

Ballard Historical Society Oral History Project

Narrator:

Anna & Frank Kvam Anna born 1897, Frank b.1897 (siblings)
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Solveig Lee

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Interviewer:

... And, of course, we had our outhouse and our lamps. And they had to be washed every day and — This was Ross, Washington. Before they incorporated it into the Ballard area. Before it incorporated to Ballard.

FRANK: Yes. See, we don't even know when this was actually taken over and classified as Ballard. I have never seen any dates on that at all.

ANNA: He's got to have a lot of old deeds and things. You know, my father bought lot after lot, and — how many houses and lots did he have? Lots of them. Yes, and they would rent them out or sell them. And I imagine my mother would have an education somewhere to an eighth grade in Denmark. And she had no education from here. And she took care of all the business end of it.

Now, your parents came to Ross at what time?

ANNA: That I can't tell you. He came down — he came — first he went to Missouri. And then gradually, he came out here. He knew somebody here, a Mr. Smith. And he owned property down here and he lived down here. And then my mother came over. And then she was living downtown someplace. I can't tell you, but my father lived down close to the Pike Place Market before the fire. You see, the fire was in when? 1889? That one?

ANNA: No, it must have been the one before that. I guess before that, Uh-huh. It was before they were married, I would say.

FRANK: Because didn't he meet Ewald (phonetic) back there, too?

ANNA: Yes, he knew Ewald.

FRANK: Yes. And he - Ewald had come out here first.

ANNA: No, he came — Grandpa had him come out here and he sold him his old — or gave him, I don't know what — his old chicken house. And they moved that up there for him, and he built to it. We've even got a picture of that.

FRANK: Got a picture of that. There (inaudible).

Now, is this — this is your grandfather's chicken house?

ANNA: My father's.

That they used.

Your father's chicken house that they used and they made into a house.

ANNA: My grandfather would have been in Denmark.

Uh-huh. Now, your parents knew each other before they came to America?

ANNA: Oh, yes. Uh-huh, yes.

All right, he came to Ballard. And he bought land and he built a house?

ANNA: He built a little shack to live in. It was — I suppose it was very — you know, they didn't have any water and they didn't have any lights and they didn't have a toilet. So you imagine it wasn't much of a house then. And then later on, they built this.

All right. Do you remember hearing anything about that house?

ANNA: They lived in it when they first got married.

Uh-huh. And they used what for lights?

ANNA: Kerosene lamps. We had to wash that chimney every day and fill it up if it needed it. And sometimes snip the wick so it would be straight so it wouldn't go crooked.

And then, you had the chimney you put over this lamp so you could go outside, right?

ANNA: That would be a lantern. There was a handle on it to carry it. And you had a toilet out in the back, a ways out, you know. And, well, you didn't have any toilet paper. I never heard of that in those days. You had a Sears catalog and they'd cut that in pieces and nail it — and hang it up on a nail. That's getting into the wrong kind of stories.

No, that's fine. Because that is what they did.

FRANK: And people today can't visualize that, you know.

ANNA: No, they can't. They don't think that's true.

All right, Now, so if you had to go out there at night, you'd have to light the lantern and then go out to the outhouse. And it was a little ways from the house, too.

ANNA: Sure. You had to get out there after dark the last thing before you'd go to bed. And then they did have a chamber if you had to go in the night. Not a little pot that would sit on the floor, but one that was — stood up a ways so that it was — it'd have a veil over it and a cover. I don't know what you'd call that.

Okay. Now, when your father built this house here in Ballard, was it right here? What was the address where he built his house?

ANNA: Well, there were no addresses then. There were no streets, you know. There was just a wagon trail, winding in and out, and then trees all over it. That's how this house got so far back on the lot. Because you know, they didn't figure on lots or anything. They just put it there. And when they sold the lot in back of them, they kept ten feet, because this house was back so far they wouldn't have had any back yard or anything.

So I — you've got this beautiful view here.

ANNA: That's why I don't like to sell that. Because then, if somebody wants to build in front or tear it down or something, then I'd have no view. So that's why I like to keep it.

Now, when your father came to Seattle, he was downtown first. Why did he come out to Ballard?

ANNA: Well, as I told you, the man down the street, his name was Smith. And that was somebody he knew from Missouri. And he had told him, come out here; it's so much nicer here. And so he came out. And then my mother, of course, she came directly to Seattle, or to Ross.

Well, now, was he working here in Ballard at the time?

ANNA: Well, I don't suppose he was working when he first got here. But he found a job at the Ballard Stimson Mill. And I've got the picture there of a man sitting out there. And he's the one with his hands. He had holes in his overalls and he didn't know they were going to take pictures, I guess. So he held his hands this way; they covered the holes. But I got that picture there.

How many were in your family?

Just two children, just my brother and me. My brother's a year older. A year — he was 91 last June, and I was 90 in September. So he was a year and a few months older than I was. So when my mother would have to go out and take care of the chickens and all of the animals, she'd have to carry him with because she was afraid what he might do to me. Because, you know, he was —

You've described the trails. Could you describe just what the country was like right around here where you're living.

ANNA: It was — well, of course, right here, this was — you know, he'd clear off some of the land and put in vegetables. And you know, they raised everything. Well, he had chickens and ducks and there were streams going through. And there's one from the house up there, from that yard that still goes out into the street. There's a hole there in a pipe put in so it goes out there. And so there was a lot of place for ducks and geese. And they had pigs and they had cows. And my father was working for, I guess a dollar a day. And my mother had the two little kids and had to take care of everything.

Uh-huh. Were you born at home?

ANNA: Oh, sure. You didn't have a doctor. You had just a midwife. She'd just come for that time. And your housework, that was a little different than we had. You couldn't go to the store and get a loaf of bread. You baked all your own. You baked everything. And you canned. Vegetables, you canned. That was later on, I think, though, they had — they had a place where they had kind of like a root cellar, and they'd keep all their vegetables and things. You raised everything, from potatoes on. And all your fruit and everything.

ANNA: Oh, we had apples and pears and peaches and prunes. Well, maybe they didn't always do so good, but we had them. And pears. We had — there's one picture there with a tree right in front of the house. And it was a real tall one. That was a pear tree. It was big blonder pears. They had different kinds, you know.

And there were — here on the hills and all, there were bears around even. I suppose they'd keep away from right where the house is and all. They weren't that plentiful, but there were bears.

FRANK: That just came with the territory. (inaudible) to live with. And my grandfather told me down here on where 52nd and Eighth Avenue is, on the northeast corner, every two years a bear used to have cubs in an old stump right there. 52nd and Eighth Northwest, on the northeast corner. Used to get a stream going

down Eighth Avenue. All these little creeks that used to come down from — there used to be a spring up here on about 56th just above Third. And that used to drain down between 50 — on Market Street and 54th, down to Eighth Avenue and used to be — us kids used to fish there and everything. I guess salmon and stuff used to go up or run up or something, used to be a lot of fishing down there.

ANNA: He used to go down there fishing, my brother did.

Yes. Well, do you remember anything about the Indians? Or did you ever hear —

ANNA: No. There weren't any Indians around here, not around here. I think they were up and around Marysville, up in there.

FRANK: Yes, and then up where we live up there, too, right around, you know, where Blue Ridge goes down. They used to — used to have summer camps out in there. And North Beach, yes. They used to be in that area. And then on up on the hilltop.

ANNA: Ross School, that was a wooden building. And then I suppose the city or the fire department, I can't tell you, later on, you know, they were after them and they had to build a fire escape on the outside, made of wood.

And where was that? Where was Ross School?

ANNA: It's over here on Third Avenue and 43rd, on the lower side. And when they were going to dismantle that building, they had it up for election whether they should rebuild or what they should do there. And it was voted to tear the building down and rebuild it. So they tore the building down and put up a big play field there that takes in the whole block. And that play field is still there. And it's kind of a gathering place for teenagers. So, it never was a place that little children would go. The playground got there after the school, because the school was there when I started and hard telling how many years before that. Because it — then when West Woodland was built, I was in the eighth grade and I had my last year up there. Then I went to Lincoln High.

How did you get to school?

ANNA: We walked through these trails around, up through these woods. Trees and brush and everything. Water. There'd be little bridges going over to walk on. Oh, yes, there was — it was all — there was nothing built around there at all. That was all vacant then.

Now, you had about eight blocks to walk, at least. Now, what it would be now? Were there any houses between your house and the school?

ANNA: Not that I remember of. Because it wasn't graded or anything, when I started to school, you know. So we'd have to go down around and up in the trails and go up and around. And so it would be —

FRANK: You walked further than that, yes. Eight blocks as the crow flies.

Did you go with your brother, or did you go by yourself?

ANNA: Well, sometimes we'd go alone and sometimes then this Evald — that's the ones that got the chicken house. And they moved up here on — up the hill here. She was a little older than me, but I think she was in the same grade. And we'd go together. We learned our arithmetic and reading and writing and things, just as you do now.

How many children were in your class; do you remember?

ANNA: No, I don't remember. I don't think they were exceptionally big classes. I don't think they had special classes for anybody.

Do you remember any of your teachers?

ANNA: No, I don't remember the names of any of them. I remember the one over here was Gibson, and the principal was Smith. But I don't remember. Of course, you'd had a different teacher each year, I'd say. I think you stayed in the same class.

FRANK: They had 1A and 1B. They had half semesters.

ANNA: Well, I think I'll have to have a piece of this.

Now, you were born in what year?

ANNA: 1897. [I started school in[September, [not January.] Well, I don't think they were that fussy those times. I don't know. Now, my brother was in June. Of course, he started in September. But mine was in September, and I started (inaudible).]

ANNA: At that time, you see, they had eight grades over at West Woodland. They didn't when you went; did they?

FRANK: No, no they changed it to seven then. They had the junior high schools (inaudible) in those days.

ANNA: Yes. See, they had no junior highs.

So when those — when the junior highs were built, like Monroe or Hamilton —

FRANK: Yes, yes.

FRANK: No, I went to Monroe.

ANNA: See, this is a Ballard District now.

ANNA: But not when I was going to school. And the Ballard High School was — I can't tell you just where, but it was up this way from the Ballard Hospital. Between there, but it wasn't up to 15th Avenue. It was below 15th Avenue. So you see, it wouldn't have been far for us to go to school down there.

How did you feel about that? That was in 1907, was it, you're talking about? No, what would it have been?

FRANK: (inaudible) high school.

Or later. It'd be later when you were going there though.

