

## Delaine Doris Richards - Interview Jan 10th 2023

Audio File Links, click to open.

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Some of the Topics Discussed:

- The story of her serious wrist injury at the age of 7
- A few comments about her childhood
- "Doris" is an Alias for her mom's mom, Dorothea.
- The origin of her nickname "Nelly"
- A few comments about Doctor Juergen, the family doctor.
- Her experience moving to Alaska and a bit about their lifestyle there including
- Her husband Jim's work and her being alone with the kids for months at a time
- Jim's illness later in life and his unique personality.

Computer Generated Transcript - (Not a very accurate transcription)

"okay so we are recording this is justin banki today is january tenth two thousand twenty three it's one o'clock never knew where i am i'm on the phone with my aunt to lane richards"

"okay so informed me that the questions here so we're one question that i wanted to ask that's not from list is a dumb i remember when i went time you'd said that when you were a kid you slipped in hit your wrist on a shovel that was buried"

"the all not that isn't the way out okay now cleared up then"

"okay my mom was gaining peace"

"and she gave us all the little bits and we put water in charge them money but also little bits and the jars"

"ah a sudden change a lot of different colors"

"and saw wherever we add those jars the atom all over the far we had some a by and get along side of the house you know behind the corncrib some by the army and by the chicken coop and everything and got to be we did that all day long as as because mom was gonna beat so why not was time like a are i thirty mom's as you"

"i want all them jars and are you guys better go get those okay i err we are would wanna go collect all these jars and everything that we add and i am arm for that i was carrying and i left behind the on cramped and i fell on some barbed wire and one of the jars get the shovel and rock and one broke"

"that was just the bottom of the jar and one peak kept of job and that popped into my wrist and our the blood was just fly on company or like a guys are as i was going to the house now when i went to the house"

"ah among our saw what was happening and the first thing she said let me change my shoes"

"because she had been killings and all that kind of stuff all over her shoes"

"and then from there i love one on all the rest of the story or not i mean i don't know yeah"

"going are a oh my goodness so she gathers use you could bring you to the doctor why did she wearing a okay at that time i mean it was all the other little kids to and saw my name or aggie claire my mom all or and mom i'll all of us kids in the car and we drove over to aggies house and when got order aggies house"

"then eggy drove her car and all of the rest of the bank a kid stayed with the claire kids and mom and i sat in the back seat of the car and mom had a dish towel over the top of my wrist and why she put her hand over the top it will stop bleeding and she told me that if you don't cry they won't put you to sleep"

"ah ha what i tried not to cry and everything so we get out and we get the doctor jerkens office and they laid me on the table and they put a board ah to the size of that they could lay my arms flap when i was laying down and doctor jurgen was a wife came on their out of there ours was right next to the office"

"came and she smeared all this cream over my face and then they put up on all over my face which was a threat because that was the only anesthesia at that height"

"i know them mom have that i kick and scream and my legs were planted all of a sudden it just stopped his i just like you get know just scared my mom so bad so then doctor jurgen stitched up my arm and or my wrist and everything i am fifty two stitches in there and"

"and then you know wrapped up and i am kind of our ah our still ah thing and upon of my hand and my fingers or curled around at and my and was all nama mean i can eat old and my fingers because it was or nom and and i am just that by the what stalls in the house or because mom wanted to see"

"every move i made this app and on the seventh of august when i was seven years old and nineteen forty seven and ah it was quite the

summer not be in the doing anything and then it came time to take the stitches out and my dad took me and i was scared because i just knew it was gonna hurt his bad so we get in there"

"oh and he's talking to doctor jorgensen everything and and he said they were talking and everything and mr law ah hours that feel or whatever and if that was already out i never felt the thing"

"okay so then after that army and i had a keep our squeezing a ball for a long i'm sure all the time all day long to keep my and working and then we had a bicycle and a bicycle if you wrote it every once in awhile the front wheel what lock up and dad told us not don't"

"right that bicycle tell i can fix it on he was down in the river bottoms one day this was shortly ah maybe i think it was about a month after saw or maybe not quite that long"

