

IN: 00:56:09;23 D

OUT: 00:58:11;21 D

DUR: 00:02:01;28 D

## Comments:

I: Would you each, starting with Ada, would you say "Hello, I am--" and give your full name?

A: (two shot) Uh, my name is Ada Woodhouse Hallberg. I have no middle name. Mother didn't give either of her daughters middle names because she thought they were unnecessary. And uh, I was born in Seattle in August 1924 in Swedish Hospital and uh, then I came home from Swedish Hospital to uh, a house that my Grandfather Bowden (? Sp. "Boh-den") had built and that was at 2613 Marine Avenue SW. Marine Avenue is a little street. ( in to close up) It has uh, just one block on each side of it and it is between 58th and 59th off of Alki Avenue. I have to explain that so you don't think I live on Marine View Drive SW, which is not where I live. But, uh, I had a, would you like me to continue to tell you about my family? Because I have a, an older brother 5 years older and a sister 5 years younger. And we all lived together with my grandmother, Grandma Bowden, whose name was Ada Bowden. And she was my mother's uh, mother. She had uh, she and her husband, uh, were pioneers and they were married in uh, Tacoma about 1889. And my mother was born in Seattle in 1891. They didn't stay here, uh, for a long time at that point. Because when their daughter was about 4 or 5 they went back East to raise her in Cleveland, Ohio and then they returned to Seattle and my mother was married to my father, John Woodhouse. John Woodhouse was a pioneer also.

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Tape: Hallberg, Tape 1

Tracks:

IN: 00:58:10;12 D

OUT: 01:00:53;27 D

DUR: 00:02:43;15 D

Comments:

I: Ada, would you tell that story about how your father was a forrester and he knew all these kinds of jobs and your mother's family didn't quite think he was good enough for her and that courtship. Could you tell some of that, please?

A: Yeah, when my mother went back East with her family, she was raised in a, a rather cultured manner and was the only child. She was raised to be uh, a concert pianist. And uh, she returned here when she was 18 years old and took up an acquaintance with a person who had been the son of friends, pioneer friends, of her mother and father. So it was, they knew the family of John Woodhouse, John Woodhouse's father was a pioneer as were his several brothers. And John was uh, raised here in the Northwest and was a true Northwern, Northwesterner. He worked in the woods and was a lumber man for a while. He was a member of the Wobblies, which was a union, uh, you may, people who live here for many years know who the Wobblies were because they were very active, uh, in putting unions in, in establishing unions. But he also was a prize fighter. A uh, I've forgotten. He was not the heavy weight. He was a light weight, that's uh, a light weight prize fighter and he also took uh, boats up the Duwamish River. Later to Alaska. But he and my mother in 1909, when mother came out here, was the Alaska Pacific Exposition, and uh, they fell in love. Mother never exactly said, "We fell in love." But she said, "Well, John wanted me to marry him, John Woodhouse, and uh, I told him I would not marry him unless he went to the University." Well, you know, he came from from this background I described and going to the University was something that hadn't occurred to him. But he did do that and he became a pharmacist. George Batrtell was their neighbor, was John Woodhouse family neighbor. Uh, and so John had been an errand boy for Bartell, and maybe that's why he decided to become a pharmacist. And then they lived here the rest of their lives, uh, at 2613 Marine Avenue. And that's where I grew up. I went to college, uh, after growing up in, in Alki. But I retained all of my Alki friends. And a great love for, for Alki, though I had a very good life after that, too, for a while when I wasn't here.

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Tape: Hallberg, Tape 1

Tracks:



IN: 01:00:59;06 D

OUT: 01:05:33;21 D

DUR: 00:04:34;13 D

## Comments:

I: Bob, would you introduce yourself and tell about how some of the ancestry of your family, how you did the Dash Point and how you came to West Seattle and please tell the story of the Admiral Way viewing of the water for the first time.

B:(close up) Okay. Um, My name is Bob Hallberg and um, I'm actually Robery M. Hallberg, the third. But my uh, Daddy and Mother, uh, came here in, uh, different fashion after the first World War. My father uh, got a job with Milwaukee Railroad and he worked for uh, he was a secretary for a vice president of the road that was uh, always, or most of the year, on the road. He was in charge of uh, track maintenance and, and bridges, tunnels, all the, the line. And whenever there was an accident or disaster on the railroad, this vice president was, would usually go right to the scene and then he'd start the repairs. And, and my dad, uh, would take the photographs and record all the uh, details of the accident. And uh, apparently at some time they were on the division in, uh, in Montana that, the division headquarters were in Deer Lodge. And my Daddy, uh, met my mother there and she was the daughter of the road master of the Milwaukee for that division. So the two of them became enamored of one another and uh, my Grandpa, uh, Nick, who was a road master, was transferred to Tacoma. And my, my father, his job wouldn't let him see uh, or didn't allow him to see, uh, my mother very frequently, his heart interest at the time. So he left the railroad and got a job with a bank in Tacoma so that he could continue the courtship. And they were married in Tacoma and I was born shortly after and they started to build a little home at Dash Point. And uh, my brother and I spent the first, I guess I was 7 he was 6, the first years of our life there at Dash Point and we just, uh, really for very young kids, we thought that was about the nicest place in the world. We were only a few yards from the beach and uh, it was a period when parents could turn their kids out you know, and you didn't, you came home for lunch or you came home when the bell was rung, but, uh, mostly you just, we just lived on that beach all day long. So in the, um, when the Depression hit my dad lost his job with the bank. He was one of the more recent employees and uh, so we had to scramble fast. And he came here to Seattle, uh, because it seemed that employment opportunities were a little bit better at the beginning than, of the Depression in Seattle and sure enough after kind of an interesting week, he got a job with the Alaska Steam Ship Company. And it was uh, a very nice position. He was secretary to the uh, general manager, Mr. L.W. Baker. And uh, I had a great deal of interest and affection for Alaska Steam ever since he went to work for them. He didn't continue working for them in, in a few years he had a better opportunity to move along and go with the Baltimore and Ohio, but he kept his friendships up with the Alaska Line and so when I, uh, graduated, a year after I graduated from uh, High school, I had a chance to go to Alaska Steam and then they were instrumental in getting me an appointment to the Merchant Marine Academy at King's Point. But that was uh, how he came.

