

Original file name: *Fosberg, Dorothy, Saloons of Ballard.*  
Interviewer Name: Never provided, I referred to her as XX.  
Interviewee Name(s): Dorothy Fosberg  
Transcriber: *Elise O'Keefe*

XX: OK 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 testing... Interviewing Dorothy Fasbern, oh, I am saying it incorrectly, Dorothy Fosberg, on the Saloons of Ballard. That'll do it; maybe I can come over here to (mumbles).

DF: Geez gosh I cannot think of who... I am gonna go right home and look it up in my book, when I go home, I can look it up in my book because

DF: He was staying here recently so you'll probably see him when he comes in.

XX: What is his last name?

DF: Wullen... W u l l e n.

XX: I knew a Jan.

DF: That's him.

XX: O, gee. It would be nice to see him. (Speaking really quickly): OK what I have here, it says, I understand that you know something about the saloons of Ballard. Were you a customer? Did you work there? How far can you remember? And what were the names of the saloons? And do you remember where they were located or who owed them? And for the taverns you are familiar with, can you describe the kind of atmosphere they had, for example, where they (mumbles) and so on and so forth. So what we'll do is just talk about it, is that OK?

DF: That's fine.

XX: OK first of all, were you born in Ballard?

DF: No. I was, I was born in Bellingham. And my sister, she is 2 years younger, she was born in Seattle. And uh, my folks came here; well, I was born in nineteen six, and she was born in nineteen eight. We were here, then, in nineteen eight.

XX: And where did you live?

DF: Well at that time they lived in Georgetown and then see my grandmother lived near Penny's.

XX: Oh near (unclear) o that's why... I see... they were your father's (?) Were your grandparents born here in Ballard?

DF: No, they had my mother in Iceland.

XX: Ooooooh!

DF: My dad in Ireland. They met here.

XX: Ohh! Yeah. And your mother's name was what? Anna Benson. That was her maiden name?

[Talking over each other:] XX: as she born in Iceland?

DF: well I ... and ...and I think when they left it was Bendrigishson or something. But they took Benson when they came.

XX: Yah, a lotta people did like that, my parents did.

DF: ...And then my grandmother lived up there in Ballard, and then she went to Point Roberts.

XX: Oh that's right a lot of (firefighters?) did that. There's hardly anybody left up there now.

DF: Well there's the Magnisons...

XX: Yeah, but I mean like my mother's friends and the old-timers ... like the last time I took Mamma. The last time I went up there, there were very few left up there even at the at the uhm (Blaine?) too. When I went up there (unclear) and gave a little speech and everything, and there was very few, that my mother knew. Do you know (unclear)?

DF: Oh sure. Yeah. And uh there was a, a tavern once in awhile...

XX: Oh, so you have Icelandic in there?

DF: Yes, and half Irish.

XX: So did they come right to Seattle?

DF: Uhm they came uh I think that they stopped in a, a stopover in what would be Winnipeg. And they moved to Vancouver and the Point Roberts. And Dad met her in Point Roberts. And then they moved to...

XX: And the they moved to Ballard, huh?

DF: Yeah, well, they were there and ah, Point Roberts, and a, my 2 brothers and my 2 sisters were born there in PR. My sister that is just older than myself and I were born in Bellingham, and then they came to Seattle and my kid sister was born there in Seattle.

XX: So did you ever go and visit your grandparents in the house where they lived at all?

DF: I was probably too small.

XX: But tell me the stories you were told. The Penny's building... what kind of a house was it?

DF: Well, I imagine it was just a little ol' house right up top, because it was a hill.

XX: Yeah, it was a hill.

DF: Then they took that grade down and built Penny's there.

XX: It musta been about the, before the turn of the Century.

DF: Yes, it had to be 10 or 15 years before that because my grandmother died around 90 and I has been 18 years, about the 30s when she passed away. I don't know...how come she went to PR. She had a farm and they named it Benson road after here.

XX: Oh! It's still there?

DF: Uh huh.

XX: Every road around there is named after like Pioneers. Anderson Road I remember.

DF: Or that big Tavern is down towards the water. That my grandmother, my dad's mother, my grandmother Jordan's home was there.

XX: Oh...Your other grandmother, on your dad's side.

DF: Yes.

XX: So I'll be darned so have you lived in Seattle most of your life then?

DF: No, we've lived... we went out from Seattle to Anacortes and my dad had a little cleaning, rented a building and started...

XX: Like dry cleaning?

DF: Uhhuh. And then we moved, left Anacortes in well, I graduated in 25, and 26, we musta left Anacorettes around 28. And we went to Fife. Dad bought a place out at Fife.

XX: In Tacoma...

DF: Uh uh. And then a my sister Helen went to California and worked as a designer at (Fresh National??), a little studio. Then my kid sister got a job in the wardrobe.

XX: Oh like in a Hollywood type of thing?

DF: Uh huh and then I went to work for the telephone company. I went down there and got a job.

XX: In Los Angeles?

DF: Uh huh. But I didn't like it. So I came back and (??)... with the girls for a little while, and then came to Fife, then moved to Seattle. And been here ever since.

XX: And you married here?

DF: Yep.

XX: And did you have children?

DF: I had one son, (softly) and lost him.

XX: Oh...mmmm [quietly]. So when did you move to Ballard?

DF: Oh, say in a [19]50s early 50s, I think.

XX: So how did you end up in the tavern or saloon business?

DF: Well my husband was going to sea, and he got tired of that, and he said, well, that he wanted to find a job, and he didn't seem to know what he wanted so we (talk over each other) so he got himself tavern, bought himself a tavern... (talk over each other)... We were on Aurora first.

XX: Which tavern did you end up with first?

DF: An Arabian tavern.

XX: Where on Aurora.

DF: 70, 72 or 74<sup>th</sup> and Aurora, I think. Right by the [Arabian Theater](#).

XX: Oh, yes, well sure. The theater!

DF: 72nd and Aurora. Then we went to Ballard ad got the Cluck Tavern.

XX: The Cluck.

DF: Uh huh.

XX: Where it is located now?

DF: No, it was on 20th, where Borgies (??) is. On 20<sup>th</sup> and Ballard. Right...

XX: Oh that was the Club 200...

DF: No...

XX: The Club 200 was up o 20<sup>th</sup> ...

DF: Well 24<sup>th</sup>, 56 or 58 something like that.

XX: That was the club that was

DF: Uh huh. Right on 20<sup>th</sup> and Market and huh.

XX: Not at 20<sup>th</sup> and Market!

DF: I mean 20<sup>th</sup> and Ballard.

XX: Yeah

DF: And then my husband passed away in '61 and I stayed on.

XX: So you had that tavern for many years and stayed on?

DF: I was there and sold out in ah... it was '68. 1968.

XX: And you bought it in the early 50s?

DF: I was there 11 years.

XX: 11 years. And when you had that tavern, the Club Tavern, what kind of clientele did you have then?

DF: Mostly from the mill. We had good business from the mill. It was a cedar, a cedar shingle mill. They had two shifts there. And we had good business there.

XX: Did you have a lot of women coming in?

DF: Oh yeah.

XX: Were they the wives?

DF: The wives and a lot of that. A lot of them in the area.

XX: A lot of families in the area?

DF: Oh, yeah, and I was the first one to put dancing on Ballard Avenue.

XX: At the Club Tavern?

DF: Uh huh. And I had...

XX: Did you have...

DF:...And I had an orchestra.

XX: An orchestra! How big of an orchestra?

DF: Well sometimes it was 4 and 5, sometimes it was 2. It all depends

XX: I'll be darned.

