

## EDITH G. JONES

### BIOGRAPHY

Eddie was born on September 2, 1908, in Walker's Mill, Pennsylvania. Her father was the manager of the company store for Pittsburgh Coal Company and her mother was a clerk for the same company. Eddie is the oldest of two girls and grew up in Cedar Grove, Pennsylvania, where she attended elementary school. She attended high school in Cross Creek, Pennsylvania. Eddie attended several universities, including Muskingum College, University of Pittsburgh, Washington and Jefferson, and Edgewood College. A Two-Year Elementary Teacher Training Diploma was earned from Muskingum College and also, Eddie received a Pennsylvania Department of Education Standard Certificate. Eddie taught English for 12 years and history for four years. She was also a building principal at Rennerdale School for two years. Eddie retired from teaching in 1944, to join the Navy.

### NAVAL CAREER

Eddie entered the United States Naval Reserve Midshipmen's School at Smith College in Massachusetts, in 1944. In 1944, she was commissioned as a Lieutenant to the United States Armed Forces Institute, in Madison, Wisconsin, to the Testing Branch. There she was in charge of the educational testing program. From 1946-1948, Eddie was a civilian employee for the Navy, in the same capacity. She was recalled to active duty in 1948, when she became the Assistant Director of the Accreditation Division at the United States Armed Forces Institute, in Madison. Eddie was transferred to the Naval Air Station in Patuxent River, Maryland, in 1950. She served there until

released to inactive duty in 1952, when she married LCDR Harry C. Jones, of the United States Navy.

#### MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

While in the Navy, Edie was sent to the Carlisle Barrack in Pennsylvania, where she was the first woman to deliver a lecture to personnel attending school there. She was also sent to a Chaplains' Conference where she was referred to as a "Female Chaplain", the only woman in attendance. In Patuxent, Maryland, she worked with Dean Martin Dreese of George Washington University in setting up the first off-campus program for civilian and military personnel, for the university. While in college at Muskingum, she earned a letter for basketball. Just recently, Edie was commended for creating a card file of all of the war veterans in an area of Washington County, from the Indian wars before the Revolution, through the recent Gulf War.

#### INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT EDIE

Edie taught for 16 years and only missed work once. She also was involved with the Girl Scouts in Florida, Junior Women's Club, Allegheny County Principals Round Table, and is currently involved with the Washington County Historical Society, Fort Vance Historical Society, and the Neville House. During her life, Edie has met several famous people such as: Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, General Lanim (great friend of Hemmingway), Mary Martin, Commander O'Callahan (received Congressional Medal of Honor on the Franklin), Colonel LaFallett (Gov. of Wisconsin), and Commander O. William Gepner. Commander Gepner was Edie's Commanding Officer, and he, as a Lieutenant, was the first person on a US ship in Pearl Harbor, to sight

a Japanese submarine. Here in Pittsburgh, Edie has met some famous sports figures such as Joe Greene, Terry Bradshaw, and Lynn Swann.

### INTERESTS

In her free time, Edie enjoys reading, traveling, collecting antiques, decorating her house, sports, and gardening. She enjoys watching the Boston Celtics and Pittsburgh's sports teams. Edie said that she enjoys seeing new things and going new places. She likes to be in on things that are happening and exploring new experiences.

### REGARDING ERIKSON'S STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT

#### TRUST VS. MISTRUST

When Edie was asked about her childhood, she described it as exciting and being that she has gone on to do so many things and lived in so many places, I feel that Edie's parents were nurturing and as a result, Edie developed a sense of trust. Her mother worked while she was growing up and that also is a sign of trust because Edie was able to let her mother go to work because she realized her mother would come back.

#### AUTONOMY VS. SHAME AND DOUBT

Edie was very involved with her parents. Although they worked while she was in school, she did spend weekends with her parents at such places as Pittsburgh, the Carnegie Museum, and other community places. She reflected back on her childhood very positively, which leads me to believe that she was able to gain autonomy during this stage of her life. She lead a healthy life and she expressed this by stating that she's healthy, doesn't take medication, and if she needs an asprin, takes it then gets on with what she is doing. To me, this

is a sign of a very strong, well-developed physiological state of being. Any imbalance in her physiological state would have been noticeable as she began to speak during this time of her life, early childhood.

