

Collection #  
DVD 0870–0873  
CT 2369–2370

**JEAN SHEPHERD  
PRESENTATION, SEPTEMBER 5, 1980**

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Processed by

Paul Brockman  
October, 2016

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 4 audio disks; 2 cassette tapes

COLLECTION  
DATES: September 5, 1980

PROVENANCE: Paul Brockman, Indianapolis, July, 2016

RESTRICTIONS: None

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HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 2016.0220

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Jean Parker Shepherd Jr. (1921–1999) was born in Chicago, Illinois, but raised in the Hessville area of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana. After graduating from Hammond High School in 1939, he sporadically attended Indiana University at its Calumet Center Extension Division (East Chicago), purportedly worked as a mail carrier in a steel mill, and served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps during World War II (1942-1944).

After his military service, Shepherd began a career in radio in 1945 at WJOB in Hammond before moving on to WTOD in Toledo in 1946. Between 1947 and 1951, he worked in Cincinnati, Ohio, at WSAI, WCKY and WKRC, before moving to KYW in Philadelphia between 1951 and 1953, when he returned to Cincinnati to host both TV and radio programs on WLW until summer 1954. In February 1955, Shepherd moved east to WOR radio in New York, where he remained for the next twenty-two years.

In addition to his work in radio, Shepherd was a humorist, satirist, raconteur, author, standup performer and actor. He authored five books. WGBH/PBS made a number of his stories into TV productions in the 1970s and 1980s. During this time, Shepherd also created several series of programs for public television showcasing his unique take on life in America. He was involved in two big-screen movies taken from his stories, the most famous of which, *A Christmas Story*, came out in 1983 and has become a holiday classic. A sequel, *My Summer Story*, came out in 1994.

In 1995, Jean Shepherd was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Indiana University, from which he never graduated. Shepherd died in Fort Myers, Florida, at the age of 78. He had been married four times and with his second wife had two children, although he always denied their existence.

Sources:

Jean Shepherd Web Site/[keyflux.com](http://keyflux.com) [www.keyflux.com/shep/](http://www.keyflux.com/shep/)

Jean Shepherd IMDb

Additional information provided by Steve Glazer, January, 2017

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The talk/presentation took place at the Annual Fall Conference of the Indiana Historical Society held at Purdue University Calumet Campus on September 5, 1980. Shepherd talks about growing up in the Hessville area of Hammond, going to high school, relationships with Polish girls, living next to the Bumpus', and the trials of being a fan of the Chicago White Sox. Several of his stories were taken from his books, but he also humorously comments on the topics on the Society's fall program.

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Jean Shepherd, Tape 1, user copy (45:20)

Jean Shepherd, Tape 1, master copy

Jean Shepherd, Tape 2, user copy (48:07)

Jean Shepherd, Tape 2, master copy

Jean Shepherd, IHS 1980, Tape 1

Jean Shepherd, IHS 1980, Tape 2

### CONTAINER

DVD 0870

DVD 0871

DVD 0872

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CT 2369

CT 2370