

# **Ballard Historical Society Oral History Project**

**Narrator:**

**Maxine Tuck**

**Date of Interview:**

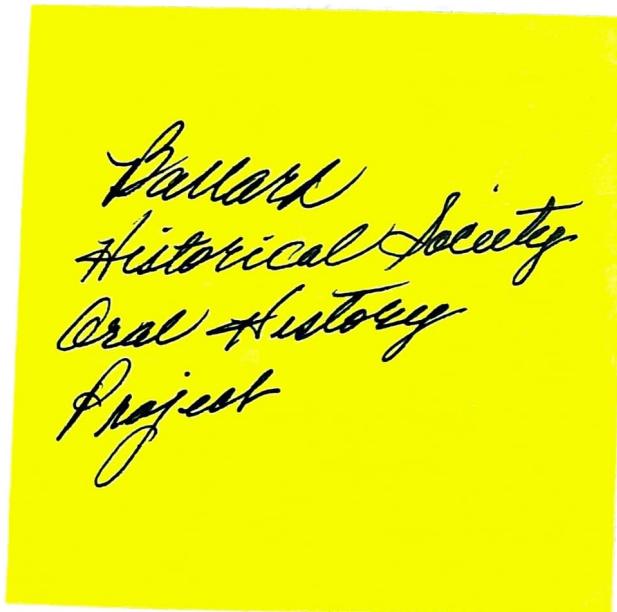
**March 5, 1988**

**Location of Interview:**

**Seattle, Washington**

**Interviewer:**

**Solveig Lie**



*checked by Elida Tupper*

...but the Spearmans, now -- oh, I said it was just -- she liked sports, but I mean, we all played sports together. What did you lose?

*Just a minute. I don't want --*

On 15<sup>th</sup>, because 14<sup>th</sup> is one block this side, so the Ballard Bridge goes across. And the original span in the middle, you know, that opens and closes for the boats, is the original one. But when I was about -- I must have been about ten or twelve -- they had to take the old wooden span out. But the old streetcars coming across there, and then it was busses. The bus drivers used to say, well, you got your passports ready? We're going into Ballard. And we'd laugh. You know, the old Ballardites, you know.

*And what did they mean by passports?*

Well, you know, because it was a foreign country, you know; it was Scandinavia. You know, that's --

*All right. Well, today, I, Solveig Lie, am here with Maxine Tuck, at 367 Northwest 48<sup>th</sup>. It's March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1988. And we're here to talk about Ross District and its part of Ballard, or her growing up or her parents living here in Ballard, whatever she'd like to say.*

Oh, sakes.

*Okay?*

I just -- when Ralph told me, you know, about this, I thought, now what am I going to talk about, you know.

*Oh, it sounds like you can talk about all kinds of things.*

Oh.

*Now, when the people came into this passport, were there really people there? Or they just said that?*

They just said that. It was just a saying, you know. Because Ballard, you see, did not become a part of Seattle until 1907, because they had to have -- what was it, something to do with water, drinking water. And they didn't have it. So they merged with -- they went into Seattle then. It was 19 --

*You thought that was the big issue why they became part of Seattle, was over the drinking, or the water.*

I think that was it.

*There was something to do with water, I know.*

And I think that's what it was. But they -- but everybody, you know, they'd laugh, you know, if you were coming from another part of town, you know. Just like Rainier Valley is Garlic Gulch, and we're Snooze Junction and, you know.

*Okay, now you're living here in Ross, Washington, though. And your parents were here before, right?*

No, this is Ballard, Washington. This is part of Ballard here.

*This is Ballard where you are right now?*

Yes, but it's Seattle, you know.

*Uh-huh.*

It's really -- it's Seattle, I mean. But when my dad would go anyplace and he'd produce his birth certificate and it said, Ballard, Washington, you know, they'd kind of look at that. And I says, yes, he was born there in Ballard. And it's proof. I mean, there it is.

*Now, when was your father born?*

'95.

*1895?*

*Uh-huh.*

*Where was he born?*

Right down here on 50<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

*50<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.*

And it -- just in the last ten years, they tore the house down.

*Oh, well, now --*

Then he moved up to 51<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, just two houses, and the house is still there. It's still beautiful.

*Now, what was your father's name?*

Frank T. Shallow.

*T. Shallow.*

Uh-huh.

*How do you spell T. Shallow?*

No, it's two names. I mean, it's Frank Theodore Shallow.

*Oh, okay.*

And shallow water.

*Oh, like shallow water.*

Uh-huh, yes, uh-huh.

*Now, what nationality was he?*

Polish.

*How did he happen to come to Seattle?*

He lived here all his life.

*Oh, that's right, he did.*

Yes.

*But how did --*

But his folks came from Winona in Ottawa, up there above Ottawa, Canada.

*In Canada.*

Yes. And they went to Pe Ell. That's logging, you know, Pe Ell, Washington.

*Uh-huh.*

And then they came to Seattle.

*So he was a logger before he came here?*

My grandfather was.

*Your grandfather was, uh-huh.*

Yes.

*What was your grandfather's name, or did I ask you that? It was your father I asked, wasn't it?*

Yes, it's Shallow.

*So his name was Shallow, too?*

Yes, uh-huh.

*Uh-huh.*

Yes, it's -- I wish I'd have gotten more of the history, but nobody in the family wanted to talk about it. And then the last few years before Dad died, he would tell me little stories, and I wish I'd had a tape recorder.

*Oh, yes.*

Because he told some real good ones, you know, how different things were built and why they were built. And I'm just sorry that I didn't get a hold of, you know, smart enough to think of that, you know, because the history is lost now.

*Uh-huh.*

Because, you figure there's not many old-timers here.

*Well, now, you are Polish and.*

Uh-huh. My mother was German.

*Your mother was German.*

Uh-huh.

*Now, how -- where did they meet? Did they meet here?*

Yes, they met in Seattle, yes. At some picnic or --

*And she came from where? Was she born here?*

Yes, she was born in Seattle.

*But not Ballard?*

No, she was born down in East Pine.

*So when they got married then she came to live at Ballard?*

Yes, uh-huh.

*Now, you are Polish, or half-Polish?*

Yes.

*Were there lots of Polish people around here?*

A lot of them around this neighborhood. They -- I think most of them were.

*What were some of the names of some of the people?*

Well, as I say, the Shallows were here. The Maschinskis, the Meshoriks, the Stronsiks (phonetics). Let me see, was there any more at the top? No.

*Did they go all the way up to Phimney?*

Most of them lived below Third Avenue.

*Below Third Avenue.*

Yes, Uh-huh, most of the block.

*And how far north did they go, about?*

I don't know, really. Not very -- it was just a little community around here.

*And they're all --*

Maybe it was from 49<sup>th</sup> down to 46<sup>th</sup> or something. It wasn't a very big --

*But most of the people, really, were Polish?*

Uh-huh, most of them were Polish. We had Crazy Mary down on the corner down here.

*Who's Crazy Mary?*

Oh, she was the -- it was a great big huge house that was down on Eighth and 48<sup>th</sup>. Her and her son were just as batty as all get out. She'd go out and steal. Oh, how she would steal. They'd get her to court and she couldn't talk a word of English.

*Now, what nationality was she?*

She was a Polack.

*Oh.*

But it was -- she was just kind of the funny one in the neighborhood. You know, you always have to one like that.

*Uh-huh.*

Then we had another one over here that used to make his own wine. And he'd dump his stuff -- his grape, and then it'd ferment out here in the fields. And we'd walk by and he says, oh, he's made some more wine today.

*I mean, how would he --*

**He would take --**

*Would he put it into something?*

**Huh?**

*I don't know how to make wine. How do they?*

Well, you know, you have to press the wine -- your grapes and everything. And so you've got all the pulp. And so that's what it was. He'd throw it out here in the --

*The pulp.*

Yes, the pulp. He'd keep the wine, you know.

*Uh-huh.*

But he, every year, he'd make his wine.

*So would the pulp kind of react like silage? I don't know.*

Yes, and, oh, out here, oh, it was just -- you could just smell it all over the place. Yes, it was -- we had characters in this neighborhood. We had another guy up the block up here that was -- I don't know why my dad named him Commissary Bill, but he did. And he was the funniest man, too. He built two houses up there. Never built a house in his life.

*But he built two when he came here?*

And he built two, yes, uh-huh. Now, I don't know where he came from, who he was, because you see, there was no houses. These were all fields. My dad had a garden where that house across the street was. A great, big -- he used to plant his peas over there. During the Depression, you know, you had to have gardens or you'd starve.

*Oh, sure, uh-huh.*

And he wouldn't go on relief or on welfare, or, I mean, on anything like that. He was too proud.

*So he --*

He grew --

*He made sure he grew as much as he could.*

Yes.

*So he could survive.*

And we had chickens that were over here in this yard. And then in the back yard we had our rest of our vegetables.

*Now, this is in the 1920s.*

No. I would say in the 1930s.

*1930s.*

Early -- before it was World -- before World War II.

*Uh-huh.*

Yes, it was before World War II.

*All right, you had chickens and what other things? Did you have pigs?*

Turkeys. Oh, no, no, no. We didn't have any. We had chickens up until -- let's see, what year was it? Well, we got rid of the chickens about six years ago. We were allowed to have chickens here.

