

IN: 00:00:32;14 D

OUT: 00:02:37;15 D

DUR: 00:02:05;01 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 1

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: Well, let's get started then and we'll start a little bit with family background. So why don't we start with, why don't we take the Hansen(?) and Olson(?) side and start and tell me a little bit about how the Hansen's came out to the Pacific Northwest.

M: All right. Um, talking about the Olson and Hansen family that uh, uh, Olson and Hansen both came from Norway, uh, uh, in uh, probably around 1950--, uh 1850 and uh, they went to Wisconsin with most of the other Norwegians, they all seemed to end up there. And uh, they met and married sisters. The Amman(?) sisters. And uh, uh that, they both started their families. And uh, some--, somehow or another they made the decision to come out to the Pacific Northwest. And uh, they came out by wagon train and I'm not clear whether they came all the way to the to the Coast by wagon train. And by wagon train to up to Seattle. Or came partly by boat which I presume they did. Um, they uh, on the way out from the uh, Wisconsin Mrs. Olson died. And she had two daughters and uh, so when they arrived and bought Alki Point from Dr. Maynard in 1868, that uh, they they took over the house that Dr. Maynard had built at Alki Point. And that's the home that my, my grandmother and her siblings, her, her, sister, sisters and brothers and everything were raised in. And they also raised the, her mother also raised the Olson girls. Because their mother died. And their mother was their, her, her sister.

IN: 00:02:38;16 D

OUT: 00:04:02;00 D

DUR: 00:01:23;12 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 1

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: Are there any family stories about what Martin Hansen was like and why he decided to head out in particular to the Pacific Northwest?

M: None really that I remember, I know that he uh, liked to hunt and he, and uh, and uh, Olson, uh, I think probably was the same way, but I don't know that. But I know that my great grandfather liked to hunt and hunted a lot around on Alki Point and up in the hill and also would go over to Blake Island where there were a lot of deer. And their hunting was was not for pleasure of hunting, it was for food and and uh, and uh, I don't think of Olson and Hansen personally. Obviously I didn't know them. Um, but uh, I don't recall anything greatly outstanding about the two of them, uh, together they logged off Alki Point. Uh, uh, they, they first bought 300 and some acres from Doctor Maynard and then at some point in time later, they bought another 100 acres from someone else and uh, they literally owned all of the point from uh, almost, almost from where Schmidt's (?) park is uh, on forward to the point.

IN: 00:04:03;29 D

OUT: 00:04:53;17 D

DUR: 00:00:49;18 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 1

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: Did they intend to be loggers, is that, was that their notion when they came out or were they interested in farming, too?

M: Um, I don't know the answer to that one for sure, but uh, they, I don't think they did any other logging. Uh, but uh, uh, they uh, were farmers uh, because they, to live it, there and be self sustaining they had to have a farm. And having been to Norway, I, you know, but, but, it's there are a lot of spaced out properties in, in, in Norway and uh, and uh, and uh they, they weren't, I don't think they were worried about downtown Seattle or anything else. Uh, they just did their thing.

IN: 00:04:54;08 D

OUT: 00:06:18;06 D

DUR: 00:01:23;26 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 1

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: Tell me a little bit about Hans Martin Hansen(?)'s uh, family. You mentioned he married one of the Amman sisters. Could you tell me her name and then also the names of their children.

M: Uh, I can't tell you the name of Mrs. uh, Hansen, I should but I don't but, my wife is the geneolist, the geneologist, in our family and she's got it all and I'd be happy to provide that to whoever wants it. In fact I think I've given that to Arlene already.

I: Um, I think you told me before that you know where their house was on Alki Point. I know you said they bought the Maynard's house, but then was it later moved? Could you tell me a little bit about that story?

M: Um, the Maynard house was not moved uh, according to what my family always told me. Uh, but it was, got, ended up being owned by someone outside the family who'd remodeled it. And once they remodeled it, it, it, it can't, it's pretty hard to identify it. But it's, it's on, I think, 65th uh, uh, either 64th or 65th. Because those streets didn't exist when I was a little kid. And, and, uh, but I could take someone to the hosue and show it to them.

IN: 00:06:19;07 D

OUT: 00:09:49;24 D

DUR: 00:03:30;17 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 1

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: And um, can you tell me a little bit about um, any other, um, family stories about um, you know, the early years of the Hansens and the Olsons. Just unusual events, the kinds of things that they did?

M: They um, you ever, have you heard the story about the light house?

I: No. That's one of the ones I would love to hear you tell.

V: And if you could use their name, their last name so that I know which family you're talking about.

M: Okay, well, when I talk about the family, I'm referring both to the Olson and Hansens because there's almost one family. Uh, although they eventually divided Alki Point, pro rata, you might say. Uh, but, uh, they considered themselves as almost one family. Uh, the, the Hansen, uh, the Olson girls, uh, who I met and knew, when I was a little kid, Aunt uh, uh, Linda and Bell was her sister. And uh, they just, they were just my aunts and what have you. Uh, the um --

I:--the light house?

M: Oh, the light house at Alki Point uh, Alki Point sticks out quite a ways in the water when there's a dark night or a foggy day and uh, and uh, I don't know for all the reasons but without any remuneration, the, the Hansen uh, uh, started uh, uh, uh, taking a coal oil lantern out to the Point and hanging it on a something, a tree or whatever, and so the ships and the people in the night going by would at least know that it was there. And they all people became used to that and so everyday that somebody from the family would go up and service the lantern and cha--, trim the wick, or, start to fill it with coal oil or whatever. And eventually the Coast Guard, uh, uh, uh, purchased the Point itself where the Light House now stands and paid my dad's uncle, Ed Hansen, uh, uh, uh, whose uh, uh, was uh, the only brother, the only boy in the Hansen family. There were a bunch of girls. Uh, and uh, he, he did that, and the story goes that he conned my, my aunt, uh, Linda, who is the, that I knew as a little boy, that he conned her into doing it most of the time. But Ed was kind of the, I don't want to say ne'er do well in the family, but he never worked. He was a professional gambler and wasn't a, very good at his profession.

I: Didn't make a lot of money, huh?

M: No, he didn't. He spent it, but he didn't make it.

IN: 00:10:03;11 D

OUT: 00:12:05;18 D

DUR: 00:02:02;07 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 1

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: You have another sort of relative, uh, related to the Hansen side who's Ivar Haglund, who was well known in Seattle lore as well. Do you want to just talk about him, I know he's the next generation, but, and about his relationship to Hansen/Olson clan?

M: Well, Ivar's mother and my father's mother were sisters. And Ivar's mother's name was Daisy and she died when he was 2 years old. And, ever hear about Olala(?) and the, the uh, uh, lady that ran this health thing over there and she starved people to death as part of her treatment, for whatever reason. And Ivar's mother died over there at two years and it really was pretty tragic. But--

I: Now where was that again? That was at--? I'm not familiar with that.

M: Olala?

I: Olala?

M: That's across from Bain-, from Vashon Island about halfway down the, on the west side of Vashon Island. It's on the Kitsap Peninsula.

V: It was a spa.

M: Well it was, was, it was a health spa for making people better and you cleansed your body. I read the book on it and and uh, uh, just from curiosity. And uh, and uh she wasn't accused ever of being, she was accused of, of, of all sorts of things, including taking things from deceased peoples, you know, and what have you, but I don't think she was ever put in prison or anything like that.

I: But, so, his mother actually went there?

M: She went there because, uh, she, she want, she did it voluntarily. And, and, I can't explain why, uh, it's just, she did.

I: And she died.

M: And she died.