DF: We had to have the police at the door on Friday and Saturday night then.

XX: To check identification and so forth?

DF: Uh huh.

XX: To keep rowdiness down and so forth? Of course they used to do that, have off-duty police...

DF: We didn't have a lot of trouble, though.

XX: I was going to ask you, did you have many people that would fight, or argue or...?

DF: Nah ah, no. There weren't... it was really friendly then.

XX: How much was beer then, something like 15 cents a glass or something?

DF: Yah, probably that, then maybe 10 cents. I had uhm I put in... there was a long board in there, and I put in a shuffle board. There was a short shuffle board.

XX: A shuffle board...

DF: Uh huh. And I put pool tables in...

XX: In Ballard?

DF: Uh huh

XX: In a tavern!?

DF: Uh huh.

XX: Because I know that they had a pool *hall*...

DF: Yes, I remember when that pool hall went out, I can't remember what year. I cannot recall, I was in high school or junior high school or something. Of course, I had never been in it because

(talking over each other) ... they had a bowling alley down there on Ballard Avenue... then I worked for a while and then I ...

XX: You sold in '68...

DF: '69 I guess...then I uhm, there was a, a lady that was a that owned Di Salvos Tavern.

XX: Di Salvos Tavern?

DF: Uh huh.

XX: Where was that now?

DF: That was up where the Berg Restaurant is now.

XX: Berg's Restaurant up on...?

DF: On Market, I mean on Ballard now.

XX: And 22<sup>nd</sup>?

DF: DF: No, right, on well right past 22<sup>nd</sup>, kitty-corner across from Jones.

XX: Oh right. So what about this lady?

DF: They called me and said she was ill and asked me if I would work a couple weeks for her. And I worked for her for a coupla weeks, and they sold it right away. So the man that bought it was the head of the security of the University of Washington, and he asked if I would stay and run it for him. So I stayed about 3 years.

XX: He wasn't the Di Salvos man, though?

DF: No. He wasn't. Then I worked for a while. ...

Di Salvo, was that named after the tavern people that owned it?

DF: Uh huh. Yes. They said, oh, Mama Di Salvo.

XX: Oh, Mama Di Salvo.

DF: And they were there, the Di Salvos, for years. Oh, I had forgotten all about that. Oh I remember her daughter Rose.

XX: And what kind of atmosphere did that have...?

DF: Well that wasn't as good as a lot of 'em. That was, I think that was a lot of fisherman, though. A lot of old timers.

XX: Was it rowdy then?

DF: Oh fair, not too bad. It was what you let do. I mean... right. How far you would let it go. I said I just wouldn't do it. I was on Ballard Avenue for 30 years. Four years up at the [Viking](#).

XX: On 24<sup>th</sup>?

DF: Uh huh. And then I went back...

XX: Were you tending bar at the Viking Tavern?

DF: Oh yeah.

XX: Were there many women that would tend bar at these taverns?

DF: Oh yes. At all the places.

[Man enters the room, conversation. They greet each other, Hello!, and continue on.]

DF: This is Jan.

XX to Jan: How you doing? Long time. We both had gray hair. Snow on top.

XX: to DF:...the Viking Tavern isn't were it was now. Was the Viking Tavern after Di Salvos?

DF: Uh huh. After, uh, Di Salvos, I went and bought uh, I looked at the Bloomberg, which is the one I am in now; uh but then I went down and got the Silver Spot. And... because they were talking about having gambling coming back. And that was licensed for gamblin'. So I got that and I stayed there...

XX: ...How was it licensed for gambling, Dorothy?

DF: Well you had to get through state. It was licensed through the state. And they took gamblin' away for a while. [phone rings] And then they were gonna figure it on comin' back.

[XX answers phone. Hello, yeah, fine. Yes. Hangs up]

XX: Cards... was it many years ago?

DF: Yes It was, back see I went back in there in, it was '72, and it had been, a, been Jeannie had owned run cards. It was a ... not really gambling... had owned and run cards, they played cards, not really what you call gambling. You could play cards for, a, something like a dollar limit or



something like that. It was different. Something like what they had down at the turf years ago. A... the gambling never came back, though. That was in 72 that I went in there.

XX: Was the Silver Spot where it is now?

DF: Yes. But the Silver Spot is now a different name. It is next to [Hattie's Hat](#). And it is called Gary's... Gary...

XX: Gary's Tavern I believe...

DF: Yeah next to Hattie's Hatter, I believe and the barber shop.

XX: And you had that for a while.

DF: Yeah. I was there four years. And then I went and sold that and went up to the Viking.

XX: Did you own that?

DF: Yes, well, not the building. The tavern itself.

XX: Oh you did! You were the owner?

DF: Yes I was there four years. Then I went back, sold the Viking. The ones that owed the Silver Spot, they left, they walked out. So I went back...

XX: They still owed you so you had to take it back?

DF: Yeah. I had to take it back. And then I had that. And I was ready. Stimpson owned the building. And I was just ready. I was about six weeks ahead to get another lease, and this Gary got his father-in-law to buy the building. The whole building. And they threw me out...

XX: ...because they wouldn't renew your lease...

DF: ...and he said, Gary...

XX: Gary Ingar...

DF: Yes. He made the remark is that he was gonna run me off Ballard Avenue. And I said, No he isn't.

XX: Why did he say that?

DF: Because he was gonna get me out and run the business then like I am a fool.

XX: Oh yeah.

DF: So I says, oh no, I am not leavin'. So I talked John into selling me... you see his son was running the, it was the Bluebird, where I am now.

XX: Why is the name Club now?

DF: Because I wanted the name changed. So that is what happened.

XX: So you named it the Club from the old Club—and nobody had used that name?

DF: Right. But it had nothing to do with the license or the liquor board.

XX: They let you keep the name, the Club.

DF: Right, they let you do that if there's no other tavern named that. See I have been there now, I been there, it'll be 2 years in May.

XX: And the clientele has changed quite a bit? From the clientele you used to have many years ago?

DF: Yes, but you still have all the fishermen.

XX: Aren't they a different breed, Dorothy?

DF: Well, it's quite a few Indians, but you can—I just don't allow any trouble. So it is not, uhm, it depends on what he taverns allow.

XX: Uh huh. I know that if you have trouble with the Indians, that they respect you anyways. Or anybody, weather they are Indian or whether they're ...

DF: I just won't put up with anybody. I was telling somebody that there was a, their place was closed and the place up above was closed and I'll tell ya, I owned taverns in Ballard for 30 years, and I never had any trouble. We've never had a ticket.

XX: Never had a ticket?

DF: Never had a ticket.

XX: How'd you get along with your liquor inspectors all those 30 years?

DF: Ah fine. They'd come in and if you don't have trouble, they won't bother you.

XX: That's right.

DF: The police. The police is the same. They walk in and as long as you don't have problems they just walk out. And I was telling someone that if I don't like what they're doing I'll tell ya something, one more time and you are out and you cannot come back. And ah, some of them I

tell them now you have to get out and stay out for 2 months, and if you want to come here, if you behave yourself, it's alright.

XX: Are these mostly Indians that you're speaking of right now? I know when I stopped in there that time I don't think that there were 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Caucasian and the rest were Indians. And the funny part of it was is that I recognized many of them from years ago, from when I managed the Lotus downtown. And the minute they saw me they were very respectful.

DF: Hmm mmm.

XX: And I noticed, which I don't uhm, recall that you had a lot of the younger, the younger Indians.

DF: Well a lot of them come down from Alaska.

XX: Do they live in Ballard?

