

Mapping Material Culture
Ballard Historical Society

Oral History of June Gasparovich (June Boynton Shinkle Gasparovich, (1914-2006)

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Interviewer Name: Unknown (INT)

2nd person present: Unknown (UNK)

Transcriber: David Shnyder

INT: Whitman from Crown Hill School, and you remember him at the school, do you not?

UNK: I surely do. He was either president of Student Council or president of the Boys Club. One or the other. And then later went to Ingraham [High School] and played football for my husband, and uh, I-- as I know it, I think my husband had a lot to do with his getting into Princeton, because of a scholarship, help him along with a-- athletic scholarship. And then later, two other Lewis boys played for Tony, and their family was very nice to us. In fact, I can remember being invited to the Lewis home, on Christmas Eve, for years, and they lived in this lovely home overlooking Shilshole, and I think it was the home that the Boeings had first built out.

INT: Oh, is that the Boeing home?

JG: I think so. It was a beautiful home overlooking the, you know, the sailboats.

INT: Yes, ??? little ridge (??? 1:18), uh-huh.

JG: Yes, and I think it was-- I think it was the Boeing home, it was like a French chateau. And then later, I believe the Lewises have moved-- built another home-- they didn't build that one, but built a home on adjacent property. I don't know what that looks like, but the Lewises have been very very nice to us and after Tony passed away, I remember two Lewis boys coming over here to see me right away afterwards, which I thought was pretty great. So all three of them--

UNK: But that showed that you-- that you have shown a real interest in them though. I mean that they would do this.

JG: Well, it wasn't hard (laugh). They were very very (??? 2:00)

UNK: I know (???) was a very good student. He went on to-- then he went to Stanford, I think, after Princeton.

JG: I think you're right.

UNK: And I believe he was in-- he graduated with honors from Stanford in the graduate school.

JG: I wouldn't doubt it. Then one of the boys-- I think they had five boys, and I believe two of them went to Lakeside. And one that went to Lakeside is a medical doctor. And Clayton is the youngest one, and I don't know what he's doing. I've lost track of what they're doing now.

UNK: Just looking through some of these names. (pause) As long as we're talking about some of these students and well they have done, I might mention a few myself right now--

UNK: [3:02] Yes.

UNK: That I know--

JG: These, of course, are not the only ones, but--but, of medical doctors, I know that Bob Howsey, who is related to the family that owned the furniture store over on Eastlake is a doctor, specialist. And Tommy Green is an orthopedic surgeon, a very outstanding one, at Virginia Mason Hospital. He played ball for Tony, and I never had him-- I never had him as a student, but he-- he's older than Bob Howsey. Bob Howsey was at Whitman when I was there, and I think he was a student of mine. I'm not real sure. And then Tad and Dick ??? (3:50)-quist are both doctors and they both played for Tony.

INT: So they all went to Ingraham? All of these?

JG: No, Tad and Dick (???)quist all went to Ballard. They-- they were at Monroe, and their father at one time owned a-- a grocery store, right near James Monroe. And the mother was a schoolteacher.

UNK: Oh, they were going down to Monroe. This is where Dad(???) would go. That's--

JG: Yeah, I know, I'm (??? 4:15). I'm just thinking of doctors.

UNK: That's fine. That's just-- It's fine.

JG: I'm kind of mixing it up.

UNK: No, that's all right. I was just trying to think because I heard-- I wonder if they're in this class that I heard about that there were so many medical doctors (??? 4:27).

JG: That could be. Ted is an opthamologist. I think he's-- practices at Cabrini Hospital and very well known. And Dick was, I believe, practicing in Burien, and he is an M.D. also. And then John Peterson, I had as a student at James Monroe, and he also played football for Tony at Ballard. And he's a cardiologist with the Seattle Heart Clinic (??? 4:58).

UNK: Oh yes, he's one that I think a lot of people speak about.

JG: Yes. And he also practices a few days a week, I think he lives in Ballard and takes patients to Ballard Hospital. And he-- very fine person and-- and he was very good to me always. Then, I had, in the first year that I was at Whitman, I had Carol Gorman, who married Tom Fridell from Ballard. She went to Ballard. And she is a dentist and is now my dentist.

INT: This lady?

JG: Yes.

UNK: Oh!

JG: She is-- practices out in Ballard. And that's Dr. Fridell. Carol Fridell. I think she's pretty great. Then, Tony had the Mitchell brothers play for him.

UNK: Now they're they ones who own the restaurants.

