

Ballard Historical Society Oral History Project

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Interviewer: **?**

Reviewed by Elida Tepper

...I read it for my after-school deal. It was more like that, something like that, rather than playing and, well, I could play --

Well, you must have loved music, though.

Oh.

You must have loved music.

That's all I lived for is so I can hear some good music on -- now I like to hear operatic and that.

Yes.

I don't like the jazz and that they have now. That's not like we played.

Did you ever hear of a Baghdad Music Store?

Yes. Baghdad, yes.

I think it was next to the Baghdad Theater.

Yes, uh-huh. I used to pick up the music downtown. Let's see, what was his name? Weeks. Yes. He had a music store. Yes. And then get sheet music and one thing another and orchestrations and like that.

Well, I never asked you now, you were 23 where you (inaudible) --

It'll stop.

Now, how old -- you were 23 when you were married?

Uh-huh.

And did you have any children?

No.

And then, did you work after you were married? You continued working?

No, I did -- I didn't -- I quit. When I got married, I quit.

Uh-huh.

Those days, the girls didn't do so much of that of working and that. And then, after a while, then my husband was poorly. Took a few years till he passed away, see. So he finally had a tumor of the brain.

Oh, my.

And they didn't know much about it those days, you know.

Well, even now it's so awful.

See, that was in -- about 1930, '31, '2, in there. They didn't know what to do. And so then -- but I mean it's kind of a slow death, you know, one thing another. So then I worked there at (inaudible) she called me back and wanted to know if I could come and help her out. This was in a loan office. And it was a lady manager. And so I went back there and then he passed away. And then I kept on working. I had a job, see. So --

Well, that was good though, you had a job.

Uh-huh.

You know, something to be --

Yes, that's it.

-- involved with. And then, too, this was -- let's see, this was in 1920 -- what year was that when he died?

Well, he'd -- '28.

And that was going into the Depression?

No, we got -- yes, in '28 he died, yes. Uh-huh. I was going to say got married in '28; got married in '23. And that -- yes, '28. Uh-huh. Well, then I -- yes, and I eventually met this other -- my husband that --

Your second husband.

My second husband, yes. He was ten years older than I, so that's why he's passed away, early, you see, and made me a widow, so.

Uh-huh. Well, do you remember anything about the Depression? Now you were in the loan office. What was it like to be in a loan office during the Depression?

Well, I -- it -- you had to sure watch it, because you were -- about making loans, you just couldn't make it because people -- they had to be working and that was that. And it was that kind of an atmosphere. There -- I'm getting tired now and I can't think anymore. You know, when you get 87, you --

Uh-huh.

But, I mean, it was just their job, was what gave them the loan, nothing more, you see. They didn't -- no backing, anything like that. And they were only small loans, 50 or \$100 was the most anybody ever got.

Oh, for a loan.

And we were -- a lot of \$5 ones, \$10 ones.

My. Well, what did -- was this for houses and things? What about -- you didn't buy houses then?

Uh-uh, no.

Just loans or --

It was just a -- those days, there was a number of those around Seattle and that, that did that sort of thing, and then (inaudible). You've got to get money in (inaudible) money and one thing another (inaudible) banks took over a lot,, things like that, you see.

Uh-huh.

But I didn't work that long at it because after I got married, you see, then I decided to have a child. I was 32 years old when I had my first boy, so.

Uh-huh. This was with your second husband. You had one child with him?

No, then another one.

Oh, two.

'34, another boy.

Oh.

Uh-huh, Uh-huh.

Uh-huh.

But you see, I was getting old, so it was time to --

Oh, well, you weren't that old.

-- think about a family and I didn't have to work in those days, so.

Well, now, were they born in the hospital then?

Well, in a -- just a hospital just for where babies were born. They had one in Ballard there.

Oh, really?

And this woman that was there, I'd never met her before, but I've known her now for 55 years, and we're just like that. We're the best of friends.

Well, was she a nurse?

Yes. And she took over this hospital there right shortly before I had this baby, see -

Well, when --

And my brother being a druggist, he was just a few blocks from her, so she went to him all the time for her drugs that --

Uh-huh.

-- she needed in the -- in there. And so then that was my first son and then he was injured and so he had to stay onto the hospital after I went home. And so then, that's how we became such big friends --

Oh.