DF: Ah, a lot of them do. A lot of them has relatives and stay with them. The thing is, Ballard always has had a lot of Indians.

XX: Oh, yes, absolutely. And they lived in and around Ballard.

DF: Oh sure...

XX: ...on that area around either side.

DF: There's good and bad with anything...

XX: Oh sure of course.

DF: Right, right.

XX: Oh I have never had any problems with the Indians. I find that when they drink as a whole, now this is my own...

DF: They get loud...

XX: ...that when they drink, they don't get mean or nasty or anything else, that they fall asleep [laughs!] Am I wrong in that, Dorothy? In that over the years, ...and boy, when they go to sleep, you don't wake them up. A lot of time, they're considered drunk!

DF: Yeah.

XX: ...and a lot of them really are that...

DF: They tell you now, that you can serve them and that if they start to go to sleep, take the drink away and if there is no drink in front of them they can sleep awhile.

XX: As long as there's a drink in front of them...that's the law now or is that just a tolerance policy law?

DF: I usually see that they leave because boy you sure can get into a lot of trouble. In fact you can get in trouble if one just comes in from another place and just sits down and (talk over each other)...

XX: Every once in a while one will come in...

DF: Well a lot of them come from downtown and I really don't like that. I hold tight. I watch 'em. And when I tell them to get out they stay.

XX: But I have never had trouble.

DF: I have had more trouble with white boys than I have Indians.

XX: Indians as a whole, now I managed a lot of places at one time for Mary Keller, (muffled) and the Lotus and Johnson's across the street, the three places were pretty much Indian places and so I had a lot of time to learn about that. In fact I worked along with the Indians for their rights at that time. And I found that they didn't want to work that hard for it, they wanted you to, so I said, You're on your own pal! [laughs] But anyway, the Alaskan Indians were good fisherman. Ah, uh, and I met some of the grandparents of these younger people and they wished that they would have given back more to, well they wished that the younger ones would do more for their heritage and do more for their way of life then they have...

DF: I went in in '52... April of '52, the first tavern.

XX: Right. And I was gonna say, could you serve Indians in 52?

DF: No. Canadian Indians but not American, no. If they had a blue card, you could serve the Canadian Indians but you couldn't serve any of the American Indians.

XX: You couldn't serve the American Indians, I believe you couldn't do that until 1958 in the state.

DF: It musta been around that. Yeah, because it might have been around the end of '58 because when I went in down on Ballard Avenue in '58, you couldn't serve 'em.

XX: Did they come in and try to get served?

DF: No, I never had any trouble with them. They just (muffled 24:17) over they drank.

XX: They just drank in their homes?

DF: No, no. I don't know. I think they musta found places to drink downtown or someplace.

XX: Because the law in the state was...

DF: They'd go on to Alaska, you know. Because in Alaska....

XX: ...Yes because in Alaska in their territory...

DF: Right. And then...

XX: In the service they could drink in the clubs, but they cannot on the outside. I thought that was terrible, but anyway...

DF: That was true...we don't uhm I think I have more trouble with the white kids than the Indian kids.

XX: Did you have many young kid that come in there...?

DF: No, not too many, no.

XX: So most of your clientele right now is just fisherman and then people who come down from Alaska or ... you don't see many of the old-timers in there anymore...?

DF: Well, they are most all gone.

XX: Yeah. But the new breed of fisherman, they don't come in?

DF: Very seldom. I think more when they first come down with money they go to the cocktail lounge. Then when they get a little less money they go to Blazes, or Blazers or something like that.

XX: Where they used to hang around on Ballard Avenue they are now more down towards the locks, those taverns there now, I think. Is that right?

DF: They are down there, but they still come down on Ballard Avenue. There's quite a few families that live in Ballard.

XX: Oh, sure.

DF: A lot of Indian families...

Oh sure.

DF:...have their homes...

XX: Oh sure, oh sure. A lotta real nice people. There's an Indian family living next door to me and have been for many years. [Speaking very fast and mumbling and a tv or radio is on in the background:] And my sister sold them their house there. They're fishermen and their son's now a fisherman. But like I said, when I walked in there to see you, then I went to another tavern, and they're so different than what I expected them to be from years ago, but then of course I didn't really go in to them years ago, but I knew of them because I worked at the Plantation, and of course, I worked for (?? The Thrift Per Dien??), and I worked at uhm then I bought Jack's at (something ??) at Greenwood, and of course before that I did have other taverns. But they were the Trackers (??) tavern and (??) originally many years ago.

DF: Liz worked for me for a while at the Club, years ago down at the Club.

XX: Oh did she? Did she, tending bar?

DF: Uh huh, years ago. Before she went downtown and worked...

XX: Oh, yeah.

DF: That's how I met Liz.

XX: Liz has been so many places. But she mostly stays quite a long time at most places. I don't recall that time very well...

DF: Well, (muffled) you do at a cocktail lounge...

XX: So a lot of women, uh you'd see a lot of women tending bar down in Ballard?

DF: Almost ... Most all around in Ballard.

XX: In the early 1950s?

DF: Uh huh.

XX: Why'd the men go out and...? Why they would've left and... ?

DF: Well, a lot of couples bought the taverns, you see, and the man and wife worked. Years ago there was the woman down at the old Ballard hotel tavern, and uh, Lee. She was fun. She was blonde and uh working in the tavern. And then they, Warren, Warren he was in the service and he was just gettin' out of the army when they bought that. And then another couple bought it and uhm and then he sold it and they moved across the street.

XX: What's the name of that tavern?

DF: Oh *what is* the name of that tavern? Isn't that terrible I cannot remember the name of that tavern. Kitty-corner. Right across the street.

XX: The Owl tavern?

DF: No the Owl was up the street a block or so. Oh, [Trader Vans](#).

XX: Ah, Trader Vans.

DF: 'Course originally it was across the street and was the Ballard hotel tavern. Then it moved across the street and it moved...

XX: ...But then when it was across the street did they call it Trader Van's for a short time too? Or Trader something?

Right. [both talking over each other]

DF:...Of course it was [Trader Van's](#) and then ...

XX: Right it was Trader Van's when it was across the street and then it ... because I know that my sister-in-law, uhm er, my ex-sister-in-law tended bar there and Babe Sigerson. Did you ever know Babe?

DF: Babe Sigerson?

XX: Or Babe Brown.

DF: Brown? Oh... When it was [Trader Van's](#), when it was across the street. And now it's on the other side of the street.

XX: Uh huh. OK so... so just about every place, a man would buy a tavern and his wife worked...

DF:...his wife would work there...

XX: ...like he would work a shift and she would work a shift? Like he would work a day shift and she would work a night shift or vice versa... ?

DF: Uh hum. We used to go, years ago when they had pools, and we'd go up and down the ... and everybody was, years ago everybody was friendly in all the tavern owners. Each tavern owner, they'd come to visit and you'd buy a round of drinks.

[taking at the same time] ...And you'd buy a round and they'd buy a round...

DF: Uh huh.

XX: Back down the street and ...buy a drink... and that was the 50s, wasn't it?

DF: Uh huh, we had a lot of fun...

XX: And the clientele would do that... come down and see you, come down there.

DF: Oh yeah it was just a kinda like a...

XX: Uh huh, [wistfully] but it seems like all those old-timers are all gone.

DF: Yeah... And a lotta couples. It was a lotta couples.

XX: And what about... did you have a, uh, I know that when I had my tavern a long time ago, that we had pinball machines and we had a....

DF: Well, you could pay off... but you cannot pay off anymore. Not the pinballs machines but you can...