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Tape: Hallberg, Tape 1

Tracks:



IN: 01:05:33;21 D

OUT: 01:07:37;29 D

DUR: 00:02:04;08 D

Comments:

(Continued from previous entry)

B: (close up) Now, the, the biggest part of that adventure was when we left Tacoma. My brother and I were just heart-sick to think that we were leaving Dash Point. And I think, uh, we had an old Model A Ford and I'm sure that we were sulking in the back seat of that car all the way from Tacoma. Because we couldn't imagine a place that would be as heavenly as Dash Point and uh, it wasn't until we just reached that turn on Admiral Way, just at the, where Lander comes into Admiral and suddenly the Sound opened up and we could look down, see the water and the boats and uh, and there was a, the homes weren't built in there and we could see what, even from that distance up on the hill, it, it just looked like the most intriguing place. Because here were three rafts out in the water, and there were hundreds of people splashing around, and when we turned on 61st to go down to the home that my Daddy had rented uh, we couldn't believe it. Because we could hear the squeals of the kids and the, and, uh, all the joyous sounds of the bathers and as soon as we leaped out of that car, we raced down the beach and and it was spectacular. It was just as nice as Dash Point, if not better, because it had three rafts including one with a tower that seemed to go all the way to heaven. And my brother and I could hardly wait to try to swim out to the rafts.

A: (off camera) How old were you then? I don't think you told me.

B: (pull out to two shot) Oh, I think I was only 7, uh, possibly 7 and a half or starting school in the second grade. I just went to the first grade at--

A: Holy Rosary--

B:-- Dash Point.

A: Oh. Oh yeah. Right.

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Tape: Hallberg, Tape 1

Tracks:



IN: 01:07:37;29 D

OUT: 01:09:17;07 D

DUR: 00:01:39;06 D

Comments:

(Continued from previous entry)

B: (two shot) So anyway that was our arrival in Alki and we lived there pretty much our lives, since Ada and I uh, finally ended up just living a block apart, a half a block apart. And uh, walking home from Sunday evening Pilgrim Fellowship meetings from Little Alki Congregational Church, we became acquainted and somehow or another she became very attractive.

(They laugh)

A: Yeah, somehow or another! I thought, I thought he had come with his sister. I thought you were with your sister.

B: Who was I, going--

A: It was Lorraine.

B: Oh really?

A: Uh-huh.

B: Oh. Well anyway, I transferred affection (They laugh) in midseason.

A: I thought that Bob uh, we were over at the Christian Endeavor, it was in those days, and Bob was Catholic and I didn't know anything about Bob, though we lived very near each other. And I think this is kind of a point of Alki, but also possibly a point of my British family there, not expanding too far with their children. But the thing is that uh, I didn't know Bob existed and he was that close and then all of a sudden this very handsome boy showed up at our Christian Endeavor. And he was so polite to his sister, I thought it was his sister, treated her so nicely, pulled out her chair. I couldn't believe it, these are just high school kids, and they-- So having thought it was his sister, why I thought, well this, there wasn't any doubt about where I was gonna be looking. So that is how that happened.

Tape: Hallberg, Tape 1

Tracks:



IN: 01:09:17;26 D

OUT: 01:12:46;27 D

DUR: 00:03:29;03 D

Comments:

B: Well, it turned out all right. Lorraine found another boyfriend almost over night.

A: Yeah, I think so, too. But, uh, of course, he also came from from Holy Rosary down there so that was not a clue to me either.

B: Well, it was very awkward. My mother didn't, wasn't at all comfortable with my going to a Protestant Church, a "heretic" church. So uh, there wasn't much encouragement on my side of the, uh, street to continue this friendship with Ada. I was supposed to marry a nice little Catholic girl. And on her side uh, some of her, at our wedding Uncle Will came to me and he said, "There are a lot of members of this family, Bob, that weren't very pleased when you and Ada started keeping company." And he said, "But I was always your friend."

A: And you know when Uncle Will uh, was coming toward the end of his life, uh, uh, Bob and our family, and Bob included in it, uh, he told Bob uh, "You know Bob, you mean as much to me as my son. These last years." Because Bob was such a caring person with elderly people that uh, that was what Uncle-- But Aunt Carrie, this is what my Aunt Carrie said to me in the reception line--

B: Of our wedding.

A: Well you do it. Yeah, I mean. Yeah, you'd better explain it because you really do a better imitation than I do.

B: Okay. Well the, think of this as a fragile little lady, about, uh, she must have been close to 90, if not--

A: Yeah I think so--

B:--If not 90 and uh, just a good puff of breeze would have blown her away and she was on her cane and, and she came through the line and she greeted Ada and looked into her eyes and she said, "Oh Ada, I wish you happiness--"

A: --No, "I hope you will be happy."

B:--"I hope you will be happy. But you don't know what you're getting into." And then she turned to me and said, "I hope you'll be happy too, Bob." (they laugh)

A: However, that's how, how we were married and we survived 50 years, last year. Or the year before. But anyhow, we have had a good marriage. At least. We've had a marriage that we stayed together no matter what. Would you like to say that?

B: Well, we couldn't afford--(they laugh).

A: Yeah it was, it would have been a lot of work to divide everything. But uh, we both loved Alki so, when we were, actually right after we were married we didn't live here, we lived different places, but when (pull in to close up) we had children we looked to buy a house in Alki. (close up). And uh, we couldn't afford one, even then. That was in the '50's. So we bought this house and we built around ourselves. It was really amazing it was what you'd call a shack. It was, and it was cut in half. I don't know if you want to know these kinds of things, though, shall we get to the Alki part? I just wanted to explain this isn't the part of Alki where I grew up.

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Tape: Hallberg, Tape 1

Tracks:



IN: 01:13:13;20 D

OUT: 01:14:05;12 D

DUR: 00:00:51;20 D

Comments:

(Interviewer and Ada discuss which topic to address and decide to come back to it later)

I: Bob, will you tell about the Indian canoes? Now this I didn't hear before but you'd mentioned it.

B: (close up) Oh, okay, Well, I lived at the foot of 56th Avenue and uh, Alki Avenue across, across from the beach. And uh, one block from us, at the foot of 55th was an Indian canoe that had uh, been there for a number of years, it just, sort of, was community property. And uh, those of us who were young were free to haul it down, the only thing was that there was an understanding that you had to take it up and tie it up to the bulkhead when you were through with it so it didn't drift away in a very, very high tide or a storm.

Tape: Hallberg, Tape 1

Tracks:



IN: 01:14:05;11 D

OUT: 01:18:00;19 D

DUR: 00:03:55;06 D

Comments:

(They start over with Bob's Indian canoe story.)

B: One uh, afternoon, uh, a kid whose name has slipped my mind now, but uh, he was a couple of years older than I was at the time, and we took the canoe out and we didn't have any um, um, proper paddles, you just used a hunk of driftwood that you picked up at the tide lands, at the uh, tide line and uh, we went way out to the steamer lanes, uh ferry lanes, and uh I don't think that my imagination was as well developed as this other kid's because he thought it would be great fun to lie down on the bottom of the canoe and then pop up when a ferry came along. And scare the ferry captain. And so this was our trick and we, the first ferry that went by, the Chippewa, was too far away and the captain wasn't at all concerned about us. But the next time the little, uh, I think, I think it was the Virginia 5, or Virginia "Vee", some people call her.

A: (off camera) Indianapolis?