I: And so

IN: 00:12:05;18 D

OUT: 00:15:36;16 D

DUR: 00:03:30;28 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 1

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

(Continued from previous entry)

M: You, you, Ivar Haglund, uh, uh, uh, actually is "Eevar" but uh, um, as he later told me one day when I was sitting down in his restaurant with him, uh, having lunch, I said, "Ivar, why don't you go by your actual name?" And he looked at me and said, in his own way, he said, "You mind your own business" he said. "See, uh, see all these people in here? For what they're paying me they can call me any darned thing they want to." But people pronounce it "Eye-var," as I would. But it's, his named is pronounced in Swedish, "Eevar." Ivar's father was Swedish and his mother, uh, one of the Amman sisters, the, uh, no Hansen was Norewegian, so. But uh, uh, Ivar is uh, was 17 years younger than my father but he was, you know, when his mother died, his father who worked downtown, was in a flour mill, miller and something and uh, and uh, uh, he uh, uh, left Ivar with my grandmother and she took care of him during the day. Well, he was alays around the house. And he and my father who was the youngest of the 3 Smith boys, uh, uh, were alwasy bosom buddies and uh, and Ivar, I can remember my little, years growing up, that Ivar was always around and my dad would get together and my dad could play honky tonk piano and at one time had a tent dance (?) in downtown Seattle. And he played the piano and his own orchestra. And uh, Ivar and he would get together and play and sing and I didn't realize it at the time but I knew that they were, they were nipping out of a bottle of something. And the music got better and then it got worse. And my mother would be so mad she couldn't see straight. But it was fun anyway. He was a character, I'll tell you, Ivar was a family character there was no question about it.

I: So he was a character all his life, it sounds like.

M: All his life. And uh, uh, I did lots of things with Ivar. I was the officer of his company and he was a director of mine and he and I owned the Smith Tower and uh, and uh, well he owned the majority of it, but I sold it to him. He wanted an investment and, and um, But he said he'd buy it if I'd buy part of it with him. And so I did. But um, that's, that's the tie in, and in, that Ivar and I have. Ivar is a generation ahead of me, but a real young member of that generation. And um, I had 17 cousins, uh, 1st cousins, and uh, um, many of them were Ivar's uh, relatives, uh, cousins, too.

IN: 00:15:37;16 D

OUT: 00:18:31;22 D

DUR: 00:02:54;04 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 1

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: Let's go back up one generation, though, and talk about your, your grandparents. So the Hansens and Olsons came to Alki and settled in. Your grandmother was Lorena, right?

M: What?

I: Your grandmother was Lorena, Lorena Hansen. So let's talk a little bit about the Hansen children and Lorena and then how she met her husband, Mr. Smith.

M: I'm not sure how that, uh, she met Al Smith. Uh, uh, A.A. Smith, the, uh, I, I, I'm not sure that I remember, uh. But, I, they did meet and then they were married and then, uh, they, they, came to live at Alki Point and they built the Stockade Hotel. Which is the, uh, I've, I've, there are pictures of it in the museum, now, and uh, uh, I think that Al was not a particularly ambitious in his pursuits, uh, uh, his father, L.P. Smith, the mayor, uh, had opened the, the, I think I said earlier, the first jewelry store in Seattle. Uh, which was burned down in the fire of 1889. And it, because of his age, he didn't re-open it. And Al, I guess, was either not interested in keeping the store going or wasn't capable of doing, the, the work, I'm not sure. But uh, in any event, uh, I think from then on Al got into helping develop something out at Alki Point which they ended up doing. As a matter of fact, in there's a, was a hotel on the very site of the Stockade Hotel that preceded it. And was built in the 1900's, the 1890's and was called the Alki Hotel. And I gave that, there's a picture of that over in the museum too. And that was eventually torn down and they built the Stockade Hotel. They also built the, from the Stockade Hotel clear up to where Admiral Way intersects 63rd and 64th. They built what they call the cottages. And a lot of people came out and rented them in the summer and in the Depression, people rented them just to live in. And uh, and uh, and uh, so that was potentially quite a bit of income property, you might say.

IN: 00:18:32;17 D

OUT: 00:21:21;27 D

DUR: 00:02:49;08 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 1

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: Can you say, though, what, in talking about the Hansens, Lorena's full name and just the, you know, the Hansen's children, did they encourage, um, their daughters to stay in Alk, to locally, did she help them there. Can you give us some background and say her full name.

M: Regarding the Hansen, uh, daughters, and, and sons, I've already mentioned Ed Hansen, but uh, I think there are 4, and again, this is in our records, but I have to say, I can't pull their names out uh, all of them. Ivar's mother Daisy, died, uh, the uh, there were uh, 2 others, and one of them I remember lived in San Enselmo, California. And uh, and I'd have to go back into my records and I don't have those here.

I: But your grandmother was—

M: Lorena Hansen.

I: And, and then, then she and , when she met Al Smith, Alfred Smith, did they stay on Alki? Did they leave and come back with the Stockade?

M: They, they uh, at one time, lived, uh, over by Kirkland. Uh, and just south of Kirkland. There's a name for what was a little, Hooton (?), Hooton. And, I remember seeing the house that my dad was born in over there and it was, he was 3 years old when he, he, his family moved to Alki Point. My dad was born in, uh, in 1889, so it must have been about '92 when the family moved to, to Alki Point and they stayed there ever since. And uh, and uh, and uh, uh, they, uh, I know where they, uh, I know my dad's family home at Alki Point, where it was situated on, on, uh, uh, uh, 60th and uh, just south of West Stevens Street. Uh, and uh, and, but, it's, it's apartment house or something now.

I: Oh, it's not there anymore.

M: No. It was. They had a, several acre piece of property and eventually they got sold off.

IN: 00:21:22;26 D

OUT: 00:24:14;23 D

DUR: 00:02:51;25 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 1

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: Um, you mentioned his grandfather Leonard Smith called him, "The Mayor," but maybe um, you could just tell a little bit about the Smith family history coming to Seattle.

M: Uh, well, Leonard P. Smith grew up in, uh, in uh, out near, out near uh, Boston, in Maine. And uh, uh, as a youth, apprenticed himself to, uh, to a uh, goldsmith. And learned the trade from, through apprenticeship. And he became a uh, uh, goldsmith, uh, I don't think he had his own store or, anything but he worked as, as a practicing goldsmith, and uh, developed, according to his doctor, consumption. And uh, uh, the doctor recommended a long sea voyage for him and uh, and uh, though, even with a couple young kids and all, he, he did. He left and was gone 2 years out on a whaling ship. And, and uh, the uh, whaling ship went all the way around the South America and came back up uh, and up into Alaska waters. And they also stopped at Puget Sound and so he carried a memory of Puget Sound with him. And, and his, uh, brother, older brother, Daniel Smith was a captain of a whaling ship at the time, not the one he was on, and uh, he also came back to Puget Sound, uh, later on. But uh, L.P. went back to Maine and became a member of the legis-, the uh, New Hampshire legislature. And uh, uh, sometime in the '50's, uh, he left there with family. I remember they said they, they had a horse drawn sled with all their belongings on it. Got to Boston, got aboard a ship, took them down to the Isthmus of Panama, walked across the Isthmus of Panama, but, but, they freighted their, their belongings across. And then he went up to the gold fields of California and worked as an assayer, and uh, that wasn't providing him what he wanted, or for whatever reason, maybe he was just still thinking he'd like to come back to the Northwest. Because he brought his family up and it's, and they came here in, in 1868, and uh, and uh, from then on he was made his living in Seattle.

IN: 00:24:13;14 D

OUT: 00:25:51;25 D

DUR: 00:01:38;11 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 1

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: So you actually had two sets of ancestors who came in about the same time.

M: Yeah.

I: Can you give us a little bit more background about, the Stockade Hotel itself. You mentioned, you know, having pictures of the Stockade and the hotel that was there before. But how that was developed, how that idea came about and how, how it was developed.