*Until like eight, 1980-some?*

Yes, uh-huh. The neighbors we had -- some of them were very good. They loved to hear the cackling and the chickens, you know. And we never kept a rooster. We were allowed one rooster. But we didn't keep that. And the Health Department would come out once a year to see -- because people kept saying we had rats around here. But we didn't have rats. We didn't have them. It was people leaving

lids off their garbage can. And so they'd call up the Health Department, so they'd come out and check our chicken house, you know. We couldn't build a new one, but that --

*A new chicken house.*

New chicken house, no. But he kept adding boards to it, you know. I just tore it down just about three years ago. That was quite a job; I want to clue you. But we were allowed to have chickens up until about -- well, we could have even had them now if we wanted them. But I don't like chickens; they don't like me. So I'd have to go in the chicken house when I collected eggs. I'd have to go in with a broom and bash them around a little bit.

*But you kept your chicken houses and your chicken pens -- the pens for the chickens.*

Yes, we had chickens in the chicken house, yes.

*With some kind of wire that would go pretty high and --*

Oh, yes. They didn't -- that was our -- but we could have had them. I mean --

*Did you say you had cows?*

No. We never had cows.

*But did you --*

We never even had rabbits. We had turkeys. But we didn't keep rabbits because they smell so bad, even if you keep them clean and everything. And, but we just kept the chickens. And Dad kept them so spotless, he was just as clean out there as the house was, you know. He'd go out there and scrape those chicken sheds and we'd have the babies, you know, and everything like that. So we -- it was kind of country out here where we were. Now we -- the bus line -- or the streetcar line went up Sixth Avenue for many, many years. Then they put it down, when I was eight years old, onto Eighth Avenue where they paved it.

*When were you born?*

It was '23.

1923.

Yes, uh-huh, yes. So, as they say, I've been around a long time.

*Well, your father was born here, too.*

Yes, in Ballard in '95.

*In '95. Do you remember anything about -- did he ever tell you anything about when he was little or?*

Gosh, I can't remember that much.

*Or as he was growing up. Anything about what it was like to --*

He used to go -- he used to -- let me see, how was it. That's a little down there in Ballard. He used to go in there and -- I know he delivered papers down through the saloon area on Ballard --

*This was when he was growing up?*

Yes, uh-huh.

*He was a paperboy after school?*

Well, certain times, you know, I mean. But he had so much to do around, helping his mother and everything, you know. And then when he was 11 years old, he was working on lumber wagons.

*He was building them?*

No, no he was delivering lumber to different places that needed it for building.

*Oh, he'd go like to one of the mills and pick up the lumber and deliver it?*

Yes, uh-huh. And he was 11 years old.

*And that would be 19 --*

Well, see, that's five, and then you've got five from 11 is seven, isn't it, six. So it would be about 1906, 1907, yes. And he was loading. Though they went to work

early in those days, you know. I mean, to supplement the family income and everything like that.

*But you know he could be important, you know. I mean --*

Oh, well, he --

*I --*

He was a hardworking man. Oh, he was (inaudible) -- he was really --

*Well, he 's part of the family, too, and he assumed that.*

Yes, and he was.

*He didn't just wait for everybody to do everything for him.*

Yes.

*He was helping, too.*

Yes.

*What did his father do when he came here?*

He was a logger.

*He was a logger.*

He -- yes, he'd go --

*Did he log here, too?*

He'd go up into the mountains, you know. Like up here to Oso, and log up there.

*Uh-huh.*

And -- but he died so many years ago. He had a heart attack. Logging.

*But then, did he go away and be gone (inaudible) like a week?*

Yes, he'd be gone for months.

*For months. And then he'd come home, like, when the season --*

Yes, when they weren't logging anymore.

*(Inaudible).*

There was too much snow.

*Uh-huh.*

Or something like that.

*Then he'd come home.*

Then he'd come home and then he'd be gone again.

*Did the Polish people go to certain places more than other places to log?*

No, I don't think so. I think they just worked all over.

*Wherever they could get a job.*

Whatever, you know, wherever they were logging.

*Uh-huh.*

And --

*All right, so then your father grew up. He was born in -- what was it, 1895.*

1895, uh-huh.

*And so when he was around nine --*

He was 86 when he died.

*My, isn't that something.*

Isn't that something. Oh, boy. I'm telling you, they lived a long time in their family.

*Uh-huh.*

And --

*Well, then, did he go to school?*

He went to the eighth grade.

*What school did he attend?*

Irving, right down here in Ballard.

*Oh, Irving, which Irving?*

Irving down on -- that must have been 14<sup>th</sup>.

*The first Washington Irving.*

Yes, the Irving School. He also attended St. Alphonsus. And then there was another school on 56<sup>th</sup> and -- well, it's right behind Eve's Flower Shop, anyhow. I don't know if you know where Eve's Flower Shop in Ballard is. Well, I went to --

*There was a school there?*

Right in that big pink apartment house, right next to Eve's house.

*Behind Eve's --*

Eve's Flower Shop. There's a big two or three-story building there and that was a school and I can't tell you the name of it.

*Could it have been Emerson (phonetic)?*

I don't know. I have no idea. But my dad told me it was a school.

*Okay, now it's on --*

50 --

*Because we're trying to find some -- and I didn't bring the schools with me -- 56<sup>th</sup>?*

It was on 56<sup>th</sup>, because Market Street is where Eve is on. And it's directly behind that -- you know, right next door to it, or right behind it. It used to be a pink building. Now, I don't know if it's still pink or not.

*It's an apartment.*

But that was a school.

*It's an apartment.*

It's an apartment house now.

*And it -- the building that was the school is still there?*

Yes, the building that was the school is still there, yes, uh-huh.

*That's interesting.*

I didn't know it either, and Dad was telling me about it.

*Well, but I think that's very interesting because I'm not -- we're trying to locate --*

I don't know.

*-- one of the schools and --*

Let me see. Well, that's the only one. And Irving was on 14<sup>th</sup>.

*Uh-huh. Do you think he started at Irving?*

I don't know where he started. He probably --

*You just know that he went to these three schools.*

I know he went to -- Now, he might have started at St. Alphonsus.

*Uh-huh. You were Catholic.*

My dad was Catholic.

*Uh-huh.*

And I -- why he broke away from the church, I'll never know. He never said.

*Well, when he went to St. -- Now, that -- no, this Holy Angels was not built yet.*

No.

*Uh-huh.*

(Inaudible).

*They had a St. Alphonsus school.*

Yes, uh-huh.

*Already.*

Yes. They went right through high school.

*All the way through grades one through -- did they have kindergarten at St. Alphonsus?*

I don't know if they do or not.

*You don't know.*

Did or not. But then they dropped high school, because then they got Blanchet, you know, and O'Dea, and all the bigger schools. And so they didn't need a high school there.

*Now, I want to be sure we've got this thing straight. Behind Eve's Flower Shop. If I go there to look to see what --*

Yes, right -- Eve's Flower Shop, right behind it is her little white house. And right on the -- right next door to it is this great, big two-story building, two or three stories.

*And you have no idea how many classes or anything else like that?*

I have no idea. All Dad said, you know, that was a school at one time.

*Isn't that interesting? Now, when it wasn't -- I wouldn't think it would have been a Catholic one --*

No.

*Because (inaudible) St. Alphonsus was. So it probably was one in the Ballard area, Ballard District.*

It must have been, because there was a lot of good schools here in Ballard besides West Woodland and Adams and B.F. Day down here, and let me see, Loyal Heights, Whittier. See, there was a lot of schools out here. But then they closed them all now. And now they're thinking of building some more.

*Well, some of them are not in good condition.*

If they would have taken care of them, they would have been. But they let them run down. They didn't do any repairs. My kids went down here to Adams. I graduated from Ross. I went to West Woodland. Then they put the boundary line at 49<sup>th</sup>. And anybody on this side of 49<sup>th</sup> -- let's see, 48<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup> is one block up. We had to go down here to Ross. And I darn near flunked when I left West Woodland to go to Ross because their scholastics weren't as good as Ross. It was only 86 of us down there.

*At Ross.*

Uh-huh.

*Eighty-six children.*

Uh-huh, yes.

*It was in the whole school?*

In the whole school. It was an old wooden building. I can't --

*Now, what year was that, when you were at Ross then?*

Well, I graduated from there in '36.

*And so it was --*

So I went down there --

*Eighty-six children --*

Yes.

*In the year of 80 -- '36.*

Yes, uh-huh.

*In the whole school.*

And I don't remember when they tore it down.

*1940.*

Was it 1940. So it wasn't much longer -- but anyhow, then I went to Alexander Hamilton for junior high.

*Okay, now we'll go back to your father, then I want to hear about you, you more. Just to get in this (inaudible) order like that.*

Okay.

*Let's see, your father went to these three schools. Did he graduate from high school then?*

No. No, in those days, they never went beyond the eighth grade, if they went that far, because they had to go to work.

*Yes, that's understandable.*

And so from the eighth grade on, he was working all the time.

*But did you ever hear about him taking things like shop and all these things? Did they have that where he was, like at Washington Irving or anything?*

I don't think so.

*They never --*

No.

*They were just doing reading and writing as far as you know?*

And arithmetic. And that was just about it, that I know. I mean, he never said of anything else.

*Okay.*

He was an awful cut-up, too. I mean, he was a hellion. If he didn't want to go to school, they'd be on the second story and he'd shimmy down the drains. He just didn't like to be confined. My one uncle only went through the third grade. He was the most brilliant man you ever saw. Well read.

*Uh-huh.*

And he lived just right down here on 49<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Now, he went to these same schools, I imagine?*

Yes, uh-huh. But he was a -- oh, he was a brilliant man. He taught himself.

*Many people did.*

Yes.

