

Jan .
Vet : We did ah ah um, you know, slow songs, we did ah fast songs, we did jazz, ah we did everything that ah that we saw or heard about or that we wanted to do. So we just went from one, we did the same thing, about the same thing all the time but we did ah we did a lot of things in in ah our time. And that, oh everybody seemed to like 'em. 'Cause we loved music. 'Cause we we we grew up on it. And my father and ah uncle, my mother and father, they were always in in the house dancing, singin', doing the, that's how I learned to tap dance from my father.

Jan : Yeah, what about your tap dancing. Didn't you do some tap dancing ah before you sang, before the girls sang?

Vet : Oh yeah, I'll never, I'll never forget when they pushed me out in in ... We were in ah New York and I I had never been up on the stage by myself. Connie pushed me out on that stage and I didn't know what to do but pretty soon I thought alright feet get going. So I started tap dancing. And I got a lot of applause and believe it or not, people came back and wanted autographs and I was absolutely stunned.

Jan : So ah, so you, how old were you you think when you did tap dancing?

Vet : Oh, I was in my early teens even that much. I was I was the young'un.

Jan : The baby, huh?

Vet : Yeah. Yeah everybody used to call me ... Papa always called me 'Baby'. I was 'The Baby'.

Jail . On train.

Vet : I've got to tell you somethin' funny. I I, it may not be funny to anybody else but we didn't have too much money when we were on the road and we didn't want to call Mama and Papa. We wanted to do things and get the money on our own. If we weren't good enough we'd go home. Oh, Papa always said, that don't you don't you ever do anything without telling me. If you run short of money, you tell me, I'll send it right down to you and all that kindof stuff. So we never did really call father about anything 'cause we wanted to be independent ourselves. Well, anyway, we got into this hotel and it was a junky. Ah but then Connie had to go to the bathroom and there was no toilet at all there.

Darci : Oh no!

Vet : So, there was a sink in in our room. So, Martha and I look out into (? TOO MUCH LAUGHTER, CAN'T MAKE OUT WORDS) and we said, "Connie are you okay?" We sit Connie up on this stool and by God if the whole thing didn't fall down.

Darci : Oh no! (Laughter)

Jan : It was Connie on it so did she fall down with it too?

Vet : Yeah, but we caught Connie but the whole thing's water all over the floor.

Darci : (Laughter)

Jan : Oh no!

Vet : And I said to Martha, come on let's get our clothes and our suitcases and let's get out of here. And we did. They never ..., nobody ever did, I guess anyone (CAN'T MAKE OUT WORDS DUE TO LAUGHTER) that toilet thing for a while. (Laughter) The basin. Oh, we were scared.

Darci : That's funny.

Vet : We were just kids, you know. But to think that somebody would come up there ... They probably would have made us try to pay for it.

Jan : Sure.

Vet : But, we got out of town. We didn't have enough money to pay. (Laughter)

Vet : We hotfooted ... Martha and I with, Connie used to jump on her own so we crossed our arms like this and we'd get on. People used to say, "What's the matter are you sick or something? We said, "No, we're just looking for somethin'. We're looking for somethin'. (Laughter) They didn't know what we're talking about. We really had a lot of fun.

Jan : I bet you did.

Vet : With all the hardships that we did have, ah ah they didn't become hardships because of the three of us. I know that for a fact. We always had somethin' to say or to bolster each other.

- Chica : That's it. Or she would have this, um, have this walk-on with the emcee.
- Jan : Do you sortof remember when that was? Like maybe what you, you know, like 1940, 1950, somewhere around ...
- Chica : It was, it was in the '40's I guess, 40's early 50's maybe.
- Jan : And early '50's.
- Chica : I I would say the 40's because I ...
- Jan : That would be sortof typical that kindof thinking too. But it must have, it must have ...
- Chica : Well, she did it for, kindof the realist.
- Jan : Yeah.
- Chica : I mean, she, you know ... That's why I say she wasn't resentful of her condition because she was a realist. That's what she was!
- Vet : As long as Connie could go around pretty much. She liked to whistle.
- Chica : So she accepted that and worked with it. And for a performer in those days, um, I suppose today it might even be an asset. But then, it wasn't.
- Jan : You're right, you're right! It would have been an asset to day.
- Chica : But then it wasn't. So, she worked with that and she she designed this chair. She, you know, worked on it, designed the chair. She had no trouble. She lived in Manhattan, getting in and out of cabs. She had this very small, not one of these huge, ...
- Jan : Right.
- Chica : ... she designed a small chair that would folded up and put in the back. I mean, she was very strong.
- Vet : Connie also had beautiful arms. Connie could move this way and that way.
- Jan : She was strong. She had to for survival from the years of ...
- Chica : So, she never resented it. But, she was a realist and she could see that it limited her in certain ways.

Jan : So she, ...

Chica : Because of attitude not not because of a anything else.

Jan : Yeah, yeah. So, definitely it was there! That there was some ...

Chica : It was there. I could remember her talking about that.

Jan : Did, how did, when you, when you remember her as you were growing up and she would talk about it, what, not resentful like you're saying but do you think she was like frustrated a little with her career because she was sortof held back?

Chica : The key about Connie is that she's a realist. Okay? And a realist, um, is the experience that Connie with frustration its a, its a temporary thing because that again was either something you can actually did with her handicap and worked around it. And designed things that would make for accept the situation as being something you can't do anything about.

Jan : Really, yeah.

Chica : She's pretty much of a realist.

Vet : Ah, she sure was.

Chica : Until her husband died.

Vet : See that that was tough.

Jan : Well, that had to be hard because they were so close. Then, ...

Vet : Yeah.

Chica : And then, I think, um, ...

Vet : She pulled through that pretty good with Harry's death.

Chica : I think , I think she, um, ...

Vet : We got it going so good that I I made her go to a show, a funny show with me.

Chica : Yeah, but I think she a, just didn't have the same spirit.

Vet : Well no! You you wouldn't, you wouldn't have that with someone gone which she she never, she never let on. You'd hear her going ... Do you remember when she used to come down from the upstairs in her apartment? She'd always be whistling. The boys ...

Chica : But she was always cheerful.

Vet : Connie could sit on a chair and get out of that seat with those arms quicker than you could say "Booh"!

Chica : Do you know I never, it was years, I mean I grew up with the family and it was years before somebody and I don't remember who in my high school or something, um, said to me, "Oh, you're aunt is Connie Boswell. She's crippled isn't she?" And I had to think because I never thought of her being crippled. And it, you know, it was I knew what the word crippled meant and I knew my aunt couldn't walk but it just didn't seem like they should together because I never thought of her that way. When you're talking to her you never ...

Darci : Crippled is such a bad word anyway.

Jan : Really?

Vet : Connie could jump from the Chesterfield into the chair and you wouldn't even know it. You wouldn't even know that she jumped from there.

Jan : Yeah, isn't that something, I mean ...

Vet : It was all in her arms. Well, if if you ever wanted to get busted the chair would hit you! (Laughter)

Chica : Right, it was the truth but it wasn't that. It was her attitude which was, you know, ...

Vet : She took the attitude that she had too.

Chica : ... on a par with everybody and, you know, just that she met life that's all.

Jan : Yeah.

Vet : She ...

Jan : So when you were growing up too, you saw her, Connie as a really vibrant person, pretty much? Her personality ?

Chica : Oh yeah, yeah.

Vet : The only thing that would turn Connie was when Harry died.

Chica : She was show business all the way.

Jan : All the way.

Chica : No, really!

Jan : Yeah. She was into it, into show business.