley because by now he's retired. And so usually they'd come out here something like a week to 10 days and when they were still young enough to be really mobile, we would go to some place, maybe we drive down to California or maybe we'd drive up to Canada and see a National Park or whatever. So we had some good years doing that and I think that was fun for them.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:42:07] And then talk about the transition and when and why they came here to live.

Carol Doig [03:42:12] Oh yes, okay. Well, back in New Jersey, when people retired, if they went anywhere besides where they were, it would be Florida. And my mother had all these circles of friends, you know, and went to Florida. And her best friend, Hazel, had lived there for some years and came up back to New Jersey in the summer. So I tried to

encourage them to go to Florida. Ivan and I could fly to Florida, which we did a couple of Christmases, actually, before my dad of retirement. And they weren't buying it. They thought that they would rather be out here with me. Well, we didn't have the living quarters. We had a little house that simply could not hold parents, and they were not eager to impose on us either. But there was a Methodist-related retirement place between Seattle and Tacoma out here. And so on one of their visits we took them down there, and they seemed to like it. My mother, meanwhile, was... not physically well. She had some sort of heart condition. It turned out that they thought it came from a childhood disease. But she was still on her feet, and Dad was in good shape. He was singing to her. So they signed up for that. There was supposed to be a physical exam and so forth, and so my dad said to the people at this retirement place, you know, let us know if there's any problem because of my mother's health. They didn't hear anything, so they put all their stuff on a moving van and came out, and then, on arrival, found out that the Methodist retirement place wouldn't take them because of my mother's health. So here we are in this little house that Ivan had down in the woods, with these parents afloat and their furniture afloat, and what were we going to do? Well, I got in my car and I started going to all the places within reach. I mean, this is red light emergency, right? We wanted them to have a place that they would like. You know, I would go into these, I did some of this solo, you know, when Ivan was working on his writing and the folks were doing whatever they did at the moment, I'd forget what we did with them. But I wonder, you could almost tell when you walked in the door of one of these places, whether it might fit or not. And after a lot of looking around, although it didn't take very long, it couldn't, we didn't have the time, you know, have to get these people's furniture in somewhere, we finally found a nice one across the lake, and it was one where they could rent. When they could have, it was small by apartment standards, but it had a big sort of living area bedroom and a kitchen bath, that sort of thing. They wound up enjoying the place, and I learned to commute to the east side. I was still teaching, so, you know, usually it was once a week. And then once a week, for a while, after they moved out here on a Saturday, say, they would come visit us in our little house. It worked out quite well because they liked the other people who were around. But what a scramble. And then my dad had to find out about Northwest and the Innis Arden area in particular. And we know that we're not on a grid system. So, my New Jersey-born-bred father, who was still driving. The first time he decided he would take a shortcut and go around the block, he went miles and miles and took him a great long time to get home. They finally did. Anyway, they adjusted far better than I thought they would, and Dad, who claimed he didn't much like fish at all, decided after he moved down here that he did. And he proved very flexible. I was really proud of him. And so, they were out here between two and three years when my mother died, and then he stayed on over there, and we were in Montana, actually, when Dad died. It was a hard situation. We didn't know that was coming. But it worked out better than their daughter thought it would. So that was good.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:47:47] What year, you know, roughly when they came out?

Carol Doig [03:47:52] Oh, I've got that and I can get it. It was sort of interim. I wasn't looking at dates very much at all, but let me see if I can figure it out here. It would have been mid-80s.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:48:12] And then your dad would have lived til 1990 or so.

Carol Doig [03:48:18] Before 1990, maybe 1887 or so, yeah.

Mary Murphy [03:48:29] So did they drive out?

Carol Doig [03:48:32] No, they flew.

Mary Murphy [03:48:33] They flew. And then he got a car here when he was here.

Carol Doig [03:48:36] He had the car brought out, driven out, or whatever one did, and it was a big old Chevy. He liked the real stuff. [Laughter]

Mary Murphy [03:48:53] Well, when you and Ivan would go back to New Jersey for Christmas, did you mostly just stay around the house or did you guys go on little explorations?

Carol Doig [03:49:03] We would go out. It was a chance for them to get out, too. First time I took Ivan back there after we announced we were going to get married, we had, it was summer and so it was picnic time and we decided we would go drive out west in New Jersey and we'd wind up at Princeton. It wasn't very far from where my folks lived, and Ivan with his usual sense of humor. We got to Princeton, and Ivan turned to me with a straight face and said, Is this still New Jersey? [Laughter] So... He took it all very well.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:49:50] And I don't hear a New Jersey twang in your voice at all.

Carol Doig [03:49:54] Well, thank you very much. It was interesting in my family. My dad sounded almost like he was from Brooklyn. I mean, he wasn't, but he had the New Jersey accent. My mother, who grew up, what, 12 or 14 blocks from where he did, had a perfectly normal American accent. Yeah, it was just a difference in the families, I think. [Phone ringing] I want to do something with this phone.

Mary Murphy [03:50:24] Okay

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:50:27] In that same vein, Carol, you know, Ivan talks about bringing grandma and his dad here, but how did, how often, and the longest spells, and how did you, how did that affect your life?

Carol Doig [03:50:44] Well, yes. To get them away from the toughest weather, and his dad was well into emphysema, and there was a year when we had them out for the winter. And it was a long, long time ago, because we were still living in a rented house down in the U District, which suggests that Ivan was still in grad school. Um, and, uh... He knew he had to keep Grandma busy. Grandma was a worker. She was not happy unless she was doing something. So one of the things he often did, this was way back when he was still freelancing, he would save a batch of newspapers where he wanted certain feature stories and so forth cut out. Well, he wouldn't cut them out himself. He'd leave his file and give Grandma something to do. And then, nearby, he found something I didn't know existed. He found a sewing room, which was just perfect for her because she was social. She could get along with everybody, and she liked to get the news. She was not a reader, primarily. She could read, but she would much prefer just talking to people. So we got through the winter fine. His dad didn't do much because he couldn't do much, emphysema being a terrible disease. But he was patient. He was a nice man and he was a smart man. He didn't have a chance at higher education. They were folks who worked hard all their lives for very little come back. There did come a point where, I remember, Grandma could get a little bit from Social Security, but for years and years she could not. It was just expanded at some point so that people who had been things like Ranch Cooks could have

a little bit to deal with. Um, so... That's how we got by. His dad was still driving at that point, and so it would come over the freeway and when they got into the westerns, to the eastern suburbs, they would give us a call and we would go out and meet them and Ivan would drive their car back. We did what we could, you know, it was difficult for his dad. It was hard, I really liked him a lot.

Mary Murphy [03:53:36] Was he much of a reader? When he came, did he?

Carol Doig [03:53:44] He wasn't a reader in the sense that we usually think of it, but you know, he could read newspapers and magazines and this and that. They were people who never, not only didn't have the formal education, but didn't have the opportunity, mostly. They were working, you know. And I imagine that when they got done a busy day's work, they were not too lively in terms of staying up late hours like some of the rest of us do and reading.

Mary Murphy [03:54:22] Well, I was just wondering when he was out here and couldn't really get around or do much. Did he watch television?

Carol Doig [03:54:35] He would watch some television. And we would always have papers around, magazines and that sort of thing.

Mary Murphy [03:54:43] And was that when grandma would make quilts? Did she make quilting at the sewing room?

Carol Doig [03:54:48] No, it wasn't that formal out here. She did the older quilt making back in Montana, and boy she made a lot of them, and she would make them out of whatever material was at hand. So I've never had one wear out, but you can imagine there were different kinds of materials in that. It wasn't if you bought a craft quilt.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:55:17] Right.

Carol Doig [03:55:18] It would be all the same stuff. I learned a lot from those people, you know, because I had never learned, never known people who had to get along the way they did.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:55:32] And were you cooking at that point, pretty much for everyone?

