

**Neysa Longmire**

**January 18, 2001**

**for**

**Southwest Seattle Historical Society**

**by**

**JonLee Joseph**

# **Neysa Longmire**

**Interviewed by: JonLee Joseph**

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**1st Oral Interview**

**Seattle, Washington**

**JonLee:** Today is January 18th, the year 2001. This is JonLee interviewing Neysa Longmire, the owner of the Benbow Inn Restaurant, for a story.

This is the story I've been dreaming of. You told me a story last time I met you about, that someone, one of your customers had told you--

**Neysa Longmire:** No, not a customer. It's when I lived on 39th back in 1950, in the '50's and my children were real little and we lived next to a little old lady, about ninety years old who would tell stories about the Admiral District. She talked about when she was little, that she'd go from her house there on 39th and walk through the apple orchards over to the intersection of what is now California and Admiral Way. And there was a path that went down the hill, all the way to the beach. And she used to walk through the apple orchards and down that path to go to the beach. And she used to talk about, as a girl, that was one of her outings that she took, to go down to the beach and that's how she got down there.

And there was a path evidently down, the path, where Admiral Way is going down now.

**JonLee:** So, the road bed is just following that path.

**Neysa Longmire:** That just followed along where the path was, like so many of the--

**JonLee:** -- of roads--

**Neysa Longmire:** --roads do, out in the country and everywhere, follow where people have walked or cattle have been or something else, you know.

**JonLee:** -- or wagons--

**Neysa Longmire:** And that's what she did as a girl. And she said it was all apple orchards over there. And that she would go through the apple orchards to go over here and then go down to the beach. Wouldn't it be nice to have lived in those days? To see what it was like.

**JonLee:** Oh, I don't know. We have these trade offs, I think. Now, you also mentioned a resident ghost.

**Neysa Longmire:** Oh. We have one here. In the Admiral Benbow Inn.

**JonLee:** Can you tell me about it?

**Neysa Longmire:** Well, it's hard to explain. How do you explain a ghost? At first, when we first realized that there was something unusual going on, some of the girls around here and when I had my office upstairs, and I'd hear footsteps and walking around. And I thought, it must be the crows up on the roof or something that were walking around. I thought, "Wow, lots of noise." I'd go up and look there's nobody on the roof. And then I realized that probably, maybe it was coming from next door or somewhere else, you know. So, I'd listen and listen and finally realized that it had to be somebody walking around up there, that I wasn't seeing, but I was hearing. So, one Sunday, we're closed Sundays, and one Sunday I came down to go to work and I was back here, in the back room, where the safe was. And I heard somebody out in the hall. And I thought I had left the door unlocked and maybe a customer had walked in. And so, I called out, "Who's there? Who's there? We're not open." And I come out the door and went to walk through the dining room out toward the hall, and I saw this long skirt. I didn't see a head, but I just saw the shoulder. I saw the long skirt, long dress, black shoes, just go around the corner. And I thought, "Well, my goodness, who in the world is that?" So I hurried real fast to look and it had disappeared. I thought, "Well." So, I went to the back door and looked up and down the alley. Nobody there. I thought, "Well, must've been the footsteps I heard upstairs, walking around. There's somebody in here, that's here when we're not around." So one Sunday I came down here and was again here. And the cleaning man was here. And I kept, I said to him, "Would you quit turning on the water off and on in the restrooms." I said, "The water is on."



And I said, "Why are you turning the water on and off?" And he was out front cleaning the front where the coffee shop was. He says, "I'm not in the restrooms. What are you talking about?" I said, "Well, why was the water going on and off all the time?" And he says, "I don't know. Is there somebody in there?" So he went down and he looked. And nobody there at all. And he said, "There's nobody in here. What are you talking about?" So, I come back in here and I thought, "Huh. I'm losing my mind." Pretty soon here starts the water again, on and off, on and off, on and off. Finally he says, "What's going on?" I said, "Well, we've got a ghost around here." And I said, "Evidently playing a game with us and the water's going on and off. All the time." And so he, he just wasn't, he was Lithuanian and he came from Europe and he wasn't, he got out of here real fast. He finished his cleaning and he didn't stay around. [laughs] And I thought, it kind of bothered him quite a bit. But the girls have heard it and one girl swears up and down the ghost pushed her down the stairs, he didn't like her. Carol.