*Just putting in years of school doesn't make you the intelligent person.*

*Uh-huh.*

*You have to do something yourself. Uh-huh. Okay, so whatever years he went to school, he -- then he left. And then your father did these things like deliver lumber.*

Oh, he did all kinds of stuff. I can't -- I don't really don't know what all his jobs were.

*Yes, but even some of them, do you have some (inaudible)?*

I have no idea.

*I mean, I -- you're the first -- this is the first person I've heard who was delivering lumber.*

Oh, yes.

*Did they -- was --*

He even delivered firewood. You know, people would order firewood and he'd go get it and he'd take that up with a (inaudible).

*At the mill?*

I don't know where he picked it up.

*Do you think he was assuming a part of a kind of business himself? Was that his business then?*

No.

*He was working for somebody?*

He was working for somebody else. Yes, uh-huh.

*And then did they -- did people call him? Did they have telephones then? How would people know -- how would he know that they wanted wood?*

Word of mouth, I suppose.

*Or did he go around and get orders?*

No.

*Or did he just start out with his wagon and then --*

No, I don't know how they got in touch with these different businesses that they needed somebody. He even delivered -- you know where the Rainier Club is down there on Fourth Avenue?

*Uh-huh.*

He used to even deliver wood down there, firewood.

*Boy, he must have had the good orders.*

Yes. I don't know -- I really don't know what -- really what he did. And I don't even know when he went to Balkam Mill down here. But that was the old Balkam Mill down there, you know, the Big C is on this side, and the Old Cedar Mill, you know, was on the west side of the bridge down here. And it burned two or three --

*Was that the one that burned down? When did that burn?*

Oh, it burned two or three times. The first time I remember when I was six years old.

*Uh-huh.*

So, you see, that was the first time. Then it burnt twice since, after that.

*And that final burning was when?*

I have no idea what year it was.

*Do you remember anything about that day or what was it like? How did you know that there was a fire?*

Well, have you ever seen cedar burn? The whole sky is brown, and it just hangs over the city for hours and hours.

*Did it make you -- was it warm, too?*

Well, it was a Sunday afternoon.

*Uh-huh.*

But I don't remember the last time it burned. I can't tell you. But I remember the first time when I was six years old.

*And so you looked up at the sky and you knew that there was something wrong.*

Well, we could hear the sirens coming from all over Seattle. And they just had to let it burn. I mean, with all that lumber down there, you know, piles and piles of cedar that we'd love to have today.

*Oh, yes. Were there a lot of cedar trees around here in those days? I think there were some. So hard to find cedar now.*

There was very few trees around here at all. You know, we had a garbage dump over here.

*Where was the garbage dump?*

Between Sixth and Eighth. Between 48<sup>th</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup>, was the garbage dump. And then I -- then it was across the street, too. And the people wonder why their porches sunk when they built all these houses, you know.

*You mean a bit more recently?*

Yes, because the garbage was still settling, you know. We had a garbage dump there.

*Isn't that interesting?*

Not many people know that.

*Now, were there -- how did people -- how did the garbage get to the dump?*

They brought it by truck.

*Were there people who were doing that for a living?*

Yes, they -- the garbage truck, you know, just like our garbage here.

*But do you remember the days when they -- before the truck?*

No. I don't remember a thing, but I remember -- I can remember the seagulls, you know. And my mother's -- they'd get on our roof up here, you know, and my mother would get the little bb gun out and shoot them. Because our roof was --

*I bet they just loved to be around the dump.*

Oh, sure, and they'd sit up in this house and wait for them to bring a dump -- a load in, you know.

*Uh-huh.*

And my mother would have to shoot them off the roof because the roof would be just solid with seagulls. Yes. But they tell people around here, what are you talking about, a garbage dump. And I says, there was a garbage dump over here. People don't know.

*Now, was that -- was it just a great big hole in the ground? Was it manmade, or was it a natural hole? The dump. Or how was it?*

No, it wasn't manmade. They had to dig it, you know. But the garbage was way up, you know, and they'd scrape it around, you know.

*Oh.*

And after they filled it in and everything, it was a beautiful place to collect mushrooms. We used to pick mushrooms over there and sell them. We had quite a clientele.

*Oh. Where did you sell them?*

To anybody.

*Did you go to the stores, or did you just go -- how did --*

Well, people found out we were picking mushrooms, and they'd come and get them from us. Yes.

*Well, could you do that as you were growing up?*

Yes.

*For a little extra money?*

That's when I was a little girl. Yes.

*Oh.*

And we made good money. We hit the owner of the Balkam Mill, Mr. Balkam. He always took a big order from us, you know. And Dad would take them down to the mill, you know.

*Now, I know Balkam is one of the big names in Ballard.*

Yes. He was the big lumber --

*Could you tell me something about -- he had a lumber mill?*

Yes, uh-huh. A regular, where they brought their logs and everything right up there and cut them up into lumber. That's where my dad was general manager.

*He was general manager?*

Yes.

*He was general manager after he was going around delivering the lumber?*

Yes, I don't know what year he went down to Balkams. I don't know when he started down there. I know --

*He might have been delivering this lumber before he went to Balkam?*

Oh, yes, long before that, because he was down at Balkam during the crash in '29. Men would come there that had big -- been big businessmen, begging for jobs. Just pleading with my dad, can't you put me on. And he put everybody on that he could, you know.

*Uh-huh.*

And they were big businessmen afterwards, after the Depression was over with. They said, well, Pete Shallow hadn't have been so good to us, we would have starved to death. His nickname was Pete.

*Lots of people who helped others during that period of time.*

Yes. And so he would -- my dad, as I say, worked for Mr. Balkam. Mr. Balkam had two sons and one of them is dead now. I don't know -- no, both of the boys are dead, too. And, but, no, he'd buy our mushrooms. Isn't that something. Gosh. So.

*Were there any other ways you could make money as a child?*

Baby-sit.

Oh.

For maybe 25 cents a day. Then in the summertime we would hire out as -- well, as a baby-sitter, a housekeeper.

*Would you go to the home to stay then?*

We could stay if we want to, but it usually was in the neighborhood so I could come home every night. And I had quite, you know -- quite a clientele of baby-sitting. But we didn't make that much money, but money went so much farther then, than it does now. And --

*All right, your father was superintendent, and that was what he did all of his life then, after he became -- went to work --*

Well, until the mill burnt down in -- oh, the mill must have been burnt -- burnt down in '37. Let's see. No, it was later than that, because I was 14 when the mill burnt down. Yes, that was '37 then. And then he went onto work in small lumber yards from then on because he had a heart attack and he couldn't take a big mill anymore. Because that's an awful hard job, you know, to be supervisor over the whole, you know, of a big, big mill. And because -- and we wouldn't even -- we didn't even get a phone here until Mr. Balkam just insisted. So he paid for it and everything.

*Mr. Balkam did?*

Uh-huh. He had to install it. My dad refused to have a telephone, because they'd call him all hours of the night.

*Being superintendent.*

Yes. And he didn't want that. And I could remember in, oh, it was in the '30s when the unions were getting big. And, you see, the general manager of the mill did not have to belong to the -- to a union. Usually, in most businesses, your managers don't have to belong to a union. My dad was escorted to and from work,

police department. Because they thought that my dad was a scab, see. And so he had to be brought to and from and they'd have to watch us and everything.

*Well, I imagine that was kind of a worry for your mother, too.*

Well, sure it was, you know. Boy. But anyhow, she's -- but finally, it did -- it ironed itself out, you know. And -- but, anyhow, old Ross School, now that is a school.

*Okay, now we have you going to school. And you went to Ross beginning in 19 --*

Must have been about 1933, because I went to West Woodland through kindergarten through the beginning of the third grade.

*So, West Woodland had kindergarten?*

Yes, they did, uh-huh. We had an old maid schoolteacher and I used to -- oh, I gave her such a bad time. Oh, Ms. Dahl. And she had a great big outside goiter, you know. On her neck, you know. And how kids can be so cruel, I don't know. But I'd tease her, and I'd torment her. I was horrible in kindergarten. I really was. I know, because my mother would have to haul me out of the principal's office all of the time. I was just mischievous, you know.

I never hurt anything or anybody. I wasn't that kind of a child. I was -- but I was just mischievous. I could think of so many things to do. Now, Mr. Smith was principal up there. I think Mr. Smith is still principal up there now.

*(Inaudible).*

But another Mr. Smith, but a Mr. Smith. Tell me about Mr. Selby. How is he? Did you -- have you found out since his cataract operation?

*All I know is that he had the surgery. I think it was Thursday.*

Uh-huh.

*And we're supposed to go to see him in a week or so.*

How old is he?

*I don't know.*

Well, you know, when we were kids -- Now, I want to tell you about Mr. Selby. Is he still a slight, little man.

*Well, I think he's quite tall.*

Well, yes, but he's slender.

*But he is slender.*

Very slender. Well, he always was.

*And very gentle and very quiet.*

Oh, he was a -- oh, he was a darling. Now, Mr. Selby was principal down there, and he had a two-door, it was either a Ford or a Chevy. And every summer, Mr. Selby would tell the Days (phonetic) that he'd be down there to collect us kids and take us swimming.

*Tell who?*

The kids of the school.

*The kids.*

Yes.

*Oh, he took you swimming?*

He took us swimming. In this little old car of his.

*Wasn't that kind?*

He was -- that's how I remember Mr. Selby.

*Now, where did you go swimming?*

I have no -- I can't remember that.