Carol Doig [03:55:38] Well, that's an interesting question, was I? You know, Ivan always pitched in and Grandma would pitch in. You know that's something she could do. Let grandma do something. Keep her busy. And I was working. I would have been working part of that time at the old Everett Herald.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:56:02] Which would have had been a drive for you to...

Carol Doig [03:56:04] Yeah, but the freeway. I would go very early in the morning and do my job in the newsroom while we worked toward deadline. And then I'd come home by mid-afternoon and there was no sweat really. Gasoline was cheap too.

Mary Murphy [03:56:26] Was grandma an affectionate person?

Carol Doig [03:56:30] Yes, and she loved pets. She'd shoo them away sometimes, and their dogs were mainly outdoor dogs. But she would scold them and feed them at the same time. Kind of sweet affection, and yeah, she was a good people person, I think.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:56:58] Was she a hugger, that kind of thing?

Carol Doig [03:57:01] Not necessarily. I mean, I think she probably could, but I don't remember getting many hugs from Grandma. I remember many good conversations with her.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:57:14] Was that a point at which Ivan was beginning to interview them for what would be This House?

Carol Doig [03:57:24] He did a lot of that in Montana, when we would go out there. And he probably did a little bit of it out here, but mainly on site. I guess historians know that's a good idea, right?

Marcella Sherfy Walter [03:57:46] That's why we're here.

Mary Murphy [03:57:47] Well, you know, just because of what we were talking about earlier and that a lot of this happened in the time frame when he was in graduate school, even though Ivan decided not to pursue an academic career, did he enjoy graduate school?

Carol Doig [03:58:03] Not particularly. He enjoyed certain professors, and Richard White and some of the rest of his classmates, he did enjoy that. He said it gave him a chance to do three years worth of reading, but he didn't like the academic rigmarole. It just didn't fit the kind of mind he had. And that's why he said he started writing poetry, it's kind of a relief from the academic routine. So it was worth pursuing, never hurt him, although he wrote his dissertation on an early pioneer out here, John J. McGilvra, and he said later on, he thought that was kind of a waste of time. But by then he was publishing books and so of course what he meant was that didn't turn into something that he could call major work. He didn't like wasting anything. I mean, you know, I've been asked a few times, did he leave any manuscripts in the drawer? No! When he started a manuscript, he finished it and it was published.

Mary Murphy [03:59:24] Well, Carol, you know that I love Winter Brothers. So when does do you remember when Ivan discovered Swan's journals?

Carol Doig [03:59:33] In graduate school. It's probably the most, the most useful thing he did in graduate school.

Mary Murphy [03:59:37] Right, but he didn't he didn't choose to write his dissertation on Swan.

Carol Doig [03:59:43] No, I think that he found out about Swan after he and his major professor decided what he was going to do. And his major professor, as a matter of fact, wanted him to do his dissertation on one of the Native American reservations in Washington. And so Ivan went and he looked at what was in the archive about that reservation. He came home shaking his head, saying it would take years, and he kept looking. And so he basically picked John J. McGilvra because it was handleable, you know, he was a very practical guy. And and so it turned out I think graduate school did him

a great favor and then it made him realize that in good faith he had thought he wanted to teach but he didn't really want to be in academia. So now he could go do something else.

Mary Murphy [04:00:54] Do you think that spending all of that time with Swan's journals made him think about his diary keeping?

Carol Doig [04:01:07] Interesting question. It could have influenced him. I never heard him say anything particular about that, but he clearly loved tracing Swan's life, which is, I think, what shows up.

Mary Murphy [04:01:27] Mm-hmm. Yeah. I always thought, what a historian's dream to find a run of diaries like that and then be in the place where you could trace it and have that cross-century connection. It was a very inspiring book for me to read as a young historian.

Carol Doig [04:01:50] That's great! I'm so glad!

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:01:58] Photography, Carol, new topic. Was that always a love of yours? Did it come from journalism? Was it a hobby as a kid?

Carol Doig [04:02:08] Well, yes, when I got into high school, somebody gave me a camera, I guess my folks, probably. And I started taking pictures, and it was fun. And you know, as I mentioned before, I did take news photography when I got to college. I have a practical side too, and what I knew was to be a really good photographer, at least back then, before iPhones, you had to know an awful lot, and experiment, and really learn your craft, and you had to learn the lighting, and the composition, and so on and so forth. And I was more essentially a writer, although I had numerous photos printed, both in my magazine work and in the newspaper work, but leave it to the experts. That's what I finally concluded.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:03:21] But you kept right on with the photography in Montana when you visited.

Carol Doig [04:03:27] Oh, sure. Ivan would point to something and say, shoot around on that, would you? Because it was the days before you could take an iPhone and just move it in a circle. But yes, he had me doing inspiring things like railroad tracks and piles of rocks. [Laughter] Sometimes things more interesting than that. So I kidded him a lot about that. But essentially I was taking whatever shots he wanted so that he could come back here and recreate whatever he needed for his writing. And that's how he created the town of Gros Ventre. I mean, we rode around and picked out the creamery in Choteau and the bar on the highline where the neon woman kicks her leg in the air, you know, and banks, which often had, were on a corner and had an entryway. Took on a slant, I guess you would say, and various other buildings, churches, and whatever was needed in a town. So I thought that was a cool way to develop a town. Take the most interesting things out of each one.

Mary Murphy [04:05:00] Well, what about when you were back here? Did you take photographs of the landscape or when you were hiking?

Carol Doig [04:05:09] I did take some, yeah, and they're somewhere in the archives, part of the old collection of slides actually. I mean, you couldn't not, even I though I wasn't very

active in photography at that point, but it was a thrilling landscape to us, Ivan from Montana and me from back east.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:05:38] In a world where photography was more useful, have we missed other, the word doesn't fit you, but hobbies or passions that you like to pursue beyond working?

Carol Doig [04:05:56] Um Yeah, mainly we did like to be out in the Northwest, you know, which we both loved at first sight, I think, and never lost our affection from. I'm not a hobbyist at all, as you know. Probably to my detriment, now that I'm so old, maybe I couldn't use something to do. Interestingly enough... Neither Ivan nor I like to go and play party games kinds of things, you know, ones that would display our knowledge in particular. Ivan didn't like to show off that way and he said, I work with words all day long, I don't need to do that in my spare time. So he would much rather sit and simply talk to friends, which is more less what we did. Nothing fancy. We really were sort of honed in on what we were doing professionally. For good and ill, I guess. Certainly for good in terms of Ivan's work. He didn't have as much time as he should have had, but he used every bit of time straight at the object.

Mary Murphy [04:07:21] So we had talked yesterday a little bit about the 60s and working in the 70s and I wondered how, what you, when did you become aware of a feminist movement and did you identify with that?

Carol Doig [04:07:40] Well the interesting thing is because of my dad and because of how I grew up and he always treated me as an adult and an equal and didn't recognize any gender differences, a lot of that just went right over my head. And I wasn't feeling that I was held back in my profession. And so, lucky me, you know, I didn't feel put upon and I was, of course, I was all for equality. I just assumed equality.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:08:20] Mm-hmm.

Carol Doig [04:08:23] And I guess that is pretty naive, but that's how it was.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:08:31] You and Ivan, at least I'm remembering in the last 15 years or so, really began devoting interest to conservation, environmental causes, the nature conservancy. When did that begin, what prompted it the most?

Carol Doig [04:08:53] Well, when did it become obvious that the world was hurting, I guess, as part of what's involved there? And part of it, I think, comes out of Ivan's background of living in Montana and recognizing what the country needed. Am I coming out here from New Jersey? I might have said conservation, what was that, because back there it was so urban. So I think our sensitivity to that sharpened and sharpened as we moved out here. I don't recognize any particular event that tipped us over. It just seemed reasonable to us that you had to take care of the land. And the way we did that, it is an interesting question because how come we got so involved with the Conservancy as we did?