ANNA: Yes. Uh-huh.

FRANK: I believe (inaudible).

ANNA: I supposed we just took it that was not our district so we had to go.

Uh-huh. Because when they — when Ballard became part of Seattle was 1907. And then they decided — I think they wanted to have the children — all of the students go to Lincoln. You don't remember anything about that?

ANNA: Well, I can't tell you, but I suppose if you lived down here on Sixth Avenue, then I think you would have gone to Ballard. But, you see, we were not in that district. We had to go there. Now, I don't know why they didn't take in more in the Ballard, but, of course the Ballard High School wasn't very big then either.

Uh-huh. No. Anyway, you went to Lincoln from up in here.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

Okay. Now, after you came home from school — how long was the school day? Did it start at nine?

ANNA: I think something like it is right now.

And you came home and did —

ANNA: After three or 3:30 we'd get off.

And then you came home. Did you help your mother?

ANNA: Oh, gosh, yes. We had lots of work to do.

Well, you had all those animals to take care of and the —

ANNA: Well —

— and the fruit and vegetables.

ANNA: Yes, you know, we had to help with everything.

Uh-huh. So there wasn't much time for too much play, was there?

ANNA: No, although I did have a playhouse.

Oh, how nice.

ANNA: It was below the house. It used to — I imagine maybe it was for wood at one time. It was a lattice-work.

Oh.

ANNA: And we had a little stove in there, a little wood stove. And I remember when it got — well, after they'd began building up down there, we'd go down to the butcher shop for my mother. And they'd always give you a wienie.

Oh, would they?

ANNA: Yes. Always.

They're very — for the children?

ANNA: Uh-huh. And —

Do you know, was that Kastner's or was that one closer?

ANNA: There was no Kastner then. I couldn't tell you the name of it. It was on 14th Avenue. Straight down there's a number of buildings in there. But the groceries, we got that on 52nd Street.

Now, did you go down to pick up the groceries, or did they deliver them?

Oh, no. When we got phones, they'd phone to you and want to know what you want and they'd deliver it. Otherwise they'd send a man around to take your order, and then he delivered it.

That was kind of nice, wasn't it?

ANNA: Uh-huh.

Did they deliver it by — with horses and wagons?

ANNA: Well, they'd have to years before, because there was a — it wasn't so a car could get here. And they didn't have the cars.

Well, it must have been something coming up the hillside here.

ANNA: Well, there was a little road, you know. They'd get so that there'd be a little road going there. But there'd be no way — see, we had no car or nothing. We'd have no way of getting there to carry it home.

FRANK: Just walk up.

ANNA: Yes, but no, you know, you didn't buy your flower in five- or ten-pound bags, you know.

FRANK: (Inaudible).

ANNA: In 25 or 50.

FRANK: 50 or 100. Great big size.

ANNA: Fifty-pound sacks.

FRANK: Yes.

ANNA: But, you know, you couldn't go down there and carry home your groceries.

FRANK: Yes. See, there were only two houses here when she was born. That was all. That house down

ANNA: Calderhead (phonetic).

FRANK: — Calderhead, it was.

Calderheads?

FRANK: Yes, that one. And then this one here next door.

ANNA: And then —

FRANK: That was all.

ANNA: I think Smiths had —

FRANK: Smiths had the other house over on the next street over though, Mom. It was 52nd, wasn't it, where Smith lived?

ANNA: Uh-huh..

FRANK: Did he live on this street here?

ANNA: He lived on this street right about where Rossings (phonetic) is. I think that house was torn down.

FRANK: Oh. Well, then, when did he move to 52nd?

ANNA: Well, he's —

FRANK: Because he lived right below Cook's house. That real old house. That's where I —

ANNA: That was where the old man lived after the family were married and gone and his wife had died and then he had the little shack down there.

FRANK: Yes, just a little place, yes.

ANNA: Yes.

Now, you mentioned Calderheads to me earlier. When your mother came to Ballard, I think she worked places, didn't she?

ANNA: Uh-huh.

Where did she work?

ANNA: Well —

Or what did she do?

ANNA: She did housework. Remember, I told you, she worked for some Jewish people?

Uh-huh.

ANNA: And then she lived there. And then eventually she went to work for Calderheads. And they had more than one help. They had this Chinese man; he was the cook. And she was doing the cleaning and doing some of the other work, I guess.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: I don't know if they had anybody else but her.
And she lived right there.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

But you're not sure if the Chinese guy lived there.

ANNA: I don't know whether he lived there or not. I couldn't tell you where he lived.
Do you know how — did she speak English when she came here?

ANNA: Oh, no. No, they had — she couldn't speak a word of English.
So how did she learn English?

ANNA: Well, because if you didn't — if you talked to a person and you didn't say anything but English, they'd have to learn, wouldn't they?

Yes.

ANNA: She didn't even have a brogue.

FRANK: No, she had perfect English. You never would have dreamt that she was born in Denmark.

ANNA: No.

FRANK: You never would have dreamt it.

I think it's so amazing sometimes.

ANNA: In fact, when — let's see, when Frances was a baby, they — she and her youngest sister — eventually, you know, they would send for one and send for another one to come and pay their way. And then sometimes — they were supposed to pay them back but sometimes they got it and sometimes they didn't.
Now —

ANNA: But she and sister went back for a visit. Their father was still alive. And she had trouble speaking the language, the Danish language.

FRANK: (Inaudible) she had that (inaudible).

ANNA: Uh-huh.

Now, was Frances her sister?

ANNA: No, that's my daughter.

Oh, your daughter.

ANNA: See, I've got one girl. Mildred is 66 years old. Frances is three and a half years younger. And Frank is three and a half years younger than that. And when Frances was a baby was when they went. Now that, you took a steamer.

FRANK: Boat, yes. A ship, yes.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

FRANK: You took trains to go back to New York.

ANNA: Train to go back to New York and then took the —

FRANK: Yes. And when my grandma came out here, she had to come across on a - in a boat from Denmark to Ellis Island.

She came through Ellis?

FRANK: Yes.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

FRANK: And then they put them on a train and they had a tag on them, you know. Their destination, their name, and what nationality they were. And then at the stoppings then, a lot of the times they'd have somebody that could speak Danish to reassure them, let them know they were going the right direction, and, you know, ask them if they needed things, and just cheer them up a little bit.

I never knew about this tag. But that's a good way for the people on the train as well as for the — as well as to give them assurance.

ANNA: Yes.

FRANK: (Inaudible).

ANNA: And they couldn't speak a word of English.

FRANK: Wouldn't you be a little bit nervous if you had to go through an experience like that?

ANNA: And now —

I don't know how they dared to do it.

FRANK: I don't either.

ANNA: And a young woman. And she was sick on the boat coming over.

FRANK: Yes.

ANNA: And she was seasick all the way over.

FRANK: Uh-huh. There were not that —

Did she say anything about coming through Ellis Island? Did she remember anything about how they were checked or what they had — what they did with the people?

FRANK: Not really. I remember she said they had to spend a week or so there. Or for several days there.

Right there in the —

FRANK: Yes.

ANNA: You know, she wouldn't — at that time, she wouldn't know what they were doing with them there.

FRANK: No.

ANNA: I don't think.

FRANK: I don't think so either. No.

ANNA: I think —

Now, did you say she was by herself?

FRANK: Yes.

And she came from Denmark. Did she know anybody in the group when she was coming?

ANNA: No.

FRANK: No, I don't believe she knew anybody.

Not even on the ship?

FRANK: No. And they — she had to come across steerage, which is the cheapest, which is way down, you know, in the hole. I guess it was not a very pleasant trip, going across the Atlantic. Pretty rough, I guess, and a lot of people seasick.

Everything —

FRANK: And no portholes or no way to get up on the top deck, you know. So it was pretty, pretty miserable.

Now, she left from Copenhagen, probably. Or did she leave from Liverpool? Did she ever say?

ANNA: I don't know.

FRANK: I think when they went, they stopped. I've got that old passport deal at home.

ANNA: Yes, you've got that (inaudible).

FRANK: I think they went to Liverpool. I think (inaudible) directly from Copenhagen, I believe. But of course, they may have stopped in Liverpool, too. I don't recall her mentioning anything about that.

ANNA: See Denmark isn't a very big country and they lived in a place called Kalding (phonetic). And I've got pictures of the school and things there, where they went to school. I think it was a case of everybody in one room. Something like that.

FRANK: Well, yes, yes.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

FRANK: Must have been because (inaudible) quite a variation of size children anyhow.

ANNA: Yes.

All right, now, we'll get back here to the school. Did you have homework at school?

ANNA: Sure.

Like what kinds of things did you do for homework?

ANNA: Arithmetic lessons, everything like that. Same as they would now.

Did you like to play games? What kind of games did the girls play?

ANNA: Oh, I think very much the same: tag and hide and go seek, and on and on. I don't remember. But the homework, if I had trouble with anything in arithmetic, I had my mother help me.

Well, you said she was educated in Denmark.

ANNA: Yes.

And that would be no — there would be no language barrier to arithmetic.

ANNA: No. But you know, she didn't go to high school or anything. All she had in school would be — I imagine it wouldn't be over six or eight grades. I'm — maybe all in one room or so. I don't know.

But you also, I think, said something about — didn't she take care of the business end for your father?

ANNA: Sure.

What did — what was your father doing? You mentioned a Mr. White, too.

ANNA: Yes, they did plastering and things. You knew Elmer, you said.

Uh-huh. Well, I know who he is.

ANNA: Yes.

FRANK: Uh-huh.

ANNA: I can't — Myrtle is the girl's name. Her name is —

Oh, I don't know them that well.

ANNA: Her married name is Anderson, I think.

FRANK: Uh-huh.

ANNA: But, of course, she's getting old, too. She was younger than I am and, of course, Elmer is as old as I am, I'm sure.

All right. And so your father, who was Jesse Jensen —

ANNA: Jess, J-E-S-S.

Just Jess.

ANNA: Jess.

Jensen. And he worked with Elmer or for Elmer? Or they worked together?

ANNA: No, worked for the father.

For the father.

ANNA: For Mr. White.

The father. Uh-huh. And Mr. White lived up —

FRANK: 65th or something.

ANNA: On 65th and —

FRANK: 32nd (inaudible) wasn't it?

ANNA: It wasn't 30. It was —

You mentioned Jones..

ANNA: Jones Avenue.

Someplace near Jones.

FRANK: Okay.