B: No, the Indianapolis and the Tacoma--

A: (off camera) Oh.

B: --were weren't running by then.

A: (off camera) Oh.

B: But anyway they, uh, the Virginia 5 came along and, and, uh, we knew the captain. His name was Bart Lovejoy and so we thought this would be a grand trick on Bart to hop up and (Ada laughs) we ducked down in this canoe and, and then when the canoe was just a couple hard, hundred yards away, we both popped up waving our paddles. Well, the air just turned blue when Bart passed us. We, we weren't 30 or 40 feet away from the bow of the boat and he, he, swore at us kids, and I can't remember the language he used, good thing too. And uh, so we decided that that wasn't the wisest thing. BNut the wind had begun to come up and it was going off shore and we were being pushed more and more over to Magnolia bluff and uh, and my mother by this time was pretty hysterical. Probably was 6:30 or 7:00 at night, summer evening, lots of light. But she went down and uh, appealed to Hess Viney, who was, kind of the strong man of Alki at the time. He was a wonderful swimmer. He was uh, in charge of the recreation center, down there at the old Alki Field House right on the beach. And she pulled him away from his dinner table to row out and get us, bring her little boy home. And uh, I don't think Hess was too happy about this, he wasn't very pleased when he pulled along side of us and he tossed us a line and he was a, a powerful swimmer and a wonderful rower. And this uh, little clinker-built, uh, life guard boat that he rowed out there, he, he could just make that thing leap out of the water. And pretty soon we were all ashore, and uh, there must have been about 15 or 20 kids and quite a few concerned parents and one hysterical mother all there to greet us you know. And this was my first experience of being a hero or a villain or being the focal point of a lot of community attention.

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Tape: Hallberg, Tape 1

Tracks:



IN: 01:18:01;05 D

OUT: 01:18:56;18 D

DUR: 00:00:55;13 D

Comments:

(Continued from previous entry)

B: (close up) But, uh, I do remember Hess and this might be good time to to talk about what a unique influence he was on all of us kids at Alki. He ran the rec center he had so many athletic programs that he juggled, and he was uh, uh, a hard to describe. He wasn't a hustler, but he, he would reach out and get the kids involved in something and even a skinny little kid like me, he'd get me playing basketball, he taught me badminton, handball, uh, he, he was a wonderful recreation director and I think he was just as influential to the girls.

A: (Off camera) Oh no, he was not. I can hardly wait to tell you (pull out to two shot.)

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Tape: Hallberg, Tape 1

Tracks:

IN: 01:18:57;06 D

OUT: 01:22:33;16 D

DUR: 00:03:36;08 D

Comments:

(Continued from previous entry)

A: (two shot) No Bob, you should say "boys" when you say "kids." No.

B: Well, at any rate, he was uh, uh, a good positive influence on young boys, and, and uh, and I appreciated very much the kinds of things he did for us kids and the way he ran that field house was amazing because there were dances for adults, dances for young kids, there were plays, we had all of this athlet--, one season after another, athletic season. And no matter how poor we were in the city leagues, you never heard, I never heard Hess say anything uh, uh, except--

A: (laughing) I can't! Stop this!

B:--positive--

A: I can't stand this Bob--

B: --positive influence--

A:Haven't I ever told you my experience with this?

B: No.

A: Well, I think I will tell you. This is a perfect place to tell it. Because um, I had marvellous times at that field house. And part of it was because we had a women's improvement club in the, in the community, who sponsored the dances. And it also, uh, related to uh, the women who were the leaders on the rec center. But I want to tell you an experience with Hess, I know I've told you this.

B: Oh, I've expunged it.

A: Well, it, I didn't, well, that's true, I didn't even think a whole lot about it myself, but, I get together with my Alki girlfriends, and uh, one year about, I think, in my 60's we were meeting up at Lincoln Park. Well one of my friends and I got there very early. So we thought we'd go down to the pool and maybe go for a swim. And there was a swimming meet there. And I said, "You want to watch the swim, swim meet?" And she said, "Well to tell the truth, I don't think so. Let me tell you what happened to me with Hess," she said, "at a swim meet." And this is what she described, except I'm going to describe what happened to me. Because they were the same kind of thing. Um, this friend and I are small, were small children. Not, we weren't unusually small. Most of the women's, girls, swimming were bigger than we were. And I went uh, to go to the meet out in Green Lake, because, uh, they didn't have a rooting section, and they, so I just rode out with them. The team and, and Hess and whoever else went out. But, uh, and I was there to watch them, but what do you suppose? (pull into a close up) They didn't have enough people on that relay team. And so Hess wanted me to go in and I said, "I can't swim that good." As he might have known except he never really noticed me. I don't think. I don't think he noticed any of, uh, the athletic-ness of the girls. But, or the minus of it. But the thing is I said, "I can't swim. You know I can't swim, I can't swim that distance. I'm not that good." I didn't mean I can't swim at all. So, I, I was in this relay and uh, we were ahead the first, I don't know why I was in this particular location on the team. But, I was trying to get across 50 feet or whatever it was we had to swim. I was just barely making and I never even had a good crawl stroke, so I was going like this, you know, like this (she demonstrates swimming) and not breathing right. And by the time I was almost to the dock, I realized that everyone else had finished long ago. And I really wanted to just float.

Tape: Hallberg, Tape 1

Tracks:



IN: 01:22:33;16 D

OUT: 01:23:49;15 D

DUR: 00:01:15;29 D

Comments:

(Continued from previous entry)

B: (off camera) You were the anchor person?

A: It was terrible (pull out to two shot). So, I, the thing was that, uh, I couldn't reach up to get up on the dock. Hess was standing there. He reached down and he grabbed my, he was angry, and he grabbed, grabbed my arms and he pulled me up. And then he pushed me down again. I could hardly think I was going to come up. But I did come up and he pushed down a second time, but not as hard. And then I gradually climbed myself onto that raft. Well that's the kind of experience Gracie had. Don't--Oh, I wasn't going to use her name. But anyhow, um, I know that that's one experience, but, the, actually Hess was the men's and the boy's person. And it didn't, was not necessarily inclusive of, of girls Bob. But you wouldn't have known that. You were playing with boys. You weren't out there playing volley ball with the girls, were you? With Hess?

B: No, no, no.

A: Were they on a baseball team you were on?

B: Negative!

A: No! No, were they, could they get to play volleyball?

B: Girls, girls shouldn't even been there. (they laugh). Stay home and play with the dolls!

A: Well, I don't really have a hard feeling about it, but I just want to be reality.

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Tape: Hallberg, Tape 1

Tracks:

IN: 01:23:50;01 D

OUT: 01:26:18;22 D

DUR: 00:02:28;19 D

## Comments:

I: Ada, I wanted to ask you, would you tell about learning to swim and playing at Alki and the life guards and the rafts and then years later how you taught your children to swim down there?