M:Um, obviously I wasn't a part of the family at the time the Stockade Hotel or the Alki Hotel, which preceded it, were, were conceived or, or built. But, uh, it was a means to make money, and uh, I think that's the way that uh, Al Smith and his family lived. Uh, uh and it was developing the property that his wife brought to their marriage. And by then the Alki Point had been divided within the family. And I never heard anybody arguing about so-and-so got something better than somebody else. It could have happened, but I was never aware of it. And uh, uh, the, that particular block of property where the hotel was built, all the way up to Admiral Way, where these cottages were built, was my grandmother's share of the family property. And so they could do anything they wanted with it. And, and they did.

IN: 00:25:48;02 D

OUT: 00:29:11;22 D

DUR: 00:03:23;18 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 1

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: Can you tell me a little bit about, you know, the cottages you're mentioning. I know that later you actually lived, for a short time, yourself in the Stockade Hotel, right?

M: Yes, yes.

I: But before that time could you describe a little bit about what it was like and then I want to sort of get your personal impressions about it as well.

M: Well it's hard to describe what it's like but it, in the name Stockade uh, came from the fact that they, uh, put logs vertical rather than horizontal as you would in a stockade to fight off the, the Indians, or whatever, uh, for protection. And uh, that's how it got its name and um, and um, the hotel was operated for years, uh, when I was young by uh, it being rented out. But uh, somebody would operate it. They served the dinners and, and, and the food, as well as they had rooms for people that, that wanted to stay there. And when I was little, little boy and even before my family moved there, I, I even knew some of the people that were really, lived there for years. And uh, and uh, and uh, the reason I ended up living at the hotel was my family, in an attempt to save the hotel from being foreclosed on, because of a family, I'll say tragedy, that my dad's brother Leonard P. Smith, who'd named after the mayor, but is his brother, uh, was uh, kind of the uh, uh, executor of the, Alfred's estate. And for years my mother had been collecting the rents from the cottages and the hotel and giving the money to Lenny to pay off the mortgage, which should have been paid off. And then the Depression hit and they found out for 7 or 8 years, he hadn't paid anything. He'd just spend it. And gave it away, went to parties and threw money around and what have you. But, but the family is very close and they didn't prosecute him or anything else. They were certainly upset, but uh, uh, it's just a tragic thing that nobody expected. And it was an attempt to, to uh, keep the hotel going my mother and dad mortgaged the house they had, uh, which wasn't worth a lot, nothing was in those days. But, but, they put that money into kind of polishing up the hotel. When we moved in they tried their best for 2 years to make it, but the, they couldn't do it. And so eventually, about 1935, they went back to the lender, who was a bank and the bank, uh, I don't know whether they tore the hotel down or the people they sold it to, tore it down and built those apartments that are there now.

IN: 00:29:12;01 D

OUT: 00:31:05;11 D

DUR: 00:01:53;08 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 1

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: The last time I talked to you, you had some pretty vivid memories of, I've seen some pictures of the exterior of the Stockade but the interior, a little bit about what the ambience was like and, and you know, what it was like to live in that. Can you share a little of that?

M: It was great for me because, I'm guessing, I was in the 4th grade. And uh, through the 6th grade, about. And uh, or 3rd through the 5th, or something like that. And, and uh, before, in my family home, where I was born was 3220 63rd Avenue South West. Uh, uh, but it was half way to the beach, the two beaches, kind of between them. Just south of Admiral Way on 63rd. And uh, be down at the hotel I was right across the, from the water. And so I was able to spend a lot of time down at the beach uh, and uh, and uh, since I learned to swim and everything at an early age, my mother and dad weren't really worried about me. I, I could swim a mile if I wanted to and it was no problem. And, and uh, that, my group of friends, that uh, lived up near the ferry dock, and close by and, and uh, we, we all gravitated towards the, either the beach or down at the, the playfield at Alki grade school. Where, and uh, and uh, since they were all water oriented we did spend a lot of time in boats and, and trying to make a boat, and, all that, did make several of them, and uh, and uh, um, anyway, it's, I got into fishing and other things and (tape runs out).

IN: 00:31:19;24 D

OUT: 00:31:35;15 D

DUR: 00:00:15;21 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 2

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: What was your mother's name?

M: Fredericka Johanna Kapanog(?).

I: I was looking through our old interview and I never see you actually use her name

M: Frieda they called her.

IN: 00:31:37;28 D

OUT: 00:32:31;23 D

DUR: 00:00:53;23 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 2

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: Tell a little bit about your boat and how you built it and what it was like.

M: Well, I built several boats, but the first one I, I took a fish box which, uh, is about 3 or 4 feet long and maybe 18 inches or little wide and uh, made that into a boat by getting tar that, from, the, I don't think they had asphalt in those days but, uh, anyway it was around and you could get it and uh, I think it was tar that I found some place and, and, anyway, I melted it in the can till it got hot, then I'd pour it in the boat and, and I did make the boat so it was pretty waterproof and, and (Interviewer coughs. They pause for a second.)

IN: 00:32:44;09 D

OUT: 00:33:06;15 D

DUR: 00:00:22;04 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 2

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: Just talk a little bit again about the tar, cause I think that I interrupted you.

M: I, I found the tar, got it from someplace, uh, and uh, I heated it in the can to make it, melt it, and then I poured it in these rather open seams in the boat and uh, and uh, that's how I made the fish box water proof. And uh, that was my boat and I could-- (Interviewer coughs. Stop tape.)

IN: 00:33:08;20 D

OUT: 00:38:31;19 D

DUR: 00:05:22;29 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 2

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: Okay, shall we try one more time with the tar.

M: Where?

I: Just about the tar, about melting the tar again. And making the boat.

M: Then that's how I made the boat waterproof and then I'd carry it, it wasn't very heavy and uh, get one of my friends to help me and we'd carry it down and put it in the water right in front of the Hotel. And, and uh, I must have been uh, 11 years old, maybe, at the time. And I'd get out in the, go maybe 100 yards one way and 100 yards the other way, would be a long trip for that boat because it was just like a scow. But people would stand there and watch because they couldn't understand why I didn't sink. But uh, it was a lot of fun. But then I, I got a little bit older at uh, uh, boy by the name of Clyde Vinton(?) and uh, who uh, lived near me and uh, as I recall he was just one year ahead of me in school but, we got into deciding we'd build ourselves a boat. And, and so I helped Clyde a little bit work on his and then I started building one for myself and uh, I went up to the public library in West Seattle and checked out a book that was how to build, I don't know, 12 different boats. And in it I followed the instructions and, and didn't, you, know that it was tough to do. And did it and the boat worked fine. And, and uh, so I ended up with about a 11 foot row boat that was very light weight because it was all cedar uh, except for the ribs. And uh, uh, from then on I, I was, spent a lot of time on the water. Uh, but I started fishing and I first started fishing just by, by rowing and, and, which wasn't hard to do because the boat was, was, uh, light weight as I said. But the best way to do the fishing is to have a motor and so, and I was 12 or 13 years old, or whatever it was. I, I went up, I remember to the to the hardware store in the West Seattle junction and bought the, one of the first uh, Johnson Alternate Firing Twin engines uh, that they made. And uh, the hardware store signed me up to pay, pay for it so much a month. And I did. And uh, I'm sure my mother and dad said they would guarantee it or something but I, I paid it off. And, and uh, but having the motor uh, made it such that uh, I, you know, I could be down here in the 30 40 minutes from Alki Point and and uh, uh, I mean the, the, Duwamish, uh, area. Elliot Bay and we spent time when, I don't think I ever went around the south end of Vashon Island, but we went up and down the side of Vashon Island and we used to go over to Blake Island, where, uh, camp on the beach and uh, and uh, uh, Bainbridge Island. We went around Bainbridge Island twice and slept, it was a long trip, of course, and slept on the beach uh, uh, on that, on that trip. And uh, had a lot of fun, and uh, and uh, we did a lot of fishing.