JG: Right. Own them with Jammer(??? 6:00) and other restaurants. He did own one in Hawaii, I don't think they have that one anymore, but owned some others, I know. And Dave and Mark both were at James Monroe when I was there, but I never had them as students, but they did play ball for Tony. And then Eddie Robbins, I believe is the president of part of Fintrons(??? 6:23), and he went to Ballard. And I didn't mention, Irene Jasperson, about how she was a secretary of Magnusson (??? 6:32). Then Charles Mollavey (??? 6:34), of course, is one of Ballard's famous attorneys, and he was in the class when, at Ballard, when Tony first was there. And then Dick Swanson, whose parents owned Swanson's Nursery, was an attorney, I believe, in Seattle. I think I saw his picture in the paper one day on the business page-- some-- I don't know-- he works for some large company, I believe. He was a very outstanding student.

UNK: [7:08] Oh, yes.

JG: Then I must mention Jean Smart. Now, Jean Smart was at Whitman. I looked her picture up in the book, and as near as I can figure out, there's a name Jeanette Smart, and I think that's she. Anyhow, she has one of the leads in Designing Women come on TV every Monday night.

UNK: [7:29] Oh, really?

JG: Yes.

UNK: Do you know which--

JG: She's-- She's that gorgeous blonde, that's-- I don't know, Designing Women doesn't come on Monday nights, I believe?

UNK: I don't watch television, so I don't know.

JG: You should watch it.

UNK: I watch it.

JG: Well, that's Jean Smart. And her father is Doug Smart, who used to teach at Ballard. He was there when Tony was there. And her-- her aunt-- no, it would be her great aunt-- was Barbara Williston, who was the vice principal--

UNK: Oh.

JG: At Whitman.

UNK: Isn't that interesting?

JG: Mm-hmm. Her mother-- I know her mother and father both. Nice people.

UNK: 8:07: (???) Designing Women, which one-- was always on that program?

(laughs)

UNK: I don't watch television, see, I don't know.

JG: Well, it's a comedy and it has these four or five-- I think four girls, four women, who are in the interior decorating business. And it tells all about their adventures and so forth.

UNK: You think you got any beginning of that over at Whitman? You know, you had a very good-- there's a-- I don't know what her name was, but there was a home-ec teacher at Whitman that was-- I think quite different, but was, she knew her stuff--

(laugh)

JG: Knew her stuff in what way?

UNK: Whatever it was that she had to do with, was-- sewing. It was the sewing.

JG: Okay, I--

UNK: She was a sewing instructor.

JG: Yes. I know who you mean.

UNK: I don't know what her name was, but she was actually very excellent. I mean, people that--

JG: That's right!

UNK: People that I know really were good seamstresses in their own right. And they had something to do with some of the students who went over there. And I remember, there was-- used to be something that they would talk about, this lady, and, you know, ordinarily when you'd hear about something, you'd think "Oh, my. Maybe it's all talk," but they were very impressed by whatever she did. And her classes.

JG: She was good. Very good. (??? 9:30) see her picture here.

UNK: I don't think I would even recognize it, you know, because I wasn't over there, I-- I just heard about this and I just remembered.

JG: Well, she was in the field of home economics, but she didn't have anything to do with-- Kathy Wehren was her name--

UNK: Kathy (???)?

JG: --before she got married.

INT: Oh, then she got married?

JG: Yeah. Cathy Cooper is her name now.

INT: Now, this faculty-- of course, now I'm going to the faculty. Maybe we should go back to the faculty. Those people who were there when you first arrived. Let's see, this is 1960 (??? 10:19) at this-- this book for 1960. You had another person too, that I've heard people speak very highly of, and that is-- I think (??? 10:42) Erling Nording.

JG: He was a nice man.

INT: And then also, I know (???) 10:53 Barbara Ristov.

JG: She teaches here. She did teach at Ballard High School.

INT: Did she?

JG: And she was married-- she married a math teacher, (??? 11:00).

INT: From Ballard High School?

JG: Well, The math teacher had been at our school. Had been at Whitman. And she was at Whitman.

INT: I think she went from Whitman to Ballard, didn't she?

JG: Yes, she did. Yeah. Mm-hmm.

INT: Now I was (??? 11:13) -- anyway, these are some names that I-- here I see all these different ones. Who were there when you were? (pause) I was looking through-- (??? 11:25) step on these books. There's another name of the children-- Hardmond (???). Do you have any of the Hardmond children?

