

8/9/74 Friday
Larry Sprual - interviewer

LARRY: Now there were five of you?

OLE: It was five of us really and then there was another. He was a brother

to my schoolteacher, so we was really six of us that started out. ~~And then,~~

Start Here -> y you see, we boarded the Titanic in South Hampton. ~~and~~ The ship was built in

Belfast in Ireland and it took two years to build it. It was 885 1/2 foot long, about 90 foot wide, and I think there was ~~10~~ or ~~11~~ decks, you

~~see?~~ And, o' course, everything was luxury! ~~you see!~~ It was a wonderful ship! Course, I was the ~~best~~ ^{3rd-class} passenger and, of course, there was a lot of

high dignitaries on it, also. Well, when they was building it, a fella by the name of ~~Colesley~~ ^{Leslie} drew a blueprint of it and a man ~~with~~ ^{with} the name of

Andrew was the builder of it, ~~and~~ ^{and} then they divided the ship into 16 watertight or ~~air~~ ^{air} chambers, eight on each side of ~~it~~ ^{the ship}. But there was many

expeditions from here and there; ~~They~~ ^{they} ~~wanted~~ ^{went} to see it and it was a little while before ~~it~~ ^{that} it was finished! I don't know where that expedition was from;

but they looked at it, you know, and one made the remark that this ship must be pretty safe and that it was so safe that not even God can destroy

it! Well, ~~they~~ ^{they} had 16 lifeboats on there, ~~these~~ ^{eight} bigger ones. That was ~~on~~ ^{on} each side of the ship and ~~they~~ ^{then} had 4 collapsible boats. ~~You know what~~

~~a collapsible boat is?~~

~~LARRY: Ya, ya.~~

~~OLE:~~ ^{four} Ya, mostly canvas and stuff like that. But there was ~~of~~ ^{four} of them and they were supposed to lay under the big lifeboat; but they was throwed ~~out~~

in a pile, you see, close to the bridge, ~~Collapsible~~ ^C collapsible boats. And they didn't have any--ya, the man that was on the lookout he didn't have no

glasses ~~either~~ ^{neither}, just the naked eye, but they took it from Belfast to South Hampton and there it was. And I don't remember ~~what~~ ^{what} day was it

now--I think it was the 9th or the 10th. They ~~were~~ ^{was} ~~going~~ ^{gonna} to try ~~and~~ ^{to} cross

~~the ocean~~ ^{the ocean} in 5 days ~~you see,~~ that time. So the foreman there in South Hampton-- of course, we ~~went~~ ^{went} down on the dock there and looked at it. They had a lot o'

stuff ~~there~~ ^{there} to load in there, so it took prett'i'near 'til noon before that

~~the ocean~~

that they were ready when they got all the passengers on there and they tried to get out ~~there~~ from the dock. They got a couple of those tugboats, ~~you see~~, to try and turn the bow of the ship out from the dock. Well, it was so heavy that it took ~~such a time~~ that they couldn't hardly move it and so they started two of the propellers on the right-hand side, you see, to get it out; but the suction ~~was so great from this here~~ was so great that the steamship New York busted the lines, you see, and we come awful close ~~to having~~ ^{having} a collision right before we got out of the harbor there. **B**ut they finally got it out and got goin'. Then we went across the British Channel to Belfast--no, to ~~the~~ France. We went across the British Channel and took in some more passengers and then we went from there to Quinstown in Ireland and took in some more passengers there. And then they headed, o' course, for the--and they took the northern route 'cause it's shorter. And the weather was just as nice as could be all the time. ~~O' course, you know,~~ ^{himself} It's cold out on the ocean, but everybody enjoyed ~~themselves~~. And it was the 4th day we were ~~on~~ on board. Then in the morning--it was a Sunday. Well, then they had breakfast and then they stand around for awhile and then they had services in the forenoon and then after awhile about ~~two~~ ^{2:00} o'clock--then, o' course, well, the ocean was so calm you know. You never seen it any ~~more~~ calmer! So they enjoyed themselves, you see. It was wonderful! ~~They~~ They had a great big parlor for the ladies with pianos and tables and everything, and then for the men they had small square tables where they could sit and play cards. You could go up to the bar and get a drink, whatever you wanted. They started to dance ^{there} you see--oh, it must o' been about ~~two, three, or four~~ ^{2:00 or 3:00} o'clock in the afternoon. That was in the 3rd ~~Cabin~~ ^{Cabin}. And in the 1st Cabin there was also--there was ^{One} ~~3~~ of the waiters in there that ^{laid} ~~layed~~ in the bed next to me in the the St. Vincent's Hospital in New York and he told me that the captain was down there, but he wasn't drunk or anything. But, you know, there was fellas that paid \$4,000 or more! ~~There was~~ A lot o' 'em, you see, they just went across for the fun of it! And there was many like this ~~there~~ ^{Astor.} John Jacob ~~Rockefeller~~. That was