IN: 00:33:08;20 D

OUT: 00:38:31;19 D

DUR: 00:05:22;29 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 2

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

(Continued from previous entry)

M: And, the uh, middle of the Depression in the early 30's the, everybody had problems, uh, that I remember at Alki Point, with money. But none of us starved, and uh, and uh, I used to uh, uh, take my cart I made to haul my motors, my oars, my my uh fishing gear and uh, whatever else I took with me in the boat to go fishing down by, this 2 wheel cart, uh, by then, by that time, we had moved from the Hotel back to where I was born. And uh, uh, there were a lot of fish out there and I, I'm was not aware and, of any thing against catching fish, so I, that I recall, that uh, remember as a matter of fact, the most I ever brought home was 26 fish in one day and, and that's pretty good haul. And my mother would uh, summon all the ladies in the neighborhood when I'd come back with any reasonable amount of fish, and divide it up with them, because we didn't have refrigeration and uh, we could have enough for dinner and maybe you could keep it till the next day, but you couldn't keep it very long. And uh, uh, I know I helped feed a lot of people and uh, and in fairness to them they would give potatoes, peas and you know, whatever that, uh, was, nobody was trying to take advantage of anybody. It's, and, they were pleased to see me 'cause it kinda of started all that pro-, process.

IN: 00:38:32;13 D

OUT: 00:40:29;07 D

DUR: 00:01:56;22 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 2

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: Are there some other sort of Depression era stories that you remember about, you know, living in Alki, how people got by, um, you know, how you got things that you needed, that kind of thing.

M: Well, we uh, we were never on welfare or anything like that, but I can remember when we, several meals when we had potatoes and maybe some bread or something like that uh, uh, because it wasn't all peaches and cream. But, uh, uh, we were more fortunate than a lot of other people because right across the alley from where my home was, uh, and, one lot up, was a, was a double garage and that garage was the WPA commissary. Uh, where people that were really destitute could come and get something to eat. And my family never went in the door. The, there, but uh, it was really kind of sad, uh, uh, watching the people that did, and uh, then seeing some of them drive up in great big cars that looked better than anything my family had. And uh, and uh, hide it a half a block away and then walk down and get their groceries and go back and take off in their car. But on the other hand, maybe they were, they had a nice car but they didn't have anything else. You never really knew. But that was uh, the thing that reminded me most, I think, is uh, about the the Depression was that, uh, uh, sort of commissary I guess you would call it, or something. And uh, it sort of like a food bank today.

IN: 00:40:30;02 D

OUT: 00:41:59;15 D

DUR: 00:01:29;13 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 2

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: Were there people around Alki that worked for the WPA too, I mean in terms of the public works kinds of projects?

M: Well they might have done some work up in Schmidt's Park, but I don't recall much going on up there. And it, we, you know going up to James Madison, we walked up through Schmidt's Park to get there, so really, went up through it everyday. And uh, and uh, I don't think it really changed in the 3 years that I went to James Madison. And then once, once I got to the high school, uh, that uh, uh, I was working and uh, my dad always had his truck at home. Uh, and then he'd take me up in his off--, he had a, his, he called it his office, it was up at the West Seattle Junction. And, uh, he would take me up and drop me off by the high school then I, so I never, uh, had to, to uh, uh, walk through Schmidt's Park except rarely uh, uh, uh, in those years. And uh, as a matter of fact, my dad used to pick up uh, other other people that I knew and sometimes he'd have 8 or 10 or 12 of us sitting or standing in the back of the truck by the time we got up the top of the hill. It'd save them the 2 and a half cent school token.

IN: 00:41:59;08 D

OUT: 00:44:21;03 D

DUR: 00:02:21;23 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 2

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: You were talking earlier about your fishing experiences and I didn't want to leave that without, I know you did a lot of swimming, too in the Sound. Could you talk a little bit about how, how else you used the beach and will you tell the story about how you cooked clams on the beach?

M: Well, we spent a lot of time on the beach because, as, as, as I said, it was a focal point in, in either at the south beach, the north beach, or around by the, um, down by the uh, uh, bath house uh, uh, which we didn't spend a lot of time there 'cause that got, kind of got tame for us and we were more adventuresome than the life guard would uh, let you do down there. And uh, uh, the, we, we spent a lot of time on the beach uh, and in low tides we'd go out and try to spear fish and get sole and I, I remember I caught a ling cod of 3, over 3 feet long uh, by, uh floating over it with my boat and uh, taking an oar and just jabbing it and I broke it's back. And the poor thing couldn't swim and so I was able to, with my oar, move it all the way into shore and that was the only big ling cod I ever caught out there. But uh, they uh, uh, we used to, uh, spend a lot of time in the water. And uh, either wading in the water, swimming, or, and, and I, we liked to uh, make what I would call a raft uh, but it really wasn't a raft. Uh, probably 2 of us couldn't even sit on it and then probably sink it. But we'd take, take it with use when we'd swim out because it gave us something like a life jacket you know, to hang onto, it wasn't going to sink. And, and uh, well you might, you couldn't get out of the water but you could rest and not have to uh, so, um, we uh, we did that both at the south beach and, and the north beach. But most of the time up by the by the ferry dock, um, that, by the, by the north, north beach.

IN: 00:44:21;21 D

OUT: 00:45:58;26 D

DUR: 00:01:37;05 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 2

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: And, and you had a story about cook, you were able to cook, was it clams or oysters and like a, how did you do that?

M: Well, I don't want to imply that we did that everyday, but uh, but uh, we uh, we did. We were down at the beach, we found out the way the Indians used to do it, you could, you could take a good sized stick and you could pop uh, uh, clams or oysters out of, out of the uh, no, oysters are on top of the uh, but uh, clams, uh out, because they're right near the surface. And uh, and uh, the question how to, how to cook them uh, and we would, you know find a, a can or something that floated in, as long as it wasn't contaminated or oil or whatever and, and uh, put them in that and build a little fire and set it on and uh, eventually they'd be done enough to eat. And, well, you could eat them raw if you wanted to. But uh, uh, we did actually, rather than go home for lunch sometimes, if we'd had, we'd, we'd, we'd do that. And maybe, 15 times or 10 times in my career. It wasn't a thing we had to do but we were able to eat lunch on the beach if we wanted to. And then once in a blue moon, you'd find a Dungeness Crab. And uh, and uh, if we did that we'd, we made that a real, a real uh, uh, adventure to get it and uh, and then we'd cook that because it was really good.

IN: 00:45:58;25 D

OUT: 00:48:12;26 D

DUR: 00:02:13;29 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 2

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: Tell me a little bit about living in the Stockade Hotel. That must have been fun for a boy though, to be in that kind of, living in that kind of environment. Can you talk a little bit about what that was like. And you mention you knew pretty well some of the people who lived there.

M: Yes, um, the Hotel wasn't really operated as a true hotel for people can come and stay for one day. Uh, I'm sure my folks would, would do that but that, they had it mostly rented out to permanents and, uh, and as I said some people lived there for a number of years. I remember there was a lady named Mrs. Hanover and, and, Hamburg, Hamburger. Uh, but, uh, I, all I could remember was that she had a little tiny dog that uh, that uh, black and tan thing, that uh, was her life and joy. And uh, and I enjoyed her and the dog. And we had a pool table in the, in the uh, hotel, uh, which uh, uh was kept back in the in the dance area that was used for meetings and dances and what have you. But several of the men who worked in, somewhere, and came home and stayed at the hotel every night, uh, uh, I got pretty good, to be a pretty good pool player, uh, shooter. Uh, uh, because I watched them and they guided me a little bit. And, and I uh, uh, played uh, pool a lot which I enjoyed and and uh, I remember that uh, another boy, a little bit older than me, we put on a, a magician show and charged admissions to it. Uh, he was pretty, good, I was just his assistant. But, but uh, uh, we we put that on in the ballroom and uh, and uh, and uh, uh.