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:09:58] Mm-hmm

Carol Doig [04:09:59] Part of it was Tony Angel. He was very much involved in the Washington Conservancy at the time, and as we moved back and forth to Montana, Ivan and I both got interested in the Montana Conservancy and what they were doing on the

East Front. They were then running their ranch, you know, where you could go and stay, and Ivan did one of those events for them one summer, one week. And that felt right to us. We don't want condos up against the East Front, thank you. And the interesting thing that we found was that neither did the ranchers. And so I think the Montana Conservancy has done a good job of forging alliances with the landowners, even with the, there's a fancy gun club up there and they've cooperated.

Mary Murphy [04:11:07] The Boone and Crockett club.

Carol Doig [04:11:08] Yeah, the Boone and Crockett club. And everybody involved there, it's a wide array of people, they all want to take care of the land, they none of them want to see it urbanized. And it seems to me in that area, from what I can gather, it has worked very well.

Mary Murphy [04:11:33] Were you and Ivan joiners? Like-

Carol Doig [04:11:37] No! [Laughter] We definitely were in [unintelligible]. We've got time for that. But he was very willing to pitch in for the conservancy work. He gave talks, and we once in a while wrote a letter or whatever we could do on that. But it's a pejorative genre. It's okay. Some people like to do that. That's fine. But again, our focus was just so sharp on what we intended.

Mary Murphy [04:12:26] So we know from well before this interview that you and Ivan were dogged workers. Would you ever take a vacation just for the sake of a vacation?

Carol Doig [04:12:39] Yes, we would. As a matter of fact, he indulged me greatly, enjoyed it too, but before I would start an academic year, one of the things I would do would be to wash the car and get things tidied up. But in the week or ten days before I had to go back to work, what I wanted to do was to go down to the Oregon coast. And so for numerous years we did that. We just took off. We started off camping and hiking and generally taking time off, would you believe? And then when we got a little older, we would deign to hire a cabin or whatever in the Cannon Beach area. And he was gracious about it because, you know, he wasn't a guy who'd go sit in the sun and, you know, it just, he said it gave him freckles and made him itch. But he loved the coast as I did, so Oregon Coast Parks are a national gem. So we would do things like that. We took a big trip around the West when we first got our Honda CRV, visiting people. As far east as the Denver area, and then going to the southwest and seeing friends down there. So it was possible. I mean, we would do that. That was the kind of enrichment. I would say that's the kind we preferred. We weren't hobby people or game people as such, but we liked to go around and see country, see friends.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:14:39] Was your trip to New Zealand or Australia work or play?

Carol Doig [04:14:44] Mmm. Well, that was play. What happened was that Ivan got a call one day from someone in the State Department saying that they had this overseas tour, country to country, in this case, author to author. So you would go to a country and they would pair you with a national author and you would tour around a lot. And Ivan said, well, where do you want me to go? The fellow on the other end said exactly what he should have. He said, where you want to go. And so it was our chance to go to Australia and New Zealand and they paired us with Morris Shadbolt who was, I don't know if he's still alive, I don't think he is, but he was a New Zealand writer of great skill and a nice guy. And so We

went around. That tour took us somewhere in the area of 10, 12 days. It was supposed to be spring then in Australia and New Zealand. Well, New Zealand it definitely wasn't. Ivan and the U.S. State Department woman who greeted us at one place snuck out and bought me a hat and gloves. We flew around, that's how you get around down there, and we came into the South Island in New Zealand and looked down from a landing, you know, in a flight pattern to land. And we saw sheep down below. How cute! We got down a little lower and we could see that it wasn't very cute. Those sheep were on their backs with their legs up. They were frozen. I mean, you know, it was not nice weather at all. What a beautiful land. We loved New Zealand. Australia, a very different country. Interesting though, you know, Sydney, a real big city place, and we went all the way to the West Coast and Perth, stopping all the way to meet other writers. In Australia, we didn't have a Morris Shadbolt, but at every stop, you'd know there would be the diplomats, there would be the writers, there'd be dinners, and so on. So, it was very different kind of thing for us to do, and kind of a trip of a lifetime, and there are writers who I think specialize in going overseas and doing things like that, but the State Department quit doing it, and I don't know that that's ever been picked up.

Mary Murphy [04:18:03] So when was this? Do you remember?

Carol Doig [04:18:07] Let's see, this was, I could look at my passport and tell you, I can't tell you off-hand. But I was well into teaching, so it was sort of in our middle years.

Mary Murphy [04:18:23] Can I go back to the ocean for a minute?

Carol Doig [04:18:26] Oh, sure! I'd love to go back to the ocean.

Mary Murphy [04:18:29] I was gonna say! Tell us a little bit about your love of the ocean and Ivan coming from a landlocked place how he embraced the ocean. Did you swim in the ocean ever?

Carol Doig [04:18:44] We had back east. We thought that was great. You know, the Atlantic and the beaches and so forth. I got out here and I thought, this is really ocean out here. When you look from this house, you know, we're looking out over salt water of Puget Sound and we're looking out toward the Olympics and if you go out to the Olympic Coast you see islands and it's all very interesting. Back there it was the beach and it was the water. Ta-da, all the way out as far as you could see. And so after I got out here any time I go back and say, eh you know, there's not much here, is there. Except during World War II when I was a kid, and there were submarines, there were German submarines off that coast, and the way we could tell that they had gotten shipping was that the beaches... Had tar patches on them from the ships that had been sunk. So I can remember as a kid having to check my feet before my mother would let me in the house after I'd been to the beach, you know, if there were any tar on it, why we'd have turpentine or something to take them off with. So it's kind of a strange thing. I mean, I've always liked the ocean. But thank goodness I didn't do it the other way around. If I'd started out here and gone back east, I really would have been disappointed. But that was swimmable, you know. Yeah, that was reasonably warm water, quite warm in the summer. And so out here, I was never really a swimmer in the Pacific. We were hikers out here. That would do fine.

Mary Murphy [04:20:43] And how did Ivan approach the ocean?

Carol Doig [04:20:47] He once wrote a little piece, when he was still freelancing, saying that it reminded him of the wheat fields inland, and he liked it. He really thrived, I think, out here.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:21:08] Even after the scare, This House ends with that place where Ivan almost gets pulled under.

Carol Doig [04:21:21] Oh yes, Ellen Creek out on the Olympic Peninsula, where a friend whose daughter is coming to visit me next week, both he and his wife have died now, but it was John Roden who pulled him out of the Pacific when he got caught in an undertow. We were just trying to get across a creek that looked harmless. And John went first and he went up Ellen Creek a bit and went over, and Ivan apparently didn't go up quite far enough and got caught in an undertow. And then as he tried to get in from that, the next crash of waves would come. The undertow would take him back out again. And it didn't... Take many minutes maybe, but it was a lifetime. It was sincerely a lifetime if John had not pulled him out there would not have been Ivan Doig the writer because it was before he had started writing books.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:22:31] Were you watching that?

Carol Doig [04:22:33] Yeah, his wife Jean and I were watching and I can remember we both went headlong across that creek. We didn't really, Jean was a good swimmer, but if you get caught in an undertow, that's too bad, but we made it all right. But we thought, you know, we're going to risk this, you know, let's try and get him out of there. John did get him out.

Mary Murphy [04:22:58] Wow, yeah.

Carol Doig [04:22:59] That was quite a day because there was that, and then the first thing Ivan did was to ask us when we got him back in the car and dried off. How did we react? What happened? Explain it. No, as we did it, they took notes. I mean, it was not yet a book record. Yeah, it is! I mean this will give you some idea. And we got ourselves into a hotel in the little town of Forks on the Olympic Peninsula, and everybody was in pretty good shape by then. Ivan wasn't damaged in any way, he was just soaking wet by the time I got him out. So we got this two-room unit and had supper and so forth. In honor of what he'd been through that day, Jane and John gave us the main bedroom. And Ivan went in there, and the window was stuck shut, and Ivan, you know, hit it as you sometimes do, put his hand through the glass, after which the Doigs went to bed. It was a little early, but that was enough of a day. Again, he didn't get injured, but he must have been a little off in how he did that. He did not manage to hit the frame, just went through the glass. Memorable day.