ANNA: Is it still there?

FRANK: Sure.

Uh-huh.

FRANK: Uh-huh.

ANNA: And I think he gave that place to the church. He belonged to the church, kind of across the street.

Oh. Okay. So, much of the time he was working with him.

ANNA: Well —

After the mill, or was there something else?

ANNA: This was after the mill. At the time of the mill, of course, he worked there. And you know, they didn't put in eight-hour days. I think they had about a 12-hour day.

FRANK: (Inaudible).

ANNA: Long hours.

FRANK: That's Roger.

ANNA: Oh, is it?

FRANK: Yes.

ANNA: Well, I want him to cut the grass.

FRANK: Okay.

Okay. And then you also mentioned that you had gone to church at the Presbyterian church.

ANNA: That's where we went to Sunday School.

You went to Sunday School.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

And the pastor was George Bee (phonetic)?

ANNA: Uh-huh.

Do you remember anything about the Sunday School?

ANNA: No, I don't seem to.

You had a long way to walk though. Down to 17th.

ANNA: Yes. That wasn't so far, you know.

Well, you walked every place, didn't you?

ANNA: Sure we did. We had no way of getting there unless we walked. Then of course, they did have a streetcar. Later on, they had a streetcar that came on Sixth Avenue. You know, that's a crooked street. I don't — well, I guess Eighth Avenue wasn't through. And how was it. It had two tracks until it came to 45th. Is he going to cut it now?

FRANK: Do you want it now?

ANNA: I don't care. It's all right.

FRANK: Yes.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

FRANK: Okay.

ANNA: It's all right. And they had two tracks to 45th. And then when they got up, I think, to where Leonard the barber is, Market Street or so, they had some system where they could — so that the other ones wouldn't come back and forth and hit each other. And so the one would go to there and then they would pull something to let them know that — and then they'd go up to 65th. And then when they came back, of course it was the same way. If there was a car on the way up there, then they couldn't get by it.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: And they —

They'd have to wait at some point.

ANNA: Uh-huh. Yes. It was just a single track from 45th up to.

And then you talked about picking berries. Where did you pick berries?

ANNA: Oh, goodness, we'd walk out to Lake Ballinger and pick berries or up past where you live, up on the hills there and pick berries.

You know, you must have started out early in the day.

ANNA: Well, you didn't think anything of it.

Did you come back the same day?

ANNA: Sure. You'd just go out to pick — take a couple buckets along and pick wild blackberries.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: That was the only kind of berries we picked, was the wild ones.

Did you pick them up at North Beach too?

ANNA: Well, of course, we didn't call it North Beach so I couldn't tell you. It was up in there. They had — later on, they put a streetcar up there, Loyal Heights, I think it was called. Do you remember that one?

I know there is a streetcar. What did they call it, the Dinghy (phonetic)?

ANNA: Maybe that was it.

And it went up through Loyal Heights. So you could take that later.

ANNA: No, not when I was little, there wasn't one then.

No, none then.

ANNA: No. We walked up there, and then walked back again. And the same, we'd walk out to Lake
mANNA: Just so I don't miss the place. You see, I only have one eye.

Oh. Thank you, that's fine.

ANNA: I think I'll have to have a cataract operation.

Well, they can certainly do wonders for cataracts these days.

ANNA: Yes, but, you see, when you only have one eye, (inaudible) success (inaudible).

Uh-huh. Yes.

ANNA: You see, one is an artificial eye. Can't you tell which one it is? They do a good job.

Oh, I know. My father had an artificial eye, too, and they did such a good job people had trouble telling which was which.

ANNA: Did they — yes, and he moved his eye?

Uh-huh. Well, now, you graduated from Lincoln High School; did you?

ANNA: Uh-huh.

And then what did you do?

ANNA: Well, I did work for a short time, but I was needed at home really, worse than I was needed other places.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: Then you know, my mother was getting older. You know, she worked awfully hard.

Oh, yes.

ANNA: You know, when you had to carry in every bit of water you used from the pump.

You went out and you primed the —

ANNA: Yes. You had to — regular pump — we had a regular pump. And then you could just pump it. But you had to carry it in. And, of course, years ago, we had no washing machine. It all had to be washed on the board, and we always boiled the clothes then.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: And then, later on, they got a hand machine, so she worked it by hand.

Did you have those boilers you put on top of the stove?

ANNA: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

What kind of — did you use wood or did —

ANNA: Oh, yes, wood.

Yes.

ANNA: Wood. And if you bought it in the summertime, that was a lot of work, too. Because, you see, you bought it wet. And then you had to haul it in and stack it up outside to get dry. And then you had to put it into your woodshed after it was dry, so as to have it for winter.

So you had your house; you had your woodshed. Did you have a barn?

ANNA: Oh, yes.

Did you have something for the pigs?

ANNA: I imagine. I can't remember where the pigs were kept. Evidently —

And a chicken house?

ANNA: And we had a chicken house. Uh-huh.

So you had quite a few buildings around.

ANNA: And then, you see, then in the spring you got baby chickens to raise.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: And when you wanted a chicken dinner, you just killed chicken.

What — how did you go about that if you were going to kill an animal? Did you kill it at your place?

ANNA: Yes. My mother would go out and kill the chickens. And she even killed the pigs. She'd never done anything like that in her life.

And would they shoot them or would they —

ANNA: Oh, no. I think they — I don't know. I think they had so that they'd stick them in the throat, you know, and.

Oh.

ANNA: I think that —

You could chop off the heads of the chickens.

ANNA: Yes, Uh-huh.

But I don't know about the other animals.

ANNA: No. You'd stick them first, I think.

And then —

ANNA: And then —

The men would take care of the larger animals.

ANNA: Oh, yes. Yes.

Did you have a place where you did that?

ANNA: I can't remember any special place. But of course, the wood shed was pretty big and I think that was big enough for the pigs. And the barn that was over across the street on 52nd Street.

You had quite a bit of land.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

Do you know about how much you had?

ANNA: Let me see, I can count it I think. Oh, he must have had 15 or 20 lots, maybe 20 lots altogether.

And did they buy them in so many acres? Or how did they buy it?

ANNA: Well, I don't know how they bought it. I would imagine by — well, it's listed always as lot zones, so lot zones, so.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: Addition to Gilman Park or addition to Ballard.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: But, you see, it wasn't — I think they called it lots, though, but I don't know. Because it wasn't graded or anything, you know.

Uh-huh. Hmm. Now, you mentioned a house which is right down here, two houses down from your house that you're living in right now?

ANNA: Yes.

And that was moved to that location.

ANNA: That was up on Third Avenue.

Uh-huh. And why was that done?

ANNA: Because they had to — they put the street in.

And so, they had bids, and whoever got the highest bid —

ANNA: Got the house.

— got the house and could move it.

ANNA: And had to have somebody move it for you. And then he had one house that came from Aurora. And that's over on 53rd. And he put it — had it hauled over there. Or had it moved.

Well, that was quite a job.

ANNA: Yes.

Move it through the woods.

ANNA: Uh-huh. Well, there wasn't woods then. By the time they moved that house down here, you see, they were going to grade Third Avenue. And this was graded but not paved.

Uh-huh. So it was easier moving it anyway. How did they move houses in those days?

ANNA: Well, they had some big truck things. And I don't know just how. I can't remember just how it was done. But they had — as you go along, you put big timbers under it, you know, and move it a little ways. And then they'd have to change it.

Did they use horses to pull?

ANNA: Oh, no. No, they had trucks then.

They had trucks to pull.

ANNA: See this was — yes, this was graded by that time. But no cement work in. And they were going to put Third Avenue in. And that was where this house came from. And the other house came from Aurora.

Now, you mentioned — this is the house you lived in now. But you lived in the house just to the west of this house.

ANNA: Yes, that's (inaudible).

That's where you were born?

ANNA: Uh-huh, I was born there.

And when was that house built?

ANNA: Well, as I told you, there's a little place out in the lower side. Frank can show it to you. And it says 1898, but I was born in 1897. So I'm sure the house wasn't completed, and that was put in when it was completed. But there was no upstairs.

So that was built later?

ANNA: Yes.

Now, I noticed there was — on the foundation you have all those rocks.

ANNA: Well, it's —

Where did you get those rocks?

ANNA: They came from in the woods, way up the hill. They'd have great big — I don't know how they could handle them. But he would haul them home or have somebody help him and they'd pull them. I wonder — and then they said he always had a wheelbarrow or something, but a wheelbarrow wouldn't do it because — I want Frank to take you down there. I think he's out talking to the gardener.

Well, that was really quite a job though to bring them up.

ANNA: When you see the size of the rocks, you'll understand what I'm talking about. Not these little ones. But I know, as long as I could remember, my father, anytime he went anywhere, he'd always load rocks in his pockets, and come home, and then he used those, you see, on the porch. But they (inaudible) —

Rocks which he liked to look out.

ANNA: Well, what are they going to put in there, you know. That saved buying things.
Uh-huh.

ANNA: You know, you don't go and buy a whole lot of stuff unless you needed to. And the foundation, that was these great, big boulders, as big as this table. And thick, you know.

And then they got the lumber from?

ANNA: Well, that — they'd have to buy the lumber, of course.

Uh-huh. Now, do you remember anything about some of the epidemics that were — that took place in Ballard or this area of town?

ANNA: You mean who got sick?

The smallpox or the —

ANNA: Well, we never — we had scarlet fever.

And what happened then? When you had scarlet fever?

ANNA: Well, we were pretty darn sick, you know.

Did they do anything?

ANNA: Well, you know, years ago, when the place got built up more, if you had any kind of sickness, measles or anything, they quarantined you and they put the sign out on the house, for so many days and so on. And, of course, you had, same as now, you naturally couldn't go to school if you had chicken pox or measles. But you'd have regular red measles. There was no — nothing to do to keep you from having that. You know, now they give you shots and things.

Was there some ...

(TAPE 1, SIDE B)

... has kind of a — it almost looks like a lean-to, but that's actually the way the —

ANNA: Well, I —

It's just because of the way the chickens —

ANNA: No, I kind of think this was added to it.

FRANK: Part of that's been added to.

ANNA: You see, they remodeled and fixed it up.

Oh.

FRANK: The original part was the chicken house, see. And they just added to it.
Now, whose house was this?

ANNA: That was our — this was our old chicken house.
Your old chicken house and somebody bought it and lived in it.

ANNA: Yes.

FRANK: They moved it.
This is a friend of yours.