**JonLee:** That's the one Carmecita told me about.

**Neysa Longmire:** Yeah. Yeah. Carol figured that she pushed her down the stairs, she didn't like her. But we have little signs of this all the time. And I know when I'm in here on Sundays that I'm listening. I'm trying very hard to try and be very quiet, see if that she won't come around again, that I might. But nobody's ever seen from the head up. All you've seen, that anybody who has seen, has just been, just the part of the long skirt and the leg and that's all you see. You've never

seen her head. So I don't know whether she's old or young, or what she is.

**JonLee:** Have you ever tried to have her exorcised, which means, sent on?

**Neysa Longmire:** We've had people come in here who have the ability to feel things. And do. And they say that they'd like to come down some Sunday and just walk through it. So I said, sure, anytime they want to come down, that that's fine. That they could walk through here and walk through the building.

**JonLee:** And some Catholic churches have ritual for exorcism, which is just that belief that someone died in this vicinity and they don't know that they can go on from here. So their spirit is still here. But there is a ritual.

**Neysa Longmire:** I kind of wondered if on this space at this time back in the early days, of, like when the little old lady was going through the orchard. And this, I'm sure wasn't here. None of this was here probably. Did somebody die or were they killed or was there a house here? And they just never moved on from this place and then the place was built and so they're still around here. And, but, why suddenly, the appearance over the last six or seven, oh, it's been longer than that, maybe, ten years?

**JonLee:** Now, how long have you owned the Benbow Inn?

**Neysa Longmire:** Since 1950. I've been here since 1950. And this didn't start showing up until '62, '60's or '70's, that this person, and why they suddenly showed up then, I don't know. It makes you wonder if there's some reason.

**JonLee:** Could I ask you a few questions, too, about being a business in this district? You've had fifty years of a restaurant business. Have you noticed lots of repeat customers coming in?

**Neysa Longmire:** Oh, we have all senior citizens. They've been coming in here all these years. We've lost many, many over the years, now. We have a whole new group of young people coming in. But we still have a lot of our originals here. We have a lot of, I have a lot children that come in here and say, "Oh, my grandma and grandpa used to come and eat here all the time," or "This is where they sat" or "This is what they did here." Or, things like this that make me realize how much, how old I am now, you know, when you hear all this, you know.

**JonLee:** It's a wonderful place. I came to dinner a year ago with Carmecita. Year or two.

**Neysa Longmire:** And my girls that have been here with me--

**JonLee:** --good food--

**Neysa Longmire:** -- have, their children have grown up here, they've been dishwashers. They've cleared tables. They have



grown up in here. We're more or less a family. With my help, I still have, help, Carmen would be working for me now if her back wasn't so bad. In fact she just came in here and bought me a calendar on the Indian that I love that she brought to me. And she knows how I love that, you know, the carvings and all with the Haida Indians and all of them, you know. But. No, we have many, many, many and that are still coming in here that are very, very old or pert(?) people and the girls watch them. We enjoy them.

**JonLee:**

Have you noticed how eating habits have changed? How people dining out, see, I was a child in the, I was in high school in the '50's. Graduated in 1960. So we didn't go out to dinner and granted, we were working class. West Seattle working class. But we went out to dinner maybe every couple of weeks, some special occasion. And now, I got out to dinner most of the time. And I just wonder, I think the culture has changed, people work farther away from where they live and they eat out, it becomes part of their social life and business life. Have you noticed that here?

**Neysa Longmire:** We find here, like Leonard Vann did, when he had Vann Brothers up there, and Leonard comes to the meeting, the Monogram Group, he still comes in, I talk to Leonard all the time. I have a lot of the customers that went up there because these older people are set in their ways, too. But we still run, we have many, many single older men that grew up on mashed potatoes and gravy and ground round steak and vegetables and this is what we run. We run a special every night for the older people. We do not use



preservatives. We cut our own fish, our own meat. We're very fussy about what we serve, because of, that we do have all senior citizens. And we are probably not very popular with the younger group because we don't have the exotic steaks that you have to pay \$20 or \$25 or \$30 with specials sauces and things. Because these older people never grew up like that.

**JonLee:** Now, that older generation, too, the men usually did not learn to cook.

**Neysa Longmire:** No, and they eat--

**JonLee:** So they eat out.

**Neysa Longmire:** They eat out. And they all come in here. Some of them eat almost two meals a day, lunch and dinner. And we find that their favorite food is a ground round steak smothered in onions with mashed potatoes and gravy.