XX: Do they still have pinball machines now?

DF: Well they're a form of pinball...

XX: Yeah but what I mean is did you ever have any like that when you had any of the taverns? Did you have any pinball machines that you had to pay off?

DF: No....I think when the first ones went in when you could pay off we paid off and then we couldn't do it. It was in the... uh... that musta been the '60s that you couldn't pay off...

XX:...Right, right because I know that when I had the Trafix (Traffics sp?) tavern and as a matter of fact, when they took that away, it caused a lot of us to be a mom-and-pop place—for the fact that you could no longer afford to hire bar tenders...

DF: Well no...

XX: ...and when we opened up at say like at 6, many places quit opening up at 6 and having that extra shift. They would open up at 10 and work them only 2 shifts and then we had to take over.

DF:...two shifts...

XX: ...Because you'd have to take over. And that is when a lotta times the wives came.

DF: Right. And then when we had the pull tabs, and punch cards (muffled), and little dolls and stuff like that and we could live a little better.

XX: Right.

DF: Right. And you could afford to hire a bartender.

XX: Right. And have longer shifts, too. Because if somebody didn't show up to work.



DF: Oh I worked many times, many many a times, double shifts.

XX: Because if somebody didn't show up to work, or what?

DF: Mostly [DF would work doubles] that was when we had dancing.

XX: So you'd work that shift and then you'd have to have 2 or 3 people...

DF: ...I'd open up and then have to go home for three or four hours and the girl would come in and I'd work nights.

XX: How did the dancing work out?

DF: Oh, mostly it was real good. I had mostly couples and we had really good, really good dancing.

XX: How long did that last?

DF: Oh, it lasted as long as I was down there.

XX: Oh it did?

DF: Yeah.

XX: Because I know when I went down to pay taxes on top of that, if someone sang or if you had live music, then they added more on to your... so you'd have to have this license and that license.

DF: I think they cut that out. We used to have to pay, uhm, \$250 for just a juke box. Then \$500 if you had two or more and \$1,000 if you had many. And then you'd have to have a cop there, so they'd run ya in the money.

XX: Yes. So did you have a cover charge at the door?

DF: No. I didn't. Just raised the price of the beer. So oh, we had for years and years we had fun and just...

XX: Do you think that, of course I am a difference in age than you are, but do you think the other people are having as much fun as we had? I was younger then, but of course I was old enough to be in your place. Do you think that they have as much fun now?

DF: I don't think so...

[Unclear. Talking over each other] ...of the Ballard pulse (??)

DF: It's changed, it's changed.

XX: Do you remember when cocktail licenses, cocktail bars came in? That was prior to you having your tavern down in Ballard, right? Hattie's Hat...

DF: Uhm. Hattie's Hat had liquor there. He had liquor there.

XX: And that was the only place in Ballard, wasn't it?

DF: That I know of.

XX: And the second one was the Plantation or Snyder's.

DF: And then Tommy. He told me not long ago, he's been in there 17 years up at uhm Smoke Shop....

XX: Yeah, well the Smoke Shop came in after the Driftwood In.

DF: Oh I forgot and [XX] was open before Tommy's...

XX: I believe he first one was....

DF: See we would go up there.

XX: So you used to go up to the [xx] to have a drink?

DF: Yeah. There was Fred, Fred Brown owned the Owl for years. In the 50s.

XX: Oh I wanna know more about the Owl. Do you know any background about the Owl?

DF: Well there was man named Joe Shuban who owned the Owl for years and then he sold and went to Chicago and then Fred Brown bought it and he owned it for years. And the Owl was definitely a lot of fishermen. And the mill people.

XX: Did you own any part of that or were you partners in the Owl at any time?

DF: Ah, the Owl, Jack was my partner and I was part of the Owl for 5 years. He's been my partner ever since. Oh, he wasn't my partner at the Viking.

XX: I'll be darned. But when you had the Owl tavern, do you recall hearing any old stories about the like say the bar and how long it had been there and where it came from?

DF: Just one [muffled] and came back. The Owl was a club before it was a saloon, I think.

XX: Yes during prohibition, I think, a lot of them just went into clubs and card rooms where they played Rummy. Did they play Rummy, did you hear anybody talk about that?

DF: Oh yes they played cards, they played cards. Uhm, [Silver Spot](#) was the one where they played cards. And I think now and again the Club before I was ever there.

XX: This was back in the 30s. Did any of the old-timers ever come in and tell you any stories, anything of any interest that you can remember at any of the places?

DF: Oh not especially. Course you'd hear a lot of stories but whether they were true or not... [laughs].

XX: Sure! That's for sure. Course you can see that that is a very very old bar, and it has the reputation that it was supposed to have come around the Horn and all that. The bar itself. The wood...

DF: Well I think that [Hattie's Hat](#) has the oldest bar. That's been in there for years. I'm sure that Gus Malmen, that was Malmen's to begin with. He's at Hattie's Hat.

XX: No Johnny Johnson had it. It was his old home. And that was in existence in the late 1800s and actually they moved over there it was called the Old Home and it moved across the street from where it is now. They moved over there in 1901, where they are now.

DF: Hattie's Hat?

XX: Yes.

DF: Well that was Malmen's then.

XX: No no no... well Malmen wasn't even old enough.

DF: Gus Malmen who owned it.

XX: Yeah, but he didn't buy that until the 1950s, or late 40s.

DF: Oh he didn't? Gus? Oh I thought he was there some time ago.

XX: No Johnny Olson owned it. Prior to that Leghorn owned it. And before ... well originally the Mathus brothers owned it. But that was in the 1880s. But of course they moved it across the street to where it is now. When Johnny had it, it was called, well they didn't have liquor. It was prohibition, at it was prohibition when he owned it. And he started serving beer again. And then I believe that it was he or Gus, when Gus got it, it was just about when prohibition ended and Johnny or Gus decided to start serving hard liquor again and he was the first to get a liquor license.

DF: I remember when liquor came in.

XX: Where were you at that time?

DF: I was in Seattle then.

Were you in the business then?

DF: No. I worked for the American Can for 17 years and we had liquor stores and but you had a card but you could only get so much booze at a time.

XX: You could only buy say... you could buy like say, can you remember how much you could buy, like you couldn't buy like a case or anything like that?

DF: Oh, no no no. All during the war, you could only buy like a bottle of whiskey or then (mumbles); everybody had their limit .... Roses... If there was a cocktail lounge they could buy it to run that.

[lots of talking over each other, hard to make out]

DF: ...no it was legal across the state line, you could cross the state line, Washington, it was legal out of the state of Washington... 49

XX: And there were speakeasies.

DF: Lots of speakeasies.

XX: Do you know of any speakeasies that were in Ballard?

DF: Well there was a lot of bootleggin'.

XX: Did they?

DF: Uh huh.

XX: What kind of bootlegging? Cabs?

DF: Yeah, well they had these cabs, and they had these houses, two or three.

XX: Houses?

DF: Yeah.

XX: That you could buy... was this during the war or...?

DF: Well you could get a girl and booze!

XX: Oh, really? In Ballard?!

DF: Yeah! Well there was this uhm... this uhm building...

XX: This is after the war you mean? Or during the war?

DF: Well it was going strong when I went in, when I bought in in Ballard...

XX: Well, they could buy liquor then. Hattie's Hat had it.

DF: Well they could go up there and there was [Rendezvous](#)?

XX: Yes.

DF: Yes. And there was girls there.

XX: At Rendezvous Hotel?

DF: Yeah. And then there was one down above Trader Van's, where it is now, and they had girl up there; they did.