#### INITIATIVE VS. GUILT

At this stage in her life, Edie's parents were divorced and she feels that their family got along well. She lived with her mother and sister and she said that even though they were from a broken home, they really didn't know the difference. Edie was a good student and by looking at her career after high school, I definitely feel that Edie reached a feeling of initiative within this stage of her life. She had to move when her parents were divorced and her mother still worked, so she spent a lot of time at school and other activities. She enjoyed her childhood and feels that during those times, children explored more than they do today. Being that Edie has accomplished so much, I feel that this portion of her life was very impacting on the person she is today. She still initiates many projects and activities today, which I think is characteristic of a healthy experience during her development within this stage. She wanted to learn and took the initiative to learn everything that she could, which helped her complete high school and college, as well as Naval School, during a time when not many people, especially women, attended high school let alone college. I think that being that Edie's parents were divorced, Edie gained initiative early in her education, realizing that this period is of pre-school aged children. I also, feel that this period overlaps into the next stage of development, and in that stage, much of the same type of information will be seen.

### INDUSTRY VS. INFERIORITY

Edie spoke in her interview about her childhood being exciting and doing a lot of things. I think that she developed a sense of industry early on in school. Again, the fact that she continued her education through college and into teaching and the Navy, she would have to feel a sense of industry. She had to have a sense of competence to guide herself into a career as she did. She mentioned that she wanted to help her country and because she wanted that, she tried to become a WAC (Women's Army Corp.) Unfortunately, they weren't hiring, so she tried the Navy. Finally, after two tries, they accepted her into training. Even though this was many years after this first sense of industry should be developed, it had to be present for her to persist at something that she wanted. She talked about how she would role play and play other games when she was younger. That shows movement away from fantasy. All of these examples support the idea that Edie did gain a sense of industry within this stage of development.

### IDENTITY AND REPUDIATION VS. IDENTITY DIFFUSION

Within this stage of development, ego identity develops and the person focuses attention to where they will fit in within society. Several times within my interview with Edie, she spoke of her mother's support of her choices. Being that she found her niche in the adult world as a teacher, then a Lieutenant in the Navy, I believe that Edie was affirmed by her mother and family but also, she was either affirmed by her peers or she strongly wanted these occupations in life and she didn't let her peers influence her. Edie stated that she always wanted to serve her country and that is why she joined the

Navy. She is very patriotic and loves her country and that shows a belief in our government and how it effects our country. Edie, at times, did things that many females hadn't done, such as being the first woman to lecture at the Carlisle Barracks to the personnel. Also, some of the positions she held in the Navy, placed her in charge of men who were Navy personnel. Peer groups obviously didn't influence many of Edie's decisions because during this period of time, not many women did the things that Edie had done. Looking at her life, I think that Edie again, successfully developed and found a sense of identity and repudiation during this stage of her life.

#### INTIMACY AND SOLIDARITY VS. ISOLATION

Edie spoke of teaching for sixteen years and only missing one time, which is a definite commitment to an occupation. She did not marry until she was forty years old but I don't feel that that is a result of not developing intimacy. One thing that she mentioned in her interview, that struck me as unbelievable, was that her teaching contracts stated that in the event that she would marry during the term of these contracts, she would have to resign her position as a teacher. While in the Navy, she dated but the men that she came in contact with were also military personnel, and being that it was a time of war, the men were frequently moving about, which meant that she would only see them for short periods of time. Edie taught for sixteen years and retired because she wanted to help her country during a time of war. To me, this choice is a result of strong ethics and standards that she developed in her early adulthood. Even today, Edie is dedicated to many organizations as a volunteer. Just recently, she has just about completed a card file of the war veterans.

from Washington County, from the Indian battles through the recent Gulf War. She's dedicated to her country and the people, something that she learned in her early adulthood. These examples lead me to believe that she developed a sense of solidarity and intimacy during this developmental period of her life.

One interesting thing that shows Edie's development of intimacy, is the fact that she was referred to as a "woman chaplain", in the Navy. A chaplain served as a counselor for the military personnel. She was able to relate to people well and understand their needs. Although she wasn't a chaplain, people came to her for advice and help. This to me, shows a caring and understanding person, and that is the core of intimacy. Also, she was a teacher, which involves a lot of caring and nurturing. I think that the intimacy that Edie developed was that of caring for others, not just forming a relationship with one person. It's a much broader sense of the word intimacy.

Edie said that she always wanted to help our country and that is what lead her to the Navy. She also completed college to earn a teaching certificate. These symbolize solidarity to me. She knew what she wanted out of life and she did what she had to to get it. She retired from teaching to go to the Navy and retired from the Navy to be able to marry the man she loved. She learned that nothing can be accomplished without compromise and sacrifice. All of these examples lead me to believe that Edie also, successfully moved through this stage of development and on to the next.