-- and that because she says -- well, one night, she says, he could have easily passed away, but she says, I took him right to bed with me so I could watch and hear every breath. And she --

Is that something, how caring they were.

Uh-huh. And she worked with him.

And this lady is still living?

Oh, yes, she's three years older than I.

Oh, my, then she must be --

She's 89.

Eighty-nine.

Because I now will be 87 in a couple of months.

Does she live in Ballard?

No. She lives out at 185th and right off of Aurora, so it --

Isn't that wonderful. What was the name of the hospital? Do you know?

I don't know.

Where was it located?

On about, oh, 57th or 8th and that, right off of 20 -- 24th.

Really.

It was one of those big, old homes that someone had made over into just an obstetrics -- is that what you call it?

Obstetrics.

Uh-huh. For women to have. Because we just had a little space for a hospital in Ballard then, you know. And, of course, I know now, my brother's first boy, they had to go down to Columbus hospital to have it, because there wasn't anything close by.

Where was Columbus Hospital?

Downtown. It's there now.

Oh.

It's down downtown, middle of town there. (Inaudible), in Seattle. So I -- and so then somebody opened this up and then she took it from them. And who they were, I don't know, because I wasn't interested. I wasn't having babies then.

Well, I think that's interesting (inaudible). Was this at the time they had that hospital where the Eagles building is?

Yes, that's --

But they didn't have babies up there then?

I don't think so, no. Because they had -- they didn't have much, or they only had a floor.

Uh-huh.

And they didn't have very many rooms up there.

Well, now, did the doctors all come to this obstetrics hospital?

Yes. Uh-huh. Oh, yes, she had a regular -- it was a real -- just like you go in a hospital.

Uh-huh.

The same thing, you know, and that all. And she had the nurses and one thing another, you see to that, and so.

Well, did you know Dr. Melgard (phonetic)?

No, but I know of him. I had the McLains (phonetic), Dr. McLains.

McLains.

Uh-huh. There was two brothers and that and the older brother delivered my two boys.

Isn't that interesting. Well, then, now, if we had one -- well, I was going to go back and ask you, because you were talking about in 1909, you went to Webster's School. And that's the year of the Alaskan Yukon Exposition.

Uh-huh.

Do you remember anything about that?

Yes, I -- my mother and that and (inaudible), we went. We went down there. It's where the University is.

Uh-huh.

That and, oh, sure, we went around and saw things and another.

You know there was a choir, a children's choir, I think, that sang in it. Did you hear them sing?

I don't -- no, I don't remember that. But we didn't go very many -- oh, just several times, because, well, it was hard to try to get there one thing another (inaudible) automobiles anything those days.

No, no. Well, another thing I was wondering about was, now Mr. Treat (phonetic) had this property where Golden Gardens is.

Uh-huh.

Were you ever down there?

I never -- that was when I was in high school, and then my older brother and his wife used to go down there all the time. And they got prizes. They were beautiful dancers, just beautiful.

Oh, they gave prizes for being the best dancers?

Occasionally. They had had --

Oh, they had a contest?

Uh-huh. They'd have a contest. And that wasn't every Sunday night.

No.

I guess that's when they went -- they always went dancing down there. The only time it was ever opened up. And so then -- I think it was Sunday night. You'd think it'd be Saturday night, wouldn't you. But seems to me it was always Sunday night. Anyway, they -- I can remember that. But I had -- well, I guess they wouldn't have let me in because you had to be of age one thing another.

But that was outside of the city limits; wasn't it?

Oh, yes.

So they didn't have the regulations of the city then?

So, no, no. That was a --

Did you ever go to the theater in Ballard?

Oh, yes.

What kind of theater did they have?

Well, I -- when I went there, that was, oh, just to movies, you know, like that. But I didn't go very often, but I'd go, to go.

Well, I heard something about they had prizes sometimes. Is that right?

Oh, that could be because they would try different things and that, but I don't know. I just didn't (inaudible) -- more about that because he went a lot when he was a little kid, to the shows and such.

Oh, did they have Saturday afternoon movies? Matinees?

Yes, they -- I don't know. Yes, that's when we would go.

Uh-huh.

That's -- yes, because the afternoon was always when we went.