IN: 00:48:19;00 D

OUT: 00:51:36;19 D

DUR: 00:03:17;19 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 2

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: Describe, you've mentioned in passing dances and a ballroom, so tell me a little bit about what you know the hotel was like on the inside, you know when you would walk in and a little bit about kinds of activities that might go on, this, in addition to pool.

M: Well, when you came in the main entrance to the Hotel, you were, you were walking, uh, right towards a big huge fire place that would take logs about 4 or 5 feet long, uh, uh, on the far wall, and it was, like at the Homestead, uh, Restaurant, uh, uh, it was uh, made with beach rock and cement and uh, and uh, it was a great fire place and then they had one just like it uh, on the back side of that, probably with the same flue, that took care of the ballroom, as I called it for want of a better ex-, name. And uh, the hotel was furnished, lobby was furnished with mostly uh, uh, wooden furniture that was created by the Norwegians that built the hotel. Uh, and they, they, it's a beautiful thing, tables, and, and uh, and, you know pieces of 4 or 5 inches, 4 inches, 5 inches in diameter. And uh, uh, so there were some group seating areas, maybe 2 or 3 in the, in the, in the front desk of the hotel was there. And uh, to the left, you went into uh, uh, the dining room, which was the, it seemed big to me, it's probably small today, uh, uh, but, uh, then, uh, behind the uh, behind the ballroom, uh, was the kitchen and uh, and uh, my family, we ate in the, in the kitchen, there was a room there, uh, but uh, uh, the other people ate in the, in the dining room. And uh, and uh, then, the obviously a stairway that went upstairs and the, and the, and there was 2 levels, 2 floors, of hotel rooms. And uh, and uh, I can't tell you how many rooms there were, not a lot. But, but, uh, I, I guess there were like maybe 15 rooms, maybe 20 rooms, I'm not sure.

I: And then the family lived--

M: We, we had a, a kind of an apartment made out of a couple of rooms. And uh, it was not on the beach side, we were on the back side and then the corner uh, towards the, or looking towards the point and back up over the cottages that uh, had been built, uh. And as a matter of fact there was a, couple of platforms out behind the hotel before you got to where the cottages were, that were were used for people that wanted to bring their tent and set it up and some people did, and uh, they camped out in their tent and, and, and, with a wooden floor.

IN: 00:51:42;06 D

OUT: 00:52:12;23 D

DUR: 00:00:30;15 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 2

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: The Homestead was there at the same time and your family knew the people that ran that, do you want to talk about that at all?

M: I don't think the Homestead was a, was a restaurant at that time. It might have been, but I don't remember it as being one. The um, but on the other hand, I couldn't tell you when it was converted to a restaurant. Uh, I, I think it was a

IN: 00:52:13;29 D

OUT: 00:57:30;20 D

DUR: 00:05:16;21 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 2

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: Tell me a little bit about your school experiences in West Seattle, um, which, you know, which schools did you go to and and you know are there some things that stand out and your boyhood educational experiences.

M: Well, I uh, regarding schools, I, I uh, started in kindergarten, I always remember it as, it was the 2nd house from the Schmidt's Park bridge on the left hand side, when you're going up the hill. And uh, uh, that was not a school, uh, public school facility, it was a private thing. So I went, uh, went there, I don't think I went for a year, but for a few months in whatever it was. And then I started to Alki Grade School, and uh, and uh, I mentioned to you, in, when I saw you, my mother, uh, for whatever reason, dressed me in, uh, I always referred to it as a "Little Lord Fauntleroy" costume. But, but uh, and I got to school and I was a pretty good size, for my age but, uh, everybody picked on me because of, uh, I, was, uh, I was, uh, out of character with the rest of them, and, and I'd get, I'd go home and I'd be dirty because I'd been in, rolling in the mud and fighting, or whatever. And uh, my mother, I remember, she brought me back and showed me to Mr. Cassidy who was the principal of the grade school and, and uh, I can't remember all that happened, but he, he always reminded me of Teddy Roosevelt. Uh, but, uh, he uh, I remember him telling my mother, he said, "If you'd dress him like the rest of the children, he'd probably get along a lot better." And, so, then she said, bought me some coveralls, or something, or whatever, whatever the, everybody wore and, and then I could defend myself without fear of being in trouble at home. But it's, that's just the way things were in, and um, we um, I enjoyed Alki Grade School, and uh, and uh, I don't remember a lot about, about it, but uh, and my mind wasn't necessarily on schooling but I, but I always got pretty good grades and, in what I did, without a lot of effort and uh, and uh, and then I started at James Madison, and uh, that was a brand new school that was only 3 or 4 years old when I started uh, there. And uh, I enjoyed that, and uh, and uh, then I, I, uh, got into the high school, but between carrying newspapers and doing other things, I, I, uh, always have regretted, that I, there are a lot of people in my class that I really never knew. I, because I, I excused early from school and, and uh, and uh, I headed for my job, or whatever it was, and uh, I uh, uh, missed out on a lot of things, including they used to have little dances uh, after school, but before you know, I mean like 4 o'clock or 4:30 or something. And I, I never attended one, uh, uh, or, or, a lot of people in my class, I never had occasion to even talk to them. Not that I was afraid to talk to them, I just wasn't, we weren't together, and, and uh, I uh, I did uh, made 2 letters while I was varsity letters while I was in school throwing the shot put. And then uh, Coach Frame uh, uh, he was the track coach, gave me a shot put to take home, 'cause he thought I probably could do that, and then I practiced in the lot right across the alley from my my folks house that we owned and that was my shot putting, uh, area and, and uh, and uh, I was fortunate enough to get an athletic scholarship uh, to University of Washington to throw the shot for the University and uh, and uh, I uh, uh, uh, when I, and I started there, the University in 1941, and uh, and I was, then uh, were there and the war started in December and uh, and uh, the uh, went on, was in the service and uh, but uh.

IN: 00:57:33;22 D

OUT: 00:59:17;23 D

DUR: 00:01:43;29 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 2

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: It, it, it sounds like that was really important, you know, part of your life, was that something that your parents wanted to see you do, is that something that came from you wanting to do, tell me a little bit about that.

M: A lot of it was me. My, my parents never denied me anything that, that, that I have, uh, uh, needed, uh, had to have, uh sometimes, uh, I remember in the middle of the Depression, that, some of the other kids had roller skates and I didn't. And I remember going in to see my father and saying, and I wondered if I could get a pair of roller skates and he ended up with tears in his eyes and said no, because they just didn't have the money to do it. But uh, and that was true with us and a lot of other people, at the same time. But uh, uh, I, I, I liked the independence of working because it gave me the opportunity to spend my money on things that I wanted. And I bought some of my clothes and, not all of them, uh, if I needed something my mother would take me up and get it for me. But, but um, I um, on the other hand we didn't have, I didn't have a suit, I didn't have a jacket, or, or I think I had one shirt that I could wear to Sunday school, and, and, and uh, and all, and uh, but uh, I, I didn't feel deprived, uh, because everybody else was, as I say, was somewhat in the same situation.

IN: 00:59:19;24 D

OUT: 01:02:22;26 D

DUR: 00:03:03;02 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 2

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: Tell me about some of the kinds of jobs you had.