Mary Murphy [04:24:42] Well, how did, I mean, I know that this is in some of the, in the later medical journals when Ivan got sick, but, but you know, as you had said yesterday, growing up, being injured, doing ranch work, you know most of the people he knew did hard physical labor and their bodies bore the marks of that. How did that make him think about his body before he got the cancer?

Carol Doig [04:25:09] He took very good care of himself. He exercised. He was a jogger for a while. He went and did regular checkups. He was careful. He was careful in a lot of ways, and that was one of them. He was trying to... He was trying to preserve his physical self so he could do the other things he wanted, which is one of the tragedies. He would

have been good, I think, into his 90s easily. He had said he thought he could write books, at least 150 books. He never ran out of ideas. You know, there are writers, Stegner included, who look for topics for books. Well, not Ivan. When he got started on his Montana books, he could extend that apparently creatively into the long future. He wasn't worried about any of that.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:26:20] In the last years, Carol, as Ivan's disease progressed, who did you turn to for support when you became a...

Carol Doig [04:26:33] Ivan I guess, I mean we did it together, and we didn't say much to most people, I forget when we told you.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:26:47] After Dave died, it would have been a year or so after Dave died.

Carol Doig [04:26:58] And so, you know, he didn't really want word to get around the publishing world, because it does change the relationship, and he was still working full-bore. From the time he began treatment for multiple myeloma until he died, it was eight years and three months. And it was only in the last six months that after we had been on a very successful trip with you, Marcella, into Yellowstone and down to the Tetons, that was for a book. That was for part of his research for Last Bus. And so he did well for most of that time and you didn't know how much time he was going to have, but that's when he wrote either a note or a diary entry where he said he'd looked up about multiple myeloma and it said inevitably fatal. And then he added, but so is life. True, true.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:28:12] When you told me, you asked me not to tell anyone else, so I didn't, but at some point obviously the Laskans and maybe Marshall.

Carol Doig [04:28:24] Yes, there were a few people around here, a sort of real core group of people that he didn't tell. And then, you know, they might check. We'd check with each other when we saw each other, you know, about how are things going, how are you doing, and he'd report and then we'd go on to other things. So it was not something that he wanted to dwell on. He wanted to keep doing what he was doing and see our friends as we'd always seen our friends. Which we did, yeah, I think that was very successful.

Mary Murphy [04:29:05] So when you talk about, you know, Ivan doing what he was doing, I was thinking, or was wondering as I was rereading some stuff recently, what did Ivan want his readers to get from his books? Did he ever talk about that?

Carol Doig [04:29:23] He wanted them to have a good read, a good story. Obviously, there are lessons to be learned about how people lived and how people, his idea of how people should live, like the aging Jick giving his ranch to the Conservancy because his daughters didn't want to do that. So, you could extract some of that, but he never wanted to write sermons. He was very clear that he was writing stories, that he was dealing with language. He wanted people to appreciate the language, appreciate the story.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:30:15] Do you feel that any of the female characters in his book came from you?

Carol Doig [04:30:21] No. [Laughter] He might differ!

Mary Murphy [04:30:25] Do you want to qualify that a little bit? [Laughter] A few characteristics?

Carol Doig [04:30:32] He had said, okay, I'll take maybe part of that back, because he said that he was surrounded by strong women all his life, you know, his mother, his grandmother, and on and on there. And so maybe I had a bit part of, of that, but uh... You know what he'd do. He had his little notebooks all the time and anywhere we'd go, he'd be taking notes or putting down what somebody had said, or how they looked, or just all of that. He made his characters up, and I think he got a little tired of answering the question. First of all, about his protagonist. Was that you? No, it's fiction. I made it up! He would say that in a more sophisticated way, but he would like to be recognized for his skill in putting fictional characters together.

Mary Murphy [04:31:46] So, I know you've said about how sometimes he would ask you to read a few pages and you'd say, go ahead, that sounds good dear, but did you ever discuss like the development of a character or the storyline?

Carol Doig [04:32:04] Generally speaking, he always wanted me to comment on whether the storyline was going promptly enough. I suppose there were a few times when he would particularly single out a character as to what I thought about it, but I don't have any vivid memories of that. It was just sort of overall, how's this moving? What else did I see? If I saw a character I thought was not fully developed enough, I would certainly say so, but generally speaking. As I've said before, by the time I saw a section of pages, it was pretty well developed. He didn't let loose. I would sit very quietly and wait for the next batch and hope it was soon. I've been grading papers or doing something like that. I really wanted to see some of his.

Mary Murphy [04:33:18] Well, you mentioned that Linda Bierd's read some of his work or he hadn't read, and we know David Laskan did, and Marcella did for Last Bus. Were there other people he trusted to read and give him comments?

Carol Doig [04:33:33] Once in a while he would have a particular manuscript where some friend, Ann McCartney, another friend in Bellingham, for example, read through one book and he was very pleased with what she had to say. No big group. Uh, he didn't historically do that, if I can put it that way. When he wound up with Becky Saletan as his editor, the two of them could do it all. You know, they were both good readers, good editors. And I used to kid him and say he and Becky, in three minutes on the phone, could substitute for half a dozen or more emails. In those days, I was doing emails when he thought he needed them, because he would prefer the phone always, and he was right, particularly with Becky. They just did a great job that way.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:34:46] Did you, um, were you more engaged with Ivan on the business side? I mean, you clearly, I mean you guys both had good advice for me. So you obviously knew the ins and outs.

Carol Doig [04:35:01] We were both interested in the business side, and we would go to a big convention, for example. I remember one in San Francisco, the American Booksellers Association, many years ago. And writers might meet together or they might be looking for famous editors or whatever that was. Ivan and I would be looking to be the marketing people. We were interested in the business and the sales people, you know, tell us how this works, tell us what we can do to help the book along. And he said of the Montana writers, the one who was most interested in talking business with them was the poet

Richard Hugo. Dick really kind of got it. You've got to get into the process and see what you can do. It's nice to meet other writers. He did, we did. We did enough of that, but we never lost track of the business side of it. If you're going to write books and you want people to read them, you better get out there and help them. I think Becky says some of that in the piece that she wrote from the speech she gave.

Mary Murphy [04:36:36] Right yeah yeah and did so do you recall any ways in which you and Ivan gave good suggestions to the marketing people or were you sort of figuring out-

Carol Doig [04:36:51] Well, yeah, Ivan could tell them. I mean, we knew the bookstores in the West, in Montana and Washington for sure. If there was a new book wrap, or if there was a marketing person who wasn't particularly familiar with this area, we could certainly help them out. And downstairs, among the records, it was kind of Rolodex he used down there, and there's a whole section about bookstores. And not only the name and who ran them and the phone number, but a little bit about their specializations and so forth. This goes back to his saying, you didn't see why you couldn't be both a poet and a clerk at the same time. Take care of the business side too. It's interesting. The book business is small, but very interesting.

Mary Murphy [04:37:59] Did he, were the presses that he worked with willing to take his input on what covers should look like?

Carol Doig [04:38:09] No. [Laughter]

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:38:13] Or you're in.