A: Oh, yes now, Bob described the, the rafts so well. It was just something we loved. I think most of us at Alki loved going down there. The life guards were mainly uh, young men who were uh, off of school for the uh, summer. They were university students. I thought most of them were from the University of Washington. But somebody was from Seattle U, I think, or the Seattle college then. At any rate they were really uh, pleasant, easy and very responsible. They were the life guards and they were first aid people. And I think I told you they taught swimming. Well, they sort of taught me to go swimming but the fact is the real teachers of the swimming, came from the park department down town office or wherever the main park department people came. And I learned that because I checked it out after I saw you and I remembered saying, "Well, gosh, now how did they teach swimming down there?" Because I never learned to swim in the uh, park department who came in from the city. Life guards showed me how to swim. And they showed me how to swim because they could see that I wasn't getting it. But I talked with my uh, friend who is one of the best swimmers at Alki and uh, was at that time, and I said, "Now tell me, how was this at the uh, teaching swimming cause I really don't think I was, do you remember me in any of those classes?" And she said, "You know Ada, I don't remember you in those classes." Well I don't think I was in them. She said, "Well this is how it was uh, the person who taught us I didn't know personally, she said. She meaning her, she didn't know personally but they came from the city and they came several days a week. And the first, uh, class would be dead man's float and then you would get a some kind of an award that you could put on your bathing suit and then the next class would be um--

B: (off camera) Dog paddle

A: Dog Paddle. Right and then the crawl. Now that person could swim out to those log booms, and she was fantastic swimmer as were other people down there.

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Tape: Hallberg, Tape 1

Tracks:



IN: 01:26:50;06 D

OUT: 01:30:04;18 D

DUR: 00:03:14;10 D

## Comments:

A: (Close up) You know, all of us who swam at Alki love it and we thought those people who came from the city and thought it was cold, Good we didn't want them in the water anyhow. We thought it was warm. We'd say, " Wonderful! Duck soup!" I don't know why we said that. But it was very warm and very easy to learn to swim in the water. It's just that my mother wasn't in touch and didn't sign me up, you see. I mean, she wasn't in touch I mean she just kind of kept to her tea and things like that and didn't really go around the community in terms of joining things like I did. But I was trying to say that I loved the swimming. The other thing about this was that although the lessons have been featured a lot in talking about Alki, and I just did it myself, but actually the joy of those rafts and of the life guards were the everyday experience of getting up and doing what small chores you might have had and taking your lunch and going to the beach. Going down and talking with the life guards, admiring the life guards, watching. I remember two occasions, I watched one of those guards go down the pole, because they had, uh, tower here on the promenade. I'll tell you he just shot down there like lightening and was in that water after a kid who was sinking. And the other life guard was out in the boat and they were both there. And they were, that, they were just wonderful people and they also taught us to pick up glass on the beach and then they gave us awards for that. We kept those beaches clean. And uh, we had games that they would play with us down at the beach and in the water. It could last all day, but if you chose to you could go back and go over to the play field. And a the play field would be a woman recreation leader for the girls. And I think a lot of us uh, girls took a great deal of uh, stock in who that was. And without, without exception they were wonderful women and they taught us sportsmanship, they taught us volleyball and newcome(?) and basketball and baseball and um, we had great days that we always remember. We had, you know we say, we are number 1 and someone else is going to tell you that we were the number 1 street car, but we felt Alki was number 1. We would win. They had many contests at Woodland Park that were city wide. And then the big one in June which was called, some kind of a festival, and we took, we won things. And, uh, Miss Palmer Miss Caldwell and uh, gosh, uh--

B:(off camera) Miss Lutz(?).

A: No--

B: (off camera) Lucy?

A: --No. She just died at 90 years old. (pull out to two shot) I can't remember her name, it makes me mad now that I can't think of it. But I can, I will think of it later. But at any rate they were all just--

B: Miss Laup(?) ?

A: -- fantastic people. Yeah Miss Alice Laup.

Tape: Hallberg, Tape 2

Tracks:



IN: 01:30:04;18 D

OUT: 01:31:23;01 D

DUR: 00:01:18;13 D

Comments:

(Continued from previous entry)

A: (Two shot) And uh, the one that I'm thinking of I, I met without realizing who she was. I was down at the Pepper Dock, which is on the corner of Alki and Marine Avenue and it was about 10 years ago. I went in there to have a hamburger and I sat at the table with a friend of mine and she introduced me to her friend and it was uh, "My gosh," I said, "Well you know, I used to live on this street." And she said, "Well, I used to live on this street, too," her friend did. And then he rented a house from my parent and she said, "You're Ada Woodhouse, then." And I said, "Well, that's right!" She said, "Well you used to be in my class when you were about 4 years old. Do you remember the dance classes?" And that's right, I remember the dance classes and the beautiful filmy gowns that we got to wear. And the plays that were put on the field, in the field house, had uh, totally to do with the WPA and the or the PWA, whichever group it was, and the women who were leading that area. So that we had uh, put, we put on plays on a Friday night that we'd practice for months to do. We had costumes, we had a pianist. These things were very important in my life and in the life of everyone who grew up there at the same time.

Tape: Hallberg, Tape 2

Tracks:

IN: 01:31:23;01 D

OUT: 01:33:20;04 D

DUR: 00:01:57;01 D

Comments:

(Continued from previous entry)

A: (close up) But you know was there something else I was going to say at this time? Oh yes, so I took my kids down to the beach. Bobby and Nancy our first two born children. They thought they'd like to go swimming, I said, well, so we went to the beach. And that's where they learned and I can tell you today our oldest son, uh, sometimes goes swimming on New Year's Eve and I doubt that, I mean New Year's Day. Never would pronounce the bay as cold, I don't think. And today when I hear people say, Well you want to swim in there, it's so cold. We thought it was warm. We had such a good time and a lot of uh, a lot of youthfulness. I think it's probably a little chilly now. When I go in, but uh, that's uh how it was. It was fun to live here. It was a children's world. It was a world where you had so much freedom you didn't have to get into any trouble. You know, you could go to the field any time. You didn't have to wait until you signed up for something. Or joined a group to play baseball? It's too bad. That's what's lost at Alki, I think, is the freedom that we used to have to be a child. Because the kinds of pranks that a group, we had a gang known as the Alki Rats. I'll tell you what they weren't thought of as a gang. But if you had a gang today that's who they would be. But they didn't do anything that was uh, uh, terrible, But today it might have been considered, if you happened to get a ball through your window, you know, but it wasn't that important matter. But that uh, part of Alki was something that was open to everybody. But Hess was not helpful to women. Hess was not helpful to girls. Not just those two experiences, he he is was a boys, (pull out to two shot) boys boy.