one o' the rich man at that time--was supposed to be worth more than \$400,000,000. And William Steed[?], that's that great British writer, and Futchal[?], that French novelist, and then there was Smit' and ~~hi~~his wife from New York--no, from Minneapolis--and Chaffee, that was from North Dakota, and his wife, and this here feller that got this here big store in New York and his wife. They were old Jewish people. They got that--what is the name of that great big store now in New York?

~~LARRY: Not Tiffany's, is it?~~

~~OLE: M-m-m?~~

LARRY: Tiffany's?

OLE: No, it's about one o' the biggest stores we got, ~~you see?~~ I was in there to ask the manager if I could get a job and he told me there was 1800 clerks workin' in there, ~~But~~ they went down both of them, ~~two~~^{too}. And then it was this here Bruce Ismae. He was the manager of the White ~~Star~~^{Star} line; he was on board. And I guess this here Andrew, ~~he was~~^{the} builder, he was on there, too! Well, I stood there and looked at it. ~~me~~ And my companions, ~~you see,~~ they didn't understand the language so they went to bed earlier, but I stayed up 'til about 10 ~~o'clock~~^{:00} or so and then I went down in my room. You see another friend of mine--~~was~~^{two} was just ~~of~~^{two} of us in the room. And my brother-in-law and my cousin had another room and the ~~two~~^{two} girls--we were in the front of it on the starboard side of it. We were in Compartment G and in Room 63, ~~where I and this here other fella.~~ Well, then it was more--the ship stopped. And this here other fella he says, "Ole, what's wrong?" I said, "I don't ~~know~~ know, but I'll find out!" So I got up right away and I looked at my watch and it was 10 minutes to ~~12~~^{12:00,} according to my watch and we could hear some talkin' out in the hallways. So then I walked up, ~~about~~^{don't know,} about 4 or 5 stairs, you see, up to the main deck on the--kind of on the back part of the ship. No, not in the back, the front part of it! I could see there ~~was~~ ice crushed off, ~~you see, enough!~~ There was a few of those, you see, sailors there and I asked ~~was~~ 'em if there was any danger? ~~He,~~ just go down. And he said, "No, just go down again!" So I ~~didn't~~

didn't think it was--there was something wrong! So I went down and they locked up the doors then so that nobody could get up there. So I went down to my brother-in-law and my cousin and got them up and then we walked up ^{three} stairs and the whole length, you see, to get to the back ~~of the~~ to get the girls up. ~~And of course, you know, by that time there was a lot of~~ And, of course, by that time, ~~you know~~ there was a lot of them then and it took quite a time. And comin' up the stairways, you see, and some took their bundles and put in their blanket and carry it and some their suitcases! All this here! And some was laughin' and jokin' all of it and some was cryin'! Well, we got up on the deck there, ~~no man~~, and then they started ~~to send these here~~ to send ^{out} up these here rockets, ~~written~~ These here signals, you know? SOS, ~~the~~ "Save My Soul", Save My Soul! ~~And they sent here,~~ ~~here, they sent there.~~ And the fella that was on the lookout--a fella, an English boy, 26 years old. His name was Fredrick Fleet and he was in the crow's nest ~~when we struck~~ the time we struck and the ^{First} ~~1st~~ Officer of the ship was in charge and he was on the bridge. Well, this Fleet he called to the bridge and he said, "I can see something straight ahead." But he didn't know what it was! Well, a little bit later, why, he called again and he said, "I see an iceberg straight ahead of ~~us~~!" So then the officer give signals to his engineers and to ~~the~~ reverse the propellers on the port and to go ahead on starboard in order to try and miss it! That's what they done! Well, instead o' goin' straight against it the iceberg hit right ~~in~~ back o' the bow and followed the side, ~~was~~ below the waterline and ripped open too many of those watertight compartments. Well, then they started to load the boats, ^{but} ~~well~~ some of 'em, ~~was~~ wasn't well-trained. They were British sailors and they wasn't much trained either. ~~Well~~ So, ~~well,~~ of course, a lot of the passengers too, the women! Of course, there was women and children first and, of course, some of 'em didn't want to go into the boat! They thought, "Why, shucks, nice weather and this here and out and it's a non-sinkable ship!" Why, they didn't want to go in! So several of ^{those} ~~these~~ here big lifeboats that were first loaded, you see, they