Well --

That's --

Let's see. Do you remember anything about having to carry sluice around when you were down in Ballard?

How we went --

Something about carrying sluice.

Carrying sluice? No, that I don't anything about.

Don't know anything about that. You were too far off from Ballard a lot of the time, anyway, for something like that.

Yes.

Well, now, let's say that you were -- did you have garbage collectors? You took care of your own garbage and you dug holes in the ground, did you, and put the garbage in it?

Yes. Or whatever had to be done. You know, they'd use a compost and things like that. Things like that I can remember piles of that where Dad had all the greens and that, then let it rotted, you see, so. Covered over it with some dirt in the winter time. That sort of thing.

Well, now, since you had so much, you know, in the line of food, did you have root houses? Did you have a root house?

Yes, he had -- uh-huh. He had that.

And you kept your apples in it?

Uh-huh. And his potatoes and onions. I can remember the onions.

Uh-huh.

He always had such lovely onions and keep them in bins, you know.

Uh-huh.

(Inaudible) like that and then potatoes and that sort of thing because the farmers, the stores all needed those kind of things. And he'd give them to them as long as he had them.

Uh-huh. What about carrots?

Yes, lots of carrots.

How did he keep them in the winter?

Carrots? He would keep carrots in the ground, dig them and cover them over with ground and keep them, because, you know, we didn't have much snow or that here.

Well, did he -- did they heap a lot of dirt on top of these --

Uh-huh.

-- so you had -- you'd end up with a mound?

Yes, oh, yes.

So when you went out to get the carrots, you'd use a shovel.

They had --

And (inaudible) and get them.

Just dig underneath there, Uh-huh.

Right.

And --

Okay.

And then my -- like I say, for selling, when he sold them, and that way you'd do the same thing then, washing, wash them and that. We had a creek going through our place there.

Was that Piper's Creek?

Yes, I guess -- well, I guess that was.

Well, then, I don't know exactly where that goes.

And that went right straight through there, and then they cut that all off -- or a filled, when they lot it -- what, put the lots -- made it in lots after my dad sold, why then they put the put pipe and that under that, you know, caught the water that came from the city and so on went on down.

Okay. There was something else I was going to ask you about.

I can remember, I guess that was in 1908, going down to Greenwood Avenue there. There was a macadamized road there, you know, because they had the club out there at -- is that 140, 45th, or something. The Society in Seattle.

Oh, what club is that? You mean the Highlands?

Highlands.

The Highlands.

Uh-huh. And then President Roosevelt, the first one, what -- was it --

Teddy.

Teddy. He was going to be coming by from Greenwood on up there, and I walked down to the highway there or the street there down there and waited till he came by to wave to him.

Was that on Greenwood?

That was on Greenwood Avenue, see.

Well, wasn't that kind of fun, though to hear some -- see some important person like that?

Well, that's it. I had to go, see. We heard about (inaudible) -- oh, I guess we got it from school.

Uh-huh.

And you see, we were -- we were on Greenwood Avenue, like that, you see, so. Then our school up there, so, boy, I got down there and then said, what time and that, so that I --

Now, that was what year, anyway? Do you remember?

That must have been about 1908.

I don't know what.

Or '7. 1907 or '8.

Uh-huh.

Because we lived -- well, no, we lived all -- it could have been 1909. I don't know, because we didn't leave --

Well, when he was president at the time, anyway.

Yes. Uh-huh. So it -- but like I say, I can remember that so well because (inaudible) back to. You know, I don't know. Can't remember if there's any other kids around there or not.

Uh-huh.

But I just know I went down there because I didn't have anybody at our house. I was the only youngster around there because they were all growing up.

Well, now, when you were at Webster, they didn't have an orchestra there; did they? When you were there?

Uh-huh.

They didn't have one probably yet.

I don't think so. No, I --

Did you ever accompany anything at school?

No, uh-uh. The only time I played at school was at the little Loyal Heights here, one time when I was PTA, and a little girl was going to do a dance. And, I don't know, they couldn't get anybody to play the piano there. They had a piano. And I don't know, somebody squawked and says that I played.

Uh-huh.

And so I played for her. And that's the only time I ever played in the school, was --

Well, that must have made your parents very proud of you though.

Well, the little girl did her -- because my boys were -- my boy was going there then.