Tape: Hallberg, Tape 2

Tracks:



IN: 01:33:20;04 D

OUT: 01:36:58;25 D

DUR: 00:03:38;21 D

Comments:

(Continued from previous entry)

A: (two shot) But uh, I've got to ask you, tell you one thing. (pull in to close up) There were some pools here but um, I don't know if you want, I don't think I should talk any more, I think you shoould talk. But I, the question about why did we swim in the Sound, I will say one thing. When the Alki Natatorium came in 1930, um, what year, I've forgotten. 32, or 3 or 4 or 5. When it was built it was built on the beach on pilings taking the area of the beach right up to the street and then out over the water. It was, it took the area from 59th to Marine Avenue, and that meant that was no longer available for you to swim on the beach. It was no longer there. The sand was no longer in that area. There was this wonderful pool which I think most people in West Seattle loved, but that was never the real Alki that those of us of the 30's and 20's remember because we had just what I described and Bob. And Luna there as a Luna Pool which went in much earlier.

B: (off camera) There was also um, (swing left to close up of Bob) I think that it was taken out in about 1930, '31. But there two or 3 little pools they weren't more than 15, 20 feet wide and maybe 30 feet long way down at the end of the promenade. You don't remember them, but I can remember when there was \water in them and the--

A: (off camera) The ferry was there. They must have been beyond the ferry.

B: No, no, they were (pull out to two shot) on this side of the ferry dock.

A: Huh.

B: Just almost at the end of the promenade. And they were uh, filled at, at a very, very high tide they'd fill them. Well then if you didn't get high tides for a couple of weeks the water became very warm but it was probably, the bacteria count must have been in the millions. And uh, they they just had sand bottoms, they were um, if I remember correctly, probably creosoted pilings or creosoted timbers um, for sides, no bottoms, just sand and it was um, um, well it was when they brought the new water in a lot of seaweed came in. Because the seaweed always floated on top and that's where they would draw the water from. So it wasn't a really neat place to swim because you had to kind of push all of this seaweed out of the way and you knew, (pull into close up) or your mother had warned you that you shouldn't swim in there because some of those boys proably went to the bathrorom right.

A: (Off camra) Probably. (They laugh) Well, my mother never let me--

A: (pull out to two shot) Was that Hess' trick too?

B:--go down there. She wasn't very comfortable with any of the pools in this, in uh, especially during the 30's when we had these outbreaks of infantile paralysis. And there was a uh, general feeling that that, uh, some people had contracted this disease--

A: Well Carol--

B: -- swimming in public pools.

A: Carols' mother felt she had gotten polio from there, from the natatorium.

B: Oh.

A: Yeah.



IN: 01:36:58;29 D

OUT: 01:39:44;25 D

DUR: 00:02:45;24 D

Comments:

(Continued from previous entry)

B: So at any rate. My, my mother was delighted have me swim with the sewage out in the Bay.

A: I know that is the funny thing and maybe we should talk a minute about that.

B: Oh, it was terrible. The sewer outfalls were just a few hundred yards off shore and all of this human waste would come floating back in certain tides and in certain, uh, uh, currents. And uh, oh we just stayed out of the water those hours. And pretty soon the tide would change and you'd have some fresh water and--

A: Except I never knew that.

B:--it wasn't quite so bad.

A: I didn't know until I was grown up and married that that had been sewage on the--I don't know when Metro began to clean up the Sound. I thought, why are they cleaning up the Sound? Because my mother, she didn't understand that either. She did not know (pull in to close up) that that was all sewage in there. She would say, whenever I had a cut, or anything and you could get cut on the beach with glass very often. "Go in the bay and wash it off and soak your foot in that nice cold salt water." Now I know she could not possibly have known. But I'm just astounded at things my mother didn't know, after I grew up. But that was uh, and that pool you know you're talking about, uh, Helen Wollenweber(?) has picture of that. (pull out to two shot) Uh, I could add a little story to that if you want me to do that. This lady is in her 90's uh, she lives in West Seattle but she didn't grow up here, she grew up in the north end and she (pull in to close up) was telling me how she came with her mother and her 3 sisters to come out to ALki on the, on the uh streetcars. And how long it took her and everything. We were just talking. You know to be talking. And uh, it turned out that she came to what you're describing I believe, because she insisted there were these pools down there and then she said that when they stepped off the streetcar right onto the sand that was such a wonderful feeling and I thought, I had taken for granted stepping on the sand. But you know wherever we've gone and there's a beach I have to go and try it out on my feet. But uh, anyhow it's interesting, I'm going, Helen would like me to get pictures of those pictures. Oh, maybe we could do that. I've had a problem because they're in her album. And she cannot see very well at also I have to identify them for her. And because of my own absent mindedness I don't like to pick up her album and do anything with it in case I do something, hide it somewhere so I will be sure and know where it is. But she has some pictures I think of that.

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Tape: Hallberg, Tape 2

Tracks:



IN: 01:39:44;24 D

OUT: 01:42:01;11 D

DUR: 00:02:16;15 D

## Comments:

I: I wanted to ask Bob could you tell a story about getting released from school with the draft horses pulling up the rafts at the end of the season.

B: (Close up) You know at the, at the end of the summer, the rafts stayed out in the water, I think for several weeks into September, after school had started and there were no life guards and you didn't go down there and go swimming. Uh, I think Hess must have discouraged us without life guards. But at any rate, when a high tide would come, then they would pull the rafts in and uh, I must have been in the 4th or 5th grade, but I remember several years our teachers would their, dismiss us early or take us down on a kind of a field trip to the beach. And we would watch um, these horses being unloaded from a city truck, two great big, they were the Clydesdales or Percherons, huge animals. And they would hook them up uh, to a line and pull the rafts in, and and uh, usually this was all times at a, at a high tide so that the horses only had to pull them, say 20 feet on the sand. Because the the tide had sort of bumped them in to the edge. And as a young kid I, I thought that was the greatest experience to, to feel the power of those horses pulling those big heavy rafts in. And uh, I, I kind of think that uh, our teachers must have had a--

A: (off camera) Oh yeah.

B: --been different teachers than today. I can't imagine too many teachers thinking this would be a great exprience.

A: (off camera) Bob, you know something, I don't think you mean, "not the teachers today" (pull out to two shot) because todays teachers would be apt to be very alert to something like that. They're better trained, better educated--

B: All right, let's say, that --

A: The teachers you and I had--

B:--teachers a few years ago.

A: Oh yeah, the teachers you and I had--

B: Our grade school teachers, at least, anyway gave us wonderful trips to the bach and to the park.

A: Okay.

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Tape: Hallberg, Tape 2

Tracks:



IN: 01:42:02;01 D

OUT: 01:46:45;13 D

DUR: 00:04:43;12 D

Comments:

I: Bob, would you also talk about the impact on your life of J.L. Morrow?