wasn't loaded really. Well, this kept on, kept on, you see, to load this here and the people crowded in there, but it seems not much of a panic. There wasn't much of a panic at ~~all~~ ^{all}. So they loaded the boats and a lot of those here officers, you see, jumped into the boat when they loaded. That's what they done. And, of course, when ~~that~~ they were loaded, ~~you see~~, they went away from the ship, ~~you see~~, because they were afraid ~~of, you see~~ that when it went down, ~~why, of course~~, it would suck ~~the~~ the boat down and they'd drown. So they went away from the ship. And I looked over the starboard side and I could see the light ~~of~~ ^{of} the ~~California~~ California. ~~that was proved~~ That was proved by the investigation even that they wasn't probably 10 ^{or} 12 miles away from us and they had messages from Silvo that we were among icebergs! And this California they was so scared that they was layin' still, ~~they didn't~~. They could ~~of~~ ^{of} come, you see; ~~but if they had~~, but they didn't. Well, I was standin' ~~on~~ ^{at} the back part of the ship, you see, on the main there because we couldn't get up ^{to the top deck} because they locked the door and there was womens there and they were cryin' and we could talk to 'em, but no, it didn't no good. So finally ~~the~~ towards the last all the lifeboats were set out and the ~~the~~ sailor come there and they got ~~the~~ ^{these here two} girls, you see, and we followed them up to the main deck or the top deck. And they got into a boat, the ~~the~~ ^{two!} ~~the~~.

LARRY: These were ~~one~~ one of the collapsible boats?

OLE: No, collapsible it ~~wasn't~~ wasn't, but there was someone from the top there that said, "Just be quiet; there's another boat a comin'!" It wasn't the captain, but it must of been one of the officers. I 'spose he figured ~~it was~~ ^{it was} the California, but they didn't come. So then we went up there and still there was hundreds and hundreds of people, ~~you see~~, on deck. Well, then they crowded up! They knew about these collapsible boats; they was toward the bridge. So the mob, you see, went up towards this bridge! Well, pretty soon they started to come back again. We was standing on the starboard side. I had one on each side of me--my ~~brother~~ ^{brother-in-law the} ~~on~~ none side and my ~~brother-in-law~~ ^{Cousin} on the other. And my brother-in-law said, "Ole, we'd

better ~~jump~~ jump off or else the suction will take us!" "Well," I says, "we haven't got much chance anyway. We'll stay a little longer." And ~~that~~ ^{there's} one I'll never forget! People ~~they~~ ^{there--} hundreds of 'em, ~~you know?~~ First class, second class, third class, all together. Some didn't even have much clothes on ^{and} And standin' there and some of 'em even joined hands ^{and} and some were so nervous ~~was~~ ^{was} that they couldn't stand still! But we were standing there by one of the ^{? dahlia's} and so I said to these other ^{two,} "Why, we'll get off!" ~~So I took ahold of this rope where the boats you see--it was still~~ You see the back raised up as the front went down so I took ahold of one of these ropes and left myself down ^{a ways just} as far as I could and then I let go and then I went into the water ^{and} and lost my hat, and probably swallowed a little water. There was a lot of 'em ~~in~~ in the water you could see! Oh, they'd grab ~~you~~ for you then, you see, and holler and all terrible stuff like this! So I tried to get away from the ship because I knew it wasn't long ~~before~~ 'til that the ship--the bow must of been under the water when I ~~jumped~~ jumped off. So I tried to get away and one ~~fella~~ ^{feller} got ahold of me. ~~like this here and got ahold of the--I had a life preserver on.~~ He got his arms over my neck like this, you see, and I tried to get away from him; but, no, there was no use to ~~try and get away from him.~~ So I ~~think it was~~ just as the ship ~~The last I could see~~ the lantern was still burning on the back of the ship, you see, and you could see the propellers ~~way~~ way out of the water ~~you see~~ and the front was down. It must of been as the ship went ^{right that} under ~~it~~ it seemed like it sucked us back ~~and~~ a little and this fella ^{let} left go of me. So I tried ~~again~~ ^{again} again to swim ~~you see~~ ^{again} to get away from there and a feller got ahold of my leg ~~like this, you see, just as I~~ and he hung on for a long time. ~~but~~ ^{but} finally he let go! Well, then I saw ^{kind of a} a shadow a little ways from me and that was some people that ^{they were hanging} was ~~hanged~~ onto one of those collapsible boats. ~~I don't know if it had been throwed out or if it had been hanged onto~~ ~~from the ship.~~ I don't know, but ~~There was~~ probably was ^{or} ^{something} 10, 15, something like that. I don't know exactly were standing on this here raft! So I ^{swim} ~~swam~~ toward ~~that~~ that and when they saw me in the water they said,