ANNA: They moved it up here.

FRANK: Three houses east of here, I believe, or (inaudible).
Is it still there?

ANNA: No.

But it was moved —

ANNA: Uh-huh.

— three houses east of your house we're in right now?

FRANK: Three or four —

You know, it's —

FRANK: — four houses up, I guess it is.

ANNA: Four.

FRANK: Yes.

ANNA: And he owned that property, my brother did. And I think Ewald bought it from him later on when he got the money to buy it.

FRANK: Yes.

Well, they made it very nice and cheerful with the curtains, you know.

ANNA: Now, that's —

Oh, isn't this nice?

ANNA: That's the — Now, you see —

Now, this is the Stimsions?

ANNA: That was the original, I guess.

This is Stimsions?

ANNA: Uh-huh. (inaudible).

And your father is which one now?

ANNA: The one that's got — this — oh, here.

Oh.

ANNA: See he's got —

Yes, I do recognize it from that other picture you showed me of him.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

FRANK: Yes.

ANNA: And here is the front of the house before there was a — the roof thing upstairs was put on it. See it had that gingerbread on the —

Isn't that cozy though?

ANNA: This is the same picture.

FRANK: They have a widow's walk there.

You had a widow's walk on your house. Oh, I like them. Well, now, when you went up to your widow's walk, did you have a ladder to go up there or?

ANNA: I don't think there was any way of getting up.

FRANK: I don't know. She's — they were pretty small here, see. Then after - you see, it was shortly after this picture was taken, see, they added the rooms upstairs.

ANNA: See, this is —

Well, your father must have liked some styles and things though, when he put that on it.

ANNA: Right. Now, you see, this is me and this is my brother.

Oh.

ANNA: He had —

He's really blond; isn't he?

ANNA: Yes, he was blond all his life and he's still blond.

FRANK: Still got a head of hair on him that won't quit.
Isn't that wonderful?

ANNA: Yes, you can see that —

Now, it looks to me like you're wearing long dresses.

ANNA: Well —

Is this a special occasion?

ANNA: No, this was —

You're wearing white.

ANNA: I don't know. I remember. Just any color.
Lots of ruffles.

ANNA: The women naturally, they wore long dresses.

FRANK: They didn't have the pantsuits and that sort of stuff then.

ANNA: No. This one is — I think this is one that Leonard had redone. You can see the big rock.
Oh, I see.

ANNA: Maybe you could take her down and show her the —

FRANK: Yes, sure.

ANNA: — when we get around here. She talks about these little stones that's out here on the porch. I said, there's great, big rocks.

FRANK: Oh, yes. Hey, that's that one — that was later though, Mom. That's just a little one. The main foundation is —

ANNA: Yes.

FRANK: — mammoth, big boulders that were hauled down from —

ANNA: 45th and —

FRANK: — 45th or 46th, up on the hill up there.

45th or 46th, up on the hill — up towards Phinney?

FRANK: Yes.

ANNA: Well, up above Third Avenue, anyhow, someplace.

FRANK: Go up Third Avenue they —

How he got them here, I —

Was this a kind of a quarry that a lot of people used to get the foundations for their houses?

FRANK: Yes.

ANNA: I don't know that. Because it's the only one I know that's got those enormous, big rocks. Like they say, it's a good place to go if there's — if there's an earthquake or if there's a — if somebody bombs Ballard.

FRANK: Bombs.

Well, you know, you're lucky you've got it next door.

ANNA: It's great, big, thick ones, you know. You're putting more coffee on; right?

FRANK: Yes, but where do you — where's your coffee ground thing?

ANNA: I haven't got (inaudible).

FRANK: Oh, okay.

Well, now, when you were growing up, you learned English. Did you ever learn Danish there, or anything else?

ANNA: No.

When you went to school, did everybody speak English?

ANNA: Sure.

There was no problem for anybody, as far as language went?

ANNA: I don't think there were any foreigners here, or anybody — well, I don't know. Of course, there were no Koreans, or any of those, you know. But everybody spoke English.

Or otherwise they made a point, like your mother did, of learning English.

ANNA: Yes, you couldn't go to school and learn it.

Was there — were there any foods that your mother and father liked?

ANNA: Any what?

Special foods from your nationality that you liked?

ANNA: Well, I imagine there would be. I think (inaudible) they called it. That was sweet soup. They made a sweet soup out of —

Bean soup.

ANNA: — (inaudible) sweet soup.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: And they would then make that out of boiled prunes and raisins and the tapioca. I don't know if it was tapioca. Something similar to tapioca. I can't think of what we used to call it.

Sego (phonetic)?

ANNA: Sego.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: Because that would thicken that a little and they'd — it would be made with fruit juice. So it was a sweet soup.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: With different fruits and I know they used to have that quite a bit.

And then you mentioned something else. What did they eat at Christmas time? Anything special?

ANNA: Well, you know, we didn't have turkeys. We usually had either duck or a goose or chickens, something like that. And what kind of meat. Oh, we ate much better than we do now.

Do you remember killing — how they would kill a chicken and then what you had to do in order — before you could eat it, finally?

ANNA: Yes. The chickens, you would have boiling water, and you'd dip them up and down in a pail of this hot, boiling water, and then the feathers would come right off.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: And then you'd singe them.

Yes, and what does that mean, to singe?

ANNA: Well, for that you'd have a little paper — piece of paper. And you'd strike a match on it and you'd hold that so as to burn the hairs off of it.

And you'd do that over the fire?

ANNA: As a rule, so that you could stick it into the stove afterwards.

Didn't your mother kind of worry about having — catching a fire in the house?

ANNA: Oh, no, no. I don't think so. She didn't have time to worry.

FRANK: (Inaudible).

ANNA: She didn't have time for worry. But I would say, all in all, we ate a lot better than people do now. There was no junk food.

Yes, I think that's true.

ANNA: And everything you had, was made. I do the same; I don't buy much of that stuff.

FRANK: No, you don't buy dinners (inaudible).

Uh-huh. But once in a great while, as years went on, we'd have —

Thank you.

ANNA: — we would have bakery bread and that was kind of a treat to us, you know. But — and even your bread, you had a starter. I don't mean — we got the starter from somebody, and then you'd boil potatoes and mash them out in that — in the water. And then you would take some of the starter — you'd take and mix it and then you'd save some for the next time. Some of the fresh with the potatoes and the salt, maybe a little sugar; I don't know.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: And you always saved that starter. That was your yeast, so you didn't have to buy it.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: Everything was geared to buy as little as you had to. And I know we ate lots of vegetables and lots of fruit that we'd have in the place.

What about things like soap?

ANNA: Well, they did even make that sometimes.

And how did you go about making soap?

ANNA: You used lye. I don't know. She wasn't — she didn't buy — make much soap. They used Fels Naptha and that went a long ways. But she — I know she has made it, because you'd save your lard and then you'd make it. But not as a general rule, she didn't do much unless she had a lot of lard. But you know, your lard, you saved that, too, for — Now, if they had a cow, you had no way of — or a heifer that you'd kill, you'd butcher — you'd have no way — you had no freezers.

So how did you preserve things?

ANNA: She had big stone jars and she would cook it and then put it into the jar and then — and pour some of the juice off and then cover it — seal it with lard. And then put it in a cold place and leave it there. So that if she wanted a roast, she'd have to break the seal and get the roast out.

But that preserved your meat?

ANNA: Uh-huh, yes. And the vegetables, she canned those by — well, of course, in later years, she used a pressure cooker. But we didn't used to have that.

No.

ANNA: She cooked them by — in a boiler. And I know she always said, you must never let the boiling stop. It had to boil for say, three hours.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: And she always had pie on hand. I remember my father always wanted a piece of pie in his lunch box.

Well, she must have been a good baker.

ANNA: Oh, yes.

FRANK: Oh, boy.

ANNA: A good cook.

FRANK: Good — excellent cook, yes.

ANNA: And they didn't know anything about vitamins, and she said, she served and she ate a little of everything, so she guesses they got something that was good for 'em. And she lived to be nearly 101.

FRANK: But, you know, you had those crocks there.

ANNA: Yes.

FRANK: And they used to keep — you used to have those down in the basement —

ANNA: Uh-huh.

FRANK: — on that far wall. And you had butter in that and pickles.

ANNA: Uh-huh, yes.

FRANK: And brine and that sort of stuff.

ANNA: Yes, you'd put your butter down in a brine and save that.

What did you do about vinegar? Did you make that, too?

ANNA: No, we didn't make vinegar. I think she had enough to do without making vinegar. But she'd even make sauerkraut. And then —

The crock.

ANNA: No, she did it in big two-quart fruit jars and put salt on it and leave it stand in the kitchen until it would start to ferment. She'd have it screwed up tight — or not quite tight, I guess. And it would swell, and then you see, she — after it fermented in that, I guess she'd seal it tight, with it screwed up tight. But it formed its own vinegar.

And then she made pickles, too, I suppose, in the same way.

ANNA: Oh, sure.

Kept them in a crock.

ANNA: She'd make cucumber pickles and prune pickles.

Well, now, we haven't heard about you. You went to school where, Frank?

FRANK: I started out in West Woodland School.
In West Woodland?

FRANK: In West Woodland. And then from West Woodland to James Monroe, and then to Ballard High school.

Do you have any memories about your first day at West Woodland?

FRANK: Yes. I (inaudible) wasn't very fond of going to school.

ANNA: I tell you, when he came home what he said, I can't learn and I won't learn and I'm not —

FRANK: Not going to learn.

ANNA: — and I'm not going to learn. That was his attitude for some months.

FRANK: But I've got a mom and dad that had a little different ideas so that they — see they were bigger than I. They won.

Now, you began — you entered West Woodland what year?

ANNA: When he was six years old.

FRANK: Yes, I was six 1935.

1935.

FRANK: Uh-huh.

And then you went to — do you remember anything particularly about West Woodland besides that?

Were you in any — were there any things you did particularly, like sports or anything, that you were involved in?

FRANK: No, because they never — in the grade school, they never had any teams. They just played, you know, against children our own age. In Physical Ed we'd have during the baseball season, we'd have baseball games and stuff like that.

ANNA: I'll have to make out a check.

Now, then you went down to Monroe?

FRANK: Uh-huh.

What do you remember about Monroe?

FRANK: Well, I remember it was quite a long walk from here.

Well, I think so.

FRANK: I remember that. Yes.

And you walked all the time.