B: Oh sure. (pull in to close up) When I was uh, 12 years old, I was eligible to join the Boy Scouts. Now I'd been a Cub Scout, but graduating and becoming a Boy Scout was uh, just a wonderful achievement in my young mind. And our Scout Master was a gentleman, his real name was Richard Morrow, or Dick Morrow, but for some reason or another he was called J.L. J.L. Morrow was uh, an unusual person, he uh, sold or worked for St. Paul and Tacoma Lumber Company, and seemed to have some relationship to selling lumber all over the United States. But he knew the world, woods, he must have worked in the woods at some time. He could identify hundreds of plants and fungi and rocks. And when we went on a hike it wasn't just a hike to achieve the top of the mountain, or to reach some destination. All the way along the line he would be acquainting us with the different trees and the life cycle of forests and uh, he would show us nurse logs and show us edible roots, and uh, I was awe of this man. He was so knowledgeable. And he would, in the summer, instead of meeting, having the scout meeting down in the field house, we would meet up in Schmidt's (?) Park. There was a little shelter there with a um, stove on it and I think some of the older boys must have gone up and, and, discouraged people from having late evening picnic lunches because I don't remember we ever had any contention over who the stove belonged to. The scouts all moved in and we started little fires in there and then J.L., by the light of a flashlight, would read us a story and sometimes it was a Paul Bunyan story. He was the first one who who read us the story of the sinking of the Titanic. And he he would introduce us to a whole new world that that somehow my father or my parents, even though they encouraged me to read books, never seemed to select books that were as intriguing as J.L. would bring to our scout meetings. And in that park, before we settled down and had the camp fire and the story telling, uh, we would play uh, uh, what was, steal the flag? Hide the, something, a flag game.

A: (off camera) Yeah. Something. I can't remember.

B: Someone, one of the teams would hide a flag and the other team would try to find it. But we would romp through that park, just, I don't say romp, we raced, we were up one hill and down another and all around the paths. And it, hooting and hollering and uh, those were exuberant evenings. Some of the most pleasant evenings of my youth I can remember. And I remember this wonderful gentleman. J.L. Morrow, who uh, seemed just, to understand the, how to hold a young boy's attentions and, and nourish him with all sorts of knowledge. I can still go in to the woods and, and when other kids don't know a licorice fern from some other fern, you know, I can distinguish uh, the various ferns and a few of the fungi, but all of the, all of the major trees. And I don't remember, I wasn't able to pick up as readily on birds, but he was marvellous in identifying all the sea birds that we had at Alki and most of the unusual species in the woods.

A: (off camera) I have to tell you Bob, the person who can (pull out to two shot) identify all of those ferns and all of the trees and all of the plants, is your daughter, Nancy.

B: Yeah.

A: Right.



IN: 01:47:11;12 D

OUT: 01:50:44;26 D

DUR: 00:03:33;14 D

## Comments:

(Ada and the Interviewer discuss what topic to cover next. Ada remembers the name of the woman she forgot earlier. Mildred Noble.)

A: I did have an experience recently and then maybe you don't want to use it, I don't know if I want to comment. But you know, the Peace Action Group of Washington State recently has been having meetings in homes of people throughout the city who have volunteered to do so. And they're talking about crime and balance, violence in their community. And so I had one of those meetings. There were only 7 seven people here, counting me. But uh, at any rate we were to prioritize things. Without going into a lot of it, you said how did we pass on values to our children? And so as we prioritized things, the subject came up about how did you treat your children? Because I felt that we are a racially prejudiced community that we do not accept differences in people and that things happen badly in West Seattle, happen bad to people who are in minority groups, gays for instance, and I, so I brought that topic up. No one really agreed with me that we could do anything about that. That was kind of interesting. This is what one person said. She said, "I learned to hate because my dad was uh, didn't like black people," didn't, uh, she called them something different but the thing is, she didn't, and she said, "So as a, I always cross the street because I thought that I would be hurt if there was a black person on my side of the street." And uh, so I said, "What did you think he would do to you?" And she said, "Well hit me or slap me or something, I don't know." But she said, "My dad just didn't like them at work." And she said, "But now I've learned differently." And she talked about that and then she said, "Well Ada, you know you've raised your family, you and Bob have raised your family different. And you have raised your family to do things for people." She said, "They're always doing things for people, and so are you." And so it was that maybe by Bob's and my doing things for other people, which Bob does as much as I do, if it's, if it's a brownie point, but the thing is that we have by our examples we have done that apparently. And when I think about it, it's true about our girls. And all about as well as our son, who's not always in our good graces, but he does do a lot of things for other people too. So that's the only thing I can say to that. But there's something about Alki that I know I am forgetting. I was going to mention it when I was talking, I can't remember, when I was sitting here thinking. But I will say about girl scouts. I never belonged to any of those groups. It wasn't that my mother didn't think they were good. But it's just a kind of a, I don't know. It doesn't matter. But when I was grow, uh, a mother, I became a girl scout leader and Joan, uh, Joan Fuller Brown, Jean. What was it?

B: (Off camera) Jean, Jean yeah

A: Was it Jean or Joan? Jean.

B: (Off camera) Jean.

A: At any rate, she taught me as a leader where to take the children in Schmidt's Park. And then I got more acquainted with girls that she had had in a troop when she had the troops and they had taken her the girls up to Schmidt's Park and learned to identify these uh, things that grew there, the plants that grew there. And also had taught them uh, how to take care of themselves in the park. How not to be caught there by some stranger if the. So she was uh, a person that I should mention in terms of Girl Scouts, that they did those things.



IN: 01:50:45;18 D

OUT: 01:53:31;05 D

DUR: 00:02:45;15 D

## Comments:

I: I do have a question for you, because you went from here to college and what happened during those years when your family was getting you ready to go to college and the suit that you got and the \$20 war bond. Would you bring that up and why you went to Washington State which was a college then, not a University.

A: (Close up) Well, I was very unrealistic about what I was doing when I got out of high school, except I knew I would go to college because my mother said, "Education doesn't end in high school." My mother never went to the university but she said, so to all of us kids, we knew we'd go to college. Well, um, I had been working, and I'd forgotten that when I was talking to you. I had been working and I had some money saved so uh, I went to Washington State because I wanted to go away from home. Now why did I want to go away from home? I had a nice house, nice parents, as far as I knew there wasn't anything traumatic that should've taken me out of there. But I wanted to get away and so I went with a group of other girls from West Seattle to Washington State College. And just had a magnificent time, like in a Grade B movie. We had, uh, it was a different climate, which I hadn't thought. I didn't even know how cold it was going to be. So my, my grandma bought me some clothes to wear and it was a dress up suit. And, and it was high heeled shoes and a hat and gloves and a purse. And uh, my brother bought me a ski outfit. I had a ski, took my ski pants because someone said there'd be snow. But I wound up wearing my ski pants and a red sweater I had and the parka he bought for me, frequently throughout that winter. And I did not have a warm coat to go to school in eastern Washington. Well it was really crazy, it really was kind of crazy. But my friend Nita, whom I had read to in uh, in high school because of her eyes, she had an extra coat, we were the same size. But anyhow, I had a wonderful time, they had skating parties, uh, around a frozen pool with bon fires every Friday night. Uh, we had bon fires every Friday night the skating parties we had whenever it was icy, which was frequent. And at the bon fires you had serpentine, you just sort of grabbed hold of each other, ran all through the campus. I mean it was, I'm sure kids don't do that today, but that is the kind of thing we did. Then I changed and came to Washington State for several--

B: (Off camera) University of Washington.