**JonLee:** Delicious. So do you do your mashed potatoes from scratch?

**Neysa Longmire:** No. We don't. I'm sorry. The day has come--

**JonLee:** But you used to.

**Neysa Longmire:** But it's a good quality and it's a good quality control that we use.

**JonLee:** Good.

**Neysa Longmire:** And we have so many of, they like things like your chicken pot pie. They like stews. I'm thinking of their favorite things, we're gonna have roast pork, today. Now, their favorite deal, most men love pork. And we sell a lot of liver. You can't believe--

**JonLee:** Liver and onions.

**Neysa Longmire:** Liver and onions. You cannot believe how much liver and onions we sell. And it's all to the older men. Because they grew up on that. Your younger generation, if you mention liver, they'd have a screaming fit.

**JonLee:** We had to have it, you know, at least once --

**Neysa Longmire:** Yes, we did.

**JonLee:** --every two months.

**Neysa Longmire:** You had to have the iron, you had to have the food value of the liver. And I grew up on venison liver, too, you know, up in Bellingham, my dad, always went hunting and you always had venison and everything. Part of the Depression days, part of your food.

**JonLee:** Did you grow up on Lummi Island?

**Neysa Longmire:** My relatives, all the Grangers on Lummi Island, my grandmother was a [inaudible]. My dad was born on Lummi

Island, that's where he grew up. Nugents. In Nugent Farm, was up there, Nugent Road's still over there on Lummi Island. All the Grangers are over there. That's where my mother and dad were living, right where the ferry dock is, when I was born at St. Joseph's. So Bellingham is more or less my, where I grew up. And I loved it. It was, you know, and then we moved in, and we lived in town.

**JonLee:** I went to college there. I like it.

**Neysa Longmire:** Did you? Well, I did, too, I took my year of pre-med there. And, the college was up there, that's true. And it was a great place to be, in Bellingham, because you knew everybody.

**JonLee:** Old Main was there, right?

**Neysa Longmire:** Yeah. It was just a great town when we grew up and you knew everybody. You went to school and you knew all the kids in the other schools, all of them, you know. You never worried about, I would walk when I was going to college up there, at Western Washington, before it became a college, it was a normal school. And it was, teachers would go up there to learn. And then they took on other classes, so I took a year of pre-med, before I went to St. Joseph's Hospital up there for nursing. And, I could walk from Elm Street to where I lived, Northwest Avenue, I could walk at night, go up to the library, study and walk back through town, and walk home. You didn't have to worry.

**JonLee:** It was safe.



**Neysa Longmire:** You were safe.

**JonLee:** How did you go from being, did you become a nurse?

**Neysa Longmire:** Uh-huh.

**JonLee:** From becoming a nurse to coming into the restaurant business?

**Neysa Longmire:** Well, you figured I'd be eighty years old this year, so that's a lot of years, see. And so, the War came along, December the seventh came along. And I was just finishing up my nursing. And the boy I was running around with was in the National Guard and he became a Second Lieutenant. We decided to get married and we went back to Fort Benning. And then from Fort Benning we went to Henderson, Kentucky. And he was in the service there and I was going to go to work in the hospitals there. I'd never been in the South, never been out of Bellingham, you know, just a hick from way up there. And I went through, and I, of course, had my three years of nurses training there at St. Joseph's, in my year. And I went into their hospitals there in Henderson and they were so dirty. You know, the South was really dirty. I couldn't get over how dirty they were down there. It was a whole new education for me. And I looked around and I told them I'd like to, you know, go to work and then I looked at how they did things and how their system was and how they, and I said, "I can't work here. You're just--"

**JonLee:** Was the system because of the Jim Crow Laws, you mean?



**Neysa Longmire:** Well, no. It just that they had never learned--

**JonLee:** -- basic hygiene--

**Neysa Longmire:** They never learned basic cleanliness and hygiene.

**JonLee:** Which is so important in medicine.

**Neysa Longmire:** And they just never had it down there. They didn't know it. And so I said, "No." So what I did, was I just did private duty nursing. Put a little ad in the paper. And then I'd just go out on jobs on my own where I could, if you went into somebody's home then you could handle things your own way and do your own sterile technique and do the things that you'd been taught to do, the correct way. And I just, I had a hard time adjusting to the South, to Georgia and Alabama, because they had had, their schools were such that, they had no idea of health or their meat hung out in the grocery stores and they didn't refrigerate. Of course, there wasn't refrigeration in those days, too, that's true. Ice boxes. And all your meat and everything hung out in the store.