ANNA: You see, at that time, we were not in the district where you could take a bus or anything.

FRANK: That's right.

Oh, did the district have a bus then?

ANNA: They did when you went to school, I think. I don't know. They did later on.

FRANK: Later, that was much later.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

FRANK: They didn't have any when I (inaudible).

ANNA: But this one, you'd have to live over on 50th, I think, in order to take the bus. And then they had a bus going — that was after you were out of school.

FRANK: Oh, yes, way later.

ANNA: They had a bus going on Third Avenue.

So you went to Monroe. Did you take — did they have shop and things like that over there?

FRANK: Yes, they did.

Did they have that at West Woodland?

FRANK: Yes, they had wood shop and metal shop, too, I believe. Wood shop I remember.

Were there any other kinds of —

FRANK: (inaudible) down in the basement (inaudible).

And did that go through eighth grade?

FRANK: Seventh grade, when I went there.

Yes, West Woodland.

FRANK: Yes.

So you went to eighth grade at Monroe?

FRANK: Right.

And ninth grade?

FRANK: At — eighth — seventh, eighth, and ninth, I believe; wasn't it?
Monroe had seventh, eighth, and ninth?

FRANK: And then the last three years — we started — yes, your freshman year was at —
Then you went to Ballard?

FRANK: Yes.

What do you remember about Ballard?

FRANK: Oh, I remember that was quite a thrill, you know, to start with. That was getting into the big time then.

ANNA: ...the real estate company.

This was your first job?

ANNA: Uh-huh.

A real estate company?

ANNA: Yes. Downtown.

Downtown?

ANNA: But it isn't there now. It was on Third Avenue and Seneca or Spring or something. But I was really needed at home, so. You know, so then I stayed home until —

Well, what kind of thing — did you do bookkeeping or something?

ANNA: Yes. Yes, and typing and so on.

So you learned this at Lincoln High School?

ANNA: Lincoln High. Uh-huh. They had a good commercial class there. Very good.

All right now, you see, Ross School was in between West Woodland and B.F. Day. Did you think — was B.F. Day a regular school?

ANNA: Yes. That was to eight grades then, years ago.

Eight grades?

ANNA: I don't know what —

And was there any — you don't know if there was something special there (inaudible).

ANNA: They didn't have special classes years ago. Never heard of such a thing.

Well, anyway, sometimes I think they did, but.

FRANK: Maybe, maybe (inaudible).

ANNA: Not those years, and not that long ago. I don't think so.

FRANK: (Inaudible).

Well —

ANNA: Over 75 years ago?

Uh-huh.

ANNA: I don't know; I never heard of them.

All right, if you were going — not going to walk, how did you get from place to place? If you were going to go a longer distance?

ANNA: Well, years ago, there was no bus or streetcar closer than Ballard. And I remember — I don't know how we got across the Ballard Bridge. There used to be a little boat that we took across.

FRANK: Wow.

ANNA: Years ago.

FRANK: Hum.

ANNA: But I think there was a little wooden bridge there, later on.

Was there somebody who took you across on the wooden boat?

ANNA: It seems to me we used to have that — there was one, I think, on Third Avenue, that went across.

And how many people would get on the boat at a time?

ANNA: Oh, there wasn't very many people around here.

So you might go, like one person?

ANNA: Maybe a few of them, maybe a couple.

And was there somebody who lived near there that would do that?

ANNA: I can't remember that. I imagine there was. Don't know.

And was there somebody at the other side, too, to bring you back?

ANNA: Oh, yes, there'd always be somebody, or I suppose you could yell for them to come back.

Do you remember anything about the bridges?

ANNA: Well, there was — I remember there was just a little wooden bridge, some little wooden bridge to go across to Ballard. But we had to go clear down there to get a bus to go to town.

Down to the wooden bridge?

ANNA: Down — well, way down to Ballard, I know. But how we got there, I don't remember. It seemed to me, they came — I don't know.

FRANK: I know there used to be a streetcar that used to come right up Sixth Avenue here.

ANNA: Oh, that was later on.

FRANK: Later, later, yes.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

FRANK: And then (inaudible) went down there and then when (inaudible) got here (inaudible) to 65th.

ANNA: When I was in high school, there was a bus on Sixth Avenue.

FRANK: A streetcar.

ANNA: A streetcar. Uh-huh.

Well, now, was the city boundary at 65th at that time? Or Ballard boundary?

ANNA: Or was it 85th? I don't know.

FRANK: (inaudible) 65th.

ANNA: I think it was only 65th. That was as far as the bus went then.

And when you got to 65th, what did it look like? Were there lots of trees on the other side of 65th?

ANNA: I don't know. I don't know that I ever got over there.

It really is a long way from here, anyway.

ANNA: When you have to walk. I know it was awfully hilly over there.

Well, I think you were very busy right here anyway, so.

FRANK: Because it was awful hilly up there anyhow.

ANNA: Yes, it was hilly.

Well, now, do you remember anything about the Depression?

ANNA: Well, that was after the first World War.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: But I don't think it ever really affected us too much. We never — we always had plenty to eat, and we always seemed to get enough money to do what we had to have.

And that's all that really concerned you.

ANNA: Uh-huh. We always got along anyhow.

FRANK: It would be survival, you know, really.

ANNA: It —

FRANK: It, you know —

ANNA: You couldn't spend a lot of money foolishly.

No.

ANNA: Because you didn't have it to spend. And then there was the time, too, where you had — where things were rationed, you know. And you couldn't get so many things that — different things we wanted like foods and things.

Well, then, did you have stamps or something, for the rations?

ANNA: No, we didn't.

FRANK: That's during the war.

ANNA: Yes, we — yes, that was —

FRANK: That was during World War II (inaudible).

ANNA: Yes, World War II. Was that World War II?

FRANK: Yes, yes.

ANNA: At World War I and they were — I think it was pretty hard times then, too. But I don't know what — it seems like we lived through it.

Uh-huh. I think lots of people who had — as long as they had some food on their property —

ANNA: Uh-huh.

— they just survived and they were grateful.

ANNA: There's always some that will always be hard up. They'll never have anything. And never have anything to eat, even if they have the money coming in. And of course, that kind they never had a dollar ahead or anything.

Do you remember anything about Ballard, like the theaters? Anything about the theaters? Did you ever get to go to the theater?

ANNA: Well, that was — not years ago they didn't have any theaters. At least, we never had any we could go to. The only theaters I could remember was out, down in Ballard there was one. But that was in later years. That was when you were —

FRANK: Yes, the Baghdad and one other one down there, too.

ANNA: Yes.

Well, did they have something special on Friday night?

FRANK: Uh-huh.

What happened on Friday night?

FRANK: They had sort of a Bingo or something they had going in there. They had — anyway, you could go in and win some prizes, anyhow.

So sometimes you'd go home with something; didn't you?

ANNA: I — when I was little, we didn't have any shows to go to.

FRANK: No, this was later, Mom.

ANNA: Oh, later on.

FRANK: Yes.

Now, that's about 1920 or?

FRANK: They had those in the late 20s, I think, early 40s is when they had that.

ANNA: '20s.

What about closer to you, they had horses that they had for collecting garbage. Do you remember them? I think they called them — they had the city stables, and it was down here someplace near Tradewell? Did you ever have garbage collectors? You probably took care of your own garbage.

ANNA: We didn't have garbage collectors.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: We didn't have garbage collectors.

You just dug the hole and put your own garbage in?

ANNA: We didn't have very many tin cans and stuff.

FRANK: No, that —

ANNA: And we had the stove to burn everything in.

FRANK: Yes.

Uh-huh.

FRANK: But where the Tradewell is now, that —

ANNA: That was houses.

FRANK: Yes, on stilts. It left a big hole down there.

ANNA: Well —

FRANK: And they were always filled up with water down in the hole there. And it used to be that Driftwood Inn Restaurant and Tavern that used to be there too.

ANNA: Well, the houses were there, and they're over across from Leonard's —

FRANK: Yes.

ANNA: — that were here on Sixth and —

Well, the houses were on stilts over there?

FRANK: Yes.

Because of it being so low or?

FRANK: Well, it was just a big hole down there and nobody filled it in and they didn't have fill to fill it, so they just built the houses and the back part was on stilts.

ANNA: And there was one fellow wouldn't sell his house when the Tradewell went in there.

FRANK: Yes.

ANNA: And he was left hanging there.

FRANK: Hanging dry there, yes.

ANNA: Uh-huh. And those houses, I don't know of any stables or anything. They were houses there when that came through.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: And they moved two of them, I think, over here on Sixth Avenue, before you come to Market Street. They're still there. But I —

Were there any Polish people down in that area; do you know?

ANNA: No, I don't think so. The police were down on Market, later on. But I didn't — I never even heard of policemen when I was a little kid.

The Polish, Polish people.

ANNA: Oh, Polish people. Oh, gosh, yes. Polish and Swedish.

They were all mixed up down in this area someplace? A lot of —

ANNA: Yes. There weren't so many here. I remember my father had one house over here that there were some Polish people. I can't remember if they had — I don't think they had bought it then. They had rented it from him. And they went to the Catholic school.

St. Alphonsus?

ANNA: Uh-huh. And every day — I remember the oldest girl was Celia (phonetic). She was the one that went to school then. Every day she'd come for me to help her with her homework. I think they had very poor schools at that time. Not now, but I think they did at that time. And then there was one —

Well, do you suppose they had trouble with English, too?

ANNA: They might have had.

I wonder if that could have been a problem for them.

FRANK: They could have been dual language, you know. One language at home and then they had to get out and speak the English, you know, at school.

ANNA: Uh-huh. I know a lot of the older women. Well, even now they don't speak English.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: I know the lady living here, she came from Texas, and her mother — they go over to see them and I asked why doesn't her mother ever come here. Well, she says, you know, she doesn't speak English. Now, the idea of living there all those years and she still doesn't speak English.

Well, I think that says something for your family.

ANNA: Well, like my mother said, we're living in America now; we'll have to speak English like the rest of the people.

And you become an American.

ANNA: Uh-huh, yes. Yes.

Well, this is very interesting. Are there any other pictures that you have?

ANNA: I think Leonard's got a lot of them.

FRANK: Yes, like (inaudible) barber shop. In fact, I can introduce you to him, if you'd like to. He's got — I just brought up a few just a few days ago, a week ago. He's going to have (inaudible) with that.

This is very (inaudible).