Okay. Well, now, everybody in your family spoke English; right?

Oh, yes.

And then your father spoke German, also?

Both, yes.

Both parents spoke German?

Yes.

Okay. Now, do you remember anything, especially about the firehouse, or fire -- anything to do with firehouses or the firemen or anything?

No, I -- those days they didn't have fire -- well, I wasn't born then. That was when they had the -- when the fire in their house, that. But -- oh, you mean -- for heating?

Well, (inaudible) you remember you seeing the fire truck go by or the -- what did they have? Did they have horses for that, too?

Oh, sure. Ballard had nothing but horses.

Oh.

Because I was working in Ballard there and that was -- yes, I guess that was maybe my first job out of -- when I got through going to school.

Did they have a mascot?

And yes, I think most of them did.

Did you ever see a dog with them?

Well, I just don't recall.

Did you ever see a Dalmatian?

No, no. No, I don't remember that, not with them. But it seems to be I've seen dogs at the -- when you go by the place, but.

Well, did you ever go down to Ballard to see Santa Claus?

No.

Uh-huh. Now, when someone passed away, where were the cemeteries in those days?

The Crown Hill, up here at Crown Hill, the one that's there now. And they've enlarged it and everything, you see.

Uh-huh.

But that. Let's see, there was one then over at where there is now at -- just the beginning of one, you know, those days, and then they enlarged it and made the big ones that we've got over there. There was, well, over there --

You mean at Washelli?

Washelli, yes.

Uh-huh. Was there one at Greenwood, too? Do you remember?

No, this one would be -- up here, I think -- gee, I don't know though. That could have been because I know when --

Well, you probably weren't that concerned about it. Maybe nothing happened to make you think about it.

That's it, you see.

You know, I mean, you know, you'd be playing probably outside and doing things children do when you were --

Well, and then I see, when my sister died, you see, there was just a cemetery up here, and pretty well established up here on -- at Crown Hill Cemetery.

Was there anyway that you showed that somebody passed away like your sister did in your house? Did you put a wreath on your door or anything like that?

They -- I don't know whether they did that or not. But I know that they had a -- what are they called. A wake or something the night.

They had a wake at the home?

Home. Uh-huh. Because she was at home -- our home, and she died at home because she got -- as I say, I (inaudible) this medicine that she took, she started going down, and my dad built a kind of a tent deal. That's what they lived in, you see. They had to have all this fresh air. And, of course, all wood and one thing up high, and then -- but uncovered, had to be a tent. And then all open.

What was this for?

Consumption.

Oh, consumption. They (inaudible) that?

That's what they called it then. Uh-huh.

But they had all this openness when you had that? Wouldn't that make you worse?

Well, that's what you would think. But that's what she went to. The first one she ever went to was down in Oregon somewhere. And see, she was married, and she had a -- and her husband, he was a sawyer in a mill and a first-class one. He made awfully good money. And for those days, it was really good money. And so, between he and my dad, they -- she got excellent care. Because Dad was doing pretty good with his ranch over there, you see, with his garden.

Well, it sounds like it.

And he went to -- so then she was home and then Dad built this, and my brother -- that's the pharmacist, he had us sleep out there with her. And they had two rooms out in the back room. And that was a regular room. It wasn't so cold, you see. But she had gotten so used to all -- to that fresh air, one thing another. And of course, they would bring the flaps down. But, I mean, it still was right out in the open. So that -- and that's where she died. Because she just had reached the death stage, so.

Did you ever hear of a stables up on 85th?

Yes.

A riding --

That was connected with Treat.

With Treat? Oh, was it?

Uh-huh. That's why he had the land, and then out in here, and then the car and one thing and other, you see, because he --

He must have had a lot of land.

Oh, he did. And he bought it when it was dirt cheap, you know, and that. And all over and so he -- and yes, they had horses. And I went riding, thing another, yes, so. Heavens to Betsy. You -- where did you get these hearings some of all of this?

Because I never think of those things anymore. And then you bring them all to mind to me and I can remember them then.

Well, I think it's kind of interesting. I've tried to, you know, imagine what's happening in these different places.

Yes, but --

So, it's kind of fun to think about all these farms here and there, and then there's a riding stable. And then, where did the sawmill start? As you went towards Ballard? Where did you start seeing them (inaudible)?