JG: I had a Hardmond in an elders math class. It was very good. Very very good.

INT: I think that's probably Scott. Scott? Was he and the young brother too.

JG: Oh, I'm thinking-- I know who you mean. I-- surely I know Scott Hardmond. I'm thinking of a different-- I was thinking of a different person at that time. But Scott-- Scott's sister-- what was her name?

INT: I can't think of it right now.

JG: She-- she is a nurse and married to a doctor at Swedish Hospital. And she's-- came and saw me a lot of times when Tony was down at Swedish Hospital, and was wonderful to me. I can't remember her married name, but she's married to a doctor down there. And Scott did go back to Washington, D.C. in some capacity.

INT: That's it. I remember I had the mother telling me.

JG: Yes.

INT: Now Robbie, did you have Robbie, that's the youngest?

JG: No.

INT: That's what I thought, you perhaps didn't.

JG: No. I-- the only one I had was Scott. And I had Scott in an honors math class.

INT: Well, they have that ability. They definitely have that.

JG: But I did not have the sister. I can't remember what her first name is, but she was certainly good to me through some trying times.

INT: Well, that's wonderful. People like that go into nursing--

JG: Yeah.

INT: --because--

JG: I would like to mention another person that I had, that I think has done extremely well for herself, and being a woman, 'cause most of the people I seem to remember seem to be

males. Anyhow, this is Karen Hall. And she owns a very successful company in Bellevue or Kirkland that makes windsocks.

INT: Oh?

JG: And she has been on TV, I've seen her several times when she's been interviewed. I've seen her picture and read accounts about her in the newspaper, and she has done really, really well for herself. And, she had a struggle because when she was at Whitman, we had two bad accidents that happened to parents of kids that we had. And e-- and I-- maybe getting confused-- either parents were either killed in a plane accident, or, because that happened to one youngster that we had, or they were in that avalanche up at--

INT: I remember that one.

JG: Yeah. And the cabin that was wiped out--

INT: Yes.

JG: And the parents were lost--

INT: I know one of the families there too. I should think of the name, maybe I'll see it here on the list. I know--

JG: Yeah.

INT: -- one of those but there was more than one family--

JG: Yes.

INT: --who perished--

JG: Right. Right.

INT: --who lost that.

JG: That's right. Yeah.

INT: And--

JG: So, anyhow, Karen, from junior high on, was hit pretty hard losing her parents. And so she's had to struggle on her own, and she has. I've seen her at Ballard reunions and she has really done well for herself. And along the same the same line, oh, there are many who have done well. Earl Bevins, we see every once in a while. Tony and I have seen him at Ballard reunions. He's a vice president of the Bank of California. And then I would like to mention Jerry Dodds. Jerry Dodds played ball for Tony and he was not the easiest person in this world to coach, at all.

INT: Was he from Monroe, or--

JG: No, he was from Monroe and then Ballard. And he was in one scrape after the other. But somehow or other, he was in the Green Berets during the war, or-- couldn't be during World War II, but after it, probably Vietnam-- some place or other. Anyhow, this fellow got his Ph.D. and his-- I do have his card around here somewhere, but he teaches in an army college. And he came out here with-- he saw Tony shortly before Tony was going to the hospital with-- he came over here with Dick-- I can't think of his name-- Dick Mitchell. That's who he came with. Came over here with him, and they came to see Tony shortly before when Tony was ill. And anyhow, he has done really well for himself, and he's still connected with the Green Berets. And he's with some army college, and I thought, again, Ph.D. Dr. Dodds is his name. And then Dick Olsen. I don't know if I mentioned him. He's one of the greatest people you'd ever meet anywhere. President, I believe, of Olsen Furniture. And Monty Holmes used to play ball for Tony at Ballard when Tony first went to Ballard. And he owns the athletic engraving company. And then Einar Pedersen I used to have in school at Monroe, and I believe he's the owner of Olympic Sports. So--

INT: Oh, Olympic Sports, was that in Ballard?

JG: It was in Ballard, but it isn't now.

INT: Is that where that Scandinavian shop is now?

JG: Yes.

INT: Where are they now?

JG: They're all over. U-Dist - you should look at-- in the papers, sometimes when they have their ads, I tell you, it's amazing. They've grown like there's no tomorrow. They have, I think-- they have a place at-- I don't know if they have one in Northgate or not, but they have, like Bellevue, and over on the Eastside.

INT: Well, I see there's a Randy Johnson. Did you have him?