FRANK: One is a picture of my grandfather with — when he's on his milk route, towing a special little made wagon that he'd made. A couple of strange kids sitting on top. I don't know who they are.

ANNA: I think they'd always waylay him and have a little ride on the wagon. And he liked the kids. Is that Judy?

FRANK: Judy's coming over, yes.

ANNA: I wanted you to show her the big rocks down there.

FRANK: Oh, yes, yes. You'll get a bang out of that. You'll never see a house built like that.

ANNA: And the basement isn't high enough for him to walk through without ducking. You know, my mother and father were both quite short. And, of course, it was built big enough for him to go through the doors and so on, down in the basement. And — with you, you have to duck (inaudible).

FRANK: Oh, yes, I'm —

ANNA: All my family have to duck if they go down there in the basement.

FRANK: Yes.

...It was Henry White?

Uh-huh.

He was an old-timer in Ballard and —

ANNA: That was one my father worked with.

He had come before your father; right?

ANNA: I don't know that. I don't know that. I can't tell you. I don't know how my father got to knowing him, but it seems like we've always known the Whites. Uh-huh. That was his name. But any old-timer would know Mr. White. And they lived on — isn't there a Methodist church up there right close to Jones Avenue on 65th?

FRANK: Couldn't tell you.

There might be.

ANNA: Family across the street. And that's where —

Now, we didn't ask you this, but when you had your children, where were they born?

ANNA: They were born here in Seattle in the hospital, of course.

Do you know what the name of the hospital was?

ANNA: Well, let me see. Seattle General, Mildred and Frances were born. And Frank was born in the Norwegian Hospital in —

Now, where was the Norwegian Hospital?

ANNA: That was in Fremont. Because the doctor told me I couldn't make the trip from here downtown. And it was an old — real old building. I think there were elevators; I don't know that. But it was way up high. It was in a room way up high and —

And this was in what years, about?

ANNA: Oh, you were born —

FRANK: 1929.

ANNA: Yes.

1929.

FRANK: Uh-huh.

ANNA: And that's where he was born, was in a Norwegian Hospital.

Well, now, it's in Fremont, but is it — is there anything there now, which shows where it was?

ANNA: I don't know that. Let me see. You know where Hampton Bakery was in Fremont?

No.

ANNA: Well, it's — it isn't right in Fremont. It's between Fremont and Wallingford, I'd say. Maybe on — maybe you'd say, like 40th Street or I don't know. But I don't know what's there now, but it isn't there.

But anyway, that has —

FRANK: (Inaudible).

ANNA: Anyway, they had said I couldn't make it to town and I would have to have it close by.

Uh-huh. Did the doctors come to your house in those days?

ANNA: Yes, I think they did if necessary. They did when the children were little.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: I know I had a — you know, you always had a child specialist then. And I can't remember the doctor's name, but I know he would come to the house. And I know the others did, too. I think all doctors did. But I don't know where that — I just (inaudible) what street to tell you that Norwegian Hospital (inaudible).

I think that can be found, anyway.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

In the records.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

...What would you call that piece that was put in the foundation to show —

ANNA: Oh, that. I don't know. I never saw it anywhere either. Did you, Frank?

Could you describe what that looks like? It's kind of like a stone, but it's not. Was it cement? Cement he wrote his name on?

FRANK: It's some sort of a like glass bottle or something that's set in there, and this is apparently something from the city that — some permits or something that he had. I've never dug into the thing.

ANNA: I never saw any other place —

Do you think there's something in there besides just the name?

ANNA: I think it's just like a little — I thought it was just like a little hole - a round place and it was stuck in there.

And it's kind of a glass on the outside.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

But it says on it your father's name, and then it says 1898.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

Now, there was something else. What was the other thing. What did you say?

ANNA: ...report that to the city and the city (inaudible) where we bought our milk and everything.

All right, now you're talking about something — you're talking about going — you went to the doctor because —

ANNA: Well, I —

— you, Frank, were ill?

ANNA: Sure.

You didn't feel good. And what was it diagnosed as being?

ANNA: They couldn't find anything for a long, long time. I kept coming and coming, and he would test him for everything. And they knew he was sick, but they couldn't find anything. And I suppose, I didn't know anything about undulant fever.

FRANK: No, it wasn't (inaudible).

ANNA: And so, finally, he asked me, once in the office, by any chance, he has been drinking raw milk. And I said, yes, all the time. So then he — then they decided — they came to the conclusion that was what was wrong with him. And they — he had to report it to the city and the city went out and examined his cattle and they found some that were sick or that had that undulant fever.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: I don't know just what it is. It's when they have a miscarriage. I think that's what it did.

Partly that.

ANNA: And then they dispose of the cattle. And he had to dispose of some of his cattle.

Uh-huh. Do you know if there was — at that time, that they found more undulant fever around in the community?

ANNA: Not that I know of. He told — the fellow that owned that dairy said, this is the only case that he had. So, I don't know.

No.

ANNA: Evidently not. But the city found it.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: The health department, I suppose. And, of course, you didn't get any more raw milk after that.

FRANK: No.

No.

...Maybe you could tell me a little bit about the West Woodland area. What did you find up there in that area? Was this kind of a shopping area?

FRANK: It was one of the shopping areas, something like the Greenwood area, but much smaller. They had a West Woodland Theater. And they had a — kind of a bakery shop in there. And it seemed to me like

they had a candy shop there, too. Small hardware store, and Everybody's Meat Market and Grocery, I think it was called.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

FRANK: And I believe there was a real estate office in there, too, and a drugstore at one time.

ANNA: Uh-huh. There used to be a drugstore.

FRANK: Yes.

ANNA: And I remember there was a doctor lived right close there, and they used to say that he had to go to the bakery every evening to get hot bread for his dinner.

Oh, really.

ANNA: I can't remember his name either.

FRANK: There were several other little shops. They were just little, very small —

ANNA: Yes.

FRANK: — district in there.

ANNA: But then there was a big grocery store on 60th and Sixth Avenue.

FRANK: Yes, right by West Woodland.

ANNA: Uh-huh. And then there was one right kind of across from West Woodland School on the corner there.

FRANK: School Store, they used to call it.

ANNA: Oh, was that it?

Now, was this in the 1920s, kind of?

FRANK: 30s and 20s. That one that she was talking about, that big one up about 60th and Sixth, that was there for many, many years.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

FRANK: There used to be all kinds of little groceries around.

ANNA: Yes. And then there was two of them down here.

FRANK: Uh-huh. And up on — between 53rd and 52nd there, there used to Mr. Good's Grocery in there. And then Brower used to have his market and grocery up on Sixth and Market. And at Eighth Avenue

Now, you mentioned the name Brower to me before. That was a big — one of the people who owned a lot of land?

FRANK: Yes.

How did he spell his name?

FRANK: B-R-O-W-E-R.

ANNA: There were two of them though.

FRANK: Yes.

There were two of them?

Two Browers.

FRANK: But in this area, the Browers, and then my grandfather, Jess Jensen, were the big landowners of this area in here.

ANNA: They weren't wealthy men or anything; far from it.

FRANK: Well, there weren't too many wealthy men around in those days.

No, but they worked hard and they made it — made a go of it.

FRANK: Oh, yes.

ANNA: They made a go of it.

FRANK: They made a go of it.

ANNA: And they never had to go on welfare.

Now, when you went to shop, West Woodland is one place you might have gone, but they had little shopping areas in different — not too far from people's places?

ANNA: Yes. Down here there was a grocery store with a meat market, and across the street there was another grocery store.

Now, what is that down here?

FRANK: That was 50th. 50th and Sixth Northwest.

ANNA: And Sixth.

FRANK: George Seaman had a grocery store on the east side of 50th, and Hal Schneider had a grocery store on the west side, right across the street from one another.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

FRANK: Now, on Sixth Avenue, between 50th and 55th, there were four little groceries.

Well, now, how did they compete? I mean, how come — how would people decide which one that they'd like to —

ANNA: Oh, I'll tell you how most of them did. It was taken on the paper — on the book.

FRANK: Credit.

ANNA: Yes.

Credit.

ANNA: Yes, and every so often, when you thought it was too much on there, you'd go and pay it. Or maybe if you had — was working by the week, well, maybe on payday you'd pay it.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: I don't know. But Schneider's, you might have heard of them because they were a big family. It's S-C-H-N-E-I-D-E-R, Schneider.

Uh-huh. And that was right down here at — down the hill from you?

FRANK: Uh-huh.

ANNA: Down the hill and over a block. And then there was Jensen Grocery Store down on Second Avenue — on 52nd. We traded with them for years, and they would come around take your order.

FRANK: Uh-huh. That was down where Gilman Play Field is.

ANNA: Yes.

FRANK: Just south of there. And there used to be another grocery store on Eighth Avenue and Market Street.

ANNA: There were a number of them right on Eighth Avenue.

FRANK: Yes.

ANNA: The one is where we get the apples.

FRANK: Well, there used to be a grocery store in there.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

FRANK: Years ago.

ANNA: Yes.

FRANK: And that was there for many years.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

FRANK: And then they put a gas station in, and now it's just a vacant lot.

Well, now, you raised so many things. Did you ever take your things to the grocery store to sell them?

Uh-huh.

FRANK: Grandma did.

ANNA: Yes, she'd take apples once in a while, I believe.

FRANK: And corn.

ANNA: And corn.

FRANK: And corn, too.

And so other people could buy them.

FRANK: Uh-huh.

ANNA: Well, the corn, I think — yes, I guess she did sell to Seaman's sometimes.

FRANK: Sure she did. Well, Schneider, too. He'd put an order in. I remember many times I'd run it down there.

ANNA: I know they — people would want the corn that she raised. They'd — she had steady call for them all the time. And they'd want them right before they were going to cook dinner.

Well, you like your corn when it's fresh.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

FRANK: But that was the best corn I've ever seen in my life. It had very, very tiny kernels. It isn't like the stuff you buy in the grocery store. I call that field corn.
Well, I think —

FRANK: But just a real small kernel —

ANNA: Uh-huh.

FRANK: — and they were just so sweet.

And it sat there so long in most of our grocery stores now.

ANNA: Oh, goodness, yes.

FRANK: Oh, yes.

ANNA: But she did raise — she did sell corn all right. And sometimes I know she had apples, extra apples, and they'd want to buy them.

Now, when you were going to plant your garden, did you plow the garden first? Who — did you do that by hand, or did you have a —

ANNA: Oh, yes, that was all done by hand. My mother did most of that.

