

Transcription: Anne Pritchard Oral History Interview (Part Four—Mildred and Earl Ryder)

PK—Patrick Kinghan (Interviewer)

AP—Anne Pritchard (Narrator)

**00:00**

PK: Similarly to what we've been talking about so far with Ted, do you have any sort of special memories with 16 that would relate to anything we're talking about?

**00:10**

AP: She really thought the world of Dr. Banting. Absolutely, you know? You know, she worshiped him practically, you know, which I think, from my readings, a lot of patients and their families did. She just really, she thought the world of physicians in general, I think.

**00:32**

PK: Yeah.

**00:32**

AP: Put total trust in physicians after Dr. Banting—

**00:38**

PK: —sure—

**00:39**

AP: —you know, had sort of pulled Ted from starvation practically.

**00:44**

PK: Yeah.

**00:44**

AP: And through. And her whole life, you know, she just really thought the world of medical—she was very excited for medical advances and things like that.

**00:58**

PK: Yeah.

**00:58**

AP: Yeah!

**00:59**

PK: Yeah, absolutely. And, I mean, of course, she's the mother in the story. This is her child who's on death's door, so.

**01:06**

AP: She deserves a real crown for what she did. You know those diaries? If you look, weighing every single morsel and cooking up all that very very bland stuff, and watching your son wither away and lose and lose and lose and you know that whole starvation diet situation, you know? And she was tough. She was just so adamant that he was gonna push through and she was gonna be the one to do it.

**01:41**

PK: Yeah. That's incredible. I think the thing with Mildred, and that'll be seen in the exhibit is her determination and her love for Teddy and just sort of like the significance of her role in the whole story is, yeah.

**01:57**

AP: I don't think it would have happened. Well, and you have to cite my grandfather too—Earl.

**02:03**

PK: This is true.

**02:04**

AP: Because Earl really pushed his brother, Morton (the doctor), to have this connection, you know, to make this connection with Dr. Banting. And my grandfather was sort of the silent partner in the whole thing, but he was, you know, he was an engineer. He was in the background and he was gonna also do whatever was possible for Ted.

**02:33**

PK: Yeah, absolutely.

**02:34**

AP: And he, you know, he, yeah, he was a very strong supporter through the whole thing.

**02:42**

PK: Yeah. Yeah.

**02:43**

AP: And it's just circumstance that Earl had a brother who was a physician who happened to have this connection—it was a very slight connection to my understanding—with Dr. Banting so—

**02:57**

PK: —yeah.

**02:58**

AP: And yeah. So, it was just...a lot of, there was luck in there too.