XX: And you could buy liquor, a bottle or a pint or what?

DF: By the drinks.

XX: By the drink. You could actually go in and have a drink?

DF: Well, women couldn't. Just men. I remember that.

XX: Men only. Well did that run for many years? Was it for quite a long while?

DF: I cannot think of the woman that ran that. She had a brother they called Boo Jones and he had a place out in Greenwood about 87<sup>th</sup> and Greenwood, right past...

XX: Was it an after-hours place?

DF: Yeah. Called the ah...

XX: That was back in the 40s?

DF: Yeah. Called the uh, the uh, I forgot.

XX: That was before Seattle was in the city limits. Back before it was in the city limits.

DF: Yeah that was in the county, and 85<sup>th</sup> was city limits.

XX: Yeah, right. Now tell me about the ones in Ballard. Did they have a name or anything? or was it just so-and-so's place? a name of a place?

DF: Yeah, that was it.

XX: A name of a lady.

DF: Yeah. But I didn't know about that and it was going on for a long time. [laughs] And finally someone told me about it.

XX: People was just closed mouthed. Did you ever know about the lady they called the Blonde Bomber?

DF: At uh, that was the one at Rendezvous, wasn't it?

Jan [entering the conversation] Musta been Rudy!

DF: Ruby!!

XX: Was that her name?

Jan: Nah, I am just talking about that guy that used to work at the Blue Moon.

DF: Oh, that was the tavern, Ruby. Oh that was the gal, Rudy. She played the accordion? Her sister was there and her mother owned the place? That was the Red Moon years ago.

Jan: Yes Red Moon.

XX: Where was that?

DF: Well that was right across the street from uh, where I am.

XX: Right across from where you are now?

DF: uh huh.

XX: That was like a, like a moon sign on their door? Like this?

DF: Yeah. Oh, that's right. Yeah. Ruby and her sister was a ...

XX: Did they have a house of ill-repute, too?

[all three laugh]

DF: No that was... I wish I remembered that Boo Jones's sister's name. She had that one above...

XX: It was the Ballard Hotel, wasn't it?

DF: No. Across the street. Kitty-corner.

XX: Oh kitty-corner.

DF: But I remember there was a fella by the name of Taylor. We used to go down on a Saturday night and there was two or three... [to the male, Jan/Yan] Did you ever go down and play cards there, with a Taylor? A Cliff...

Jan: Yeah.

DF: Well, we used to go down there, and he lived in the apartment right upstairs. And here, the gals were in the back, and they were drinking booze in the back and I never ever knew that for about a year. And somebody said, well, there's one of those houses and they gave me the reputation that I worked up in there because I went up there.

XX: ...to visit!

DF: Well, because I went up to Cliff's to play cards.

Oh for heaven's sake! Could you drink there, too?

DF: Well, at Cliff's, he had his own apartment there. They had these apartments there.

So it was just, you were just naturally going there?

DF: Yeah. And the other part was, see, in the back. Was just a few rooms.

XX: Where was that? I mean what part of Ballard was that?

DF: Where the ...

Jan: You know where Trader Van's is? well there was two floors, and that was upstairs.

XX: Well we were so young then, Jan, you don't remember that, do you?

Jan: Well I used to...

[Talking over each other:]

DF: Well, he knew [?? 43:38]

Jan: Well that was the middle 60s...

XX: Oh that was the 60s?

DF: Yeah uh huh.

XX: And they had a house of ill-repute down there [incredulously]?! In Ballard?!

DF: Yeah!

XX: In Ballard?!

Jan: I didn't know anything about it...

DF: Well that one. The Rendezvous. The Blonde there?

XX: That drove that Cadillac?

DF: Yeah.

XX: I used to call her the Blonde ... when I worked at the theater, and we'd go down and get the Chinese food, and then we'd look across the street, and everyone talked about this lady... But and to this day, was it actually substantiated that, did she have a house of ill-repute at the old Rendezvous Hotel?

DF: Well, yeah, I was told that, years and years ago.

XX: I was working at the Plantation, as a cocktail waitress, and that was in the late 50s and I believe that at that time, she was still around. But I never heard anybody actually say that, course I don't know that Ballard guys would say that, or that the fishermen would walk in and say, well, that's how much it was or you know.

DF: Well, you'd hear things. But I didn't hear anything to begin with, see. An uh, some gal made that remark that I was one of the supportin' gals and I... [laugh]

XX: Oh because you were...

DF: Yeah because they'd seen me go up there... And there was Kenny and several of them that would go up there. And then I found out and Cliff Taylor laughed. And Cliff said oh, you don't have to worry. And I said here I am getting a bad reputation for going up to your place and here I was just going there to play poker... [laughs]

XX: But see when you had the club there in back, back in the 50s, or 52, did you hear of anyplace for being illegal?

DF: Yeah, that was down there. And I can remember this one girl would come up there, she was beautiful, just beautiful. She'd come up to the tavern and have a couple beers. She they told me she worked up there.

And she was really close-mouthed and everything? Just come in once in a while and be by herself and have a few...



DF: Yeah. Oh yeah. She would just have a few beers and leave...

And she would never solicit anybody or anything?

DF: Nut-ah. No.

[Silence from, 45:46 to 46:07—technical error?]

XX: I cannot recall remember the name of the place on 85... [unclear 46:11]

DF: It was on the left-hand side going up...

XX: ...left-hand side going up... That was in the late 50s...

DF: Well, the year prior to hard liquor coming in, actually.

XX: And there was another one. Near the Brill's. What was the name of the place?

DF: Oh yeah.

XX: The horse breeders was across the street. We were in high school. What was the name of that place? It was 85<sup>th</sup>... the county was under the tolerance limits. But they wouldn't take that bad of a bust if they were outside of the county then if you were inside the city limits because the Seattle police department would have control of that.

DF: Yeah.

XX: Also the liquor board would have control of that and not the county police department. The county sheriff. Do you remember the name of the sheriff? He used to get payoffs from all these places. We used to know his name. I never knew the man. But you'd hear because I had all these older sisters and brothers, so you'd hear of that.

Jan [calling out to them]: Bodie? OK Bodie?

XX: Yeah. That's one. And there was another one. That's right.

DF: He was the sheriff... everyone was afraid of him.

XX: And there was another one. He was on the liquor board. And he used to oh people would buy him bottles of whiskey.

DF: He was actually on the labor deal...

XX: Yeah he was such a tough one. And the sheriff. He was.... Well up above 85<sup>th</sup>, what was the name of that? Oh the Harvester. And Brill's spot.

DF: It was a tavern first, right?

XX: Yeah then they put in a liquor license.

DF: I was trying to think of the name of the name of that tavern there.

XX: The Terminal? No, the Terminal was next door.

DF: Uhm it was the Brill on Spalding. Right because Edna Halgason lived right on past out there. And I used to go there.

XX: And that eventually became the Harvester.

DF: Right. And Brill's owned that.

XX: Prior to that, it was an after-hours place, called the 85 Club, I believe. Or was the one on 85<sup>th</sup> and Greenwood called the 85 Club? It just dawned on me that one of them was called the 85 Club, and it was an after-hours place. You could go there after 12 o'clock and you could go....

DF: That was the only time it was opened.

XX: Yeah, and on Sundays. You could go on Sundays. It was open on Saturday nights and all day Sunday. Sunday till wee hours of the morning.

XX: Oh there was all kinds of Speakeasies in Seattle.

DF: Oh yeah, all over the place.