"and i wanted to see what he was doing down there so i took his bike anyway and i was writing it down the hill go in the river bottoms and the front wheel lot and i flew on top of a barbed wire fence and my all risk and everything just gotta as big as a balloon and so cause i think my dad saw this that mystery games that i told you your or not"

"to do that now they're gonna cut this old thing or put an everyday you're going to have a roster jumping get all got and was that i was being saw reprimanded not was so scared or actually what i don't know i've sprained it so that i had a it and a swing i don't know for how long after that and go to school like that and just used by one arm"

"oh boy so it seems like you had the exercise you and your her the almost some of the you may even had to exercise while it was in the ring even you know to do the where you might just get me to recoup atrophy while wanna move the"

"yeah right now but anyway i am now i'm having surgery on this am a end of january because i ever ah a thing on right down from my little finger in the palm of my and that as a little bit of a growth on a nerve or something and every time i it had i almost hit the floor so i'm ready to get done without an honest"

"same and and there were some chords missing from there and my dad said god only knows what chickens got those so i'm missing from chords and nap and that and know that of"

"oh boy"

"yeah i mean i've been able to lock italy in or do you know everything in my life as probably doesn't operate like the other hand on your

left our never really does i guess am so it's some i think i've done pretty well as ours keep on a go on ya know"

"pendulum things i mean i've done a lot of jobs gigs in my ancestors you're an old one i have been as a kid would be that grams or true the house was always pretty but when you would come and visit you know i remember birds think we would you would always be cleaning something you know to do another layer so"

"what"

"i don't remember ever feeling like"

"you know i remember i was feeling like you are a go getter so we're fine i would never have known about your hand if you hadn't told me so you are the ice icy gap"

"i don't really kind of funny about some of the things that happened to us kids that a lot of a nobody knows the remembers or anything it's really kind of a lawyer"

"what"

"but there are we have their as well i would i have one question so i don't know your middle name so it's what's your middle name or your millenium amos door doris d or r i s to a domain doors richards your phone yeah"

"he did you get named after only anyone"

"doris ah was supposedly my mom's then named after my grandma green hagan her name was george vi"

"a supposedly outdoors was to represent her name or something like that"

"okay"

"i saw on a confirmation record"

"that it mentions doris as"

"it's a it's all written in germans who difficult for me to translate but it said that earth's wife was named doris and i thought there was strange so that's good to know that it's another name or maybe an alias for dorothea for yeah right now aren't button grandma's name i'm pretty sure was dorothea yeah yeah i i i see that as well"

"other places so"

"what did people call you as a child did you have any nicknames"

"i had a nickname of nelly"

"and they still on a call me an"

"and i acquired that nickname from my older sister delors"

"an awesome program on tv it was roy rogers didn't our side kick what was his name ah god i just forgot about anyway as the as car is jeep was called nally bill"

"and of course we didn't have tv until we were i don't know how old navy i was ten or so i don't know and anyway on every and whenever there was a crisis with roy rogers and his buddy and that jeep what never start when they needed to get cola"

"and so the last ten years or fat you can't run either know and so up i was all nellie ever since think has ah"

"cause i guess i couldn't get gone went out cause i was out of the but that's what she said and so ever since then i've done all nellie bell or nellie are now i'm in high school i was called banks which is short for banking and of course i was a lot of other names like fat slob and a large and all kinds of different things like"

"got ya know"

"i get in this day and age yes i guess that's awful but i think in those days yeah no it was just something like all well l"

"yeah"

"get wasn't it wasn't such a situation as they call now which is bowling and all if it wasn't like that everybody called everybody name's it was just like that and i guess are using it for maybe a little bit more lighthearted or not"

"yeah right yeah i mean i don't think i ever took into art because"

"i guess maybe at that time i don't think i cared i mean i don't know on that a be and as heavy as i was it wasn't a big issue at the time until i lost the weight"

"and i'm almost always after me to lose weight narrow why she wanted me to lose weight because everybody else in the family was heavy to and my dad was proud of that because he just thought we were they always look and kids there are you know what he was proud of that he was he won't yeah right okay repair"

"okay"

"the hook you do it's interesting"

"right so up you know i don't think i don't think that i was offended by that i don't know why i just stop i didn't separate myself from anyone else as a result of that that i recall i mean i still have friends and that kind of thing"