"Don't get on! You'll capsize it!" Well, I went over there and I went and got myself up over there and raised up, ~~you know?~~ So there we sat because the ship was already gone and we sat there for ^{Six} ~~5~~ hours in this here water. Towards morning, ~~noon~~ it started to blow and there was ^{one} ~~2~~ of those collapsible boats that was fixed up and ^{one} ~~2~~ of the officers that was in charge of it. Towards morning there he come pretty close to us and we hol-lered to him and he didn't have many in his boat either! No, sir, he wouldn't stop and pick us up! Oh, no! The ~~Montcampbell~~ ^{Montemple (sp)} was 45 ^{miles} to the north ^{east} of us and the California was about 12 miles to the southwest of us and the ship that rescued us, ~~Carpentaria~~ ^{Carpenturia}, was 58 miles to the ^{South} ~~North~~ east of us. They were from New York, you see? goin' east, you see?

to here
LARRY: Ya.

OLE: And that was just a 15, 10 ~~knot~~ knot, ya, 15 knot boat so they couldn't go--but those sailors they said, "Believe me!" "Fire them up," they said! So they got it up to 17 or 18 miles, you see? This Captain Rostrom, you see, was a Swedish and he done all he could, but we couldn't do nothin'! We was just standin' there lookin' at 'em, but they started east. When he got so close, you see, he started--within probably 3, 4 miles you see--~~then~~ to zigzag back and forth, you see, one way or the other. Well, he didn't know, you see, if that stayed together or if that they were split up so that in order to miss any of the boats, why, he done that and it took a quite a while. Well, when they had all of these here boats on, then ~~1~~ of these here lifeboats, the bigger lifeboats, come there to us and picked us up. I even helped row in there; I did! So it was 8 o'clock in the morning there before we got on board there. Course there was things ~~that~~ I haven't told you that happened there, but I can't get it so that I can hang together enough, you know? It's a little hard that way. But anyway we were under the banks of ~~New-foun~~ ~~New-f~~ Newfoundland about 650 or 700 miles. I think its around 650 miles east o' Sandy Hoag(sp), you know? That's a little ways out of New York. Then when I got on there, why, they gave us--they took us down to the dining room and they give us a glass o' brandy and coffee. But I was all

soakin' wet, you see? I had those clothes on! I couldn't lay down; I had slept on 2 chairs 1 night and on the--I don't remember, no--floor I guess because it was so crowded, you know, that I couldn't hardly stand it. But they did what they could and it took us 4 days to get into New York there. They had to go so slow because it was foggy all the time. And when we got into New York, of course, the people there they were wild, you know? They had their Mounted Police and mob there when we come off! There was 1 fella there he come over to me and he said, "I'll take care of you!" "Ya, that was alright," I said. But, of course, they wouldn't allow him! We had to go to the hospital, but he would have. He said that I'll take care of you. I stayed in New York a month to kind of identify. They found my brother-in-law's body; but my cousin they never found, but my brother-in-law was shipped back to Norway and I stayed there. ~~Igue~~

LARRY: When the ship went down, was there any noise? Did it crack up or make any noise ~~e~~for anything?