Carol Doig [04:38:18] Well, you know, they would ask, and it depended, more or less, but the publishing houses used to hire artists to do covers, and sometimes you would like what they would do and sometimes you would not, but for example This House of Sky became a very successful cover and won some awards, that sort of thing. Then it migrated into photo coverage, really, which is what's on Last Bus and some of those last books. Publishing houses saved some money by not hiring the artists, and we thought that was a real loss, but that was an economic measure more than anything else. And then, it depended on what editor you were working with and the way the publishing house worked, whether you could have input on other books. He didn't do too badly. We never had a cover, again, as bad as on the little news book we wrote. I can say that. And some of the covers were just spectacularly good, so it was a generally positive message. But unless you're a super famous bestseller, you can't get into the contract, a clause that says you get to choose a cover. And so... And you just had to count on the individuals working with it.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:40:19] And actually, I thought another version of the question.

Mary Murphy [04:40:23] I guess I was just thinking in terms of our discussion about, you know, paying attention to the business. If Ivan was interested in seeing his books adapted in other forms, so there's the...

Carol Doig [04:40:37] Ivan was interested in the theater and it was long-standing. When he was an undergraduate at Northwestern, his idea of taking a break from studying was to wander over to the speech building and watch them rehearse whatever was on next at that time and maybe still, I'm not sure. The speech department at Northwestern, the theater people in particular, were top-rate, well-known. And for whatever reason, and I don't know... Quite what got Ivan interested, but he liked to do that. If you go back even further

in high school, there's a photo of him from the little town of Dupuyer, which you may have seen, where they were putting on some crazy play and his landlady had a mustache penciled on. She was playing one of the male parts because they didn't have enough men. And he got a big kick out of that. He wasn't afraid to do it. He was not afraid to go anywhere and pretty much do anything. I mean he wasn't, he was not a person that I ever knew to be embarrassed. He was so even about it, he wasn't worried about his ego in that way, he just took things as they came. I thought it was quite remarkable.

Mary Murphy [04:42:26] That's a great gift. Yeah. Well, he wanted, you said he was in the broadcast journalism track, and I remember, well, I think about looking at the manuscript pages of talks he gave where he would make marks about when to raise his voice or give this inflection. Was that, did he see himself or... Want to be on radio or TV before he switched to writing when he was thinking about broadcasts.

Carol Doig [04:42:59] Well, he always said he wanted to be the next generation from Walter Cronkite when he was in school, you know he would be a real broadcast news journalist is what he aspired to until he grew out of it.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:43:17] I kind of know this, Carol, but for the record, one of the later questions is, can you just walk us through a whole day's rituals, maybe within the last ten years?

Carol Doig [04:43:35] Typical work day, is that what you're after?

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:43:38] Or just the whole day, but what did an ordinary Tuesday look like?

Mary Murphy [04:43:43] Look like for both for both of you.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:43:46] Uh-huh right.

Carol Doig [04:43:47] Yeah, well, mine was quite different after I retired, and I've been retired a long time by now. So, okay, I'll take a typical day after I was retired. Ivan would get up very early, you know, maybe as early as 4:30, depending on what he was thinking about. He liked to write early and did. So he'd get up, not bothering me, get his breakfast, make his pot of coffee, he would never let me buy a fancy coffee maker, but he wanted something that smelled like coffee and looked like coffee, and he'd have about a cup and a half of that and then he'd go downstairs and work. And when he knew it was my turn to wake up he'd come upstairs, he'd make me a cup of tea, he would come in the bedroom with a cup of tea and the New York Times, which would have been delivered, and he was that kind of guy. He was just wonderful. He spoiled me, and I loved it. So then, I would get and do my thing, whatever I was doing today, and he would be downstairs. He would be downstairs working, and he would quit by 11:30 or so. He'd been up so long by then, and we'd have lunch, which would be a simple thing, you know, maybe soup and half a sandwich or whatever it would be, and then we might take a little time off for a nap. We can both do that. And in the afternoon, if he hadn't gotten his words, he'd go back until he had made the quota. By the way, the thing we thought was best about Steinbeck is he wouldn't let himself go fishing until he got the exact number of words he wanted. It was the most professional thing we could think of about it. And so he would either finish the day's words or he would go to the other aspects, the business aspects, you know, write the letters. If he had phone calls he had to make he do that then and attend to the others sorts of things that if you're going to be a serious professional you better you better do. And so

you know I'd be doing ordinary things around here. Shopping and so forth. An interesting thing that's maybe about our relationship is that if something funny or odd would happen at a store somewhere, you know, couldn't wait to come home and tell Ivan about it. That's the way we operated. Then afternoon would go variously. He might go to the garden, you know, in the season, he would certainly go to the garden. He watched carefully over his dear plants, and by five o'clock we'd both quit. I would have been prepping dinner if I were doing that, and if I if not he'd come up at five and start the charcoal grill for probably salmon. And we'd have our five o'clock drinks and catch up with each other on whatever we had done during the day that we wanted to report. And have dinner, and then in the evenings, most evenings we would read. I mean, neither one of us particularly wanted to watch television, but we always had books. And, you know, in a sense, we were together, but were apart. My chair is in the corner of this big living room, and his is in the middle, pointed out toward the window. And, uh, uh... So we had that kind of quiet life. If it was a weekend, we might likely be seeing friends. But since, I think I have already said here, since he didn't want to do a lot during the week with friends because he would come home trying to get to sleep and he would rerun all the conversations, we tended to wait until the weekend.

Mary Murphy [04:48:45] So, you know that Jan wants to know what your drinks of choice were?

Carol Doig [04:48:52] Okay. Well, uh, Ivan, you know, was a whiskey and water guy. He really was. He was a Jim Beam drinker.

Mary Murphy [04:49:04] Mm-hmm.

Carol Doig [04:49:05] I've still got a big bottle of Jim Beam downstairs. I gave one of them away. I would give the other one away, but most of our friends drink other things these days. So that was Ivan. And I settled on scotch quite a lot of years ago, which is an acquired taste. Way, way back, in terms of summer drinks, you know, there's... Gin and tonics. There were a couple summers where we got hooked on rum and tonic. Don't ask me why. Way before we lived in this house. We were sort of straight-ahead drinkers. I don't even entertain the notion of a cocktail now, as I might have when I was really kind of young. What's the point?

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:50:13] My memory is that also in the morning that Ivan prepared your cereal or was that just.

Carol Doig [04:50:19] Oh yes, that's true, yes. Add that to the other things he was doing, yeah. I would find my cereal ready for me.

Mary Murphy [04:50:29] And he would leave you a note from time to time?

Carol Doig [04:50:31] Well, he didn't have to do that for breakfast, but he did leave notes around. One of which I have framed down on my desk downstairs that you might take a look at. It's just so typical of him. You know, he was reciting what he was doing and where he was going. And what was it? Hey, you didn't finish your glass of milk or something. [Laughter] It was this kind of wonderful combination of, you know, hi, how are you, and I'm looking over you.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:51:18] And you went with Ivan to most of his medical appointments, or...

Carol Doig [04:51:25] Yes, I went to all the important ones after he was diagnosed. Before that we just went to our separate appointments, which didn't amount to much. Yeah, I mean those were serious enough. He wanted another pair of ears there and he had very good doctors. What was Grorup Health oncology had excellent people and we were very happy with when he got. I thought they did as well as they could for him. They They sent us down to... Cancer specialists even outside of Group Health to get second opinions. So good show for them there. I think we couldn't have asked for more.

Mary Murphy [04:52:25] Can we go back a little bit to the gardening? Because you know, I got fascinated with that.

Carol Doig [04:52:30] I know, yes, you've got you've got all the stuff in there, yeah.

Mary Murphy [04:52:35] And he was as meticulous a diary keeper about the garden as other things. You know, which plants he bought, what seeds he tried different years, the nurseries he went to. And was that after you moved to this house?

Carol Doig [04:52:53] Yes, it was. Yeah, our other house was deep in the woods, and he tried to garden. But splitting firewood was more like what that other place was about when he did a lot of that too, and he liked to split firewood actually. But here, with all this sun, I mean, it was like, wahoo, what can we do now? And yes, in those diary entries, separate, as you know, there was a separate garden diary, and he would have diagrams of his garden beds and what went in there. So it was super meticulous, which was characteristic of everything he did. But he wasn't tiresome about it. In fact, I didn't really know what was in there. He just quietly kept that. And I was fascinated with it when I did discover it, and that's why I showed it to you and that's why it wound up at Montana State University.