XX: And even after when liquor came in that was actually legal, when I was working, that's where most of us would go after work because that is where you could do and relax and have a drink or something and maybe even dance because most of us worked six nights a week, and or else, you could go, or we would go on the weekends to Canada or down to Portland. Because most of us bar owners would, or those who owned the restaurants, would go down to Portland or to the Cave in Vancouver or the after-hours places

DF: 12<sup>th</sup> and Jackson, we used to call that the Bucket of Blood [40:38 breaks up, cracking]. And Doc Hamiltons, did you ever hear of that?

XX: No...

DF: That was up off of a Pine, on 12<sup>th</sup> I think it was. They had gambling and a black orchestra. Doc Hamilton was black, and uh they had the best steaks and the best fried chicken you ever had in your life.

XX: I'll be darned.

DF: It was all after-hours.

XX: I always recall they'd call that the tolerance policy. They'd them when they were gonna come and would – they would know when they were gonna get busted or ...?

DF: Well that was all payouts, it was all payouts.

XX: People would just leave them alone, because people had to clean the place.

DF: Well, as long as they were payed out it was all right.

XX: As long as they were payed out. Would that be the police department?

DF: Oh, definitely. I used to, when I quit...

XX: Did you ever have to pay out anybody?

DF: No. I never have. Never would.

XX: In Ballard.

DF: No.

XX: I never did either. So even when I was, and I've heard so many people say these things. In fact, I just picked up a newspaper here and a few years back when these cops were on First Avenue and Second Avenue, when they were set up for payoff and that, that they were my patrolmen for many years, and they never asked me for a nickel and they never got a nickel. I would, every once in a while, when I managed for Larry Keller for instance, when I was on my own, I would buy one of them a... one of them, for instance drank McNaughton's and at Christmastime, I would always buy him a bottle of McNaughton's. For the mere fact that he did so many good things. For instance, instead of closing the place for something trivial, for instance, say, when a drunken person in your place was falling down, or sitting down before you could get them out, or whatever, and you couldn't get them to leave. And if you did ask them to leave [they] maybe started some trouble. So you've got trouble. So instead of--when taking them to jail--instead of taking them and booking them from my address, they would book them from the corner. Where they are supposed to book them from your address... because every time that they'd book you, after three times, the liquor inspector would come out and after... I am sure that you would back that up, there were many times that no matter how clean you ran a place or how solid that you were, that there were times when they could've done it if they were at the right time at the right place. Because we were all not infallible and I am sure...

DF: They were mostly after awful places that had booze though...

XX: What?

DF: They were after places that had booze. When I worked for the telephone company, and then I decided I didn't want to work steady, so, I went and worked on switchboards in all the hotels that were around. And I remember at the Fry, two plainclothesmen came in and wanted to speak to the porter and so they went down in the basement talked to him. And after they left he came up and said, Boy they don't want me to make a nickel. He had to pay them off. They had payoff them.

XX: Fry hotel was a very popular place to get liquor before hard liquor came in and you could go there and get a bottle, you could drive up and go get a bottle at the Fry hotel.

DF: Right. But I know there were payoffs then.

Jan: Tom Olson, he was bootlegging whiskey and driving a cab [laughs].

XX: Yeah, Tom Olson, we went to school with him, right. Art Olson's son and uhm uhm Johnson's stepson.

Jan: Bernice.

XX: Yeah, Bernice. Bernice Johnson. He was bootlegging when he was driving for Gray Top?

Jan: Well one cab company; I'm not sure whichever one it was.

XX: Yeah, I know he drove for Gray Top.

Jan: He got in trouble and his mother had to get him out of it [laughs].

XX: Really? His stepmother. His stepmother?

Jan: Yeah.

XX: Yeah because he would drive cab when he wasn't going to sea three months out of the year. That wasn't too many years ago, was it? He still drives cab doesn't he?

Jan: Yeah that was when he first started going to sea, er even before he started going to sea.

XX: Was that just when he was right out of high school? Like was he 21 or something, when he got out of high school and went into the service, wasn't it?

Jan: When he got out of the Navy, yeah.

XX: When he graduated from high school, her went into the service. Yeah, I had forgotten about that. Me being in the business legally and being able to get it, I never had to do it so, but I knew that you could.

DF: Oh yeah you could, you could get it at a, years and years ago you if you had a bootlegger's number you could call 'em and get it 24-hours a day.

XX: Well yeah, but after hard liquor came in, the bootlegging wasn't that predominant.

DF: But they still did, say somebody come to town and the liquor store was closed, you could still do it.

XX: If you couldn't get a bottle.

DF: There was a cop I knew years ago, and he didn't wanna leave Chinatown, he was making so much money. He didn't want a night off—he figured the relief man would find out how much money he was making.

XX: ...How much he was taking...

DF: He was making \$5,000...

XX: ...but you found nothing like that in Ballard.

DF: No. Oh, well, I knew bootleggers.

XX: There were bootleggers in Ballard, but there was never anything you'd have to ... you'd never heard of that?

DF: No. If they'd want a sandwich, they'd come in and help themselves and everything [laughs].

XX: Would they come at closing time and want a drink?

DF: Oh, sure.

XX: And you gave them one?

DF: Oh, sure. Yeah, what the heck. Ya, just beer, beer to go. One of the funniest things is that...

XX: And they never paid for anything, right, in those days?

DF: No. They didn't even reach for it.

XX: They'd just expect it. Now all this time, did you have patrolmen or did you have many walking patrols?

DF: Oh yes; there was walking [55:16 something unclear]. Wiggins, everybody liked him. And he one time, he told one of the fellas to leave and go on home. He said, You're drunk, go on home. And he walked up the street and went into a place and Wiggins followed him, took him out of, uh, I don't know if it was a [55:33] or a tavern, he took his handcuffs out and handcuffed

him to a telephone pole and he said, Now I'm gonna be through in 10 minutes, and I'm gonna take ya home. And he did!

XX: ...and he waited so he couldn't go into any of the bars. Yeah, I remember Wiggins. Speaking of Wiggins, I didn't know him well. But you'd hear different stories because he knew everybody on the avenue.

DF: *Everybody* liked him.

XX: He would come in and he wouldn't take any money or anything but he would expect not to have to pay for anything either, there was like a tolerance thing. And you would take care of him and he would take care of you and the customers.

DF: The one cute thing that I remember, Henry knew somebody that had a pickup truck. And he'd just gotten out of the service. And so they went over to pier 91, where they could buy booze on Sundays?

XX: Oh, yes.

DF: They got, I don't know how many cases of beer, and then they came back on Ballard Avenue and was selling it off the truck [laughs]!

XX: And he was selling it right off the truck? Right on the street?

DF: Right on Ballard Avenue.

XX: And nobody stopped him? Of course you never saw any policemen walking around on Ballard Avenue on Sunday anyway.

DF: Oh, there was the patrol and all.

XX: Yeah. There was patrol.

DF: But I never did get over that. I laughed more... selling booze [laughs].

XX: But you know, it's so unusual that I, that we found out that after Prohibition, you could buy almost anything and everything. And it was open seven days a week, and you could have, they would deliver the liquor to you, beer, to you right to your house, cold. It was just like *legal* uhm bootlegging I guess is what it would be? You had to have food in every one of the places, and then wine came in. But before the liquor stores came in, they were selling at uh out of the drugstore for medicinal purposes. Ben Lafferty. Lafferty's in the corner there, on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Then you'd go in there and just say you'd need it for medicinal purposes, chemical, spiritual whatever thing you needed and you would sign your address like you would say when you used to have to for the cough syrup or something. And mostly women would go in to pick it up, because men wouldn't walk into one of those places. Now, this is in the '30s, you know, after Prohibition [muffled]. Then they had like a beer war, like 5 cents, you know, they would start at 10 cents but

went to 5 cents. And you could actually pick up a *Dollar Tribune* and there would be a coupon for a free beer at different places. And that would be legal! [laughs] You know how that would be in our times? You weren't even allowed, in fact, to buy a drink in your own establishment, even if you were off duty.