M: Well, uh, I did, I did actually do work for my dad uh, uh, and moved a lot of pianos and we, and he and I could, I remember he uh, he had 2 men he got out of the Teamsters Hall helping him move a piano up the 2nd story of an apartment house right up on California Avenue. And he got me out of school because these fellows couldn't do it. But they were, they um, I think were all, were inebriated, uh, the 2 of them, as, as sometimes happened, uh, and uh, and uh, anyway, my dad got me and when I got there he said, Now you get out of the way and let my son do it. So I picked up the bottom of it and he'd do the top and we'd take it up and they would be cheering for us. I thought this is kind of, of ridiculous but, but uh, uh, or he'd have a, sometimes we'd have a job that was uh, going to take longer than he anticipated. He'd get me to come and help and uh, uh, but it wasn't a thing I did everyday. But I carried papers, see, either the PI in the morning or the Times at night. And I did both and I was actually, was what they call the station manager for the Times by the time I was a senior in high school. And uh, my friend Jerry Gustakus(?) who you probably don't know, but he owns 10 million dollars worth of real estate in Seattle uh, that uh, uh, I've sold him and uh, and uh, we're still very close friends, but uh, but uh, the uh, uh. Oh, we carried newspapers together. And Jerry likes to say that I was his first boss and I made 5 dollars a month more than he did and then I, my line is, Well he only made 5 dollars a month, it was double. But uh, and uh, people asked me why I moved away from West Seattle and I tell them in front of Jerry, I say, Well they started letting the Greeks in. And so, but uh, it's all good natured and joking, but uh, I haven't lived at West Seattle since uh, really since I got out of high school. And, but I used to go over and my mother and dad, uh, were uh, uh, they wouldn't take money but we could give them things, like a TV, a new stove, whatever they would accept, uh, uh, uh. But they did, they died with money in the bank. But they were very frugal in what they did, and that was just their nature. And uh, and uh, um, well, the book, I gave you, the thing I read to the historical group, uh, uh, uh (tape rewinds).

IN: 01:02:37;02 D

OUT: 01:05:19;29 D

DUR: 00:02:42;25 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 3

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

M: Um, my parents would never accept money from, because they had money, and uh, um, not a lot, but then they, they always had some, and so they, they, they just didn't want to accept money, they, they'd rather we spend it on our kids or whatever and, and uh, but uh, uh, I did go over to visit them a lot. As, as matter of fact my dad was fit, got to an age where he couldn't take care of the yard, which was a good sized yard. And they wouldn't, I even hired people to go over and go over and do the lawn for them. But they wouldn't, they would make them feel so uncomfortable that they didn't want to go back. And, and uh, it finally dawned on me that what my mother and dad wanted, well, they wanted me to come over and do the lawn, not because of, of the, I did the lawn neccessarily better than anybody else, but because I'd bring my kids with me. Then their 4 grandchildren, and they'd, that was the big thing to them and so every Saturday, I'd go over after I'd finish mowing my lawn at my house. I'd go over and usually and do theirs. And I guess how bad it was one time I got one of the best landscapers in the business. By then I was working in the real estate business and I told this man, I said, "Look, here's the situation, my mother has run off the several people we've hired to take care of their yard. And uh, because they don't you don't do it right, or you can't do it as well as my son, or, or something and I said, I've instructed my mother and dad, please stay in the house and don't say anything to the, you, and please go out and do it, and I know you'll do a good job 'cause I've, you know, I know what you do for us. And, uh, it'll work out. I hope."

Well, they, the next Monday the man came to see me and said, "Martin," he said, "no more." He siad, "Your mother followed us around looking out the curtains and they, finally got this, came out with their broom, and this kind of a disgusted look and swept some of the clippings off the walk and, kind of like 'you idiots, why did you get it there.' And then then she went and got her mower and followed behind him, disdainfully doing this part here and one part over there. We just can't put up with that." So, till they, till they got rid of the house that I, I went over there most every weekend.

IN: 01:05:19;29 D

OUT: 01:07:46;18 D

DUR: 00:02:26;19 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 3

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

M: And. But uh, they, they enjoyed it, my dad, as I started to tell you, once uh, my dad was a real horse trader because he'd buy furniture from people that were moving. And uh, then uh, his rule of thumb was if I, I can sell it for 3 times what I paid for it I think I, I, I'll, I'll buy it and otherwise I don't want to buy it. Well, he ended up with quite a bit of stuff and but, he had a 32 caliber revolver that I remember as a little tiny kid. No ammo round, but he said to me one time, and I was in the Marine Corps and I instructed uh, sort of small arms instructor was what I was, and helped run a rifle range. And uh, I had a lot of respect for weapons and what they can do. And uh, my dad said to me one time, he said, uh, "Do you have a gun at your house?" And I said, "No, I don't want one. I got 3 boys and a daughter, I don't want them." And he says, "Well, I think you ought to have some means of protecting your family," and he said, uh, "I'll sell you that 32 caliber revolver I have, uh, for uh, 25 dollars." And, and I knew that my dad wanted some money for some reason, so I bought it from him. Not because I wanted it, so I paid him the money. And uh, uh, then about 6 or 8 months later, he said to me one time when I was over there he said, "Do you still have my revolver?" And I said, "You mean that 32 caliber? Yes." And I said, "Yeah, I still have it." And he said, "Well, I think I ought to get that back because, you know I worry about protecting your mother. You know I don't get around very well. And, and I wish you would bring it back." So I bring it back and I wouldn't say anything. I bought it from him 4 times. And, and the last time was about 75 dollars. And, and uh, I know that, that he took great satisfaction because "that son of mine is so stupid. And, (laughs) can he remember that he bought it from me." But anyway, I ended up with a 32 caliber revolver, I think.

IN: 01:07:53;06 D

OUT: 01:10:48;23 D

DUR: 00:02:55;17 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 3

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: Any other stories that you know your dad had, so he spent most of his life living on Alki?

M: Well, uh, I think, like I did, uh I think he enjoyed growing up at Alki Point. And that uh, I think they all had a great time, and uh, and uh, I, I can't tell you too much about stories about my dad, but I know he, he went up to, spent one summer up in Alaska as a 16 year old, uh, uh, and uh, then he spent a year up there, uh, uh, before he started to college. Uh, uh, and uh, he was with a government surveyor going through the Choogat(?) Mountains, which are up near uh, uh, uh, uh, uh, not Juno, but what's, Anchorage, Alaska. And uh, uh, Anchorage wasn't even a cross roads, the, the, nothing whatsoever there until another 10 or 15 years. But uh, and then in ,when the surveyor was finished, my dad then went to work for the Copper River Rail Road, uh, uh, Valdeese and spent the winter, uh, working on the rail road. In the uh, rail road yard, uh, repairing the engines, is what he was doing. But he, he had an interesting life and all, but uh, he uh, I can't relate all that to Alki Point, but that's, I, I don't know all the things he did. He was captain of the first basketball team at Queen Anne High School, because he had to go, there was no high school in West Seattle. He had to go, he went to Queen Anne, Lincoln and Broadway at one time or another to get a good, to get through school. And uh, uh, shortly after, he, he graduated from high school which I think was in 1912, uh, or 14, no 14, um, that he um, uh, they they built a high school in West Seattle. But he never went to high school in West Seattle.

I: So that was quite a trip to go all the way to Queen Anne.

M: Oh yeah. Took, on a streetcar it was about an hour's trip. I don't know how they got up to the top of Queen Anne. There must have been a cable car there at that time.

IN: 01:10:49;29 D

OUT: 01:12:58;28 D

DUR: 00:02:08;29 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 3

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: You, you also mentioned....the thing about working at Spuds. I thought that might be interesting to put on here.