Well, they were down right by the water there, you see, the Canal there.

And how far up did they come, up Sunset Hill? Did they come up at all?

No, they just followed along there. Well, in that book, you can -- you'll see it. You'll see a whole lot, a bunch of them. I guess they got them all. And then it explains it there. But that's where they all were, right. I don't know, on the water. But I suppose they -- a lot of it went out by ship. I don't know. Or, well, the trains went down there, too. The trains were all along there. Because that stuff had to be shipped someplace. Because they --

Now, what did --

They produced an awful lot.

What did you do when you came home from school? Did you have chores to do at home?

Oh, yes, some.

When you were growing up?

Uh-huh. Yes.

You helped your mother?

Yes, oh, yes. Uh-huh. Yes, (inaudible) anything --

What was it like -- did she wash clothes on a certain day of the week or?

Oh, yes. Everything --

Like Monday? Did she wash on Monday?

Everything was a routine, just, uh-huh.

And when you ironed, what kind of irons did you have?

Well, we had to -- the kind you had to put on the stove and keep heating it.

The flatirons?

Flatirons, uh-huh.

Uh-huh.

And I would -- I loved to do that. I loved to iron. So I had a little iron and I had a little board. And so, then, when she ironed, then I would iron handkerchiefs and things like that. I was just knee-high to a grasshopper.

So you'd both be ironing at the same time.

We'd both be ironing, uh-huh.

So I think that's kind of a good idea.

No, and then cook if she --

So then you had a wood stove; did you? Or a coal? What did you use in your stove?

Wood. Wood stove. Wood stove.

A wood stove. But you had lots of wood around you so that was no problem.

Yes, yes. So that -- yes, it is -- I -- no, you don't go. This is Thursday night.

This is Thursday.

Yes, because he bowls Wednesday and Fridays.

Oh.

And he has to leave early and bowls at six o'clock, see. So I always have to have something to eat early.

Oh, I'm sorry.

And that, so this is -- yes, this is Thursday, so it --

Do you remember anything about an old steam and sail combination schooner that was on the beach down here? It was used kind of as a breakwater, I think.

Huh.

Somebody mentioned that. I have only heard one person mention it.

Oh. I don't know. I don't remember that. Of course, they put the breakwater in, but --

That was later.

But my brother used to work down there. They had an oil well or something -- oil tank down in there. And I guess the boats came and filled in. And he got a job down there. He had a nice job. It was one of the big oil companies; you know what I mean. I can't remember now which oil company.

Well, now, if you were going to take the ferry, where would you go to catch a ferry? Did you ever take the ferry?

Oh, yes, we had, but we'd have to go down downtown to get it, down in Seattle.

So you wouldn't take any of these ferries that were out here --

No.

Ballard.

No. No, I guess there were some, oh, yes, private ones and one thing another, you know, like that, but we never were on the water very much.

When you have a farm, though, you're kind of stuck at home.

Well, that's right, you know, and all. But then, of course, as far as I was concerned, it -- because I moved away from there from the farm when I was just, what, eight years old. Yes, 1909, I was eight then, yes.

Well, it must have been something in this area to see the homes, the lovely homes that came up around every place, you know.

I don't know where my -- my dad heard of this property out here from one of his customers, see.

Oh.

And when this had a chance to sell, that opportunity, why he sold and then somebody told him about this, and he went right away and looked into it. But he had to build a house, but he had a real fine carpenter because not several years ago, I know, I -- one of the women that lived up there, she says, my, you know, she says -- lived in their house. Why, she says, we took out the paper. That's where the paperhanger came in.

Oh.

We had it papered up there. And he says, you know, that lumber, you never saw such lumber in your life. He says, I just -- well, they didn't have junk those days. They wouldn't sell that kind of stuff like they do now, you know. Now some of that -- it's just -- it's wet yet and everything else.

Uh-huh.

It isn't like -- oh, she said, we couldn't get over it, how good that still was. And that was a good many years, after he'd -- well, 1909, yes. So that's when he built it. So. Mr. Brooks. I can remember that. He was the carpenter. Very, very good carpenter. Had a good name, you know. They had to -- got him to do that and.

Oh, I didn't ask you. Getting back to the -- this is going way back to your school days again. I didn't ask you if you had a lot of memorization to do in those days. Did you do that?