"ah arnold yeah"

"that as and damage me put it that way and hockey"

"sure"

"i'm from an exclusionary so when when were you born so if you're comfortable sharing when you were born and where and what city you know older i was born on april sixth and nineteen forty and i was born in our house down on the all streets place which is ah of the road offer the"

"i think large township road i think that now has a different name"

"get down the road from where are all farm was"

"yeah anna and there's nothing there anymore"

"who in it's in down when you say the old firemen i'm guessing that's down by the river bottoms their the right yeah right yeah right and you're saying it's all been with oregon or nothing like a landmark or anything but my know of because bill on i a couple years ago we went to the schmidt arm which is the next arm up every and then"

"are we asked them up we could walk down there and he wouldn't let us do what he said because of that is was responsibility of not having any insurance or some on their property we were just gonna out don't like get a rock or something like that as a remember zero i was born in the house on the also osmonds or place and doctor jurgen came to the house"

"you know we were all born in house outside think up until i don't think your dad was ah i don't know sherry was that maybe sherry and bob and joe i think are born and hospital but i think the rest of us were born and out"

"in in come it wasn't your own house it is someone elses"

"northern our own house oh okay so you lived it's because you're saying that you were born in a house that was the all"

"can you spell that it starts with a oh god you know all swedes i think it's a l l s w e d or something like that i looked at up on the internet one time and you can find and if you go on the map if you know where to go okay"

"a l l"

"ah on s w a t a i think it is"

"okay"

"and did you say the doctor was there at a house that same right"

"mom doctors are going to eight of the house all the time even if the kids were sick or whatever which wasn't very often"

"a he came to the house for everything"

"get mom couldn't get the town yep doctor jurgen this was my mother's god i'm telling yeah yeah"

"oh yeah"

"so if he were just you know he was the go to person"

"right she she absolutely believed everything that guy said did or whatever i remember one time she said that she went to doctor jargon because she had chest pains and doctor jurgen says will cut out the butter a little bit so she didn't she believed that that was up"

"yeah she believed him yep yep she didn't even leave us a nice guy to he was the one that sort up my arm yeah yeah"

"the by that time you went to him but other times he made house cause usually yeah yeah right yeah"

"okay"

"well if you are too sick to be taken in or out of the house to go to town are you couldn't get the town you would call out"

"sure sure that of thing doesn't exist anymore while and then just a year and alaska yeah not for a while until it was built up in our area but otherwise the doctors at airplanes and flew to different places and help people that were sick"

"i suppose because if you don't have the a place for a doctor to stay"

"you know that they have a working clinic in an area somebody is to from everybody on the our we did have a clinic and all but and if you had a baby you have the baby and a clinic and then you are on neural down there was nothing else here at the time"

"worry"

"i'm we're not on the time ago of a kind of alaska so i'm the only the only i don't i know very little about what brought you and gym"

"up there ah where water i'm assuming it was in a business opportunity or something or what would a lot miss a one gym that ah came back from the air as ours he was in the airforce and and he went to work at a"

"computer business at why can i remember i'm not good at going on my name's i'm a number person ah anyway he went to work at this computer place and there was a fellow by the name of ron davis"

"that went to work the same day that aged and he had just gotten out of the army and saw those two became friends and ron davis' dad lived up here in alaska since the late nineteen fifties"

"and his dad ah ah"

"owned a lot of heavy equipment that he lose her the oil companies on the nor soak that tested for oil"

"and so when ron and gym more friends and they worked together those years long as he had gotten married and had i think two children and decided to move up your to alaska or his dad was and work for his dad and he always tried to get gym to come up here too so long time"

"ah jim took two weeks off of the job and you came up here to see what it was like and of course it's a man's country you know i guess you can say it i like northern minnesota kinda sorta and are and so he came back and wanted to all about move on up here and that kind of thing and he gave us noticed that"

"or and quit work any came up here and his intention was"

"cho ah fly back and forth are come you like a lot of people do that work on the saw while i get your i just really thought that was really silly in a way because it just wasn't my idea of having a family together and so gyms dad said yeah all well why don't you just move up there so"

"gems older brother john the one that just passed away this last year"

"as a draw me and the kids up here and our little red saab ah three thousand some odd miles"