M: Well, I, I, did work at the Spuds, but I didn't work there a long time, and uh, and uh, the Algers I think would remember me. But uh, I'm not sure but I think both of them are gone now. But uh, the Davide Nourse, N-o-u-r-s-e, is the preacher's son and uh, uh, and uh, well, the Alki Congregational Church at that time and, and uh, and uh, he uh, he got a job down there peeling poatoes and then he got me a job peeling with him. And uh, so we did that for several weeks. He did it a little bit longer than I did because I found something else that I could do that I could, I think I made more money or, or, or enjoyed more, or something. But, but uh, it, it was when they'd first started and their, if you've probably been in there and you know they have the old, old pictures on the wall. Well the oldest picture, shows exactly where we, the door that we went in, in the back. We just sat in there on the, almost on the floor, so to speak, peeling potatoes. And they, uh, whether somebody else had them or not, I don't know, but the only thing we had there to peel potatoes with were paring knives. And, and uh, and you don't peel very fast with those. But it uh--

I: Was the restaurant, I mean was that a kind of community center? Did a lot of kids sort of congregate there when you were growing up or not?

M: You couldn't congregate, there wasn't enough room in there to, there was room for the, the, literally was almost, you stood on the sidewalk to buy your, to buy your, uh, your uh, fish and chips. But it was good.

IN: 01:12:59;10 D

OUT: 01:16:14;11 D

DUR: 00:03:14;29 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 3

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: What about some other, just community landmarks, I know you'd mentioned that you mostly swam in the Sound, the Natatorium, now that was there when you were growing up, but you didn't use it, could you talk about some of the other, the Bath House you did mention, tell a bit more about some of the landmarks around.

M: Well, Luna Park, had burned down uh, I think it was '31. I was 7 years old or 8 years old. And it was too far away from my house. I didn't walk down there. And, and, so I really never, I never went to Luna Pool that I remember. I may have been there, but I don't remember. And I remember them building the Natatorium. And uh, I did, my guess is I probably swam in the natatorium 5 times. Uh, uh, uh, because it cost money and, and, and we'd spend our money on something else. If you want to swim, swim in the water, and, in the salt water, and, and uh, and uh, uh, but uh, I don't, they, they said that the Natatorium, had a, a hard surface in the, but I don't remember that, it, it probably did, but I, I simply, it escapes my, I don't recall it. But uh, my dad always told me, interestingly, that there was a natatorium built up between the ferry dock and the point where the light house was back in the real early days. And, and uh, that was torn down long before I was ever born.

I: But he remembered swimming there... whatever?

M: Oh, yeah, he said he did. And uh, then uh, I remember the ferry, the ferry boat, and the, that the, the Cros(?) line, Captain Crosby was the, he owned it and he was the Captain on it. And I ended up working with him, with Henry Broderick, when I started in the real estate business. And, and he was actually a relative of Bing Crosby, and Bing came into the office a couple of times to, to see him. Um, but uh, he ran the ferry, ferry at the time and I didn't know him at the time except he was just "The Captain." He was a pretty big person, you know, in my eyes. And, and uh, we spent a lot of time fishing off the float of the ferry dock. And and uh, using pile worms, uh and we caught these little shiners and per-, you know, but the they weren't really worth, weren't worth eating and so, but we had a lot of fun there. And uh, I guess that's about all I can tell you.

IN: 01:16:15;08 D

OUT: 01:20:07;00 D

DUR: 00:03:51;20 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 3

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: The ferry, did most people use the ferry regularly. Was it just for short trips, or did people sort of commute to Seattle in that ferry or, tell me a little bit about it.

M: Well, uh, it, would, ran to Manchester and Manchester is probably, uh, 4, 3 or 4 miles, 5 miles from what is now Port Orchard. But the ferry docked at Bremerton uh, the people that lived in Manchester would have to drive around and get to Bremerton to get on the ferry to get unloaded in downtown Seattle. So I think it was better for them to take the streetcar from, from downtown to Alki Point, get on the ferry, and go, let them take, take them over to Manchester, uh, uh, uh, and a lot of them did that. He didn't make a lot of money with his ferry but uh, cause he and I talked about that after I got to know him uh, later, and uh, and uh, but uh, it was a pretty thrilling thing. In fact, we would, used to take our bicycles on and I, like a nickle a bike or something, it's not very much. And I'd make a couple of sandwiches and take them with us and we'd go over by, um, not Manchester, I forget, there's a little river that comes out there and you'd fish. And never had a lot of success fishing, but it was kind of an adventure to do. But it wasn't so, we weren't so successful that we went back, I think we only did it 2 or 3 times. But uh, and uh, then another thing about Alki Point, that, in the winter time, right below the, the hill, which is the hill uh, up by the very point, uh, at, at the base of it, facing towards where my house is, was, where I was raised, there would east, uh, there was a pond there and then it filled up with water and when we had freezing, we used to go over there and ice skate and play ice hockey and, and uh, uh, although I never had a pair of ice skates, that, we just played on the ice. And, and, and, it was a lot of fun and it seemed to me that there were several winters when it was frozen quite a bit of the time. And I guess like today, we have warm winters and cold winters, and, then uh, I used to go over to the family farm. It really belonged to the Olsons, but as I told you, who cared who it belonged to, we were all they're my aunts and uncles and all that stuff. And uh, uh, that was a pretty thrilling thing to me because the, that farm was, was uh, self-sustaining. They had you know, black smith shop bellows to heat iron to repair this and do that and, and uh, and uh, and uh, and uh, often times had horses and cows around, although they didn't operate it as a dairy farm when I was little that did--. But some of these cattle were there and, and there was a split rail fence right across 63rd right across from where we lived uh, uh, that was all pasture. And it was kind of fun to when they did put cattle in there, which they did a few times, uh, you know you, they look awful big when you are a little kid.

IN: 01:20:09;14 D

OUT: 01:23:52;29 D

DUR: 00:03:43;15 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 3

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: Now, the Olson farm, you're mentioning it was that, where was that exactly?

M: Well, uh, can you picture where the end of the promenade is going toward the point. Um, I'd say, um, it was probably 500 or uh, 600 feet from the end of the promenade, back towards Seattle and then just turn and go in to the right. This place that uh, the house that uh, Arlene always refers to as the green house that you couldn't see into or something, and that uh, uh, it was between that and, and the ferry dock which was at the end of the promenade. And, and it was back uh, probably 1,000 feet, or more, from Alki Avenue. And it was a root cellars, and uh, and the barn, the red barn and uh, when they weren't farming all the things are there. I think I have the bellows and one of the ox yokes uh, from, or 2 of the ox yokes, one of which is on display. But that was from the logging of uh, they did it with oxen, you know. But uh, then there, I know they had a large vegetable garden at one time, but, uh, no, the, my Aunt Linda was uh, I think she died in about 1940, I'm not sure, but somewhere in there and uh, I would guess that she was 90, or 90 years old. And she was, loved to garden, my dad loved to garden and she was his favorite Aunt. And he was her favorite, one of her favorite uh, uh, uh nephews. And uh, so I'd walk over there. I remember walking over there with my dad many times in the evening just to see Aunt Linda and fix, fix her garden a little bit or something for her. And, and uh, but it was it was pretty passive on their part at that time.

I: So was the farm pretty much there until her death and then it got broken up.

M: Um, I was in the service when they passed away. Uh, so I, I don't know what the status was, but I would imagine that uh, that they probably had to go someplace to have a little more care than they could get at home. But, my Aunt Linda was a maiden aunt, uh, and her sister married Louis Taghe(?) uh, and uh, Louis and uh, Belle my, uh, who was Linda's sister, uh, uh was, uh they lived together in the same farm house there for years, and uh, matter of fact, my Aunt Linda Belle, whose husband was the Secretary Treasurer of Boeing Airplane Company, uh, she was named after Linda and Belle Taghe. And uh.