A lot of what?

Memorized a lot of things?

Oh.

Did you memorize poetry?

No, uh-uh.

No, but you memorized the facts?

Yes, that -- but, I mean, no, we didn't have to -- no, we -- very little memorizing.

Did you have homework?

We did have, yes. We had -- took homework, uh-huh.

And when you wanted to speak, what did you do? Just talk?

Raise your hand.

You raised your hand. And you were very respectful, as a whole.

Uh-huh.

And then, I guess that's all I wanted. You mentioned about that. What about the summer times? Did you help your father in the gardens?

No. Uh-uh. No, I think that I was too little then (inaudible).

You did help your mother?

No, I helped my mother because, like I say, I liked that ironing and every little things of that.

Did she like -- did she can a lot?

Oh, my, did she, because they had those fruit trees and berries, you know. Boy, I'll say she did, because she -- well, the peaches. Oh, yes, she used to buy so many boxes of peaches and oh, boy, there's nothing like canned peaches.

Oh, I know. Yes. Well, now, sometimes -- was there any place you could go if you had things to freeze? Could you go down to Ballard and put them -- your things in lockers? Or did people do that?

Not that I know of. Because they --

Maybe not from way up here, anyway -- well, that part.

Well, that's -- yes, that's right.

Uh-huh.

So. Yes, I remember that -- yes, when we moved over here and that about the lockers and one thing another and that. But we never, ever used them. Of course, I've got a freezer out there in the garage, you see, for deep freeze, you know, for anything I want to put away.

For nowadays.

Yes. I freeze it.

And I suppose you were so used to that that you just kept right on doing it.

Yes, well. We used to buy a half a cow at a time, beef, like that, you see, so.

Well, this has been very nice.

Well, I --

Is there anything else you'd like to say that you remember about the olden days?

No, that's the -- that's all, because (inaudible) moved over here and things were easier, and the folks had -- they had friends and company and one thing another, you know, and had --

Was there lots of visiting in those days on Sundays?

Yes, people did, but you always had so far to go, and when they worked so hard, in that time. But in the wintertime, then they got together because then they could, you see.

On Sunday afternoons, maybe?

Uh-huh. Or, well, sometimes, yes, or come for dinner, you know, and stay. And they'd play some cards. And I can remember that and one thing another and visit and all, so.

And then the children would all play together?

Oh, yes, uh-huh. Yes, kids would come, too, and we would all go out and play. I can remember one place where we played Annie-eye-over-the-house [sic] there. That was this girlfriend of mine that I've known for so long.

Uh-huh.

Her house was next to another house that I knew -- we didn't live right in that area, so we'd go see them. And my folks would and then I would go over and see her, and she had two brothers. And, so then we all would play Annie-eye-over.

Now, you mentioned you went to business school and you had one sister who became a kindergarten teacher. And you had a brother who became a pharmacist?

Uh-huh.

Did quite a few of the people go to -- go on to school in those days?

Well, not quite a few, but there were some. And then, my brother, he thought sure I was going to go to University of Nevada and be a pharmacist, see.

Uh-huh.

But I had nothing like that in my mind at all.

Uh-huh.

Because I was more math -- well, I liked, yes, math, see.

Uh-huh.

I liked bookkeeping, that sort of thing. That's what I liked. And that's what I did, see. Because I could remember one job I had. The fellow, after I'd been there a couple of days, he says, gee whiz, he says. It's so good, he says, to have somebody

that can make two and two four out of it, he said. He says, because they had had somebody there that couldn't add at all, see. And when you're -- you have all these invoices to make out and figure, one thing another, you know, you can't have somebody like that. A business, you know, so. So I mean, I liked that.

So they had some of those problems in those days, too?

Yes, oh, yes.

And some people couldn't spell, I suppose, too in those days.

Well, that's -- oh, that's right, you know. How they get the job in the first place, I don't know, but I didn't have any trouble. I stayed there until I got married, and then I just told him I was getting married and I would be quitting. I don't know who got in there after that. There was a York ice machine company. And engineering, or whatever they called it then. It was a big outfit. Well, we could have some lights on; couldn't we? I'm sitting here in the --

Oh, I think that's fine.

That's -- so -- do you want...

(End of tape.)