"ah ah we got here i take and four days and actually and seventy two hours driving time i still have the record of the gas record at all thing anyway when we were up here them on for a while"

"ah mad think did this happen i think before we came up here but rotten davis' day of the guy that lived here he bought or stuff no one eighty airplane and minneapolis"

"and gym and wrong"

"oh that plane up here when they were twenty eight years old who and what if and when they got here and there was a forest fires or they had the land on the major road between our two towns ago they couldn't land at the airport and and that was in nineteen sixty nine and saw them john and"

"i'm"

"and i think i think that that happened before i came with the kids and soul john draws up your gym didn't know we were coming and i'm still here"

"yeah"

"now"



"who in the kind of were lucky see was were equipment work for oil"

"and so right cadmium carbon really get up gems job was riding a g sex cat or a caterpillar i don't remember which and he pulled a little trailers around that how's the people that are worked or a seismic all the seismic reward a dog"

"to test or oil and like one of the trailers would be the the kitchen one would be the sleeping quarters one would bleed where your age yeah no one was the bathroom facilities that kind of thing and a call that air around up there on the song i mean i'm very in a tree or not and up there"

"and so and so that's what his job as he ran the a cap all of that camp around"

"the a good okay"

"rg six i don't remember which i probably yeah no i don't know either i like a probably look at up but i don't know as job lot of pictures of that stuff"

"okay well yeah if you want to send me some if you if you have any pictures that you could send an email i can add those to the the website as well you know to ah give them or color to"

"oh i see you but you"

"okay"

"ah that's all we got up here"

"sure sure"

"and"

"and so did you did gym latter you got up there originally and then i'm i'm assuming did gym didn't work for randstad forever"

"and all no channels that also had an ass off as the air and soda"

"and ah ah ha ah"

"they are they paved roads and stop and there was no competition at the time but that the roads here we're not and everything was dirt roads i mean there wasn't a stop sign up like there wasn't anything like that year so i think i can see the potential eventually to wow this would be kind of be the of area of coming from and"

"read your app the stop year at to get gas or whatever to get down over which the seventy miles from here are you where to stop year as you went off aunt a keen eye which is going east and way out that way to have a end of the road saw this actually has become the up and i think that was there"

"ah go all you know was to get all this paved and everything so eventually and nineteen seventy three our gym and ron acquired the business from lammert and know how they ended up and all that are on everything i mean i'm sure i remember some of that you know but at all had to do with a"

"equipment and or whatever you know gravel at some our comes down and sold then after that ah"

"ah after leonard died i think then they that the name of the company was harleys trucking and after leonard died then they changed the name to or before that know it was after gym died they changed the name of as jim i'm wrong were partners in this business or when jim died the partnership was over"

"and so they changed the name to alaska road builders and then lay it came to a big company because there was bidding and all because now you have competition with other at or companies are encouraged and airbags on all these different areas"

"now it just dog ah was a lot of it was not only a seasonal thing anymore"

"or it was like a year around job because one it started at earth and you just did worked on the soap in the winter and wasn't doing this stuff in the summer at the time then june would go past the inlet any what on all trap over there and ah then i became aware of the business got bigger and bigger he had to have getting and adapt"

"this was a when it came to the off season there was a lot of office work that out to be done and everything to prepare for the next season of work"

"yeah"

"or two questions one is is leonard runs dead or whose land yeah oh glamour was around them"

"and then the other question is what a gym homes and trip like raccoons and no no no i'm not i'm thinking every raccoons up your i don't think maybe right or know are you a dog otter ah and ops"

"ox at martin's martin's was some about martin's martin some fox and are rabbits"

"and of course he ordered for most and caribou he was not a fisherman he did go fishing a couple time but he was not a fisherman"

"and i'm"

"ah i almost see what else was unveiled their walls"

"ah but i don't think you to never shoot one of those but after the boys laughed he no longer was a hunter because he already on turned the only unturned for them need for the family"

"as we lived on loose and terrible or the majority of the time when our money and all"

"we are we ended up having lose some fried potatoes or breakfast i mean stuff like that it was just ridiculous"

"one month but that's the way it was it was it was going and always have any money even just start with"

