

ANNE GERBER

SEATTLE WASHINGTON

FOR

THE SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY

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JonLee: Today is the fourteenth of December 2000. I'm interviewing Anne Gerber, for the fragment of a story. We're live!

Anne Gerber: I don't remember specifically how old I was. But, I was very, very young. When my mother used to take me on Saturday. Every Saturday we went to the Public Market, to buy our groceries – fresh food for the next week, with my little brother. And there they were! Oh, not very many, maybe two, three, four sitting on a blanket, on the boardwalk. I think you corrected me. Because I remember it as cement, but it wasn't correct.

JonLee: It was probably a boardwalk.

Anne Gerber: Yup! Selling baskets. And my Mother barely had enough money to buy food. So, we never got to buy a basket. But they were --- I was very impressed! With them, because quite a few people stopped to buy them.

JonLee: Did you look at the baskets? Do you remember being able to look?

Anne Gerber: Oh, I wasn't very, you know, at that age of five, six or seven. I couldn't absorb it.

JonLee: Okay.

Anne Gerber: I just knew that they were baskets! I felt the texture.

JonLee: Thank you. Thank you. Is there anything else you'd want to talk about from that time? Shopping in the Market, or, since you were just a kid, you might not remember a great deal.

Anne Gerber: Well, the great thing that occurs to me, is that when my grandfather came to visit us. That was... he only made one visit. They lived in Chicago. My Mother took him on the shopping trip, with us two little kids, with bags. And he didn't say "Boo." He just went right along. But that night at the dinner table, he wanted to make an announcement, that

we were never to do that again. It was too strenuous! (Laughs). That was kind of nice, wasn't it?

JonLee: Was that your Mother's Father?

Anne Gerber: My Father's Father.

JonLee: And so, what happened after that?

Anne Gerber: We shopped at the local supermarket. We lived on Phinney Ridge. I can't remember the intersection. And, every Saturday we walked up there. (Laughs).

JonLee: So, that was the end of your Marketing?

Anne Gerber: That was the end of my young Market. And then later on, when my Grandfather wasn't there. She didn't need to worry about it. And, she didn't. (Laughs).

We each had our own bag, and we knew where we were going. We could carry in it as much as we needed to.

JonLee: So, you did go back to the Market? (Pike Street Market). Thank you. Anne, I've known you a number of years. We did tape record some stories, a couple of years ago. But this fragment, I had never heard, until recently from you. And so, I didn't want to miss having it on tape. Thank you very much.

Anne Gerber: It was only a little mite, but it was nice for me to remember!

JonLee: Well, you're one of the few people I've ever met, who remembers the (Indian) ladies selling baskets on First Avenue. So, that's what's important. Thank you.