FRANK: A little push job.

ANNA: She had that (inaudible).

She pushed a kind of a —

ANNA: And nothing was ever wasted. Everything went right back down in the ground, even to the corn stalks. That was left to dry and she'd chop it up and bury it again. And you never threw coffee grounds out, or vegetables of any kind or banana peelings. Nothing was thrown away.

She was —

ANNA: You always buried that.

FRANK: Even the ashes from the wood stove was put out into the vegetables or into the flowers.

ANNA: Uh-huh. Or in the — what is it that Mildred brings down? Rhubarb.

FRANK: Oh, rhubarb.

ANNA: That makes wonderful rhubarb, use that ashes.

The ashes —

ANNA: They must be wood ashes. And that was — nothing was wasted.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: They didn't need garbage disposals.

I bet you raised lots of rhubarb.

ANNA: Oh, yes. We had rhubarb. It was always raised in a barrel.

Oh.

ANNA: I don't know why. Or half a barrel, or something like that.

FRANK: What were those large berries that Grandma used to raise up here?

ANNA: Boysenberries and —

FRANK: Different big berries.

ANNA: Blackberries and boysenberries, and all kinds of berries.

FRANK: Yes.

ANNA: Even to gooseberries and currents and whatnot.

FRANK: Strawberries and everything else, yes.

ANNA: Uh-huh. In the latter years that she lived there alone, she had strawberries in part of the front yard. She had ever-bearing, and she'd go out there and pick a dish for dinner until snow came. They were the ever-bearing. They were awfully good.

FRANK: Uh-huh. They were homegrown. You didn't pick them until they were ripe (inaudible) grocery store where they're in the raw.

ANNA: No, you didn't (inaudible) go out (inaudible) green there.

I think most people have things like the gooseberries you mentioned, have at least one bush.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

If not two or three.

ANNA: Well, I think as near as I remember, they had more than one kind of gooseberry.

Oh, did they?

ANNA: Uh-huh.

Did you have trouble keeping them good to eat? Did they get wormy in those days?

ANNA: Not so much.

That's come in —

ANNA: I think that's from more the last year — few years that they've had so much trouble with everything, bugs in everything.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: But years ago, they didn't have so much trouble.

Is there anything you remember about any part of Ballard — any part of Ballard besides the Ross area, too?

FRANK: Well, of course, when I was growing up, this was the Ballard area then.

Uh-huh.

FRANK: It was all Ballard. But it — (inaudible) I can remember of it, just all the houses and streets — *It really changed.*

FRANK: — used to be. Yes. There used to be so many vacant lots and places we could play and everything.

And a lot of the people, as you'd get more towards Ballard, they might have a cow, did they, or something? Different people? Did they have like one cow, or what did they do?

ANNA: Not so much (inaudible).

Not too many?

FRANK: No, not when I was growing up.

You were some of the main cattle people around here.

FRANK: Around here, yes. My grandfather used to be Cow — called Cow Jensen. That's what the people called him.

Oh, he was called Cow Jensen?

FRANK: Yes.

How many cows did you have?

FRANK: I don't know. Do you remember?

ANNA: I think that we had about five or six or so. A few.

FRANK: Six, seven. It wasn't too many.

Well, just whatever you'd need for the community.

FRANK: Yes, Uh-huh.

So you could have milk for yourself and have milk for sale.

ANNA: Another thing she used to sell. I remember many years ago, there was some Jewish people living in Ballard. And they'd want big, fat chickens. And they would come up and have her kill a chicken. And then they'd take it to the rabbi, and have it blessed, I guess. I don't know how they did that. But this would be the only place they would buy their chickens.

Is at your place?

ANNA: Uh-huh.

Well, you must have done a good job raising them.

ANNA: Oh, (inaudible).

It was just like they wanted them.

ANNA: Well —

FRANK: Well, I can remember they were good chicken. Couldn't get them any fresher than that either.

ANNA: They weren't like chickens are now. They were raised more natural, and they had all kinds of good food to eat, you know. Where now they have all this dry stuff that they set in front of them and kind of poked in them all the time. You know, they don't have the same flavor —

Well, did you have chicken yards, or did you just let them run?

ANNA: Oh, no, they didn't run. They had little yards.

They had little yards and then you had the chicken house?

ANNA: Uh-huh.

And what — did you have a high fence outside of the —

ANNA: Well, it was a wire netting, I suppose, six foot tall to keep them in, I think.

FRANK: Uh-huh, yes.

ANNA: Something like that.

FRANK: And I know Grandpa used to be able to move part of that fence when the chickweed and stuff would grow up.

ANNA: Uh-huh. Then he could (inaudible) there.

FRANK: Then he'd — it didn't take the chickens long to get rid of that, believe me. (inaudible) clean the place out nothing flat.

ANNA: But I remember, too, that my mother sold quite a lot of chickens, young fryers. People would want those, too, you know. They were fresh, you know. And they'd come and get them and she'd kill them right while they were there.

It sounds like your father did one thing —

ANNA: Right.

Plus his milking, and then your mother took care of the rest?

ANNA: Well, of course, years ago, he worked every day. And then after he quit working, then I think that's more when he had the cows and things. I guess he had them before, too. That was done on the morning before you'd go to work.

FRANK: Before he went to work.

ANNA: Yes. And then in the evening, you had to milk the cows. But I know she would sometimes milk the cows, too. Or help with it. But they were hard workers. I think the old country people were. You know, they didn't — they weren't used to having things handed to them.

Oh, I think the pioneers were, too. Even those born over here.

ANNA: Yes.

In those days. And did they ever like to tell stories about some of the things that happened in the later years?

ANNA: I don't know.

Even though times were tough?

ANNA: I don't think they really had too tough times.

FRANK: Well, by our standards today, I'd say they were tough times.

ANNA: Well —

FRANK: Now, if we want something, we just hop in the car and go get it.

ANNA: Yes, I know that. You couldn't go down to the grocery store unless you'd have to have the car, even if it's a block away. Of course, they had to hike it, but that was their way of doing it and they never thought anything of it. But as far as — I think they always had enough money to buy what they needed. They weren't wealthy or anything like that, but I'm sure they — they could get what food they needed and what other things they needed.

Uh-huh.

... Here it is.

Were you — do you remember the Alaska Yukon Exposition?

ANNA: Sure.

Did you attend that?

ANNA: Oh, yes, we did.

Were you in the children's choir?

ANNA: No. I don't think I had a very good voice. But we went there, but I know my mother went, too, sometimes. But they seemed to have a house full of company all that time.

Your family did?

ANNA: Yes.

People were coming from other places?

ANNA: She had one sister living in Aberdeen, and they'd come and stay. And somebody coming from another place would stay. It was a good boarding house, you know.

FRANK: Well, that's how they did it. They didn't have the motels and hotels to speak of in those days. *So you just boarded with your relatives or your friends.*

ANNA: Sure. Always.

When you came. And you were pretty close to the line that — what took you to the grounds, were you? Did you have to walk very far?

ANNA: No. I think you transferred in Fremont to, oh, like a University bus there.

Streetcar.

FRANK: Streetcar.

ANNA: Streetcar. There were streetcars, of course. Yes, that was in 1909.

Uh-huh.

ANNA: Let's see, I was about, well, 13 years old maybe then.

FRANK: But I can remember your brother talking about he went quite a few times.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

FRANK: He'd been pretty impressed with the whole (inaudible).

ANNA: Oh, yes.

FRANK: That was the first big thing I think Seattle ever had.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

Oh, I think so.

ANNA: Uh-huh.

FRANK: Yes.

ANNA: Uh-huh. And I remember they had so much company at the house then, that I was supposed to stay with this friend of mine here.

When you had company, you had to leave sometimes, didn't you?

ANNA: Well —

Somebody else got your bed.

ANNA: Well, that's true. That's true. But I stayed there one night. And that was the ones that brought their chicken house and moved it up there. And then they built a house and it was just a shack. It still stands there. But upstairs, it never — it hadn't been plastered or anything, but anyway, I stayed one night with Marguerite, and I came home the next day and I was covered with bites from head to foot, and —

Oh, what was that from?

ANNA: Bedbugs.

Did they have lots of bedbugs in those days?

ANNA: I didn't know of any other place.

Say, what kind of mattresses did you have?

ANNA: Cotton.

Cotton mattresses. Did you ever have one of those straw ticks?

ANNA: No. Uh-uh. But we had — pillows were all down, because you see, we had geese and the ducks.

And your mother made your pillows and filled them?

ANNA: Yes. And the duck and the geese, if you killed them, you picked them dry, because you wanted to save the feathers. And they came off pretty easy. But anyway, all of those feathers were saved, and they were used for pillows. But we never had any. We had just the — just sheets and blankets.

Did you make quilts?

ANNA: Yes. They did that, too. Sometimes piece quilts. But we didn't have the best kind of light to work nights. We had plenty of other work to do.

Uh-huh. What did you think when you saw your first electric light?

ANNA: I suppose — well, of course we saw that before we ever had it in our house.

Wasn't that kind of exciting?

ANNA: Uh-huh. Yes, but it was nicer when you got it in the house.

Well, when you had your first lights in the house, did you have generators?

ANNA: No.

You had electric lights from the city?

ANNA: Uh-huh, yes. We had our lamps until that time.

And you had kerosene lanterns? Did you have Aladdin Lamps?

ANNA: No. We had just ordinary kerosene lamps. There was one kind of lamp, but we didn't have it. That must have been the one where they pump it up and they'd have — it wouldn't be gasoline. I don't know. But anyway, we had just the ordinary glass — oh, they had a couple fancy ones. The girls have each got one, and they were made out of china and painted, you know. They were beautiful lamps.

How, nice.

ANNA: My girls, one's got one and one's got the other. And they — but they were kerosene, but I think they had them made into electric.

FRANK: Uh-huh.

ANNA: But we didn't use those lamps except once in a while, not for everyday use. And you know, there's a little kerosene lamp you set in the middle of the table, and everybody would have to sit around and read...

(End of tape.)

ANNA JENSEN KVAM

[7:04]

And of course we our outhouse and our lamps and they had to washed every day. And kerosine lamps when you had to go out.

This is Feb. 27, and I'm Solveig Lie, 326 NW 54st. Anna Jensen and her son. Reminisce over Ross. Don't know when it became a part of Ballard. Anna's mother from Denmark. Father came from MO. He knew someone, a Mr. Smith. Mother came over, downtown. Father lived close to Pike Place market. before the fire. 1889? Must have been another fire.