JG: I-- yes. Oh, was he in music?

INT: No-- well, I--

JG: Music?

INT: No, I didn't see him at this time but I think he's part of the family of-- they're all musical.

JG: Mm-hmm. Yes.

INT: And his brother plays in the Seattle Symphony.

JG: That's right. What's he--

INT : (??? 17:55)

JG: What's his-- what's the-- what's the brother's name?

INT: Ron. But then there's a younger brother, Vale (??? 18:00), who was part of this group called the Kenny Gs. He plays bass guitar.

JG: I know they were all musical.

INT: And I understand from yesterday, or day before, that Barry played with the Marine Band for two years.

JG: Oh, really?

INT: I had both of them. Randy was older. But he teaches, music, I think, at Silverdale.

JG: Really?

INT: No, I think I'm missing one of them. But there were-- was it five boys?

JG: I don't know, pretty good-sized family.

INT: But they're all very very musical. The mother--

JG: --taught music, didn't she?

INT: Well, I think she maybe taught piano or something. I'm not sure what she did along that line, but she did play the piano and the organ and things like this, I know.

JG: Uh-huh.

INT: And I think the father played something, too, but they're-- they're very-- they're very musical, they live two doors from me, so, you know, we used to hear them all the time.

JG: Oh, I bet.

INT: I mean it wasn't the Kenny G group, but at least-- you know, I mean they've been very involved. I think one of the brothers started the Blue ??? show (??? 18:58).

JG: You're right. That was Gareth. Gareth Johnson. I had him in school. He was a nice boy.

INT: Well, they were all nice and they're very capable.

UNK: (19:10): I'm sure, yeah.

INT: (??? 19:10).

JG: That was Gareth. G-A-R-E-T-H.

INT: They could do many things but they loved music.

JG: Yeah. That was nice of you to remember.

INT: Oh, I saw his picture here, and I-- the father is very ill right now--

JG: Is that right? Incidentally, along the music line, now, you talked to Perry Barth, you said? Did he mention Jerry Fisk?

INT: Yes, now see I don't (?? 19:30)--

JG: Now, Jerry Fisk plays in the Seattle Symphony.

INT: Yes, that's what he said. Plays violin?

JG: Yes, yes. Yeah. I had him in school.

INT: Hmm, I don't know him.

JG: Well, look-- well, no, no, wait a minute. No, I'll take it back. No, I had both the boys. There's Jerry Fisk, and Wesley Fisk. And it's Wesley, I believe--

INT: that you had.

JG: -- that plays in the Seattle Symphony.

INT: Maybe. The only name I remember is the Fisk part.

JG: Yeah, yep. Well, one of them plays in the Seattle Symphony because I've seen him.

INT: This Engquist name here--

- Discussing students in yearbook
- Setting up scholarship fund for students at Ingraham High School
- Ballard High School
- Dr. Namba and May Namba- Japanese-American- Green Lake area
- Marilyn Freidenrich- Jewish
- Olympic Manor- golf course around 37:00
- Whitman Day - day for “acting goofy” at Whitman school
- Fundraising at Whitman- paper drive, homerooms competed and decorated- parents

distributed paper- in autumn

- Mother-daughter tea, fashion shows, model home ec dresses- springtime
- Mary Lager, President of Ballard PTA at the time of the interview
- Discussing teachers
- Girls club, boys club, student council at Whitman
- Husband Tony Gasparovich- (1917-1985)- Ballard High School American history teacher and PE- could read and speak Yugoslavian
- T.G.'s father- worked in a mill in South Aberdeen- Yugoslavian people in Aberdeen
- Yugoslavian students in Ballard- none named specifically
- Some Yugoslavians referred to themselves as Austrian
- Awards received by Tony and June
- Gasparovich Award- scholarship
- Harriet Charlton- music teacher at BHS, lived in Chehalis
- Joyce Dean, BHS class of 1949- African American student at BHS (one of two Black families) – sang in triple trio- became Joyce Sims- soprano singer, Queen Anne Methodist Church, worked for Salvation Army. Sang at T.G.'s funeral.
- Dr. Ed Palmason
- Irene Spearman- from other African American family in Ballard- dancer
- Around 1:18:00- James Bushnell- lived on Queen Anne, related by marriage to Prof. Meany. Owned land in Ballard, butcher shop. Son- Sherman Bushnell. Moved to Horizon House.
- Gilman Park/Gilman Street, early Ballard family?
- Football coaches at BHS- Henry Bendelli