Mary Murphy [04:54:04] Did he, you know, because of their sort of roaming lifestyle of the family when they were young, did Grandma Bessie ever have a garden?

Carol Doig [04:54:16] I think she tried whenever she was given a chance. She liked flowers, particularly, too. She wanted a little color in her life. So I don't know a lot about that. But every year she would try, when I knew her they had moved into White Sulfur to the little house that they bought there, and it was a bad climate to try it in, White Sulfur being a mild lie, short summers and so forth. She would always put in something, and my memory is it was usually some flowers that would give a little life to the garden.

Mary Murphy [04:55:01] So was Ivan proud of the fact that he could feed you all from the garden?

Carol Doig [04:55:08] Oh he loved doing that. Yes, he did. I think he loved the whole process of producing food. And we had wonderful veggies, we had wonderful lettuces. We planted the blueberry bushes. He put in some small fruit trees down on the property. So it was very, I think, fulfilling. It was another kind of thing we could do to alter the work life.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:55:45] And you were always the berry lady, were you? You were the berry picker.

Carol Doig [04:55:49] I was the berry picker, yes. Well he would help when I went out and did it and I was very proud of the summer when we put away from this property 60 quarts of blueberries. [Laughter]

Mary Murphy [04:56:10] Would you brave the thorny northwest blackberries and go blackberry picking?

Carol Doig [04:56:16] We've got some blackberries even on this property down the hill. And I don't ever remember going blackberry picking as such, unless the couple of times that grandma was here and she was still up on her feet. And grandma always wanted to pick berries. And I remember the time we went to Montana and he had quite nice short-sleeve shirts. And one of his very nice short sleeve shirts had berry juice on it. [Laughter] It took a lot of work to get that out.

Mary Murphy [04:56:58] That's okay. Well, I thought since we have this wonderful opportunity of having Carol and Marcella together and Marcella and Dave had helped so much with research and then later trips that maybe the two of you could just talk about pick a trip that stands out in your mind and talk about how that went.

Carol Doig [04:57:21] Over to you, Marcella.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:57:25] Well... This was a trip for you and not a different phenomenon for us. You and Ivan were among the most privileged of people in Dave's life to be invited to the North Fork of the Flathead, to the cabins that the Walter family had built over the years and one of my memories which I think still relates to your interest in photography, Dave was below, was on the cut bank, with a tree that he wanted to chainsaw down. It got away from him and it fell on the roof of the porch rather than um...

Carol Doig [04:58:23] The other direction, any other direction.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:58:27] And you, without a word, without peep, went and got your camera and caught Dave sitting on a stump doing this. [Laughter]

Mary Murphy [04:58:40] Leaning over in chagrin.

Carol Doig [04:58:45] We sent him that and maybe it was the next time we saw him he said how much do you want for that? [Laughter] We knew that was a privilege. We were so happy to be invited up there.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:59:03] Well, and kind of on tape, you and Ivan got to do some other things on that trip if I remember. You became a judge for the Pole Bridge Fourth of July Parade, did you not?

Carol Doig [04:59:19] Oh, yes, I guess I did. I mean, anybody passing by was going to get lassoed into something. So why not, you know it's...

Mary Murphy [04:59:36] You're going to leave town and nobody's going...

Carol Doig [04:59:38] Yeah, that's right. I don't remember who we picked, but anyway.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [04:59:48] And didn't Karen Feather and Jerry DeSanto take you touring or entertain you a bit.

Carol Doig [05:00:00] They did, uh... Yes. Karen ran the restaurant. And it was a good one. And yes, one time it was, I think they took us to see sunset and one of the wonderful

venues up there treated us very well. But the one that even more comes to mind, oh look at the bird out there. I don't know what that is. I don't know, that's a strange one, it's not...

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:00:33] He might be a young robin.

Mary Murphy [05:00:34] It is a young robin in that spot on the grass.

Carol Doig [05:00:37] Oh, it seems big for a young robin, but they don't... Okay, so anyway, Karen and Jerry took us overland into one of Jerry's national park sites. And it was a lovely day, and we were walking through high grass. And we had a good time and when we came out that night I had dozens and dozens of mosquito bites and mosquitoes loved me at that point. Turned out, we checked later, Jerry got a bad case of it too. Ivan, mine was so vivid and numerous that Ivan was wondering whether to take me to an emergency room somewhere. But fortunately we went into a local drug store. And the fellows said, what you need is an antihistamine, and that took it down pretty quickly. But from this, oh isn't it a lovely day, we're here walking through the high grass, to almost a basket case.

Mary Murphy [05:01:57] I thought you were going to say you had a bunch of ticks.

Carol Doig [05:02:01] No, but Ivan once did. He was out, he went to Montana, and he was up on the high line, excuse me, one of the battlefields. And he was trying to reenact something, and there was a pit that must have been where one of the warriors lay down to get out of sight. And so he did that. And when he arrived home, he said to me, don't touch me. I mean, I went to meet him and I went, what? And we came home to our little house we had, and he went in through the parking area, into the house, into the shop area, and began to peel off his clothes. And by then he had told me that they had picked up ticks, and he did not know whether there were any still left. So that was adventurous!

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:03:23] One of the trips that lingers in my memory is pretty close. It was within a year of when Dave died. And you and Ivan, we took our 4Runner or our Tacoma and went, met you, and went up along the Rocky Mountain front. So Ivan could direct us to the close to we didn't drive all the way into the Jensen ranch, but we we drove as far as I think Ivan felt comfortable or Dave did up away from the highway and into that. And and my memory from the back seat is that that was when Ivan and Dave talked quite a bit about The Eleventh Man and Dave's CPS project

Carol Doig [05:04:20] Uh-huh, that could be. That was some country up there south of Dupuyer and west. And that's where Ivan's family, when they moved north, in the section he calls north in This House of Sky, they arrived in the dark of night and had to try and find the Jensen Ranch. And it's not easy and how they did that in the dark I don't know but they managed somehow and you go over kind of a lip of land there and then you go down to where you're not seeing the mountains because the house of course they didn't want the wind but it means they didn't get the view either, and it was down this kind of big hole, if you will. And the other thing they found out was that they only had half the house. The rancher who had roped them into doing this had his own stuff in the other rooms and that was locked up, and so they're in this really terrible place. Ivan took me back to all these places where he'd been, and that was one of the bad ones. I mean, one of the worst ones. And it was in this beautiful land, that ranch house in particular, and the outbuildings, were so inhospitable in a way.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:06:07] And yet, Dupuyer was hospitable, was it not?

Carol Doig [05:06:11] Oh, very.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:06:12] Do you [unintelligible] Yes.

Carol Doig [05:06:14] Yes, yes, absolutely, and Ivan tells that story very well in This House of Sky.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:06:21] But this is out of sequence, Carol, but that trip with you, so soon after Ivan died, to look at cemeteries, is... It certainly mattered a lot to me and was an interesting look at Montana cemeteries.

Carol Doig [05:06:41] Ah, yes, that was absolutely noble of you, but I knew it should be somewhere in the area of Depuyer and south, and so we just looked at half a dozen, didn't we?

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:07:02] Well, we looked in Augusta, and pretty informal little cemetery, I don't think that one caught our eye much. There was a little cemetery by the Deerborn Church back of Wolf Creek that we looked at. And then when we got to Choteau, I mean, that was reassuring because... It was actually cared for, and there was...

Carol Doig [05:07:32] There was a view there too.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:07:34] There was a view, and they had records, so you actually knew what happened. And then, and then we ended that day up at Dupuyer, which where the cemetery is up on a hill to the west of the town. You got to it by going past the city dump, if you remember.