"it just was like anybody else you know a start not life and and on get go on i guess"

"but the on the boys feel like they have one of the best childhood observer because it was a you know a small community and they just had"

"now the best i'm sliding down money hills and building or stuff like that"

"you sound like another world kind of"

"yeah right i'm sure a compared to guy inkwell when we moved here i felt like i went so far back into civilization i didn't know whether i can stand up compared to where we were at that time which wasn't the way that it is now out there either at all"

"your yards"

"now adjustment both ways"

"out"

"but now there's a lot of people your of course you on there's a lot of people from minnesota that are here"

"and we're draws them up"

"you know i think in the beginning i figured out that most of the people ended up you're trying to run from their problems"

"it doesn't work know that"

"no because you know get the problems of years older adult men on you or i think about when we came here and the people that we met i was just up all because it seemed like everybody that we match they ah had get married and had a couple of kids and divorced and they married somebody that had a couple of kids"

"so now we got our has been an away from to of his kids into a her kids and then they had kids of their own there was so much like that i just have what in the world ill that at all it was so foreign to me it

was all on the me but it's probably now isn't any different and wherever you are it'll and isn't"

"yeah that that hot air yeah know it was ah very horns or major have that kind of"

"well what do you call it"

"non traditional family structure our a right yeah right yeah right and then of course over the years i mean june was gone a lot so i will buy myself a lot with the boys"

"i'm and everything and all mucha wasn't the way that i wanted to raise a family but i don't jam always that you gotta go where the money was just arrived"

"that atlases are you said anyway and i'm envisioning that he would have a small jobs you know out of the city in other cities in other communities we're in those kind of what would take him away"

"yeah and in up the iron and in the winter you when he first round work on the phone sometimes he be gone for three months old for two days gone another to lunch or maybe four days or something one year i only saw him three times in one year"

"i know i can not like that"

"and in this with this went on for a long time and yeah after about a now now"

"yeah up until i'm gosh let me think the boys were already"

"my goodness"

"even ah they were already like sixteen are caterers and that kind of thing before you know i just felt like i wasn't married young and i wasn't interested in anybody else but i guess i can honestly say that you know i was sitting one night at by the sliding glass door in the boys i we're eating and i got married for and all are ya"

"i'm just not my job was a time"

"but i think that that it was or even in the summer when he was here he was busy twenty four seven or lost because they had so much aiming and it's we have all of the light other sons up the are all of last time and sob they got a lot of worked on and so they were so busy all the time that it didn't go"

"to have all our time together however though i mean he didn't teach the boys a lot of stuff i mean they aren't and and they know a lot of guns and then on a private i mean it was time for all the necessities and put it that way"

"i didn't go camping or anything like that in all arm and the boys quarter as they got older they have their own interest in own and their motorcycles and motorcycle race and all that stuff that they did"

"yeah"

"because it was gonna be my next question is whether the boys it you know what i'm not i don't i don't get any impression of"

"of any kind of her"

"bitterness about it from you what i'm hearing is more you know that's a bummer but it is what it is you know a dime the fine current apartments and was what it isn't what are the laws and whatever yeah"

"yeah and is did your your son's know kind of share that sentiment as far as you can go oh yeah"

"i mean they don't have any i think i think when jim got sick and he died i think they blamed his partner a lot because they don't do that now but i think they did at the time because you're you're always looking for somebody to blame on something bad apples you know and i think as just nature as just the way to"

"are you do that loose up map like was all that l but i think that they blamed wrong because when things really got a kick in the summer or things will go wrong and equipment would break at all that wrong will just jump on his airplane and of lying and leave gym with the mouse"

"and so are the boys i think have the bitterness against him for that reason but i mean i think that guys have a lot better are stable minded us are emotionally"

"to handle those things a better if if you wanna say that's a where they don't hold any bitterness or are they don't hold grudges i mean i don't hold grudges either i'm not like that i don't wanna do that i mean i think we've all had periods in our life that worked off"

"in why you are down and out and and you know and i think everybody and their life will go through that at some time another i don't know how you're going to avoid it"

"unless you're some super human person that you are able to accept everything as an app on and dealt with it and are able to go on but when things happen so much in a piles up and piled up and you don't have time in order digested and everything then it all gets a little rough and i think that every"