My father's chicken house. Parents knew each other before they left Denmark. Built a little shack to live in. No water, no lights, outhouse. They lived in it when they first got married. Kerosine lamps for light. Had to wash the chimney every day, fill it, trim the wicks. Lamps had a handle to carry it, to go to outhouse. No toilet paper.

[7:09]

Did have a chamber if you had to go in the middle of the night.

No address then (when father built).

I like to keep it for the view.

The man down the street, Smith, he knew from MO. He came out. My mother came to Ross. Working?

Got a job at the Stimson Mill. He's the one in the overalls in the picture there.

Nordeen, that barber out there.

Two children, my brother a year older. I'm 90.

What was the country like? He cleared the land, they raised everything. They had chickens, ducks. They had things and they had cows. Father was working for a dollar a day. Mother took care of everything. Midwife came when children were born. Didn't stay.

Housework different. Couldn't buy a loaf of bread. Raised everything and canned. Apples, pears, peaches (Didn't always do so good but we had them). There were bears around. They didn't come near the khouses but they were there. 52nd and 8th NW, a bear had cubs every year in an old stump. Kids used to fish near there.

No Indians near here. Summer camp in Blue Ridge area. North Beach.

Many tribes around here. They spent the summer there.

Ross school was a wood building. They had to build a fire escape, made of wood. Built on the north side of Ross School. Over on 3rd Ave on 43rd on North side. They voted to tear the building down and rebuild. They have a playfield there now. Playground came after the school.

When West Woodland was built I had my 8th grade there.

I went to Lincoln after that.

No houses between my house and the school. Eight blocks between.

About school. I don't remember. Arithmetic and reading and writing.

Some kid went by with a BB gun. BBs on my desk.

Nothing special there.

I'm sure there was a bell. I was only six years old.

Principal was Smith.

[7:24]

I was born in 1897. Mine was in September. I started

Ballard High School wasn't very big.

After school helped mother. We had to help with everything. I did have a playhouse. Lattice work. We had a stove in there, a wood stove. We'd go down to the butcher shop, they always give you On 14th. They'd send a man around to take your order, then deliver. We had no care or nothing. We didn't buy your flour in 10 pound bags.

There were only two houses here when she was young.

That was where the old man lived. His wife had died.

When my mother first came, she did housework. She worked for some Jewish people. She lived there. Then she lived at . Chinese cook. She couldn't speak English when she came.

Eventually they would send for one and send for another Mildred is 66 years old. Frances my daughter 3 1/2 years younger. Frank is 3 1/2 years younger than that.

Grandmother came from Denmark. Put a tag on with their destination. Couldn't speak the language. Then if someone. She had to spend a week or so on Ellis Island. She came by herself. Came across Steerage. Not a very pleasant trip. Many seasick. They lived in a place called Kalding (phon).

[7:35]

Homework? Arithmetic lessons, same as now. If I had trouble, my mother could help me. She didn't go to high school. She helped her father with business records.

Games? Tag, hide and go seek.

Father's name, Jess Jensen. Worked for the father, Mr. White lived on 65th and Jones Ave. Gave that place to the church.

You went to Presbyterian Church. Pastor was George Lee. Long walk to 17th. Wasn't so far. We walked everywhere. Later we had a street car.

They had 2 tracks to 45th, then to Market St. or so, and one would go to there, and then to 65th. Single track from 45th to 65th.

We'd pick berries. Take a couple buckets. We didn't call it North Beach. Loyal Heights. We walked up there, and back. Sometimes to Lake Ballenger.

[7:41]

This is all home made.

Summertime? Went barefooted. Never wore shoes in summer unless we had to go someplace. We had to

help with the work. Raspberries.... gooseberries. Father sold milk. He had a wagon and filled the milk by the quart. He never had a horse. Just a little wagon you could pull. Had a regular little milk house where he could sterilize the [containers].

Were there other Danes around? Ewald, the girl I used to play with were Danish. The Smithes were Danish. ? were not. There wasn't anyone else around.

[7:44]

One eye is an artificial eye. Can you tell which one?

Graduated from Lincoln? Worked for some time. Needed at home. Mother getting older. Regular pump. Had to carry in the water. Wash the clothes on the board. Boiler on top of the stove. Wood stove. We bought it int he summer time. Bought it wet. Have to stack it to get it dry.

Had to have a place for pigs? Baby chickens to raise. Wanted Chicken dinner, killed the chicken. She killed the pig. Stick em first, Woodshed was big. Barn was across the street on 52nd St. He used to have 15 or 20 lots.

[7:48]

A house two houses down. That was up on third ave. Was moved, because they built the street there. Another, on 53rd. from Aurora. It wasn't woods then. They were going to grade 3rd ave. I can't remember just how it was done.

This is the house you lived in now. The house to the west was where I was born.

Rocks. Load rocks.

Lumber Had to buy the lumber, of course.

Epidemics? We had scarlet fever. Pretty darn sick, you know. If you had any kind of sickness, you were quarantined.

Side B

[7:53]

Parts have been added. This was our own chicken house. Three-four houses east.

Stimsons. Your father is which one? Front of the house, before the upstairs was built.

You had a widow's walk on your house?

Your father must have likes some style?

Long dresses? THe women naturally wore long dresses.

This is one that Leonard had

She talked about these little stones

The main foundation were mammoth rocks from Phinney Ridge.

[7:57]

Did you learn Danish? No

I don't think there were any foreigners. Everybody spoke English.

Special foods. They made a sweet soup. Make it out of prunes and raisins and sago, like tapioca. and fruit juice. We didn't have turkey. We usually had duck or goose or something like that.

The chickens you had boiling water and dip them up and down and then the feathers would come right off. Then you would singe them to get rid of the little hairs off them. All in all we ate a lot better than they do now. No junk food. As years went by, we finally sometime had bakery bread. You mash some potatoes and get a starter, and save some. And then you wouldn't have to buy yeast.

Soap?. They did even make that sometimes. Save your lard. As a general rule, she used Fels Naptha. Save your lard in stone jars. put meat in jars, cover it with lard to preserve it. She'd cook it in a boiler. It had to cook for three hours. She always had pie on hand. My father always wanted pie in his lunch box. She served and she ate. She lived to be nearly 101. Jars in basement. Butter in brine. She'd even make sauerkraut. Sit in kitchen until it began to ferment. It formed its own vinegar. She make her own pickles.

Frank: I went to West Woodland, Monroe, Ballard. Entered WW when he was 6, 1935. No teams in grade school. Only physical ed. To Monroe. Quite a long walk from here. Later they had a bus, but not for here. They had wood shop. To 7th grade. Ballard quite a thrill.

Real estate company, downtown. But I was really needed at home, so I went home. I learned typing, etc. at Lincoln. Good commercial school. B.F. Day. Thru 8th grade. They didn't have special classes in those days. No street car closer than Ballard. I think there was a little wooden bridge. I think there was a little wooden boat to take you across the canal. Some little wooden bridge. We had to go to Ballard to get to downtown. When I was in high school, there was a bus on 6th or 8th.

[8:11] [8:11] Depression. That was after WWI. I don't think it ever affected us. We always had enough to eat, and could get enough money for what we really needed.

Some will always be hard up. Never have a dollar ahead or something. We never had any theaters. Only in Ballard, but that was in later years. They had something like Bingo in later years. Late 30s, early 40s.

Horses to collect garbage. City stables, near Tradewell? We didn't have any garbage collectors. Not much garbage.

Any Polish people there? Polish and Swedish. Not so many here. The Poles went to Catholic school. Oldest girl was Delia. They had very poor schools at that time. Many of the older women never learned to speak English. The idea of living there all those years and never learn to speak English.

Leonard has more pictures.

[8:17] Pic of grandfather with milk cart. Big rocks in basement. Not high enough for him to walk through without ducking. My parents were short. Henry White was an oldtimer in Ballard. My father worked for him. I don't know how he got to know him. Methodist church on Jones near 65th.

Where were the children born? Seattle General Hospital Mildred & Frances. Frank was born in Norwegian Hospital in Fremont. Old building. Between Fremont and Wallingford, maybe on 40th St.

Doctors came to the house when the children were little. I think all doctors did that. What would you call the piece in the foundation? Cement he wrote his name on? Something from the city, a permit or something? Kind of a glass. Your father's name and 1898.

Was he by any chance drinking raw milk. Undulant fever. He had to destroy his cattle. The fellow that owned that dairy, said that was the only case. She didn't get any raw milk after that.

West Woodland area? One of the small shopping area. Theater, meat market, drug store, real estate office, Several other little shops. in the '60s. Big grocery store on 60th & 6th. One across from 53rd & 52nd. Brower. Two of them. They and my grandfather were the big landowners around here. Never had to go on welfare. Down here was a grocery store Geo Seaman on the east side, on the west side. They gave credit. Pay by the week. Schneiders were a big family. Down the hill and over a block. Jensen on 52nd. They would come around and take your order. Sold some of their produce to Grocery stores. Best corn I've seen in my whole life. Small kernels, so sweet. Mother sold corn and apples. Nothing ever wasted. Put back in the ground. Coffee ground, peels, ashes from stove. Vegetables. Wood ashes makes wonderful rhubarb. Always raised in a barrel, or half a barrel. Black berries and boysenberries, gooseberries, strawberries. Everbearing strawberries in front yard. Go out and pick them

for dinner.

Anything about any part of Ballard? All the houses and streets that used to be vacant lots. Grandfather was called Cow Jensen. We had about 5-6 or so. Another thing she used to sell. Some Jewish people in Ballard. They liked good fat chickens. They were raised more natural. Good things to eat. They had yards. Wire netting 6 ft tall. Move the fence so chickens could eat chickweed. Young friers, killed on order. She would sometimes milk the cows. They were hard workers. They weren't used to having things handed to them.

[8:36]

They didn't really have tough times. They always had enough money to buy what they needed.

AYK? We attended that.

Were you in the children's choir? No.

People came and stayed to go to the fair. that was in 1909. I was about 13 years old.

Someone bought the chicken house. I stayed. Next day I was covered with mites.

Cotton mattresses. Down pillows. We had ducks and geese. We picked them dry because we wanted to save the feathers. Just sheets and blankets. Sometimes quilts. We had plenty other things to do.

[8:44]

Electric light from City.

Alladin lamps? No. Kerosine lamps. The girls have them now.

[end of tape]