*But just the idea that he would do this?*

Yes. Maybe you could ask him; he could tell you. But my sister and I and the Stronsik girls up here, and I don't know how many more could get in the car. And he'd take us swimming. I don't know if it was Golden Gardens or Green Lake. But that's -- he was the most wonderful man. But I can remember him being very slight. I don't remember -- and he could have only been about 25 then.

*You don't know.*

I have no idea. But I think that's fantastic that he's still here.

*Uh-huh.*

Yes, I think it's beautiful. Then we had Mr. Robinson down there. He became something big in the school district, too, and I can't remember what he did.

*Yes, I don't know Mr. Robinson. Mr. Selby is quite a rock hound.*

Oh, is he?

*Yes, he has all the equipment so he can work with rocks.*

Oh.

*I don't know that he has it now because he's at a different place. That was when he was in his apartment.*

Oh, uh-huh. But no, he was just -- that's what I can remember about him, taking us swimming. He did this. It was just --

*He said he was a head teacher at Ross. I don't know what that meant -- means (inaudible).*

I thought he was principal.

*Well, he must have done some supervisory positions for you to know that, to feel that way, because --*

Well, I -- Now, isn't that strange. I thought --

*Somebody else called him a principal, too.*

Now, isn't that strange. It seems like --

*So he --*

I can't prove it because I was too young.

*But he apparently then, was not your teacher as such, like grades one, two, or three or something.*

Well, we went kindergarten to sixth grade. And we had a Miss Wilson in the second grade, I think. Second and third grade. No, I had a Miss -- it seems like there was a Miss Ross in the second grade there. Then I got terribly ill, when I was about eight years old.

*Oh, what happened?*

I got scarlet fever. And those days, you know, you didn't have sulfer, you didn't have penicillin. You didn't know what to do with it, you know. And my mother nursed me here for six weeks. And I couldn't -- when I went back to school -- no, when the doctor wouldn't let me go back to school because I had such a high fever. The doctor thought that it would be too much on my brain. So I was kept back a half year. Because we had January and September, see, where we only have the September now and June. So I was kept back for one quarter.

And it seems like it was a Miss Ross, and a Miss Wilson, and a Miss Haddlested (phonetic). Oh, Miss Haddlested was a -- she was the fifth grade teacher. She was a wonderful teacher. She was a big, raw-boned Scandinavian lady. She was just a beautiful teacher. And I really -- that was one class I got so much out of.

And then Mr. Swanson was my sixth grade teacher. I had a crush on him because he was only in his -- you know, in his 20s. You know how kids do, you know.

*Uh-huh.*

Now, I think he went on to being principal of some kind, too.

*Oh, Mr. Wilson?*

Mr. Swanson.

*Oh, Swanson.*

Uh-huh. And I imagine Miss Wilson is still alive. Where she is, I don't know. She was a real tiny lady, a very petite little lady.

*Now, at Ross then you had grades one through --*

I think they even had kindergarten. Now, I'm not sure, because I went to kindergarten up here at West Woodland.

*But, I mean, Ross went to -- through how many grades? Eight?*

Up to sixth.

*Up through sixth at that time.*

Yes. And then West Woodland went onto the eighth grade if you wanted to go up there. Or junior high. And I chose to go to junior high. Because I think I needed it more because I would be going into high school, you know. And when you go to these grade schools like West Woodland up, they'd still treat you like a child. And at junior high, they were, you know, you were on your own. You, you know, you had to make it from class to class.

*Do you remember any kind of games you played at Ross?*

Baseball mostly. Oh, we used to love to play baseball down there. Oh, that was our -- that was our big sport down there. And that was about all.

*Did the girls play with the boys?*

No.

*Girls played by themselves?*

Yes, we played baseball. That's about all that I can think of.

*Did you play marbles and jacks?*

Oh, yes, we did that, too, yes. And we had beautiful swings down there. I can remember the swings.

*Oh, they were on the school grounds?*

The upper school grounds.

*Upper school.*

You see, the school was built down below and then you'd have to go up to the upper playground to --

*Did you have any kind of assemblies when you were going to school there?*

I don't remember any. I don't remember -- I don't think we did.

*Now, were there many children who had trouble speaking English, do you know?*

No. I think most of them were -- had been here long enough or had been born here.

*Uh-huh.*

I can't remember any of in our class.

*Well, since there were so many Polish people right around here, were there a lot of Polish children in your classes?*

No. Very few.

*Where did they go to --*

If there was any.

*Where did they go to school?*

I have --

*St. Alphonsus?*

I imagine they did, being Catholic.

*Uh-huh.*

But I don't think they -- I don't remember them down there, because I didn't have any -- well, I said -- well, as I say, Bill Dawson and Marie Sluman and Doug Shaw, and then the Johnson girls. See those are not German or even Polish names.

*Or Polish.*

Then we had a --

*What did most of the Polish people do around here? Now, your father was in construction?*

No, no, he was in the lumber business.

*He was in the lumber business.*

Yes. And Joe Maschinski -- the Maschinski family back here, he was a machinist.

*Did he have a business in Ballard?*

No, he worked for somebody. I don't know who it was. And then we had my uncle next door. He was a -- he worked for the city. And I don't know what the Meshoriks did up here. The Stonsichs<sup>Stronsichs</sup> up here, he was a fireman. Then the old Stronsichs lived down here on 48<sup>th</sup> and Ninth. The old house is gone now. And he worked in the shingle mills or in the lumber mills.

*Were quite a few of them in the fire department, though?*

No. I --

*But there were a few.*

Yes, but Tom Stonsich up here, he --

*Do you remember anything about the fire department? Do you remember anything about them at all?*

Uh-uh, not a thing. Because I didn't -- you know, I wasn't interested in that kind of stuff.

*Uh-huh.*

But see we had the old police station down there in Ballard, right across the street from Olsons Store. And, but, gosh, I don't know of anything else that I can say. It's too bad my --

*That's all right..*

-- my dad wasn't around. Gosh. He could tell you stories about every one of those buildings down there.

*I'm sure he could. All right, when your father built this -- no, your grandfather had to build here. Did I ask you before where he built?*

My grandfather? Yes, down here on 51<sup>st</sup> and Ninth.

*Okay.*

Great big two-story house.

*And that is still there?*

Yes. The house is still there. The lady that has it has kept it up just beautiful. It's just a beautiful house.

*And it's two stories?*

Uh-huh, yes.

*Why it must have had quite a few rooms.*

Oh, let me see. It had the kitchen, as I'd say, was the family room, was a huge. And they had a dining room and then a bedroom in the back of that. They also had a bath on the first floor. And then they had the parlor, very special, you know.

*Oh, yes, sure. It was a lovely home. They have parlors?*

Oh, sure. And then upstairs they had, I think four bedrooms. It must have been --

*How many were in your family?*

Well, my dad had -- was seven kids in his family.

*Seven, seven.*

Yes. So it was a big house. It was a lovely house.

*Must have been.*

Just, just an ordinary, you know, I mean, nothing mansion, or anything like that. But it was just a nice home. It was built in 1903. And it's still going strong.

*Well, it was almost room -- there was almost enough room for a room for every -- each one.*

Yes. But, see, the kids were at -- the older ones were grown up, you know. I mean, so they were all out working and married and there was just a few of them left home. And my grandmother had chickens, too, and.

*Your grandmother stayed at home to work.*

Oh, yes, my grandmother -- oh, God, didn't they all.

*Uh-huh.*

She was just a little tiny woman, too, with --

*What was it like around here -- what were the streets like when you were little? Or what did your father say or your grandfather say about the streets?*

Well, when I was little, we still had wooden gutters on the streets.

*On the streets.*

Yes, dirt streets. They didn't pave these around here until, oh, god, let me see. This street out here in front of the house wasn't paved here until I was -- oh, I must have been my late 20s.

*Well, now, where were these gutters? Where were they?*

Right down here on Sixth Avenue and Eighth Avenue.

*I mean, where were they on the street?*

Well, they're just like the gutters we have now, you know. Instead of having cement ones like we do now, they had gutter ones -- I mean, wooden ones.

*Uh-huh. And what was the ground like? You talked about this garbage dump being over here a ways. Were there lots of trees or bushes? How -- just what was the general --*

Oh, it was -- we didn't have many trees down here. We had a creek halfway up the hill here. They've tiled that up now. I don't know where it goes now. Into the sewer probably. And, no, there wasn't too many big trees around here. There was a few up here halfway up the block on 49<sup>th</sup>. Nelsons had some big trees and they kept it kind of like a park. But the rest of them were just, oh, kind of like shrubs.

*Did you ever see a bear?*

No. We never had bears. Not this --

*Were the Indians around here anyplace?*

No. We had no Indians.

*Did you ever go anyplace where they did have Indians? I mean, where --*

Yes, we used to over here to Indianola. You know, the tribes would, in the summertime. And we'd go over there and camp in the summertime. And the Indians would come down and put their teepees up, you know, and then they would dry their fish and their berries.

*Now, where's Indianola?*

Right across the Bay here. We used to take the old Virginia V across there, because we didn't need a car or anything. We'd just get off and walk to the cabin, and that's where we saw the Indians. In their real dress, you know. That was -- they were still Indians then. I mean, they didn't try to act like us, you know, with regular dress or anything. They wore their Indian garb.

*Yes.*

And the Indians used to sit down there on Second and Union, you know. And Second and Pike, and make their baskets.