OLE: No, toward the last when it went down so much, well, then the water, you see, it got so high that it run in over the boilers. Then one of those here big smokestack--they claimed ~~that they was~~ ^{they were} so big that you could take 2 boxcars and put 'em on side by side to 1 of those smokestacks--well, 1 of them fell down, but outside of that there wasn't. Some of them said they busted up! No, no! No, it just went down, down, down, with the bow slowly, you see, and as the bow went down the back raised up. And there wasn't an awful lot of--some ~~said~~ says there was panic and all this here. But the people--it seems like it took awhile before they really could realize what they were in! It wasn't 'til the very last when they saw there was no hope anymore, you see, but then, o' course, it was an awful cry, you know? And, of course, some of 'em before that ~~the~~ it really--oh, it must o' been 15 minutes or so before the ship went down. A lot of 'em jumped overboard and you could see 'em, you know, oh, they'd grab ~~fre~~for one another and everything. And I didn't tell you another--on that raft there was ~~o~~1 fella that was back of me here, ~~you know?--An Italian--I think~~ you know, an Italian! I think he was an Italian and he got his arms around ~~my~~ legs

like this here, you know, and then he got the cramp! ~~You~~ That cold water, you see; 28 degrees! and then ^{that cold} the ice in ^{there} that--just terrible! And he laid that way 'til he ~~did~~ died so I had to break his arms ^{off} ~~open~~. There was ~~a fella~~ a ^{fella} fella from Ireland that I started to talk to ~~with~~ him on the train in London. He had been back to Ireland, you see? He was an elderly man and we was talkin' there, you see? Well, he ~~lay~~ laid down! He was layin' kind o' on the side like that and he didn't have strength, you see, to get up. I tried to get his head up out of the water; but the rest of 'em said, "Leave him alone! Leave him alone." And I told him, "Another ship is a-comin," I said, "and we'll be safe!" But, no, he says, "L-leave me alone!"

LARRY: He died too?

OLE: Ya, he died. And there was a young man, he was standing up, and he had a light overcoat on--small, kind of a light-bluish overcoat on--and he wasn't very heavy set. He was kind of a light person. Well, he fell down and he died--that he couldn't take it. Then there was one feller--I can't remember his name you know--but, he wrote a book about it. But I've never been able to--he stood right in front o' me. And I asked him, "How did you get off?" ~~And he said,~~ He was a First Class passenger o' course. And he said, "I heard some noise, woke up there, and I jumped up out of my bed and out on the deck and the ship was goin' down!" But he had just his underwear on--just a Union suit on. It wasn't even buttoned up. Oh, that man froze! He was a heavy set, well-built man; but he must of been, I guess, around 50 or better yet. It was a wonder that he lived! But he wrote a book about it, but I've never been able to get it! As far as I know, ^{that} he died about a year after this. It must of affected ^{him} ~~non~~ it ya.

~~OLE:~~ LARRY: Ole, when you came up on the deck to find out why the ship had stopped, you said that there was ice on the deck?

OLE: It had crushed in.

LARRY: You mean....

OLE: Crushed off of this here!

LARRY: Off the icebergs?

OLE: Well, do you know how ^{those} ~~this~~ here icebergs is ~~formed~~?

LARRY: Ya.

OLE: Ya, you know that?

LARRY: Ya.

OLE: Well, ~~they~~ after they crack up, you see--there probably as big as whole Adams County here, you see, first. Well, then they crack up into bergs. There wasn't only 1 berg! In the morning in the daylight we saw 3 of those big ones!

LARRY: Oh?

OLE: And, you know, there's only 1/8 of this here ice above the water and still it's that high up ~~above~~ the water, you see, that it was still ~~erushin~~ crushing in on here so that there was a lot o' ice there! ~~ya~~+Ya, that's the way it is.

LARRY: Did the 2 girls that came over did they....

OLE: They got in a lifeboat.

LARRY: They made it?

OLE: Ya, they made ~~it~~, and 1 is Mayor Proctor(sp) of Minnestoa. I don't know if she's alive anymore or not. I went down there a few years ago and she had some kind of a sickness or something--I don't know--so she wouldn't even open up for me, but I talked with ~~her~~ through the door. Then the other ~~1~~ is in ~~Los~~ Los Angeles in California, ~~and~~ and it must of been about 5, 6, years ago I went down there to see her. She was just 16 years old. She was married to ~~an~~ ~~I think it was an Englishman~~--I think it was an Englishman that she married, ~~and~~ and she had a son that was workin' in an airplane factory there.

LARRY: Was it really foggy the night that it hit the iceberg?

OLE: No, it wasn't so foggy then! It wasn't foggy then and the water was just as ~~eam,~~ ~~of eucalm.~~ Of course there's also kind of a little--but n-no wind hardly at all ^{much} or anything but it was cold. That far out in the ocean, you see, it ~~was~~ ^{is} cold and then that water that you get into. There was

fellas that got unconscious in 5 minutes--couldn't take it! Well, there was no human being--I don't care what they were--that could take it for any length of time unless they had somethin' they could get out of the water. It was that much; it ~~was~~ ^{would be} just like you could make ice cream in it! That what it would be!