A: --reasons. University I mean, came back to the U. The main reason was Bob. He came in.

Tape: Hallberg, Tape 2

Tracks:



IN: 01:53:31;01 D

OUT: 01:57:25;08 D

DUR: 00:03:54;05 D

Comments:

I: Would you talk about the radio program that they had and then also as you were telling me this morning the difference between college in 1942 and in 1943 and 1944.

A: (Close up) All right. Uh, I was there in 1942, in the fall and it was, as I said, like a movie. There were fraternities and sororities and there were independent houses. And I was an independent, never ever thought to be anything else. Never occurred to me not to be an independent. Um, so I, I lived in a dormitory that I liked very much and made wonderful friends with whom I still am friends. And the college was uh, I was trying to think just how to say that it was such a pleasure to be there. But when I went back the following year, well, it, things had changed dramatically. There the, there were no dormitories for women.

B: (Off camera) Well, you, you have to explain that the war--

A: I was just going to say. You go ahead and say, that's right (swing left to close up on Bob) the war was here. The war was here.

B: On Decemeber 7th everything changed, but suddenly, a year later, the, University or the Washington State College campus had thousands of ROTC students, boys going (swing right to close up on Ada) in war programs and uh, and they probably had programs that I wasn't even familiar wih but, but uh, they took over those dorms.

A: Yes, they took over all of the dormitories that had been the women's dormitories. And the fraternity boys were all gone. They either, I don't know where they went, some of them still probably stayed in college but, their, as far as their fraternities were concerned I didn't think that there were any left but there might have been one or two. So I shouldn't make such a big generalization. In fact, I think there was a fraternity that I remember them serenading. But the thing is that uh, it was mostly boys that were in uniform. And uh, that was the year that I was leaving. I will say, that if I were late for class, and I was used to always be late, I, but I'd have to run to my class. But I stopped that habit, because on the field, which I can remember now, were these hundreds of young men all lined up in uniform looking straight ahead. And here comes Ada, from out of the blue racing and they're all looking at me and so I thought they were. They probably weren't looking at me but I thought they were and I thought they were looking at me but probably they were not. But anyhow that cured my being late. I was not late that year. I was always walking with a group of people. I have uh--

B: (off camera) At a dignified pace

A: Yeah right. I can't recall, uh, how there was anything else that would be of particular interest at that time except that it was hard, uh, to get back and forth from eastern Washington to Seattle. Because there was no gas, there were no busses that ran all the way and you get on the train and you were lucky as a civilian to get there. So. Um, because, and you'd be jam packed in and of course I'm not saying, I never felt, I don't think many of us felt abuse of that, we didn't. It was war and you needed to give your place to whatever the fighting people were doing. And um, that doesn't sound like I knew much about the war, but I did know quite a bit about the war. And uh, when I transferred to Seattle, to the University, I can't recall if there was some special, I transferred I'd gone to Washington State because my mother said I would be good in radio. Other people in school had told me that I would be, uh, why don't I do something in radio, so I did that. And I went to Washington State for that reason.



IN: 01:58:40;19 D

OUT: 02:01:22;25 D

DUR: 00:02:42;04 D

## Comments:

B: (Close up) Okay, um, in the Spring of 1941, um, the city of Seattle, um, had decided to close down the pool, the natatorium, and uh, I should, I should explain that they started it up and then closed it down. Started it up again. They uh, had a difficult time getting personnel with the war um, boom on, and um, much of the equipment in the natatorium had uh, much of the um, the, the mechanical equipment, the boilers and the pumps, uh, were second hand and, and it was very expensive to maintain. And there were lots of breakdowns. So uh, the city talked briefly about tearing this natatorium down. Well, it was a marvellous facility, uh, an Olympic size pool, three other pools and uh, uh, but it was also expensive to maintain. And so there was a meeting in the community and, if I remember, uh, remember, what has been told to me, the uh, park department announced that they were going to close up the pool and um, board it up. And they were bemoaning the fact that they couldn't get responsible caretakers. Well, I don't know what prompted my father to say it, but um, we were renting a house just up the street and he apparently negotiated with whoever was with the depart--, the Park Department that he would take over as caretaker if our rent was the same as we were paying up the street. And if the city would pay the lights and the heating. Well, it was a pretty good deal um, because we were paying 32 dollars rent and suddenly we moved into this rather luxurious owners' apartment in the corner of the "Nat." And the Thortons who had built this had had um, money at some time before they sunk it into the "Nat." And they had, um, on the back side of the "Nat" a big boat house and they had a, a, launch in there that I remember being about 30 feet long. Maybe it was half that size. In my, my young mind it seemed like a luxurious boat.

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Tape: Hallberg, Tape 3

Tracks:



IN: 02:01:22;15 D

OUT: 02:04:53;27 D

DUR: 00:03:31;12 D

Comments:

(Continued from previous entry)

B: We moved into this apartment in the, um, um, you had a spectacular front room out over the water. Most of the time the tide was in underneath the, the pilings and you, it, you, there wasn't a, a, a finer over-the-water living place in the city of Seattle. And the, everything in the apartment was oversized, including this great big luxurious bath that was about 15 by 20 feet and it was all in purple tile. Lavenders and yellows and purples and my mother despaired of ever finding drapes or anything that would tone this place down and make it look half civilized. But we lived there and we enjoyed it except in the winter. It got a little hairy and that was uh, there was a lot of driftwood in the Sound in those days and sometimes a vary large log would work itself underneath those pilings. And then as the, as the, uh, waves would come in, those logs would bang up against those pilings and shake the whole building. And my father who was a uh, small man, would roust my brother and me out of bed and uh, we would go down there. I can remember going down just in my shorts and we would somehow or another wrestle those logs out from underneath the pilings so they wouldn't bang the pilings and, and, uh, shoot them on down the beach a ways, with the hope that they wouldn't work back in on the next tide. And uh, come in just chilled to the bones in the winter, wet and uh, and I guess uh, I, I, can remember my mother having hot cocoa to warm us up and then we'd be going back to bed at 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning after one of these incidents. That happened several times but it was a great place to live. And when I pledged in the "U" in the fall of 1941, I went out to the "U" rather, uh, I was going to pledge, so several of the fraternities sent people around to look over your home and your parents and make sure there wasn't too much visible insanity. And so they came out and looked over our shop and, you know, on a beautiful summer night. And I think my mother probably fed them strawberry shortcake or something, she impressed these guys from the fraternity that I wanted to join so well that there was, the pledge captain who had been one of the visitors, remarked to other members of the pledge class, "Oh yeah, Bob has 4 pools at his home." And most, there was no explanation of the fact that I was, uh, uh, living as a renderer(?), in a city swimming pool. But at any rate, there were some guys who thought I had some means. And uh, treated me with a little awe and respect that I didn't deserve.