**JonLee:** It was smoked in a smoke house.

**Neysa Longmire:** That used to drive me crazy, oh my golly. And women would nurse their children down there and you'd have six year old children sitting in the grocery store nursing. But as they explained it to me, people were so poor that this was

the way they could feed their children was to nurse them up until they were six years old. And that's what they did. And I, of course, was appalled, this was all from Bellingham.

**JonLee:** When they're that poor and on that little food and when the woman is nursing, if she doesn't have a lot of nutrition, she doesn't have her menstrual cycle, so it's also contraception.

**Neysa Longmire:** See. And they just, and I learned. I tell you, it was a real education. I was down South for three years, two and a half to three years, and I tell you when I came back to the Northwest, and I came over Snoqualmie Pass and I smelt the water and the cleanliness and--

**JonLee:** And the trees!

**Neysa Longmire:** The trees. And I sat up in Snoqualmie Pass and I sat there and I cried. And I had a new little baby about six months old back in my back seat and my husband was heading over to, at the time we were heading toward Japan. And I sat up the top there and I cried and I said, "I am *never*, never leaving the Northwest ever again. *Ever*." So, I've never left here I love the Northwest--

**JonLee:** It is beautiful, isn't it? I traveled and live all over the world, and this is beautiful.

**Neysa Longmire:** You cannot, you can pay hundreds of dollars to go to Hawaii, the Caribbeans, take your cruises, anything you

want to do, but you know, you still come back here and it's still the most beautiful place in the world.

**JonLee:** I agree. And I've lived in some spectacular places, I agree. So when you came back, did you go to Japan, or did you stay here?

**Neysa Longmire:** No, no. I stayed here. I went back to Bellingham. And I raised my daughter in Bellingham. And I was going to go to work and my husband had asked me not to.

**JonLee:** Why?

**Neysa Longmire:** He just wanted me to stay and raise her and take care of her, you know, during the War and not to go back to work. So I didn't. I didn't go to work. I stayed and raised her along with all the other wives that were there and had small children, too. And my family was there of course, and I had family that was in the service. And my sister, Bethel worked on the big switchboard on, when the telephone companies were switchboards. And she'd hook me up with my other sister and my brother, wherever they were in the United States, and she'd hook us up about one or two in the morning and we'd all talk to each other around the way, you know, which was great.

**JonLee:** Wonderful

**Neysa Longmire:** Yeah. Which was just great.



**JonLee:** Party line.

**Neysa Longmire:** Yeah, so she could do that, you know. Supervisor probably wasn't around, so she could do it. But, in those days, no, it was everybody had somebody in the service. And you had a lot of girls with small babies. And most of us all kind of grouped together and with your children and raised them until the boys came home. And most of the boys were gone three years or more years, you know. And I know that Glen didn't get back till, he was over, he went in after Iwo Jima, over there in Japan and was over there for quite a while. And MacArthur was over there. And they were over there, out of the country for quite a while. But I saw him, I think three or four years later that I, that he got home and his daughter is three or four years old, didn't even know him, didn't like him.

**JonLee:** No, who's this strange man?

**Neysa Longmire:** Yeah, who's this man?! Well, you know, you show pictures and you told them, talked about him and everything, you know, but here all of a sudden this strange man moves in to your house and is living in there, you know.

**JonLee:** And you don't know him and--

**Neysa Longmire:** You don't know him or anything about that, you know. It was interesting it really was. For any of us who went through the War, it, you know. It's like a little boy sitting out here at the counter the other day. The men were all talking



about World War II and all of this. And this little boy looked up at me and he said, "Could you tell me all about World War II?" And I'm looking at the men at the counter and I said, "Where would you begin?"

**JonLee:** "Where would you begin," yeah?

**Neysa Longmire:** "Where would you begin?" To explain to a child about World War II. See, back when I was going to high school, is when Hitler was moving into--

**JonLee:** --into Poland?

**Neysa Longmire:** Into Poland. 'Cause we had all Jewish families across the street from us and we used to see these little old men with the little black caps and all walking around up and down the street you know, and we realized. And then we were told that they had gotten out of Poland and that Hitler was moving in and we thought, well you know, in those days, you didn't have television. And you didn't hardly listen to the radio, you know--

**JonLee:** Or newsreels.

**Neysa Longmire:** And news, you know, if you went to the movie then you saw newsreel on what was going on, if you had money to go to a show. And, so, this all, the days of when Hitler was moving in, was a little, to my age group of going to school and trying to get an education and everything, it was, you weren't paying that much attention and it all happened really fast.