*Oh, did they?*

Yes, in their long skirts, you know. They'd sit there on the sidewalk and weave a basket. And the babies would have been -- be in those little wooden things, you know, and with the board across them, you know. They had the slant foreheads. And they used to have the boards on the kids' heads. Now, isn't that. Gee, I haven't thought of that for a long time. But that's --

*Did you go down to the Public Market at all?*

Oh, yes, we loved to go there. Every Saturday, that was Mom and me's (sic) day to go down there. We just loved it down there. Oh, we --

*Did you shop?*

Yes, just to shop or just walk around, you know. Because the fare -- the bus fare wasn't very much. I used to get on the bus for -- we'd get school tokens for two for a nickel. Cost me 25 cents a week to ride over to Alexander Hamilton. But I'd get my -- but we'd go down there. The Indians would be sitting around, you know, on the cement, with their little papooses. Well, you had that up there, didn't you? Didn't you have a lot of Indians up around your neighborhood? Didn't they have the little papooses on their boards and?

*Well, I don't know about that. But I do know that they were very helpful to our family when my aunt was born.*

Oh, really.

*Yes, because, when they came here, my aunt was born was one week after my grandmother arrived.*

Oh.

*And this is the year that they went up there.*

Uh-huh.

*They cut down five big trees, and out of these great big trees they built their shack, furniture of these rough trees, and everything like this. And into that, one week later, my aunt was born.*

Oh, my goodness.

*And it was the Indians who helped, because there wasn't really enough milk supply or anything for the whole year. And they told them about clam nectar and all these things.*

Uh-huh.

*And so we really give the Indians some credit.*

Well, yes.

*For --*

Well, it's --

*-- helpfulness. And we're very grateful to this particular family.*

Oh.

*They're very fine.*

Oh, for goodness sakes.

*Very fine Indian family.*

Well, we had very few around here. I mean, I don't remember even seeing any, if there was any in Ballard. I don't think so. Yes, but --

*I get the impression -- you didn't have cattle. But I get the impression that there were people who had, perhaps, one cow or two cows around here. And that there were kind of pastures in some of this area. Maybe that's a little further --*

No, there wasn't any -- that was quite a few years before.

*Before you?*

Yes, uh-huh. Because I know the people, Maschinskis in back of me, they had a cow. My dad had a cow when he was a kid. And they'd stake them out, you know, or something like that. This was all trees at one time back in the 1900s. There was just trails through here. But then they logged it all off, you see.

*And if you wanted to go to somebody's house, should you know -- how would you get there? There weren't streets as we know them.*

There was trails and that was all.

*There were trails and you'd kind of wind around, would you?*

Well, I don't know how they did it. But there wasn't that many houses around here in the 1900s. They were closer into Ballard, than, you know, than around here, because there was nothing.

*All right. Now, you went to Alexander Hamilton?*

Yes, you'd better believe it.

*And after --*

You talk about a prison.

*A prison?*

You marched from room to room, the girls on one side and the boys on the other side. And you didn't look at the boys and the girls didn't -- the boys didn't look at the girls. They marched right down, boy, eyes forward. I mean, it was a -- it was a real -- the discipline was something terrific over there. It was a real -- I mean, the kids weren't tough, or anything like that. And I don't know why they made it such a disciplined place. Because it was, it was just -- and it wasn't just me either, you know. But the boys marched down one side and the girls down, class to class.

*And did you go from period to period, four different kinds of subjects, so you had to be doing that every hour?*

Yes, uh-huh. And you went on one side and they went on the other side. I've never seen anything like it. But I think it was a terrific school. I got an awful good education over there. Out of Ross -- they had very good scholastics. Very --

*You said you went from West Woodland to Ross?*

And I almost flunked in the third grade because their scholastic was so lackadaisical...

(Side B)

...mischievous. Terribly mischievous. I didn't do anything to harm anybody or anything, but I was so mischievous. My poor mother. And my dad would just laugh. You know, just -- do you have kids like that, too? That are -- well, I was that way. And I couldn't stop it. You know, I think that school was getting awful dull one day, or something like that, and I'd do something. And so --

*Like what kinds of things did you do?*

Well, I won't go into that.

*Oh.*

But I got -- when I got into high school, they decided, I guess the best thing to keep me out of mischief, was to put me on the student council.

*Oh, wonderful.*

And that's what I did. For the -- for my junior and senior year. Because see, I had done all the stuff that the kids were thinking of doing, you know. And --

*Now, where were you going to high school?*

Ballard.

*What years were those then?*

I graduated in '41.

*'41.*

Yes, uh-huh. Well, I graduated actually, the January after Pearl Harbor. And we -- at our graduation class -- our class was the last one that graduated in dresses and suits.

*Oh.*

And the -- after that, they wore the gowns. And, but we had -- we dressed in long formals.

*Any color you wanted? Just a long formal.*

They had to be pastel.

*Pastel.*

White, pink, green, blue, or yellow. You know, very soft colors. And it was --

*Well, now, you're leading up to World War II, aren't you?*

Uh-huh, yes.

*What do you remember about all this period of time?*

Because --

*Even in the schools leading up to this. Was there anything you remember?*

Well, we had a teacher at Ballard, a Mr. Taylor. And he was the most fantastic - he taught U.S. History. He was the most wonderful teacher. And he knew war was coming, you know. I mean, just by what Hitler was doing over there. He just threw the textbooks out. He said, I can't teach you in these textbooks. He says, there's nothing that is left there now, because Hitler went into Czechoslovakia, and Poland, and all these countries. So we'd bring a newspaper every day. And that had --

*Now, this teacher's name was?*

Mr. Taylor.

*Mr. Taylor.*

He was the most fantastic teacher at Ballard High School. He was just -- you just couldn't believe it. Everybody wanted to get in his class because he was that wonderful of a guy. He was an older man. He was probably up in his -- oh, I'd say, late 50s, 60s. Just a fantastic guy. There was just certain teachers that I picked out, you know.

Then we had an English teacher up there, Miss Mann. She hated us, and -- the senior class that was in sports. I mean, she just -- she'd flunk us all if she could. Well, she didn't flunk us, because we all passed our tests. Oh, she was a tyrant.

It's too bad that they let people like that teach, that they don't screen them. But in those days, they couldn't get anybody on account of war was coming up. And they needed all these teachers. So, anyhow.

*Well, I mean, what was so difficult about?*

She didn't like anybody that could -- went into football, baseball, or any kind of sports.

*Oh.*

She thought that was a waste of time. And I was in all that stuff. I mean, I was a cheerleader at Ballard. I was a -- I played baseball. I played soccer. I played -- and I got my letters.

*Did a lot of girls get letters?*

Oh, yes, there was quite a few of us down there. The Boitanos.

*Did they go to school with you?*

Oh, yes. Lena and Gloria and Johnny Boitano. He used to -- he was a coach over there at Garfield for years. And well, we all played together. I mean, we all played sports together.

*Uh-huh.*

And I'd -- I just had a fantastic time. I mean, I just I didn't keep my subjects -- I wasn't -- I was doing great in school, because I loved it. I never played hooky. I was one of these kids that like school. So mischievous as I was, I still liked school.

*Well, now, did you have a girls' athletic association, or something that you earned these letters through?*

Yes, we -- you had to do so much sports after school, so many hours. Then you got your big B, you know, and bought -- put that on a sweater. I'm telling --

*Oh, you had -- what did you have, sweaters then?*

Yes, we had black sweaters with a red B. And then we had the chevrons for so many years, for each year that you were in sports.

*You'd get another chevron?*

Uh-huh. Yes.

*That was the popular thing then, to wear those sweaters, school sweaters?*

Oh, yes. And if we'd want to torment this one teacher, we would all wear our big B sweater, our black sweater with the B on it. There we were all sitting in class that one day and there we were. Isn't that -- I mean, kids can be terrible.

But as I say, she shouldn't have been teaching. She was too old. She didn't understand the new generation. It was just -- at that time the kids were just coming out of their shell, where everything mom and dad said was right. We didn't have any mind of our own. Did you go through that, too?

*I thought my parents were pretty wise.*

Oh, my parents were, too. I never contradicted them or anything. I mean, I think they were very, very wise. But most -- see the kids were beginning to get out of their shell. And, well, it was beginning of war. We even had -- at graduation, we even had six sailors in their uniforms.

*Six of the members of the class were in --*

Were in the Navy.

*In the graduation ceremony?*

Yes. Six of them, yes. Isn't that something?

*Oh, I think so.*

Yes.

*Well, now, how did they do that then? They -- when --*

Their ship was still here in Seattle.

*So they were here -- around here, so they could --*

Yes, uh-huh. Bremerton or Seattle or something. Their ship was out here, anyhow. Yes, they came to graduation in uniform. Isn't that cute?

*Oh, I think so.*

Oh, I think that's wonderful. Yes, so anyhow, we had quite a -- I think that year graduated -- see, I graduated January. So then I went -- I had been working at Boeings. See, we could work -- when you were 16, you could work four hours a night after school. So I worked at Boeings for four hours after I was through school at three o'clock.

*Starting at age 16?*

Yes.

*Uh-huh.*

But I had to be 16. And Boeings took us on at 16, and we could work four hours a night.

*Well, now, you weren't a senior then? You were a sophomore?*

Uh-huh. I was 16, yes. But they allowed us to go down there and work. And then after war broke out, I after I became 18, well, then we could work full time. We were allowed to work those four hours.

*Do you remember anything else about the war?*

Oh --

*What about -- what did you have to do, like in your house?*

Oh, we had blackouts. I mean, we had to put -- we -- before you could open a door, you had to turn your lights out. And all your windows were black. You know, we had a watchman, you know, these defense watchmen that would walk up and down the block at night. And they'd say, Pete, close that door. Yell at my dad, you know. Close your door; we can see your light. And --

*Were these people that were hired by the police department, or were they people from the community?*

Oh, no, no. It was people that lived around here.