Carol Doig [05:07:59] That's right. It was a nice little cemetery. I guess it's all volunteer, and it's nicely taken care of. It's so nice to see that a small settlement with so few people can have a memorial cemetery like that.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:08:22] And then we went down and you knew her. We sought out and found Rita Christians who knew quite a bit about the cemetery, knew where the records were. But I think, at least in my mind, that day ended knowing you would likely not consider a Montana because Rita was clear in saying the records actually aren't very good and people get buried on top of other people and so what what for me was the most spectacular location.

Carol Doig [05:09:06] Yeah, that would have been hard, but you know, I went home thinking things over. I wasn't sure what I was going to do, but in thinking things over, that really clarified that day was extremely helpful to me because that is when I said, well, Montana, much as I'd like to do that, isn't quite right, because our friends are out here, and this was Ivan's home for so many years, and the place he loved most was probably Dungeness Spit so let's do that and so that's where 18 of us went over and you know everybody got to walk out on the spit as far as they want and do whatever they wanted and distribute his ashes. So our friends from who were originally from Canada sent some off in the, you know, toward Canada, well out on the spit. And it was a day I think that meant a lot to everyone. And for those who were coming back over this side, a few friends lived over there. But I had kind of catered lunch and it turned out to be, I think, a useful day for everyone.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:10:34] And then the epic trip was the trip that began in Bozeman with a reading at Country Bookshelf.

Carol Doig [05:10:46] Yes.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:10:46] And then we had dinner with Ron and Claire and spent the night in a Bozemen motel that didn't cost \$400. [Laughter]

Mary Murphy [05:10:58] Those were the days. [Laughter].

Carol Doig [05:11:03] Yeah, Ivan was going great. We didn't know this was his last trip, or this was within about seven months of when he died.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:11:15] He had gotten, had he not permission, to not take some of his meds. It seemed like he had, that there was something he didn't want to take.

Carol Doig [05:11:28] Well, I think so, yeah. I think that's right. He cleared out with his doctors who were very understanding and they had a better understanding than we did about let this man do as much as he can while he can. So, yes, it was a trip in which Marcella's little vehicle, what was that?

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:11:52] Hey, it's still the one I drive, the 2004 Toyota Matrix.

Carol Doig [05:11:57] Okay, and we flew over there and Marcella had it all packed and ready to go and she was wonderful at that. It's small enough and Ivan sat up front. I sat in the back hoping that what she had packed next to me on the back seat would not fall over and injure me in any way. [Laughter] But we were well supplied with food and drink and everything else.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:12:31] It was a reasonable worry. [Laughter].

Carol Doig [05:12:37] Well, it was an entirely successful trip because when we got to Yellowstone, he had a scene the book, there is a scene in the book of of spending the night at the inn where the uncle and the kids spend the night in the inn and they've been robbed and they have no money, so they have to kind of hide out. So we went through that inn, we went to the upper floors, the public areas, and found places a person could lie down, which Ivan did. I took a few pictures of that.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:13:22] I have pictures of that and have sent them to the archives I think.

Carol Doig [05:13:28] But very typically, you know, he wanted the reality in this piece of fiction as to how it might have happened.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:13:39] And and we sat out on the balcony because he also wanted the view to Old Faithful.

Carol Doig [05:13:46] Yeah

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:13:48] Erupting as well.

Carol Doig [05:13:49] Yeah, so we had to watch that happen with all the other tourists.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:13:57] We actually, from Bozeman, we started out going down to Jackson Hole.

Carol Doig [05:14:05] We went down on the west side.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:14:07] Right, yeah. And Carol had picked out just, it was a motel you guys knew, a wonderfully rustic motel. And we went into the park a little that night, and then part of your goal was to listen to the elk bugling.

Carol Doig [05:14:28] We always liked to go down in the fall and do that, you know, get up in the dark at night, get a thermos of coffee and head out.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:14:39] And you had done the homework so that you knew, you know, civil daylight, nautical daylight, kind of all the daylights, and we did get up at like three.

Carol Doig [05:14:53] We didn't hear as much bugling that year as we wanted to either, because they can be cacophonous when they really let loose. No, I think we were disappointed. Well, we were a bit disappointed, but anyhow, but it was a wonderful trip and it was wonderful just getting up that early and going into the park.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:15:18] Yeah and see that. That was the night, but we ate in wonderful places and you knew some of the places to go. One of my memories of that trip is that we were on our way to supper that night, dinner, and again we'd had our cocktail hour back at the...

Carol Doig [05:15:41] Back at the cabins, yes we did.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:15:43] And then wherever we were going, downtown was very busy, lots of traffic. And the goal was to find a parking place close to the restaurant. I passed one up, Carol, and you and Ivan pretty well came unglued. [Laughter]

Carol Doig [05:16:05] Oh dear! [Laughter]

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:16:13] So, I dropped you off at the restaurant, and then I went to park [Laughter]. It wasn't as if we couldn't walk or anything. You were the victim of my small town Montana driving. Not big city driving.

Carol Doig [05:16:40] She was perfect. She was just really such a companion. We managed to get rooms in this little hotel we loved with a door in between. So obviously it was meant, you know, for families or people traveling together like we were. So that we can go have one room or the other, we'd open the door at the appropriate time, come in with our drinks and whatever munchies we wanted to have. We had a fine time, I think.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:17:14] We carried, we had yogurt with us and cereal and milk and um yeah so we could.

Carol Doig [05:17:20] Breakfasts were fine.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:17:22] And after after we well one day was in Yellowstone was going to the inn and then the next morning we left the park by way of um Mammoth

and Gardener and uh so drove up to Livingston and on over to Bozeman, and again, you'd picked out where to eat before I took you to the to the airplane, but you guys had never seen Chico Hot Springs, so we made a side trip into Chico Hot Springs.

Mary Murphy [05:17:59] So when you were on these trips, so it sounds like you were the planner and you were the driver and Ivan was directing, like would he say I have this scene in mind and this is where I want to go and.

Carol Doig [05:18:15] Well, he knew that he wanted to go to the Inn, and that was the main thing there. And besides that, we knew we just wanted to go back to the Jackson Hole country, because it had been such a pleasure. But that's what Marcella and I backed and forth, you know, putting things together, incorporating what Ivan wanted to do.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:18:40] And... I think some of that drive out of Yellowstone to come out at Gardiner, I think he was keeping an eye on again where the bus might go as well. I think there was a little of that in looking at that road.

Carol Doig [05:19:03] So that's the road that is now washed out?

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:19:06] Mm-hmm. Yeah. Yep. Uh-huh. Yeah.

Mary Murphy [05:19:10] But when you, how did it all come about that you started driving them on these trips?

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:19:20] Well, and that was really the one I drove. Ivan and Carol would borrow. When they came to stay with us, they would either borrow our 4Runner, a four-wheel drive to go into the area around White Sulphur. Agate, Moss Agate and the 16 country. I drove you in one of those kind of trips in there and we didn't go as far as you wanted for fear of muddy roads. And then you and Ivan also, this is later, came in after Dave had died to Bozeman for that library award, and we drove up through and a little beyond Maudlow, but not again as far again as far into the Maudlow country.

Carol Doig [05:20:15] Yeah, Ivan and I did drive that whole distance at one point. And we didn't have, at that point, I don't think it was our CRV, so I think we did it in one of our bigger, older cars. It was doable, but not by much.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:20:36] Yeah, I think just it was the incredible luck of the draw that the Doigs took to Dave and then I got to... I got to meet them as well.

Mary Murphy [05:20:47] And Dave took to the Doigs.

Carol Doig [05:20:49] Well, that's right. You know, this is as has been said. Dave, who wasn't fond of inviting people back, you know, he and Ivan being like-minded, you know, history-minded, quiet, competent people took to each other. And to our advantage, because Ivan and I could come in off the road, take ourselves downstairs and say, see you at supper. [Laughter]

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:21:31] And Ivan, he would just say set out the cereal and the coffee pot ready to be turned on in the morning. And I will, I'll be up when I want to be up.