"but he goes through a bad period in their life"

"and but all but i i think that as you get older even with grandma banking you know i mean some of the stuff that that she did for oh power nor shall i say with dad"

"that mom said he never did anything wrong he was just the best imo well all no know when you get older as probably your don't wanna remember that that stuff at all"

"obviously obviously and every relationship it's not a one hundred percent all the i know"

"yeah the for and i'm here in a mad"

"that's interesting"

"and it it"

"oh gosh larger as kids would roll her eyes like gee where's mom don't remember this business it on she said no you never get a bad thing i know now yeah well that's probably for the murder"

"if or yeah right exactly is your mind you know"

"and in them before i leave it on a bigger gym i wanted to ask are so do you feel it all that the intense"

"work in an effort and focus he was trying to do to provide may have him"

"i guess i don't know as far as you know it might have made it not clear to him that he was not well it may be made the sickness progress a little bit more or that stress me mom again he was a heavy smoker and eat a lot and on his dad died of the same thing he died of lung cancer"

"and ah i think that maybe he was aware of that but i know one of his brother that your one time when they were drive and they bought some of our big dump trucks from oregon jordan minnesota and are some other brothers will drive those trucks up here"

"and i know one time as brother passed at the gym you know about quitting smoking and jim allister why i'm gonna die from something someday anyway"

"ah so i think it was his attitude toward that type of thing i myself you're not try to i am on them zero up a better ah taking care of yourself attitude or something but i mean he's going to do his own way and i mean it is just i know what i do about or whatever until they got sick that he could smoke away"

"well you know while all said and done you might as well just let him on there was a big ego like across my house"

"ugh"

"ah you may i'll just let him continue and and be an uncomfortable you know voters know we're having i think you know what it's all said and done i mean and after was over i you know why didn't you just keep on going like that at them but then it's a struggle to save your life"

"yeah all now are gonna"

"get i'll try and save your life and everything while he couldn't eat anymore"

"the any we are at his lung removed and minnesota and he was also take a moment he was such a shit about that in all he just it not want to check the chemo because it made you so sick and so when he was gone for a second treatment he was in the hospital and they were giving him the idea what the game or he just yanked around and that out of bed"

"after nobody knew he did"

"wow a year and after i then i took him to greece or alternative treatment general which was basically eating all healthy food before it was ever frozen are processed or whatever and everything first on the garden and drink a lot of water and there was a biologist that in a"

"injected what i think was ah it was interviewing this industry and i take was probably like an overload of vitamins or something like that i don't know that some people can survive but anyway ah ah i when you had what i hadn't yet that and we got back here and of course he had lost it was watching hundred and some power"

"cause we started doesn't he was down one hundred and thirty five i think or somethin brought him home in a wheelchair and take him to the hospital are because and i bruce was just couldn't stand that he just absolute couldn't stand on what happened to his dad and i was looking for some relief you know because i was twenty four seven for all many months"

"and ah but i talking to the hospital and on we got up there they put this thing down his throat and he ain't right out a don't you ever put that down there again"

"he was a horrible patient honored arab breasts"

"about you you know you can fix that yell at and we laugh about it now i mean he was over what patient and and his brother john the one that

just as way to i media was a horrible patient do i mean they just as stubbornness or whatever your old maybe i'd be like that someday do i mean or not i all but anyway it was dog ah ah"

"as ours the boys i'm in a to talk about bitterness i mean there's no bitterness i mean ah roms on his name is ron a brat came up here a year and a half ago and monica come for a ride in there and the plane and that gonna bang and and all i still talk to rounds wife on so while but she's a really different person and i don't see what out on she's now"

"now she goes snowboarding to arizona euro in the winter like a lot of people do from up here"

"so yeah"

"but otherwise know i mean there's no get and as i think that and when you're by yourself you can you can think of a lot of rings to get your so upset about it if you want you know now you just have to keep busy like you say and your your last now i mean you can sit there forever and and a crying about this and i'm sure that it's not easy but you have to go on"

"the have to go on us"

"yeah life goes on"

"good"

"yeah now okay well a who are today i think know"

"got the recording here but will pick up the me going"