*Uh-huh.*

We all went to these meetings, you know. Because we had to take turns at this.

*So everybody might be a kind of a night --*

Yes, anybody could be out there.

*-- patrol.*

That had time. You know, I mean, that didn't work nights, because I was working swing shift and graveyard. And, but, and then we'd have that siren blowing. That air raid siren. Oh, that was horrible.

*What were you supposed to do when that happened?*

Well, you were supposed to go to a shelter, but we had no shelters around here. Just trying us out to see if we would obey. I suppose we could go to our basement or something.

*But if you didn't have one then you'd have to go to a neighbor?*

I suppose so. But they would -- every Wednesday -- was it every Wednesday afternoon or something like that, they'd blow this air raid siren. And all the traffic would stop. But it was --

And then I can remember the ships coming in that had been blown by the Japs, you know. Like the big Enterprise. She kept -- I was -- in the summertime I would take my blanket and go to sleep on the beach down there, down near Golden Gardens. You know, because it was nice and warm, you know. And I'd sleep for a while, and then I'd go home.

But that morning I saw this ship coming in. And it was the big Enterprise. She had a hole in her. Well, from where I could see, it was as big as this house. See, the Japanese submarines would use to sit out here at the San Juan Islands, waiting for our ships to come out. But she had been blown up down there in -- I don't know, in the islands down -- there's some Christmas Islands or something like that. We used to --

*Well, now, it would come in?*

Through the Bay here and go up to Bremerton.

*And go to Bremerton?*

Yes, uh-huh. Uh-huh, yes. Didn't you ever see that?

*I didn't see that. We had -- every night at four o'clock, the Air Force base would have their -- we did the (inaudible) kind of truck -- what do you call those things would go by. And there's -- I don't know, 20, 30 --*

Tanks or?

*Well, all that. Whatever the equipment was.*

Yes.

*They would go by at four o'clock every day.*

Where was this at?

*You know, as part of -- near Blaine.*

Oh, yes, near the border. Oh. And then they had trains coming through Seattle here. 115 cars on it, down here by Golden Gardens. We'd sit there down at the beach and count them.

*And were servicemen on those trains or?*

No, that was supplies.

*Supplies?*

Yes.

*Going to different places.*

Come out here to get send over to the Pacific. See, they were bringing them out here for ships.

*Uh-huh.*

And I can remember the day that they took the Japanese out of Seattle. Oh, what happened was -- it was real -- it was -- they had to have two sets of soldiers down there. One to hold us off, then to hold the Japanese, you know, into the train, to push them into the train and so.

*One set for the Japanese and one set for everybody else.*

Uh-huh, uh-huh. Yes, they had bayonets and everything.

*Bayonets?*

Uh-huh. Oh, yes. Because we were down there. My uncle had -- took moving pictures of it. And he -- you know, he's still got them. They're pretty -- not very good, but you can see what's. But they were. We had to -- but that was the only way we could save the Japanese people. Because we felt it more out here, on the coast, and in California and Oregon, because of so many of our boys from here were in the Philippines, and in all the islands over there. See, I mean, we had a lot of guys in the Seventh Division go over there, into the Pacific, and were taken prisoner.

*But you mean, you stayed -- to save our Japanese people, what did you mean by that?*

They had to put them in internment camps to save them. Because if people were so bitter here -- I mean --

*At the Japanese?*

Oh, yes, they were so bitter. So uptight. We would have had an out and out war right in the United -- in Seattle.

*Uh-huh. Did you have quite a few Japanese here in Ballard?*

We had one, a family that owned the greenhouses up here on 65<sup>th</sup>. And the girl was not well liked. She was a very -- oh, the rest of the family was fine. But she was very radical. Very Japanese, you know what I mean. She believed when the Japs attacked us, that was the right thing to do.

Well, they -- she came to school the day after Pearl Harbor, and how she ever had the nerve, I'll never know. And the FBI came and got her. Well, they had to. We'd have killed her. Because she said that that was our fault. And oh, God, she was just really ranting and raving and everything. And her family wasn't -- I don't know what happened to her. I really don't know. But they had to take those Japanese out of here, for their own safety. People don't believe in that. I mean, I know it's wrong. But --

*That is probably why some of the Japanese I know do not have the bitterness that others have.*

Yes.

*Maybe they are aware of that.*

Yes, if they would just think. Now, when I worked with City Light. I had a crew now. I really had a -- in the outfit at night, I had one Japanese, I had one Korean, I had one Filipino, and I had one Chinese. Now, if you don't think we had -- got into some knockdown, drag out fights.

*Was this during the war?*

No, this was just --

*Later.*

Just in the last few years.

*Uh-huh, that's*

Before I retired. Because see, those three countries were all invaded and conquered by the Japanese. They were nice to her. Oh, heck, she was born here. You know what I mean.

*Uh-huh.*

In Montana. But still, they still had a resentment there, an awful resentment. Because they -- what they did to those three countries over there. But the -- as they say -- well, they said, well, why didn't you do it with the Germans? Well, I can remember the Germans being on curfew.

*Here, during World War II?*

Yes, because my uncle -- Now, he lived in Oakland at that time. But up here it was the same way.

*California?*

Yes, Oakland, California. And he was a locksmith. And he put the locks on all the safes on the battleships and all -- on all the warships and everything. But he was a German citizen. He had a curfew of eight o'clock. He had to be off the streets. But they had to keep him out in the open because he did all this (inaudible) jobs, for the government. Oh, he loved this country anyhow, I mean. But --

*Germany.*

Yes. He loved United States, just --

*Oh, loved the United States?*

Oh, he did. And after the war, then he became a citizen. I don't know why he never became one earlier. But he had -- he was on a curfew. And they were here, too. On some of them. Not as strict as they were in San Francisco and Oakland. But as I say, the -- I know that it was hard on the Japanese, but by gosh, I mean, there was so -- the bitterness here was terrible.

I can remember, you know, we always -- you know, they took all that metal over to Japan, you know. And anybody who lived here in Seattle knew they were going to come back as bullets. We knew as early as '39 there was going to be a war. When, we didn't know.

But anyhow, the last ship from Seattle left and I was -- as it left, everybody was saying, that will be coming back as bullets. That was just before Pearl Harbor. It never made it over there. They turned it around and sent back. They never made it to Japan.

*The scrap.*

Yes, they sent back here, yes.

*But all this -- during this time, you were working at Boeing?*

Yes, and it was real, real rough. They would send the B-17s back. See most of the B-17s were in Germany, or in England. And they flew to Germany and France and all that. And they would send some of the planes back to be repaired. And it was real, real -- we really knew what was going on then. When we -- you know, the blood and everything, you know, and the bullet holes and stuff like that, yes.

Yes, but Seattle was a real -- you know, the people in the middle west did not realize this. They did not realize, only when their sons were drafted, that there was a war going on. They didn't believe it. We were rationed as all get out up here. That was something, with the stamps and --

*What kinds of things were rationed?*

Your meat, your sugar, shoes. Let me see, what else?

*Butter?*

We couldn't get butter. We had all kinds of milk and stuff that I remember. No, we didn't have any butter. But you know, the funny part about it, my husband was -- we were stationed in San Antonio, Texas, at Fort Sam Houston down there. And they were just crying that they wished they could send the meat out. They had so much meat on hand down there. And we couldn't buy it up here. I could eat T-bone steaks three times a day down there.

*So in all of this time, you got married?*

Yes.

*Right?*

Uh-huh.

*When did you get married?*

'42 -- '43.

'43.

Yes.

*That was two years out of high school. You were about 20?*

Uh-huh. Well, that was the thing to do in those days.

*Well, now, did you marry a serviceman?*

Yes, uh-huh, yes.

*And so did you have a honeymoon, or what?*

No. Maybe I'd see him, maybe once in six weeks. But, I mean, we stayed in San Antonio until. And then we came out --

*Did you meet him up here though?*

I met him through my sister. Her husband was in the service.

*Oh, uh-huh.*

And I went to visit her. And met him down in California. Married in Texas.

But we were stationed at San Antonio, and then they gave orders that they were going to the Pacific. So then they sent us out to Indio, California. Then, from Indio, I came home because they were ready to ship out. Well, they didn't ship them to the Pacific. They shipped them to Germany. Here they had all this training for the Pacific, so they sent them to Germany. Or I mean to England, then Germany. But we went out of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, or out of -- we lived in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, until he went overseas. So I've been around. I --

*And then you came back --*

Here.

*-- back to Seattle after the war?*

Yes, we came back to Seattle. Then he was killed in the Korean War in '51.

*He had a service job for a lifetime, did he?*

No, he was not going to stay in. And he -- they needed him, I guess, because the Korean War was coming up. And so they called him back in again. So that's when he was -- he was killed then, in '51.

*Now, he was here for a while, though?*

Yes, we were stationed here at Fort Lewis. And then I came back to Seattle. And I've been here ever since.

*And this is your father's home, the home you grew up in?*

Yes, uh-huh. But we had an apartment -- we lived in an apartment over on 62<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, right by Adams School. You know where Adams is?

Yes.

Yes, well, just a block from there. And my kids went to Adams. And then when my kids grew up and got married, moved away, and my mother died, my dad couldn't take care of the big house, so I moved in with him. Back into the same old neighborhood again, where I was born. Born and raised.

*What did -- how did you like the Adams area?*

I liked it very much. I liked the people --

*Do you remember anything about taking your children to school?*

It was a very -- oh, what do I want to say? A very progressive, very go-getter school, you know. They were all out for the kids. They would have field days, they would have May Day, where every kid in the school square danced. It was beautiful to see them out there on the field.