DF: Right. Right, right. You couldn't buy it for anybody. That was the Washington State Liquor Control Board...

XX: We would do that [laughs], but we would be very careful and very selective when we did that.

DF: No charge.

XX: No, no charging. Uh, you couldn't put it on there... of course if you did get caught charging, you could lose your liquor license. Also if you did have a charge, they were noncollectable. In other words, you couldn't collect on it anyway. If a guy did owe you a hundred dollars, you couldn't say a word about it because you'd lose your license over it. Because a lot of people charged. And you bet, even then...

DF:...some of 'em would pay back...

XX: Yeah. What would you say about the Ballard people about paying back when they did charge and then as a whole, could you trust them?

DF: Some. You know pretty much who you can trust. Most of the time when somebody came around and be new and be around there about a week and then they want to borrow... So...

XX: Right. But they wouldn't be like well like Ballardites.

DF: No, no no. People from Ballardites would pay. Afraid they couldn't come back.

XX: Say even a fisherman, could you give a fisherman, say, so much and then the minute he came to town he'd pay you off?

DF: Oh, yeah. Yeah. The Ballard fisherman...

XX: ...always good for their...

DF: Yeah, same as with what they do up in Alaska. They say, As long as a fisherman can run a bill, when they come in, and they hand it right over. I never had any trouble with any of them.

XX: Would you do that now?

DF: Sure. Someone I know.

XX: Uh huh. 'Cuz it's not illegal now to, to a...

DF: No it isn't. You can collect on it now.

XX: Yes they collectable after so much money...

DF: ...and the old-timers, you know, you can trust 'em.

XX: You know that I found out that, in fact, that sometimes when I wouldn't charge, when I worked at the Driftwood Inn and the Plantation, it wasn't up to me to charge or to say it was OK for me to charge because it was illegal anyway. But I know that sometimes that if they'd ask you, sometimes they'd come in and they'd spend a lot a lot of money and then before they had to leave again, they'd borrow fifty or a hundred [dollars]. 'Cuz that was the days when you made very good money, too. And the places made very good money. And what I could never understand, say we'd do like, like at the Plantation, we'd do like \$55 [meaning: \$550], \$600 a day, [mumbles 1:00:40] a thousand a night—that's at 50 cents a drink!! *Fifty cents a drink* volume-wise! And when I owned Jack and...

DF: [interrupts] It's two-and-a-half now, isn't it? Two-and-a-half, three?

XX: Yes, two-twenty-five, three dollars for a drink. But, 50 cents a drink and uhm the volume was so tremendous, and I never heard of anyone getting drunk and driving and killing people. And I don't know: Whatever happened? How come? Why didn't they do that? You could pick up the paper and see you'd very seldom see anyone drunken driving. And you know, they'd say, Can I have a fifty or a hundred? Well, sure, because you made very good money and could afford to give it to them. First time into town and there you go, you got the money right back again. And...

DF: [interrupts] You could trust them.

XX: Yeah. The seamen...

DF: There's very few you can trust nowadays.

XX: Yeah, it's a...

DF: Very true.

XX: Yes. I haven't been in the business for a number of years, but I'd say that would be one of the reasons I got out, because it just wasn't the way it was, and it can be a very stressful job. Extremely not fun and challenging.

DF: [interrupts] Well you have to charge so much more for beer, too, you know. They'd rather put in another 50 cents and get the shot. Get the hard liquor.

DF: Um hmmm.



XX: And there's more hard liquor places too. In the 30s, for instance, there were so many new ones. I mean they were all down the avenue, next door to each other all the way down Ballard Avenue on both sides of the street. And then for many years, when I was in my teens and older, and then when I worked at the Plantation, I never went down Ballard Avenue, but there were so many places and they all did quite well. Did you find that you did quite well volume-wise then, compared to now?

DF: I think we did better before.

XX: Yeah. How do you find help now?

DF: I've been pretty good. Pretty good about help.

XX: You can always find somebody good to work?

DF: I've got a couple, three now, I mean there's a..

XX: [interrupts] Because you don't work now, you hardly go in there now, do you?

DF: I haven't for a coupla' months. I fell down the back steps [laughs] going down to the basement!

XX: But you still go in and work?

DF: Oh, I go down there every day.

Yeah, I know that you go down there every day. But if you were well now, would you be working?

DF: Oh, yeah.

How many hours?

DF: Oh, I was working maybe 10 hours, two days a week there.

Oh, my goodness.

DF: Yeah-p, one time I worked a whole year without a day off, when beer came back on Sundays, couldn't get anybody to work.

'Cuz you couldn't get anybody to work on Sundays?

DF: Yeah sometimes you're better off workin' then worryin' about it.

Yeah, that's true. That's true. In fact, when you own a place, or manage it, you work 17 hours a day, seven days a week and the rest of 'em work four or eight hours and go home and go to sleep, you know?

DF: Well, I've got two gals that are real good now, and there's this one fella at night, Mike. He's good. He's real good.

I believe that's the one that I met and he's very very nice. When I went in there it was a little smoky and it was, I guess, someone had dropped some beer on the floor and everything, and so I was a little apprehensive. But when I went in there, I saw how clean it was in the back, back in the bar area [Mumbles 1:04:00] of course I had a drink, but I hadn't been into a place like that. Now I was gonna ask you, where'd you get that picture that's on the wall?

DF: Uh huh, I was trying to think. Somebody gave it to me. It was just small... and I had it enlarged.

And you got it enlarged? Got a negative made from that and had it enlarged? Someone gave it to you.

DF: This fella that gave it to me gave a picture of the bridge when that went down and then uhm...

You mean you...

DF:...Down at the Ballard locks, the one fella gave me just a folded, uh, and that as ah... there was a cow when the Ballard locks opened. And there was a cow on the other side there.

Do you have any of those pictures?

DF: Uh, they're down at the tavern. But I can, I think I have the negatives of some of them.

I didn't one with the--there was a cow on the wall? Is that on the wall?

DF: Yeah, uh hum.

Well maybe I just didn't see, er recognize that there was a like a farm? By the government locks?

DF: Just on the other side of the government locks there, there was a farm and ah, when they took the picture there was a cow there right down by the locks.

Uh huh. Well now see I didn't know, that I recognize, now see there was the locks... now what was the picture of that little bar? Where the bar tender...

DF: There two of 'em?

Uh huh.

DF: That was original from way back at the Silver Spot.

That was the Silver Spot. Well 'cuz I asked Mike was that this bar or what bar it was. And he says no it was another bar and he couldn't think of the name of it. Now it was taken when?

DF: Well that was taken when beer came back, I guess. Now the bartender looked like from saloon days. But I found just a little pictures like that in the drawer and they were kinda rumpled.

I was gonna say, did you come across or have any artifacts like that. Anything, you know, that like...

DF: And that, I had those enlarged.

Would you be willing to share those negatives if you can find those?

DF: I will. I will give 'em to you if I can find them.

Oh, that'd be great 'cuz we do have uhm... That'd be great if you could find it.

DF:...I know they're here.

I have a piece of paper that says that I sign it and stamp it so that you will get it back.