And you had December 7th hit, you know, and then you were aware that you were in the middle of a war. And that all the boys and the kids you knew had all gone into the service.

**JonLee:** And your husband came back well?

**Neysa Longmire:** He came back, yes, Glen came back but we didn't even know each other because we were a little too young. So we tried to make a go of our marriage, and we talked about it. And he says, "Well, I don't know you." And I said, "I don't know you! You're a stranger to me." So we decided that after about a year, we just had a very nice separation and he went his way and I went mine.

**JonLee:** Oh. Okay.

**Neysa Longmire:** And we were good friends right up, we were always good friends, always. Cause we loved to dance, we grew up in the jitterbug era, you know. And we, oh, when we were back with the service back there, and we did a lot of dancing with the big bands and everything, you know. It was a great, great, time but he'd grown up in the year of the War and I had, too. And we didn't know each other at all when he came back to Bellingham. So, we just had, but we always were very good friends right up to the last when he even died of cancer about five years ago. He was just a fine looking young, man. He'd married and had three children. And had a very happy life. And I was glad. Cause so many of them came back and they were---

**JonLee:** --terribly wounded psychically.

**Neysa Longmire:** Well, a lot of the boys that had been on Guam and over there had gotten very, they had gotten pretty badly, South Pacific had. But. No, the War was something else. Part of your life.

**JonLee:** Terrific impact on everyone.

**Neysa Longmire:** I know my father used to complain about the fact that he was too young for World War I and too old for World War II, you know.

**JonLee:** And you mother gave thanks.

**Neysa Longmire:** [laughs] Yeah! My mother, of course, she passed away by that time. But dad formed a group with Mr. Tartin(?) all of them, and they had a group of private boats up in Bellingham Bay that used to go among the Islands, cause they thought you know, the Japanese are going to come in through the Straits of Juan de Fuca, you know. So they used to have a patrol. They'd patrol all night long all through the islands and all up in through there. And that's what they could do and that's what they did. Patrolled among all the islands, the San Juan Islands. And that's--

**JonLee:** Kind of a Home Guard.



**Neysa Longmire:** Yeah, they had a Home Guard out there and they had all the, everybody from all the Islands, everybody and they had their area where they patrolled watching to think back that there would be on alert the minute that something had happened. If they didn't come in.

**JonLee:** Then what brought you to Seattle, to the Benbow?

**Neysa Longmire:** Oh. Let's see, when I came, Glen and I, my husband, there was no place to work. All these men all got out of the service about the same time. And he had been an adjutant, so we moved down here. And his sister lived over on Palm Avenue, so we, with his GI bill, we bought a house down on 47th, down below the other Junction down there. And we bought a house and Sharon went to Jefferson's School, my daughter. And he had a job downtown. And that's when we finally decided, after our period of, we were there, that he, we'd gotten into Seattle, the a big city, and lots to do and a lot of things going on, and that's when he decided to go his way. In the meantime I was doing part time work of typing. And I came up here because there was a job up here of typing menus. And Lloyd, and Keith Allen had bought this, because liquor had come in in 1950 and they had bought this place and I was up here and I did the typing for all their menus and all their things I'd come up here and do that everyday. And then Lloyd and I had finally got together, and, Longmire, and he just worked out fine. And I said, I have a young daughter, you know. And he said well that's all right. So his mother, she was Williams, from Puyallup and he was a Longmire from up there at Mount Rainier, all



the Longmire clan. So we got married. And I came in here and went to work and worked in here.

**JonLee:** And you're still here!

**Neysa Longmire:** And I'm still here!

**JonLee:** Is your husband still alive?

**Neysa Longmire:** Oh no. He passed away oh, '87, '86, something like that. And he'd had, he'd had flown B-17's during the War in England. And he had three pilots with the B-17's and he was not well and I think that it finally took it's toll on him over a period of time. But, he was a tailgunner in England. Great stories, great stories.