Carol Doig [05:21:42] Yeah, that's right.

Mary Murphy [05:21:46] Well, I was thinking, as you were talking about since Ivan's death, Carol, you've had to run the business and make the decisions about where to put Ivan's papers and think about his legacy and how that can carry on. Can you talk a little bit about how you've made some of those decisions and were there surprises and having to learn how to manage the business of keeping his books in print.

Carol Doig [05:22:18] Well, yeah, the business wasn't a great problem because Ivan did take great care about how he did things. And he knew he was dying, and so in terms of the archive, he called in our friend Betty Mayfield, and worked with her a little, and this would have been... Four to five months before he died, and he was already plenty sick, and she remembers asking him, she said to him about the archive, is it time? And he said, yes, it's time. And so they could have some conversation. He had things very, of course, he had things very well set up. But they weren't done in a strictly archival way. And so Betty, although she wasn't a trained archivist, she was a very good librarian and could learn about how to sort of reorient some of those things. Then we had to decide where to put it. And so, in that summer of 2015, we picked out some archives, and I always thought it was a shame that a number of the writers in Montana, you know, they'd send things back to Yale or to the University of Texas at Austin. Or to the Southwest, anywhere where there was money, where they'd be paid a little bit. But then what happened to this trove of information, and nothing, unfortunately, nothing much has for most of those Raiders' archives. So, I concluded I wanted Ivan's to stay in the West. And if possible, we wanted to have them used and have it all usable. And so we finally gave invitations to the University of Washington, to Stanford, and to Montana State University. I invited all of them to send a couple of people, you know, send somebody to look at what we've got here because it was all downstairs, if you can believe it, at that point. And they all did. And what we wanted, we had an assessment of what it was worth. Yeah, which I don't quite remember because it became irrelevant. I remember it was less than I thought. It wasn't a great deal of money, but all three places said yes, they would pay that. And I can remember Ivan saying take the money whoever offers the most money, which I didn't do. Decision number one. Stanford, of course, has a ton of prestige. It also has a lot of writers' archives and other people's archives. It became apparent to us that at Stanford, Ivan's would be in line with a lot the rest of them and as it became available, as money came in and so forth, some of it would be put online. The UW, they could do a little better than that. They could do it a little more, but they would definitely store the archive offline in some of the rented places that they put things at the UW because they don't have enough space. And then we didn't hear from MSU until very late. And uh... By the deadline, however, I did get this thick packet of information from MSU. I got letters from other writers, I got letters from people in town, and these. And uh I remember sitting downstairs and you know I just you know in tears saying it's gotta go here. And the clincher was that Kenning, bless his heart, you know, leapt off the diving board without a life jacket on and committed his staff to get all of this online within a year. And I couldn't believe my luck. And so, okay, I might have known you were in the middle of all that, Mary. It was a done deal. And then, when they had promised me all that, I told them, never mind the money. [Laughter] And then I said, well, as long as we're about it, it wasn't too long before I was saying, well, maybe I can give you some money. Because one of my jobs was how do I spend Ivan's money in a way that he would like? And so I've tried to do that, both for the archive and for the Center. And then, you know, for the two conservancies in Montana and Utah, so I kind of brought everything to that point. It took me a while. I just made out a new will a couple months ago, and I had it clarified in terms of what went to the Archive, what went to the Center because we had one after another I had an existing will and some kind of chucked it all into one drawer, and we should have had two drawers. Now it does have two. And I decided there were a couple of big national organizations that would not get money and Montana State would

get more money because I had these two entities. So. So what was it you did? You got the letters together?

Mary Murphy [05:29:17] Well, I wrote one of the letters and I suggested some names. I thought it was a brilliant strategy. I don't know if it was Kenning or Nick Ray who thought of that, but, you know, it was so easy to write a love letter about Ivan's work. [Laughter] And to make that argument that it should be at MSU, which was, I mean, of course, I don't know if UM was ever a part of that.

Carol Doig [05:29:48] No, they were not. We have noted that very unfortunately they have lagged in recent years in lots of ways.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:30:03] And the same, I think, is true of the historical society, that they were in no way, they didn't court you at all.

Carol Doig [05:30:13] No, they didn't and I think I had the sense that they didn't have the wherewithal to do it.

Marcella Sherfy Walter [05:30:19] No, yeah. Right. And in terms of a researchable location, a university is yeah, yeah, logical.

Mary Murphy [05:30:29] So is there anything else that you could envision that you would like to see as a way of honoring Ivan's work or sending his legacy forward, obviously keeping his books in print?

Carol Doig [05:30:49] Yes, obviously that. Well, they keep in print because they still sell, although some sell much better than others. But yeah, so this has done a done deal as far as I can do it. And then what we wanted to do, what I wanted to with his archive, I would say I want anybody, anywhere on this globe, that is interested in using his work. For research or teaching or whatever it is, I want them to have access. You know, no charge, just do it. And that, again, is something that Kenning and I think the rest of you understood. And so, who knows what the future... has. And one of the people at MSU, I can't remember who said that, you know, now his legacy will be forever. And I said, nothing is forever, it's for now, it is for as long as we can think up. I would love to do some brainstorming about what else we might do, what else the Center might do in the future, because I'm not sure, I think you've done a good job. Keep doing it, and you have some company in Centers of the West, especially with Patty Limerick, who was so supportive, and Bless Her Heart. She's the real deal. So, I'm happy with what's happened. I want to make sure that we get it right on the archive indexing, and that's my current one. Current wish, as you know. And I need to see that happen although Kenning is leaving. Which makes it a little harder.

Mary Murphy [05:33:01] Yeah, but I think that Jodi and Jan are very much on top of that, and I think that Kenning will be able to fill you in, you know, I don't know all the mechanics of the indexing and digital process and all that, but I think they'll be able to fill you in on what they've done already and the plan for making it better.

Carol Doig [05:33:27] Good enough.

Mary Murphy [05:33:27] Yeah. But I do want this to go on the tape because... We had this great, Carol and I had this great email exchange with a new fan of Ivan. And to me this is one of the roles of the archive. So I got, well a call came into the Doig Center and I then

got this email and it was from a Catholic priest back in Washington D.C. Who said that he was a great reader and he was a fan of Dostoevsky and the Russian authors. And one day he was, and he taught at a small school, and one day, he was in the library and he checking to see if there were any Dostoevskys he had missed. And he then saw Doig next to Dostoevsky. So he thought, I'll pick that up. So he picked it up, and I can't remember he mentioned the first one he read. And he fell in love with it. And so he then read all of the books and he wanted to reach out to Mrs. Doig. So I wrote to Carol and Carol wrote to him and we had this little exchange where she said, I'm not Catholic, how should I address him? And I said, and I said, well, you know, I go by email etiquette, whatever they sign their name, I say this. And he had signed it Harry. And Carol responded, I think I'll call him Father Harry. And I was giving a talk for the Yellowstone Gateway Museum the next day, a Zoom talk. So I sent him the link. And I said, and you can also look at Ivan's papers through the archive. And I sent them the link to the archive, so then he responded to us that he had. He had listened to the talk, and he had really enjoyed it, and then he had gotten into the archives. And I can't remember exactly the language, but he wrote to Carol and said, I am so pleased to have consumed your husband. [Laughter] And then he said, and now when people ask me what I read, I say Dostoevsky, Doig, and Willa Cather. [Laughter] So I'm going to print that out and add it to that archive. But you know, one, it was just charming. But two, it made me realize the power of having that online archive.

Carol Doig [05:36:08] Yes. There's also some power in having the alphabet in your favor, Doig, Dostoevsky, right?

Mary Murphy [05:36:15] Yes, absolutely. [Laughter].