#### GENERATIVITY VS. SELF-ABSORBTION/PARENTAL SENSE

While in the Navy, Edie was sent to Madison, Wisconsin. At

first, she was upset with this transfer because she wanted to go to a hospital somewhere and help "our boys". She wanted to be there where the action was. As part of her job in the Navy, she helped personnel earn their GED's and take classes of interest. Also, as mentioned before, she was considered a "woman chaplain", because she helped others. At a time in life when most people have gotten married, Edie was still single but her parental sense shined through. Her occupations as school teacher, principal, and Lieutenant in the Navy, all required personal nurturing skills. She chose to give up her career in the Navy to marry her husband. She became a housewife then and although they never had children, she was involved in community organizations with children, such as Girl Scouts and after school clubs. This shows a concern to guide the next generation.

Within this developmental period, generativity is shown through a giving to the next generation. Edie has done so much giving in her life. She helped many service men receive diplomas that they may not have received because their schooling was interrupted by the call to war. She lectured in many places and was a teacher to many children. Each of these activities, in their own way, gave to the next generation. Edie is very patriotic and through her life has done many things for our country, such as serving in the armed forces, keeping records of veterans, and volunteering to historical societies, where her life-long education can be of great value. Being that she has done so much for others, I definitely feel that Edie had successfully gained a feeling of generativity during this stage of her life, which allowed her to reach integrity as she has reached the age of retirement.



## INTEGRITY VS. DESPAIR

As I have already stated, Edie, in my eyes and also, in her own belief, has reached a state of integrity. Edie conveyed to me, a sense of pride in her accomplishments and a sense satisfaction in all that she has done. But she is by no means finished. She said that she loves new things and she likes to be in on things that are happening. She is still very involved, being a member of several historical societies and other organizations, as well as being a valuable member of her own community. When asked for some advice for the new generation, she was quoted as saying, "Live it!" She enjoys keeping busy and her age has not slowed her down. Currently, as was previously mentioned, she is completing the veterans' card file, also, she was asked to be a Providence Representative for the Women Navy Veterans in her area, and she is helping to republish a book, as well as tending to her house, husband, and neighbors. I have never seen someone with so much enthusiasm and enjoyment for life. She admitted that she does have aches and pains but nothing a few aspirin won't cure. She doesn't let little aches or pains stop her. Edie has lead a full life but she still has a lot to do.

## CLOSING REMARKS

When looking at Edie's life from a physical, cognitive, moral and religious, and personality development point of view, I see many things. First, I now realize the difference between aging and growing up. Aging to me, is the process of gaining years of your life, with every birthday. Just because a person is 80 years old, doesn't mean that they have grown up. They may have stumbled upon some negative situation that could have caused them to stop their

development at any of the stages that Erikson has mentioned. They ~~may~~ never reach a feeling of integrity. Something may have happened to make their life stressful and unenjoyable, which may have lead them to despair in later life, or they may never reach this stage. Growing up involves life's experiences and how you choose to use them.

Fortunately, I chose a person who has experienced many things in life and has been many places (every state in the union). Edie has enjoyed her life thus far and is still learning and enjoying. She is a fine example of someone who is able to successfully move through the developmental stages that Erikson has created, to reach a state of integrity.

Cognitively, Edie is very intellectual. She attended grade school, high school, several colleges, and the Naval Training Program, but her education didn't stop there. Formal education, yes, but she also learned from experience. Edie was able to travel to every state and live in Alaska for two years. She met many people and participated, and still does participate in many activities to broaden her horizons. She is still learning today, as new things begin, she is there to learn. Her recollection of her life was fascinating. She remembered names of people, dates, and as a perfect example, she was quoted in a news article as saying that she retired from the Navy, "after 8 years, 4 months, and 28 days". If that isn't a good memory, I don't know what is. She knew specific dates and places, and described events like they happened yesterday. She has a very broad vocabulary and a very open and warm personallity. I think that a lot of her ability to remember has to do with the amount of enjoyment she derived from her life. She describes her whole life as being "exciting". She

enjoyed life, so therefore, she remembers it.

Eddie has a set of morals and a religious value that have created the person that she is today. Although she didn't mention any specific things regarding morals or religion, it's evident that they have played a part in her growth process. Finally, I see her personality as remaining stable throughout life. She was a caring and thoughtful individual and it has shown through her work and other experiences. I see her today as being the same, caring, fun loving person as was depicted throughout her description of her life, when interviewed. This assignment was truly a pleasure for me to complete and was also, one of the more rewarding assignments in my educational career thus far. With that note, I conclude this paper.