DF: Well I don't need it back because I have the picture enlargement.

Oh, I was just interested, of course you have told me some great stories, but we were trying to get people to try to remember... we just cannot get anything pre-Prohibition hardly, you know, stats and stuff like that, it's really difficult to get that.

DF: Oh the old-timers from way back when is gone.

XX: Yeah a lot of the old-timers are dead and gone, and some are in the old-folks home but they just don't they can't remember dates and ah so but it's really interesting, but I could just sit for days and days and talk to you and never quit and say what about this and what about that but uh I know I have...

DF: I also have the one from the bridge, a negative, and then I should have one of those big ones. I just put them in a drawer here someplace.

XX: But that back bar there is actually the Silver Spot bar? The one with the bartender and the man standing in the front.

DF: Uh huh. From way back.

XX: But you don't know what circa year on that one is, do you?

DF: It musta been when beer came back.

XX: That is what I was thinking. A lot of those people took the picture of the, musta been, the first glass they were serving or something...

[talking over each other for the next exchange]

DF: ...you can tell...

XX: ...Maybe that's what they were saying, maybe that's what Gregory was saying...

DF: I'll be you that's what Greg was saying!

XX: About that picture.... Because someone told him that.

DF: That bartender was from way back.

XX: In fact he looked like he was from the saloon days, before they became taverns, as you were saying.

DF: Right, right, that's what a man said one time when he came in; that's where Greg got that; there was a fella who said that man was a man...

XX: ...Was serving the first drink...

DF: While that he, that he was from the saloon days.

XX: ...From the saloon days.

DF: He looked like he was.

XX: He certainly did, looked like he was.

DF: Yes, yes he certainly does. And he is dressed like...

DF: The saloon days. Uh huh

XX: And the man, ah, that's being served, it looks like the 30s, his clothing and so forth. Yes, that is what it must be, for sure.

DF: Uh huh...

XX: And that's probably why they took the picture. Just like when Johnny Olson took the first picture of the first keg when it was finished, he took it outside, of course they didn't have the kind of cameras, he took it outside, showed how big they were, and sat the [unclear 1:08:54] on

top of it and took the picture of it and showed it off to all Ballard Avenue because it was first keg on Ballard Avenue.

DF: And then the other picture was when they called it Diamond draft beer came in and I think that was in '52 and uh the driver was wheelin' it in. That's where Greg got that! That's what he was talking about! I couldn't figure out what he was talkin' about!

XX: Sure. I betcha that's what that is... serving the... Happiness is serving the first glass of beer.

DF: There was a man came that came in one time and he had told me that he knew the bartender years and years ago and the fella in the picture and he was old at that time.

XX: He was old.

DF: Uh huh.

XX: He'd probably been a pre-saloon-keeper or tending bar, a bar tender.

DF: Right. Uh huh, and then when beer came back... How long was booze out?

XX: Till 1933...

DF: Came back in 1933 and that was 1917, wasn't it?

XX: Yeah a long time. I think it was one of the most stupid things the country has ever done! [laughs]

DF: Women done that. That's when the boys first went to the first world war. Women's Temperance.

XX: Women's Temperance. They had a very active Women's Temperance Society in Ballard. It went on for a long time and after prohibition too and they met every single week. I don't, can't find anybody that's ever said that they came down and stood in front of the places down in Ballard or did anything ...

DF: The only one was in 1918 for booze out, and the boys went into the service in 1917.

XX:...and it stayed until 1933. And we uhm we did hear that the Salvation Army would go down and they would just stand in front of these places and they had the pot there and people who walked into the taverns. But of course they wouldn't preach to them or scream at them. But they would sing, play the tambourines.

DF: Play the tambourines. 'Cuz I can remember when we were kids... they would warn us.

XX: Well they did that when we were kids! You could see them down in Ballard. They used to be down in Ballard at Christmas, a great big group of them. Do you remember that, Jan? When

we used to go to the theaters on Saturdays and, you know, they would be down in Ballard standing on the corners. They sounded pretty good.

DF: And this one I remember, course, they would all get in front of a saloon on a Saturday evening. And they'd have, there was one playing the tambourine and one a horn and several right in front of the saloon.

XX: But they wouldn't say, Don't go in there, or things like that?

DF: Oh no no. They never said nothing.

XX: In fact, they got money that way. Everybody's got that guilt thing walking into a tavern.

DF: The saloons had the pot.

XX: Yeah, Johnny said that the Temperance never did. They met every week, the temperance. I have been reading the old newspapers, and the Ballard Women's Temperance Society met every week. And uhm so... Men didn't get the vote, then.

DF: And women, prior to beer coming back, never went in the taverns, never went in these places, weren't allowed to go into them as far as we have the background on Ballard.

XX: Women weren't allowed in taverns?

DF: They didn't say that they were not allowed, there weren't any signs out there. They just never had any restrooms. They only had one restroom and that was just for men. And the law, once they got into the city of Seattle, the law stipulated that they had to have two restrooms, one for men and one for women. And a lot of the places just didn't. Well I heard the two restrooms, until after, well they didn't advertise. Then the minute the beer came in, they advertised restrooms for ladies. Ladies booze, ladies entrances! Two entrances, one for the ladies, one for the men so that the ladies felt better about going to the café part, beautiful booths for the ladies, and overstuffed chairs for the ladies.

XX: Well they made 'em have restrooms and they didn't have restrooms to begin with. And they had to have food.

DF: Yes, and it stated that percentage of food had to be tremendous, had to be 60/40.

XX: They used to have the children and the wives sat on one side, at the counter for food, and they could sit on over at the other side.

DF: Right but you could drink on the other side, too. And the women could drink on the other side. And then they had to have... there was on [Howl?w 1:32] street. There was a tavern there, what was it, the Blue Goose or something, and they wouldn't put another restroom in so all it was was men could go in there, women couldn't go in there.

XX: The Old Home did that for years and years and year. That's why you never see any advertisements for it. Because years ago, Johnny told me, that they never did because he refused to put another restroom. He wasn't gonna remodel and put in another restroom. So women just stayed out of there. And what a heck of a deal that woulda' been for discrimination law, because they were discriminating against women. But he said they just never came in. They didn't have a sign about that or anything? They just never came in.

DF: Well the men would go in there because they wanted to get away from their wives and the wives [talk over each other]

XX: And he said he only remembers a couple that would come in every once in a while to come in after their husband, and snatch their husband out of there yelling, and he'd go out. And one time he remembers a women came in to grab this guy or something and whether it was her husband or who boyfriend or whatever and started a big thing and whatever and threw them out the door and whatever. But other than that no women ever came in there.

DF: Well before they served the beer, they weren't allowed. [laughs]

XX: Yeah. So a lotta places never did add another bathroom. But I heard that some of the Ballard Avenue places were some of the finest places. They had cocktail lounges, like later on. Beautiful beautiful taverns like the Looking Glass. Do you remember the Looking Glass? Was it still nice and pretty when you went in there years later? They started that in 1933 and they advertised that as one of the most beautiful places. The chairs, this and that. And they advertised it as one of the most beautiful places in Seattle.

DF: Well they probably had to furnish it to open up. That is why it was all new.

XX: I don't know. I don't remember ever going into those places. Though I do remember looking through them, you know, because you had to be able to look inside in those days. Up until recently, as a matter of fact, you had to be able to see inside. Even the glass in the door had to be that way. So you could always peek inside there. I don't remember anything that spectacular, but then again, I never went inside.

DF: Well they patrolled Ballard pretty well.

Note: Tape must have run out because conversations abruptly ends here. -eok







