

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
INTERVIEW FORM

Interviewer: Glan Mathews Date: Feb 2, 1988
Person Interviewed: Peggy Heindelman, Helen Cahill, Frank Thompson
Address: 7033 - 27th N.W. Phone: 782-0154
Date of Birth: Peggy 8/24/1914
Family Contacts: _____ Phone: _____
Special Subject: Old Ballard

Main Topic: Life in Ballard in the early years
Subtopics: Fishing, early schooling, canning
washing clothes

General observations:

Description of person:

Peggy is a pretty, Nordic type, middle aged woman very friendly and a good cookie maker.

Any problems?: none whatever except I wished I had taken the tape recorder. People were friendly and eager to impart information.

Suggestions for us?:

The questionnaire is well organized for getting information.

INTERVIEW WITH

HELEN CAHILL and FRANK THOMPSON,
brother and sister

HELEN CAHILL - born in Ballard 1916.

FRANK THOMPSON - born in Fremont 1914.

Their mother's family came to Ballard August 1889 (the Jorgen Hansens), the year of the Seattle fire (heard about it while traveling by train across Canada; had come to Montreal from Oslo, Norway by Boat).

5. Jorgen Hansen's brother had been in Ballard and saw the fishing was so good so they came over. The Hansens came to Port Ludlow and built a boat, then came to Ballard.

9. Built first house at 2637 - 59th Avenue Northwest about 1894. The house is still there.

10. Big enough to house eleven children.

11. They were all fishermen and boat builders. Helen and Frank born at 2848 West 60th.

13. Mother made all the clothes.

15. Ate lots of fish because father was a fisherman. Helen and Frank went to Adams School.

18. Farms all around Ballard. Frank recalled Salmon Bay Park which was donated to Ballard with the provision that if the trees were ever cut down, the park would revert to the descendents of

those who donated it.

19. Girls skipped rope, boys played marbles, played in school park. Helen and others collected milk bottle tops.

20. Ballard High School. Helen graduated 1935; Frank graduated 1932.

21. In 1934 Frank started work at Lincoln Pharmacy in Wallingford District. He stayed in drug business all his life until retirement in 1981.

22. Helen got married when she was 30. Had one son.

24. Frank's father was out of work for several years. Fishing was not a good business then. Frank used to cut grass for people. The family had small rugs in the living room. To clean, put rugs on clothesline and beat them with wire beaters.

22. Frank was drafted May 1943, discharged December 31, 1945. Served in evacuation hospitals; followed General Patton's Third Army across from beachhead France to the heart of Germany.

36. Retired 1981.

Helen worked at Woolworth's in Ballard until she married.

Frank remembers when there were houses on Market Street between 22nd and 24th. There was a Halverson Department Store on Ballard Avenue. Frank recalls the Tregoning Shipyard just south of boat marina on Seaview Avenue.

During the depression (1920s) Helen recalls washing clothes with metal puncher.

PEGGY HEINDSELMAN

(Maiden name PEGGY LOUISE HANSEN)

Peggy's grandparents: Jorgen and Hulda Louise Hansen nee Kristofersen.

Jorgen's father came along when they came from Norway in 1889.

Father's name - Hans Kristiansen.

(See Helen's story.)

Diary (Journal) of Agnes Hansen Thompson 1873-1941 (Peggy's aunt), eldest child of Jorgen and Hulda Hansen. She was six when they came from Norway. The journal will be available to Ballard History Project.

Peggy's father, Ike William Hansen, was born at 20th and 57th across from Wiggins Funeral Home. When Ike was a year old, moved into their own home at 2637 - 59th Street. He went to school at Cleete Building School, a two-room school at 57th and 22nd Northwest corner where Ballard Safeway store is. Picture of kids taken about 1904. Went on to Ballard High School.

Ike went into fishing and boat building with his father.
(See "Four Bridges to Seattle", 1853-1907, by Margaret Wandery.

Peggy has newspaper pictures of "Doll Contest" taken in 1906 at the C. H. Knosher Store at 22nd Northwest and Ballard Avenue.

Peggy's mother, Edith Giles Hansen, came to Seattle from

Blaine, Washington in 1897. Her father was a Free Methodist minister. Edith is descended from John Adams whose family came to America in 1631.

In 1910 they lived on Ballard Beach across from Ray's Boathouse. Sidewalks were built on pilings because of tide. Edith went to school at Old Central School (Seattle) and Seattle Girls Seminary, which is now Seattle Pacific College. As a child she spent summers on Teanaway Homestead of an aunt and uncle adjoining one belonging to her grandparents, Joe E. Giles and the former Olive Adams, near Cle Elum, Washington.

Before her marriage to Ike Hansen on August 11, 1917, she worked at old Bon Marche near Pioneer Square. She was about 15 years old. She was never allowed to open her own paycheck (grandmother's orders). Edith was a clerk in the grocery department.

See clipping on boats for Edith's activities. She christened the purse seiner YALE OF SEATTLE built by older brother Harold Hansen (June 21, 1917) who owned Harold Hansen Boat Yard, now located in Marysville.

Edith was active for many years in Adams PTA. In later years she worked as precinct committee woman.

Edith once bought a Maytag washer from a door-to-door salesman (1920's). Salesman asked each customer to try out this new washer for three days. First machine with large soft rollers. Edith bought it on time. She used it for 50 years.

Peggy recalls that as a small child she was helping mother

with the wash and got her hand caught in the wringer. Due to the big soft rollers, there was no damage done "except to my ego".

Edith canned fruit in "open kettle" method. Everybody canned fish in those days - used water bath method in wash boiler.

Peggy's father, Ike Hansen, recalls that as kids he and his six brothers used to pour water on Northwest 58th in winter and when it froze, they rode homemade toboggans down the hill. Ike broke his leg this way when he was about 17 years old. They wanted to amputate his leg but old Dr. Griner wouldn't do it. Even though it took quite a while to heal, he never even limped.

Edith's honeymoon was spent on Lopez Island cooking for the crew of the fish boat YALE.