

Transcription: Anne Pritchard Oral History Interview (Part Three—Teddy and his Diabetes)

PK—Patrick Kinghan (Interviewer)

AP—Anne Pritchard (Narrator)

00:00

PK: And this is all especially fascinating because, of course, I'm a diabetic, and so it is interesting going through this history and seeing sort of like the ways in which you'd have to administer insulin back in the 20s and then, of course, the sort of process as it went along throughout the 20th century. There are, you know, like instructions of like having to sterilize your needles by boiling them—all that sort of stuff. Were you ever around for any of that stuff? Did you ever see him sort of interact with his diabetes.

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AP: I...I don't think I...I might, maybe when I was in nursing school, he let me watch him, you know, give himself the injection. But not much. It was always in that little black box, and we kids were fascinated by that little plastic black box—

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PK: —sure—

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AP: —that he always came with. And I think he showed us this a few times and the little vials. And the vial, back in the day, had to be in the refrigerator, so it would be up in our regular refrigerator when he was visiting. And then as a nurse, I was really surprised that, you know, he could use the same syringe and needle over and over. You know?

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PK: Sure.

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AP: Which, you know, today, I don't know that anybody does.

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PK: I don't think—yeah—no, not at all. That's interesting.

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AP: And now so many of you guys are on pumps—

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PK:—Yes!—

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AP: Or, you know, what have you. Or the nifty little...the little injector things.

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PK: Yeah.

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AP: So, they've made—they've changed it so dramatically.

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PK: No, of course.

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AP: So differently.

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PK: Yeah. And it is interesting to—I mean 'cause, when you think about history, you want to sort of know everything about everything and it's...everything seems so important, but what's really really interesting about these stories about just individual people is how sort of private their lives are, because it's just their life. Like it's just—you know?

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AP: They don't know anything different.

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PK: Exactly, yeah.

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AP: And the other thing that's interesting to me is that my mother was just a wee baby. She was about maybe six months old or something like that when Ted and Mildred (his mom) went to Toronto and, you know, interacted with Dr. Banting and got the insulin. So she left a little baby at home.

02:22

PK: That's true, yeah, Margaret, yeah.