*Well, now, this is about what time? 1940?*

Oh, no.

'50?

It was 1950 -- in the '50s. Yes, because my oldest girl graduated in '62, and '65 from Ballard, see. Or '66 from Ballard. So it must have been the 50s. And they were really gung-ho for getting the kids to do things, you know. And the kids did

it. We had carnival in October, the end of October. That was fantastic. You couldn't believe it.

*What did you do at the carnival?*

Oh, we had booths and --

*Booths? Booze?*

Booths where we could --

*Booths.*

I went down to Ace Novelty and on consignment they would give us -- let us have all these things to sell and prizes, and what we didn't sell, we'd bring them back. And we had baked goods there. And we had --

*Well, did you have cakewalks or?*

Oh, we had -- I can't remember if we had a cakewalk. But they were just -- everything was --

*Did you have a good music program over there?*

We didn't have an auditorium, but we had a very good musical program. We -- when they gave their Christmas concert, as you say, we would have it in the hall, because we had no place to give it. The parents would sit at one end, and the kids would sit up at the other end. It was just --

*Well, did you have a lot of groups singing then? Sing the carols or something?*

Yes, uh-huh. They were just -- I can't say enough about Adams, how everybody -- the parents and everybody just got together and did everything. It was a real family-orientated school.

*Well, were the parents working then?*

They were working.

*But they --*

But they would do it after school.

*But they would still really participate with their children?*

Oh, they did. I've never seen anything like it. And then we -- I was head of the -- to get the kids shots, you know, and measure them, you know. And I never had any trouble getting parents to help me. Never. They were just beautiful down at that school. What are they going to do it with it now?

*I don't know.*

Will they make a national monument out of it?

*I don't know.*

I don't know what they're going to do. They said something -- because people are just up at arms because they want to tear it down or something or other or get rid of it. They had -- the teachers were so for the students that they came out of there beautiful students. They knew what they were talking about, the kids. Because the teachers were all gung-ho. They were really.

*Did they think it was important to have good handwriting?*

One of my daughters came out beautiful. My other one is Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Washington and writes like the devil. You know? But, I mean, they worked on it, but I mean, I don't think it was that important. It was a -- all your scholastics. Oh, they were just --

*Good mathematicians.*

Oh, yes. They were very, very good over there. They just really came out of there knowing what they were doing.

*Did they expect them to know their facts in arithmetic?*

Well, they had -- they really went through their arithmetic.

*And the children --*

Oh, and their fractions and stuff like that. I had to go back to school. When my kids were getting into junior high and high school, it was getting a little expensive,

you know. On an army pension, you don't get that much, see. So I decided I'd go to the community college. That's where I finished up learning computers and stuff like that. And I'd bring my homework home, and my kids would help me. Because I'd forgotten my fractions. You know how to do things like that.

*Oh, but you picked it up again soon quickly, I'm sure.*

Oh, sure.

*(Inaudible).*

But anyhow, it was just lots of fun. They got a big kick out of -- we'd sit around the dining room table, you know, and do my homework. But Adams was a terrific school. And so was Loyal Heights and so was Whittier. Those three schools really came out with --

*Do you remember any teachers in particular at Adams?*

Gosh, no. There was one sixth grade teacher that was just -- she was -- she had the outstanding students. Now, let me see, what was her name. They gave her the ones that were above average.

*So they divided the children with high, medium, and low?*

Yes, uh-huh. Now, jeez, what was her name. I can't remember any more. But she was just great. And then our principal was nice, Mr. Erikson. I can't remember her name. There was Miss Dahl there. I can't -- isn't that funny, I can't remember the names. Oh, it's been a long time ago.

*Surely.*

Yes. But just some, you know -- but as I say, Adams was a real --

*Now, there's another thing that they had and they might have had it when you went to school, too. It's banking day.*

Oh, yes.

*Did you have banking, too?*

Oh, yes. We had banking once a week.

*Once a week.*

We had our little bankbooks, and we'd take a nickel or a penny or a dime, put it in our bankbook. And we'd have an account down there at Washington Mutual Bank.

*Nice idea (inaudible).*

Oh, I think it was great for the kids to learn how to save their money and see how it would get -- you know, they'd add it all up and, oh, my, I've got a dollar.

*Concentration on doing this kind of thing instead of just spending it.*

Spending, yes. I forgot all about that. Isn't that something. So, yes, we had that all the way through grade school. I don't think we had it in junior high.

*I don't know that it was (inaudible).*

I don't think so.

*Well, there's another thing though, now. You know, during World War II they sold war savings stamps. Remember that?*

Yes, they had bonds.

*And bonds. You'd buy the stamps and then you'd buy the bonds. Did you go through that program.*

Yes, you want to see some?

*Oh.*

Oh, good Lord. See.

*You have it -- right here you've got one. Two of them.*

Uh-huh.

*You'd buy these stamps?*

Yes. You bought those through the post office.

*It's 1941, it says.*

Yes.

*You'd buy them through the post office here in Seattle?*

Yes, uh-huh.

*Could you buy them at school?*

I don't -- Well, see, I was out of school by that time.

*You were out of school.*

Yes. I don't remember --

*See we bought them at school.*

Oh, you bought them --

*And then when we got -- we had bought --*

So many.

*Weren't there books of --*

I'd --

*You'd work towards \$25 bonds or \$50 bonds or \$100 bonds or something like that?*

Yes, but they were only \$18.75, you see, for your \$25 bonds.

*Uh-huh.*

That's all you had to have.

*But if you, you know, didn't have much money, you could buy -- take ten cents or whatever the stamp was worth and buy that much.*

Yes, uh-huh.

*I think we could buy, like one stamp at a time and then we'd go home and put it in our little book.*

Yes.

*(inaudible) little books, weren't there (inaudible) there?*

See, I was out of school by that time.

*Uh-huh. But --*

And I don't remember.

*But, now, did you -- so you could go to the -- where did you go to buy these?*

Post office.

*The post office.*

Yes, uh-huh.

*And you could buy these bonds, just like you can buy bonds now.*

Yes, you could buy them in the banks. I've got some bonds here down at the safe deposit box because they're so brittle that they would -- you know, if you touched them too much, they'd just crumble. And I got them back in '42 and '43, when they were having the war -- you know, the bond drive. You know, the movie stars would come up to Boeings and --

*Oh, they did?*

Oh, yes. Lana Turner came up there. Oh, I can remember, she was the most gorgeous thing. And she was selling bonds. And they'd have a big rally, you know. Everything like that. We had our bonds taken out of our paycheck. You know, every paycheck, we'd have an \$18.75 bond taken out of it. Yes. Gosh, the things that you don't remember anymore. But anyhow, that's those little bonds for those. Well, is there anything else you want to know?

*Let's see. I think we've covered a lot of things here.*

Oh, my.

*We didn't go down the list, but we --*

Well, we got kind of sidetracked, didn't we, every once in a while. I could remember when the old Arizona was sitting out here in the Bay. That was before Pearl Harbor. It was -- in June we always had Fleet Week. Did you ever hear of, see our Fleet Week?

They'd bring the big battleships and destroyers and oh, just any kind of a ship, you know. We had seven of them sitting out there. Seven battleships. The most gorgeous sight you ever saw. Then they would take us out in their little -- they had a little powered boats to take us out and we could tour the different --

*Now, this is what? About what year?*

'41. June of '41 was the last time she was out here. But I remember the Arizona, the Pennsylvania, the New York, California. There was seven big battleships out there. And then in December they -- you know, they were hit pretty bad.

*Of that year?*

Uh-huh, that same year, uh-huh. Well, we had a bunch of soldiers come back from China, American soldiers. And they were called the Can-Do Outfit. And that was in October of '41. And they had come back from the Orient. And they said before the year is out, we will be in war with Japan.

*They'd come from China. Did they come back through Japan, too?*

No, they wouldn't come through -- I imagine they came through Honolulu, because they came back by troop ships. But they landed out here at the pier out here, down there by the Coast Guard -- where the Coast Guard ships are now. The icebreakers, is where they brought the troop ships in. But they kept saying -- you'd talk to the guys on the street or they'd talk to you and they said -- and that was in October, and they said before the year is out, we'll be at war.

See, the Japs were in China then, you remember. Really raping the country. Now, they wouldn't have gotten such a foothold in China -- I've read an awful lot of books on this stuff -- if Chang Kai-Chek and Mao had fought together instead of against each other. Chang Kai-Chek was chasing Mao all over the countryside. If they would have combined their troops, Japan would have never got such a

foothold. I don't know if you've read much on your -- but they -- see, they fought against each other. I like history anyhow. I --

*Uh-huh. Well, I think you went through it at quite an interesting time of history, too.*

Uh-huh. And we used to have, when I was a little girl -- we used to have the hoboies come up from the rail. You know, they'd ride the rails into Interbay over here, and they'd camp underneath the embankments over there.

*At Interbay?*

At Interbay. And they would come around looking for jobs, you know, like cutting wood, or mowing lawn, or something like that. Well, Momma -- and for a meal. So Momma would give them a little job. And then she would -- then she'd give them a meal. Always very thankful. Very, very lovely men. They wouldn't hurt you for nobody. But they always left a mark on the fence where the other hoboies could see it.

*And this is the place you could get some food. Isn't --*

Get a job.

*Uh-huh. You'd get a job for food.*

For food. Uh-huh. But you'd have to work for it, you know. I mean, whatever Momma assigns you to.