IN: 01:23:53;21 D

OUT: 01:25:00;09 D

DUR: 00:01:06;16 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 3

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: So even when you left for college, Alki was still it was being built up and it was still fairly rural, would you say, how would you describe it?

M: Well, bare in mind that I wasn't really in the real estate business then, but uh, uh, it, it's, it's changed dramatically over the 50 years since I left uh, or, more than 50 year, '41, it's 59 years. Uh, that uh, uh, but a lot of places have been torn down and, and built or combined properties used to build apartment houses, multi-story and what have you. And to answer your question, "yes" but I don't, I wasn't really aware of it, uh particularly. I certainly am when I drive around Alki Avenue and look at all those condominiums and apartments and what have you.

IN: 01:25:00;11 D

OUT: 01:26:20;13 D

DUR: 00:01:20;02 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 3

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: When you were growing up was there, I mean, when I think of Alki today...I think of it as a place that people like to go to enjoy the beach, it draws people there. There were some hotels. But as a child did you feel like you knew most people or were there a lot of people that just came for recreational use at Alki. How would you—

M: A lot of people came for recreational use but in the Depression I don't remember a lot of people that uh, I don't think that many people uh, had money to just make it a habit to go out and spend a weekend at Alki Point because it cost money. Um, so I, I think that it was probably uh, yes there were people there and yes, sometimes fairly good crowds, but the beach was never crowded. Uh, so where you had trouble getting around on Potlatch or something like that, when they started doing those things, there were bigger crowds. Uh, but uh, uh, I uh, I don't remember there being, when I think of the beach, I don't think of a lot of people being there.

IN: 01:26:21;01 D

OUT: 01:29:51;00 D

DUR: 00:03:29;29 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 3

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: Were, there, growing up, was there a Native American presence at that time, for Indians, I mean were they still there and so?

M: The Indians never lived at Alki Point. It was a burial ground. And, and uh, my dad and his brothers, uh, his 2 brothers were older, his, and, and I know that they, they would observe several times, uh, uh, the Indians stopping and camping on the beach and having a burial ceremony and then taking people up on the hill or wherever to actually bury them. But uh, they always told me that no Indians really lived at Alki Point. Uh, and uh, and so, there weren't a lot of them around, but they never bothered the Indians when they stopped because they knew that they were trying to bury somebody or they were on their way to the hop fields or something and they, they would sometimes camp on the beach for that reason but they didn't come in and say, This is our ancestral land, or something, because they, it was a sacred, kind of sacred spot to them. And uh, the uh, Princess Angeline who was Chief Sealth's daughter, uh, she, uh, they knew her only because that everybody knew her. But there was another Indian lady that uh, uh married uh, English carpenter, ship's carpenter. The name was Proctor, and the only reason I know that is I have his tool chest in, uh, and my oldest son Mickey has got the tools. Uh, that he had in the, in the, she, she did housework, helped my grandmother uh, uh, and uh, but she lived down near the Duwamish River and uh, they said that she came and knocked on their door one night, as I understood it, uh, and uh, saying uh, in her own broken English, uh, you know, "Proctor, her die. Procotor, he die." And which meant her husband had died. And she brought the tool chest and gave it to, to my grandfather or my dad or somebody and, and uh, that's how he ended, my dad ended up with it. And uh, she just I guess felt necessary to get that out of her way. And uh.

I: Was she one of few Indians who were actually working then ?

M: She didn't work there. She just came there to do, whether she stayed 2 days or a half a day, I don't know. But uh, what is important is that uh, I don't, based on what I was always told, no Indians had lived at Alki point and, and there was no evidence of their living there and uh, but you know 100 years, 500 years ago, maybe they did, who knows.

IN: 01:29:51;24 D

OUT: 01:30:31;28 D

DUR: 00:00:40;02 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 3

Tracks: A1A2

Comments: I: Just quickly, were there other ethnic groups that sort of spread out, Asian Americans, or, even sort of different European groups. The Olsons and the Hansens were a very close extended family. But did people seem to settle around their ethnic communities or were there any others?

IN: 01:30:35;08 D

OUT: 01:33:07;24 D

DUR: 00:02:32;14 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 3

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

I: If you had to sort of sum up, and this is a big broad question, how you know what sort of impact Alki, living, growing up there, having, you know, the deep, long family roots in Alki. You know, how that's affected you or how you regard it. Can you talk a little bit about that, what it's meant to your family?

M: Well, I, I truly feel that I was very fortunate to have been born into the family I was born into and where I was born and living where I did. Because I think I had a great childhood growing up. I was happy as a clam. And uh, and uh, and I enjoyed the play field, I enjoyed the beach, I enjoyed the people I was with, and, and uh, I mentioned about some disappointments but, uh, my family with no, no one was ever mean to us as kids and we were denied things, because in retrospect that my mother and dad simply didn't have the money to do it. And like, I can only remember one vacation my family and I ever made together. And and uh, and the uh, uh, we, we tried to take my mother with us on vacation trips. She wouldn't go because she didn't want to leave her house because somebody had broken into it one time when the family had gone up to the Tortola(?) to see a movie and that just did her in so she wouldn't leave the house. Wouldn't leave it alone after that. But my dad, we took him with to uh, half a dozen vacations with us up in the San Juans and uh, around, and he was just thrilled. And his last 3 or 4 years of his life were spent over in a nursing home on Mercer Island, and uh, and we brought his dinner down to him every night and uh, and uh, uh, he uh, he used to tell me, do you know and we'd get, he was mentally fine but he couldn't move his legs and he uh, uh, uh, often uh. I'm losing, my point of what I was trying to think of here.

IN: 01:33:25;01 D

OUT: 01:36:18;08 D

DUR: 00:02:53;05 D

Tape: Martin Smith, Tape 4

Tracks: A1A2

Comments:

M: I think living in West Seattle, was uh, I, I mentioned that I'm very fortunate because I think I had a great time and I. We had to do things to sometimes amuse ourselves but I think that was a great experience. And uh, I, I never had to ask my mother and dad, very seldom, for money, because I, I knew that they were short of money and that's why, that's why I did things to try to earn my way. And then mostly I did. Uh, when I started to college, my dad had been a member of a fraternity out there that uh, uh, and uh, uh, I'd been pledged uh, to a different fraternity, but I couldn't join it (interviewer coughs). But uh, I couldn't join it because I was working out at Neah Bay. And, and, and you, so it meant I couldn't pledge until winter quarter started after the first of the year. And uh, somehow or another the fraternity that he would belong to, that was now mine, uh, uh, uh, he called me and said he wanted to talk to me. And I, so I went home and, and uh, and uh, when my dad and I needed to talk about something we would go down and shovel the clinkers out of the coal stoker or shovel coal into the stoker or something you know. So, uh, talked without my mother and 3 sisters being a part of our conversation. And I, I kind of remember the shovel, you know. (He mimes he and his father shovelling coal throughout the following dialogue.) "I hear you're joining, gonna join the Beta house." And I said, "Well, a lot of my friends are Betas." And he said, "Well you know, I was a Fiji(?) at the University of Washington." And I said, "Well I remember your saying that, but I don't remember much about it." And he said, uh, " Well," he said, uh, "I think you ought to look at the Fiji house." Somebody had called him, you see, and I said, "Well, I, I ,really don't know anybody there." And he said, "Well, I'll be goddamned if I'll pay any Betas way through college." (Laughs) And then the point I'm trying to make is relating back to working. One, the only money my dad paid to my way through school. I borrowed 10 dollars from him one time and I, and I didn't pay it back. I'd forgot about it. So it cost him 10 dollars to send me to college.

(they conclude the interview)