LARRY: So, if it wasn't ~~foggy~~ // foggy, do you think....

OLE: ~~No~~, but there was no stars!

LARRY: Oh, no stars.

OLE: No, well, probably there was stars, but there was no moon! There was no moon!

LARRY: So you couldn't see too well?

OLE: No, but when I went home there that time that was on this here Norwegian Lang(?) there, you know? You see the captain got up and gave a talk and that to the passengers and I was sittin' there listenin' to him. He made the remark that he said, "The ~~1st~~ thing," he said, "that was bad for the Titanic was that-that-that ~~the~~ lights went out!" Well, it went through so I got up and I said, "I beg your pardon." I said, "Why, you're mistaken because I was on there," I said, "and the lights burned 'til towards the last!" That was that Captain Yurgens(sp) on the Wonderful(?).

LARRY: Do you think, Ole, that it was the fault of the crew or the guy in the crows nest that....

OLE: Well, this here--they had a big party there, you see, that night. And this here Smit' or Mrs. Smit' from Minneapolis heard that they got messages, you see, ~~different warnings, you see,~~ from these here different warnings, you see, that they were around a iceberg and they didn't pay much attention to it; but they had to post ~~1st~~ in the chart room, you see, for the information of the officers. Well, this here Mrs. Smit' she asked Bruce Ismae(sp) that was there. She says, "I 'spose ~~there~~ ^{they're} gonna slack up now and not go so fast!" "No," Ismae says, "we're gonna fire up 2 more boilers and go still faster! We'll go by the icebergs!" And, o' course, the captain was ~~down~~ ^{d-down} there. ~~Of~~ ^{o'} course if they had known--the 1st officer

tried! If he had went straight against the iceberg, and ^{he'd} ~~he~~ probably ~~would~~ ~~have~~ crushed part of the bow in, but the ship would have never sunk! It couldn't of because the air chambers would of kept it afloat! They could o' even ripped up 2 o' them and it still wouldn't ~~sink!~~sink, but they claimed that ~~if~~ ^{about} --if you read this here, that True --it ~~ammade~~ a hole about 3 feet and ^{the} 1300 feet long, you see, along ^{side} the ship below.

LARRY: But they had been warned?

OLE: Sure they ~~had been~~ ^{were} warned! They were warned because there ~~were~~ ^{was} ships, you see, as I ~~said~~ ^{said} the Montemple was 45 miles to the ^{North} east of us and the California. ~~They were only, I-guess, They were only I-guess~~ They were only -- I guess it had been proven -- about 12 miles from us. You see I could even see the top ~~later~~ lantern of the California myself!

LARRY: Oh?

OLE: Of course this here Carpetuia that was there they were ~~only~~ 58 miles ~~away~~ from us. They were the farthest!

LARRY: Did the captain of the California ever get in trouble for not coming and helping?

OLE: Well, I don't know for sure, but the rumor I heard -- I can't say for sure there -- that he lost his ~~job~~ ^{job}, this here captain of the California. They were a Scotch crew. It was the same ship that I went home on, you see?

LARRY: Oh?

OLE: California, ya!

LARRY: How long were you in the water, Ole? I mean can you estimate how long?

OLE: ~~I don't know how long I was swimmin'.~~ ^{I don't know how long I was swimmin' -- not so long!} One thing I know for sure that helped me. I had homespun, clear wool on me; that's one thing that ~~h~~ helped. So I didn't get no cold, ~~or anything~~ ^{or anything} -- I didn't get sick or anything. But it didn't make any difference; you couldn't stand that cold water. I wasn't in there very long before you could feel ~~you~~ ^{your} hands, you see, were startin' to get, ya! But it didn't bother me so ^{very} much when I was

standing^g on that raft. Of course towards morning we had to....

LARRY: There were that many people on the raft, huh?

OLE: Well, you see the ~~convasses~~ canvasses--and there was a Swede there and he was talking Swedish, but I could understand him. So he even swore and he ~~said~~ said, "For the devil's sake," he says, "help and lift up this boat!" He said that ~~is~~ in Swedish! I 'spose you don't understand Swedish do you?

LARRY: No.