*Now, this is around -- in the late 1920s?*

Oh, no, must have -- it must have been in the early '30s when they did that. But I remember the hoboies coming up. They never bothered anybody. Do you remember Hooverville? Ooh, you -- did you ever hear about Hooverville?

*Tell me about it.*

Oh, I've got to tell you about that. They -- all these guys were out of work. I mean, it was just desperate. And they built these shacks down there.

*Now, where was Hooverville?*

Hooverville was down on the waterfront. They -- I don't exactly know where it is now. I mean, I was only, you know, when you're 13, 14 years old.

Well, anyhow, they built these shacks out of wood, paper -- or I mean, out of cardboard. They had a real village down there, all those men. And they had walks between the houses, you know, that you could go. And some of them were just darling. And you could go down there. Even when we were kids we could go down there, 13, 14, 15 years old. We could go down there. And they'd invite you in for a cup of cocoa. You see, what they --

*Now, were these families or what?*

No, men.

*Just single men.*

Just single men that had been riding the rails. You know, you can't do that today. Look at the difference of how we live today. You'd -- they'd probably killed you or raped you or something or other, you know what I mean. And in those days, that was the farthest thing from their mind. Most of them were -- had been farmers. And they didn't have any money. They went broke. So they started riding the rails to see the country or get the job here or there, wherever they could.

*Just to subsist.*

Yes. And they were -- a lot of them were fathers, husbands.

*Now, what happened about, you know, women. What happened to the men if the men didn't support their wives? Do you know what happened to them?*

No, nothing. The women could -- they stayed home and they'd take in washing, they'd clean house. We had a lot of women around here that did housework, you know, for a few pennies a day or whatever they could get out of it. But there was no men around. The men were riding the rails, I guess. I don't know.

*Now, was this more so after the Depression?*

After the Depression, yes. Well, you remember the CCC camps, don't you?

*I know they were.*

Yes. And that was -- that, I think, would be a very good thing for today. They were men from all over the United States. And they'd put them in -- you know, they'd sign up for the CCC, you know, and I don't know how much money they gave them. I have no idea. But they got their food and their bed. And maybe they were -- now, like Saltwater Park. Have you been out to Saltwater Park?

*Uh-huh.*

All right. They built Saltwater Park. They used to have trails through those woods up there. I don't know if they still do. But the CCC camp up there, just made a beautiful park out of it.

And they went around doing things. You know, they'd put a CCC camp someplace where they were needed in the woods just to put them to work. And I think that's a fantastic idea. Because there's so many of these young fellows they could do that with now. Do they have a program like that, you know?

*In other words, you feel that it's much better if they -- for whatever they get, they've done something for it so they have -- instead of just being handed this.*

Don't you think that they have more pride?

*In themselves.*

Yes. I think so, too. Instead of just giving them all this welfare. Now, you know, when I'm driving down the highway and seeing all this garbage on the highway, I know there are -- some few of them are picking it up, but I think those people -- those men, especially, those young men that are on welfare, should be able to go out there and clean our highways. Do work like that, and I think they would have more pride in themselves if they could just do a little work. That's my idea anyhow. It's just -- I think when you hand them a check for money, and food stamps, that's the wrong thing to do. I think they should -- did you ever try to get anybody to come and wash windows, mow your grass, wash walls. They don't want to do that.

*Do you feel that many people during these years that you've grown up, did not always do the job that they wanted to do most, but they took a job just to have a job, even if they dug ditches?*

Yes.

*They'd have more of a pride in themselves because they had earned this.*

I think so. I think we would have less drinking. I think there'd be less drugs. Because they would have a -- something that -- a glow in them or something. I've done something for my money. I wasn't handed all this money just to sit.

Well, anyhow. As I say, my -- when my husband was killed, I was left with two little girls, seven and four. I got a pension check from the VA, and I also got my Social Security. Not much, but I mean, I never went on welfare, never even thought of going on welfare. It never even entered my mind. I'd house clean. I dog sat. I baby-sat until I wanted to scream. I washed windows.

*You did all of it yourself.*

That's right. And it was -- it made me feel good.

*You gained a sense of value for things instead of having it all handed to you.*

That's right. My parents were very good to me. I mean, they would take my girls and let me take off for a couple of days, or something like that. But myself, I did all this work, and it didn't hurt me one bit. Not one bit. And after my kids got to a certain age, well, they'd do the same thing. They'd go out and baby-sit.

*Not only did you do your job, but there was a pride in doing it well.*

Uh-huh.

*Whatever it was.*

I lived over here in the Lock Haven Apartments for a long, long time. And I had such a baby-sitting clientele that you can't believe. Because we had a bunch of people that came out from New York and Brooklyn and around that area to work at Boeings as engineers. And they had to entertain a lot. And they had to party a lot, you know, go out. And I'd have four families. We put the babies -- the kids all in these four apartments at the end of the building there, and I'd make my rounds at night. And my girls were big enough --

*Now, this is after your husband passed away?*

Yes, uh-huh. But I -- and I'd get up the next morning and I'd still baby-sit.

*Now, were you working at Boeings at that time, too?*

No, no.

*You were just -- you stayed home.*

I figured my kids needed me more. So I had to cut down on a few things. It didn't hurt us. We always had plenty of food on the table. Sometimes we got tired of eating, you know, certain things. But it went a long ways. And I think my kids today, especially my youngest one, is very clever with money. Very, very clever.

*Now we'll go back to some entertainments they did have in Ballard. Do you remember the theaters in Ballard?*

Oh, yes. We had the Bagdad and we had the Roxy, was it. Where the Bay is now.

*It wasn't the Bay then?*

No, no, no. Now, the fellow that runs that, or owns that theater, used to be the manager back 40 years ago. And he -- I don't know if he owns that.

*The one that's right there now?*

At the little -- The Bay, yes. Uh-huh. And then the Bagdad used to be down there where -- let me see, what's in there now? Is there a shoe store in there? Kelly's Shoe Store. I don't know. There's a shoe store in there. That's where the old Bagdad used to be.

*Oh, right where --*

What is it? Used to be Kress's Dime Store, or Woolworth's. And then there was another -- and that was the building in there.

*And Olson's, the apparel.*

Yes.

*Right next to it is that shoe store. And I think that's all that shoe store now.*

Well, anyhow, that's just about the territory. Then we had the West Woodland -- the Woodland Theater up here on 65<sup>th</sup> and Fifth, Sixth, someplace in there. But that was the three theaters.

*Did they have --*

There was also a lot more on Ballard Avenue when my dad was, you know, but I don't remember them.

*Did you ever hear anything special about those theaters? I mean, what did they do at them? Did they just have movies?*

Ooh, well, on one night a week we had -- we went there and had -- they gave plates away.

*Plates?*

Oh, yes, that was during the Depression, you know. Everybody went to the show, you know, that night. When they gave stuff away like that, you know. Or they'd draw names.

*Where'd they get the plates?*

I don't know. But I was just a little girl then. But I remember them going to the Baghdad. Oh, that was a going thing. You know, everybody showed up.

*Well, did you ever win anything?*

I don't remember if we did or not. But it was fun, you know, to go to those things. If, you know --

*Did they ever -- did they have fortune tellers?*

No, I don't remember that. No, I don't remember any fortune tellers, no. But it was -- Well, if you want to go to a for --

*Did they have style shows?*

No. Not that I -- I can't remember if they did. I probably wasn't interested at that time anyhow.

*Uh-huh. It's interesting. I hadn't heard about plates. I've heard about groceries.*

Well, it seemed --

*I heard something about furniture.*

Well, maybe I'm wrong in the plates, but it seems like dishes.

*Well, that's very likely, too. Dishes (inaudible).*

I can think of dishes and why I think of that, I don't know.

*Probably people had to have dishes during those times, too.*

Yes. Oh, but we went to -- and everybody was -- it was a community. Everybody was working together during those years when everything was so hard. Everybody was such good friends with everybody.

*All the nationalities, too.*

Yes, it didn't matter who we were.

*Finally.*

You know, it was just great. Now, you know we had some Negroes here, the blacks in Ballard. Now I want to tell you, they -- we had the Smiths and we had the Spearmans. And what was Rosie's name? But we had four or five black families here in Ballard that were so well thought of, because they were the pioneers.

*They were some of the pioneers?*

When they came here, I do not know. Grandma Smith lived on 57<sup>th</sup> between 14<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, I think it was. She lived in a great big house there and her granddaughter and her daughter lived with her and the grandson, Refina and Kenny Smith, and Mrs. Smith.

*Are they still living around here?*

I don't know if they -- I imagine Grandma is dead.

*Uh-huh.*

But do you know something? I would go up there and stay overnight with Refina. I mean, she was as black as black could be. I mean, she was -- you know, you've seen a black. Well, Refina and Kenny were black. Their mother had so much white blood in her that she passed for a white. But I'd go up there and have dinner with them. And she'd come down here.

*And there wasn't any feeling towards you from the rest of the community because you did that?*

No, no. And when Eve Carnall (phonetic) lived up here on 50<sup>th</sup>, just off Eighth Avenue, and I was the last in the line of the kids going to Ballard. And I'd start out at a certain time. I'd stop and pick up Eve. Then we'd walk up another couple blocks and pick up two or three more kids. Well, then by the time we'd hit 57<sup>th</sup>, there was Refina waiting for us. And she was in the gang just like you wouldn't believe.

*Were they good ball players?*

No.

*So many of them are.*

Now, Izetta Spearman's brother, Arthur, was.

(End of tape.)