Tape: Hallberg, Tape 3

Tracks:



IN: 02:04:54;18 D

OUT: 02:08:21;23 D

DUR: 00:03:27;03 D

## Comments:

I: Would you care to describe how this vivid imagination that you had and how you, if you want to talk about the white convertible and how you parlayed it into a good story and a career in advertising. And let people imagine themselves in the products

B: (Close up) Well, I don't, I, never, uh, um, looked at it the way you have perceived it, but anyway, I love to tell stories and I um, was a prevaricator much of my young life. And uh, when Ada and I were courting, um, I once uh, I was working for an advertising agency and my boss had a um, beautiful convertible and I had represented to Ada at different times that I had a car but it was always in the shop. And it was a classic and so I didn't drive it on the streets. And one thing or another and, and uh, she, she swallowed all of this. So one night I borrowed my boss's convertible and drove it up in front of her home. And it was a, uh, an oversized Chrysler convertible, uh, dark green and just had uh, every uh, you know accessory that they could lay on the thing. Spotlights on the driver's side and extra fog lights and the whole bit. And we went for a ride. Well, the, I hadn't thought about the fact that I was going to have to turn the lights on on this thing. And it grew dark and I couldn't figure out the dash board. It had about 20 or 30 different things and I kept playing with them. But I didn't want to confess to Ada that, that um, I wasn't familiar with the car. And we were driving along Avalon Way and flashing lights went on and uh, police vehicle gave me, uh, just uh, one whine on the siren, you know, and I pulled over dutifully and sat there and, and, he said "Do you know your lights are off?" And he poked his flashlight into the interior of the car, you know, and he pointed right at the, at the knob that turned on the lights and thank god he had identified the right one. And I said, "Oh, no, no, no" and I pulled it out and, and uh, he didn't give me a ticket or a citation. But uh, uh, if he hadn't showed me where that was I think I would have perhaps got in more difficulties as the evening grew, uh, went on. But I, I did this um, on a number of ventures. I have a great imagination and I felt that the right profession for Bob Hallberg was the advertising profession where you're allowed to, to take a modest set of qualities and inflate them into the finest product in the world. So I I knew that this was a profession that would welcome me and reward me.

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Tape: Hallberg, Tape 3

Tracks:



IN: 02:08:23;03 D

OUT: 02:11:47;02 D

DUR: 00:03:24;01 D

## Comments:

I: I want to go back and ask you about your mother who was, who liked to dress up and do her make up--

B: Oh yeah. Mom.

I:--the lace table cloths and the silver candle sticks at the (something)

B: Yeah, yeah. Well my mother, my mother was a, um, perfectionist and she would never go out and pick up the paper off the front porch or get the mail unless she was just like she'd stepped out of a band box. She was uh, in her heels and if she wasn't dressed for town she had, uh, a house frock on and her hair was styled and her make up was on. And we lived in a neighborhood of, most of them, modest working family households and none of the other women in all uh, were comfortable uh, with this kind of dress up. So my mother was always thought to be a little odd, a little strange because she went to such great lengths. And she was uh, a, a great deal like a woman who is on uh, the PBS show "Keeping Up Appearances." My mother, um, would go to a PTA mother's meeting, and if it was a luncheon she actually, I'm pretty sure, she would elbow the other ladies out of the way. To set the table so it was just precisely right. And if the, the, um, Superintendent of Schools or someone was the guest, you know, she would bring her own, we didn't have sterling, but she brought silver plate and, and her nice china and all of the people at the head table ate off of that. And years and years later, I think it must have been 20 years after my mother passed away, we went to see a friend of hers. And this friend told us about a time that they had had a um, what was to be a picnic up in Schmidt's park. And my mother insisted on bringing a lace tablecloth and her silver candlestick holders for this picnic. But, uh, and I don't think my mother even knew how out of place it was, but this was her, her style. And she would, uh, we didn't have a great deal of money but, she had a flare for sewing and for changing costumes and if uh, someone uh, in the family or friend gave her a garment she would rework that and it would be just out of Vogue or Mademoiselle before she was through. And she always made this spectacular entrance and I think she timed it, you know, so that everyone's eyes would be on her. She was uh, uh, a real source of embarrassment to my brother and me at different times. She never let us get out of the house without a clean shirt on and uh, very clean underwear so there would be no embarrassment when we were hauled off to the hospital. (laughs)

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Tape: Hallberg, Tape 3

Tracks:



IN: 02:11:48;10 D

OUT: 02:14:35;04 D

DUR: 00:02:46;22 D

Comments:

J: I want to ask too, Bob, what keeps you and Ada in Seattle? How come you decided to raise your children here and why do you continue to live here?

B: Well, we didn't. We lived for a time, I had a job with a Chicago ad agency and we lived for a time in the Bay Area in San Francisco. But, we wanted to get back here every time because uh, I had grown up at a period when Alki had lots of open uh, lots. We played baseball in the lots. We had all of that hill undeveloped. And we could build um, underground uh, tunnels and, and, uh, underground club houses or we could build tree houses. And uh, and I wanted my kids to grow up with those uh, same kinds of experiences to be able to uh, know a little bit about the woods and to have uh, the feeling of not being hemmed in if you were in larger cities. And uh, that was one of the uncomfortable things about living in the, we lived in Berkely when I lived in the Bay Area and also, up in Santa Rosa, but we never lived in an area where we had all of this open space that just was uh, available to kids. And we wanted those experiences and we wanted the kids to be able to play on rafts and and to play on a boat. And uh, and we also had this summer place, so it just wasn't working out wherever we were, even though in one of two instances I was vastly over paid for my skills and knowledge in other cities. And we'd come back here and take a, a lower salary just for the amenities that this area offered us. And uh, um, I think now that we made wise decisions. We could have made more money, but we would not have had um, the same environment in which to raise our kids. A church close by, good schools, lots of open hill area to romp around in. And the Bay, that was the keen thing. How many kids in uh, Chicago or, or in the Bay Area can own a hunk of the beach. I mean you you could stake a little area of that beach and it was yours. Nobody moved their blanket over on it. There was just enough to go around for everybody.

I: Thanks.

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Tape: Hallberg, Tape 3

Tracks:



# ORAL HISTORY PROJECT 1998-99

Interview Subject: BOB & ADA HAULBERG  
 Archival Acession Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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