OLE: But that's what he said! Well, I tried there, you see, to get ahold of this canvass, but in the water there and that way, why, we didn't know how they were fastened, you see? We tried to get it up so ~~that~~ we could bail out the water so that--you see the water was in there ~~so-tha~~ and it started to blow, you see? It must ~~not~~ have been--ya, before it started to get daylight. It started to blow not a heavy wind, but ~~just~~ ^{just} a breeze.

LARRY: That must have been cold!

OLE: Oh, ya, cold. Ya, it was cold. And there was 1 woman on ^{beard} there--oh, she was cussin' this ^{here} Irishman because they was tryin^g to get on this. I don't know how they got on! They must of hung on to it ~~from~~ and floated off of the ship I think! Well, you know how they are that they would grab for any^thing when you're drowning. And this here Irish must of got ahold of this woman, you see, and she was sure mad at him!

LARRY: Did she make it?

OLE: Ya, she made it!

LARRY: Oh?

OLE: I think she was about the only woman that got into the water and was saved too! And don't you know I got a letter from this fella from her-- that was Goldberg ^{is his name. He lives in Ohio I think.} ~~I think.~~ Ya, in Ohio, ya, and he brought to me and he says, "That--that was my mother!"

LARRY: Oh?

OLE: He read this here, you see, and--somebody sent this here, you see, and I put it in the paper here. And somebody sent it to him ~~and~~ ^{so} he wrote

to me. I mentioned that I think it was ~~wie~~ither a British or a English woman and he was ~~woman~~. And he was only 12 years old at the time and he got into a boat, but he got away from his mother! But he says, "This ^{here} woman that was on this raft was his mother!"

OLE: LARRY: Is that right?

OLE: Ya, ya.

LARRY: That's a big ship!

OLE: Oh, ya, ya.

LARRY: Were there people drunk yet ^{when the ship} ~~that~~ went down from the party do you think?

OLE: There wasn't many drunk that I could see. There was 1 great big newcomer, Swedish, you see, and, oh, he was a gent of a guy! Well, you could see that he had been drinking quite a bit and he says, "You can step on my hand," he says, "and I'll lift you up!" That fella got into the water! He must have jumped in and he ~~el~~ got close--at the time, you see, 1 of those lifeboats--and he got ahold of ^{the} ~~a~~ boat, you see, on the side. Well, they didn't want him so 1 in the boat, you see, tried to kick him, you see, like that to get him to let go! The Swede he grabbed ahold of his foot and then the guy that was in the boat he started to beg that they should take him then. And this Swede, you see, he said in the Swedish language, "You can do whatever you please, but I'm going to ride along as long as I can!" That's what he said! So then they took him on. I saw him on the Carpetuia and you should have seen him! He lost his cap and he ~~a~~ had a blue, soiled coat on! He looked like a drowned rat, you know? And his clothes, you know, when they started to dry they just kind of shrivelled shrivelled up, you know? ^{He} ~~They~~ looked ^{awful} ~~terrible~~!

LARRY: But the people didn't really believe at first that the ship was gonna sink?

OLE: N-no! ~~NOOOON~~-N-no, that's the reason some of 'em made a joke out of it! No, there was 1 woman there that-that-refused to go in and says, "That ship is unsinkable and in calm weather. No, no, it won't!" They were telling about--I don't know whether it was so or not--one that had been to a

fortune teller^{woman} and the fortune teller told her that-that she was gonna die on water. They wanted her to go in the water. "No," she says. She was gonna do just the opposite. So she stayed on! I don't know if it's quite true or not, but I think it was!

LARRY: How long did it ~~take~~^{take}, Ole, approximately from when the ship hit the iceberg 'til it finally went down?

OLE: It took about 2 hours.

LARRY: Oh, it did? That long?

OLE: Oh, they had pumps there and the pumps--it was just like a little river goin' out!

LARRY: After the ship hit the iceberg was it pretty ~~dis~~^{un}organized? Do you think that more people could have been saved?

OLE: It could have been. They should have started in and realized what was really goin' on, but that they couldn't save it, you see? They should have started to load those boats! Just think of it, man, 2 ~~hours~~+hours to get those lifeboats out!

LARRY: Were you worried personally, Ole? ^{Do you think it might be the end?} ~~that it might be the end?~~

OLE: I don't know. It really seems like that I ~~was-gonna~~ didn't think that I was gonna go!

LARRY: You never ~~panicked~~^{panicked} then?

OLE: No, not really.