**JonLee:** It's a wonder he lived to tell them.

**Neysa Longmire:** Well, now, their plane piled up -- He said the saddest part was when they had done a run over Germany and Switzerland and all over the countries there, they were dropping bombs at that time, when we were bombing. He said, they did, the Americans did the daytime bombing because the English didn't want to do the daytime bombing and we did the daytime bombing, with all the flak and everything coming down. But he said, you know, it was always so sad. He said, when you were coming back with the B-17's and your coming by Sweden and dropping on down to England down this way. He said, you'd look out and see the planes, or the people, with the planes are

gonna go down and you'd see our boys falling out of the planes jumping out, you know, into the cold water. Because their planes were shot down, because they had fighter planes following them shooting them down , you know. He said, it used to just tear the guys up just to look over and see their buddies, you know--

**JonLee:** Parachuting out.

**Neysa Longmire:** Parachuting and falling into the North Sea. Because he said the North Sea was so cold you didn't, you wouldn't last long in it anyway. Well, it would be quick. But I think there's a hundred stories like that of World War II that the boys told. 'Cause here I am going on eighty years of age, with a whole new era coming in.

**JonLee:** I know! Welcome to the new millennium!

**Neysa Longmire:** [laughs]

**JonLee:** What do you see happening here with the Benbow?

**Neysa Longmire:** Well, probably, I'm hoping that somebody who loves it as much as I do, I don't expect to be here, being eighty years old, I'm hoping that there'd be somebody that might want to come in and keep it running the same way I do it. And keep the same food and keep it the same way, you know, if something happened to me.

**JonLee:** Is it on the market?

**Neysa Longmire:** No, heavens no! No, no, no.

**JonLee:** It would have to someone that--

**Neysa Longmire:** It would have to be somebody I know and be somebody who's been a customer here or somebody who wants to keep it the way it is. And you know, 'cause, Lloyd had, we had Ollie Elkerson who's the, I still got his, I just talked to him the other day. He's the one who did all the remodeling and all the bar and did everything, did all, put this in and.

**JonLee:** I love the wood.

**Neysa Longmire:** Uh-huh.

**JonLee:** The wood on the wall.

**Neysa Longmire:** And Ollie did that. He'd been an OSS prisoner of war in Germany and they brought him over here. And when they released him, Lloyd hired him to do all this work. And that's who we built, who did all the work in the bar and did the ship and did all of that, you know. He called me the other day and I just, wrote his number down, where he lived, here. But, anyway, no, I enjoy this life, I love the people, I love West Seattle people, I love all the clubs. Like there's our Monogram Club, that just had their picture taken with all the older men that are my age. We have the classes over here of '39 and '40 that meet here and have their get togethers here you know. And it's just a great, great, group



of people here. And they had the big doings for me you know, last Friday night, a week ago Friday night.

**JonLee:** For your birthday?

**Neysa Longmire:** No. Just to thank me for all the things I've done all the years, you know.

**JonLee:** That's great to be acknowledged.

**Neysa Longmire:** Yes, they just, you can't believe all the, that place, room, was packed back there. It was just wonderful. Just wonderful. Had a great time. Big write up in the *West Seattle Herald*. And it was really nice. I just enjoyed every minute of it. Charlie Chong, is the one who put it all together with all the groups and he was the MC and it was a nice night. It was.

**JonLee:** Okay. That's all the questions I have.

**Neysa Longmire:** You haven't got anymore? No, we got into an awful lot of things.

**JonLee:** Well, we wove a lot and I want to thank you very much.

**Neysa Longmire:** But the thing is, I'll tell you there's no place like the Admiral District and West Seattle. No place like it. There's a little ninety year old lady, Mrs. Schwartz, that comes to all the meetings.

**JonLee:** Oh, I know Irma. We have some of her stories.

**Neysa Longmire:** Do you? Anyway, when they had, she was at the meeting, at the party for me the other night. And she comes up to me and she said, "Neysa." And here she is, what ninety some years old, near a hundred? She looked at me and she said, "Now, if you ever need anything, you call on me." And I said, "Well, I think it should be the other way around. If *you* need anything, *you* call on *me*, for heaven's sake!" She's so cute, you know. And she gets at the meetings and she jumps right up and she talks and she says what she's got to say.

**JonLee:** She's fire. She's good.

**Neysa Longmire:** She's been around the world three or four times, but there's no place like West Seattle. And what'd she say? She said, "I'm still living in my house." She said, " My family tries to get me out," she said. "I've got seventeen stairs going up stairs and sixteen stairs going downstairs." And she said, "I make every one of them" and she said, "I'm fine." And I said, "I'm sure you are!" She looks good. But she's just darling, just darling.

End of interview.