

**JonLee:** Joe Spano?

**Maxyne Barkes:** Yes. Oh, Yes! [laughs] That's right! Joe Spano, he played at the, and when, he was a good player. I mean, he really could play. Once in a great while I could talk him into coming and playing a solo for my recital, you know.

**JonLee:** Good. Good, good, good.

**Maxyne Barkes:** Did I pull it out of it's roots?

**JonLee:** Nope. Wouldn't let that happen. [laughs] We'd have to tell the story again. [laughs] So, do you foresee another renaissance when accordion music will come back? It's very harmonic.

**Maxyne Barkes:** Yes, I know.

**JonLee:** It's just lovely to hear it.

**Maxyne Barkes:** Yes. You know and I play my music. And if I didn't try to read it [laughs] I could play it reasonably well.

**JonLee:** But to do both still takes that coordination.

**Maxyne Barkes:** And I can read faster than Spano could. Spano'd come in and throw a sheet of music on my stand and say, "Play this for me, Maxine." And I'd play it, up to tempo. Because I read so fast and was so alert as [inaudible]. I ought to play a couple of things for you.

**JonLee:** I'd love it.

**Maxyne Barkes:** "Dance of The [inaudible] " which was my favorite piece, is, I don't know even what kind of a dance it is really. But it's beautiful. And as long as I didn't look at the music, I had it out there as long as I didn't look at it [laughs]. But, I put it out there because I make myself read now. But I haven't had enough time to do my one hour a day.

**JonLee:** Well, it's the holiday. Different things happen on this day, at this time. When you were teaching accordion, you did that at a time when you had two small children.

**Maxyne Barkes:** Yes, but they played accordion, too. I mean, both of them, I put twelve bases(?) on them, you know. And that's--

**JonLee:** So you were a working mother.

**Maxyne Barkes:** Yes. I was a working mother. And my husband was, is still in a state of not being, in 1939, he was not in supervision then, you know, he was just a peon. What his wages came in was not enough for us to really live on. So, I not only could buy myself something then, with my wages, and him, but I didn't, we needed it. I mean, that was during a real trying time, you know.

**JonLee:** That was the end of the Depression.

**Maxyne Barkes:** Yes. It was a real trying. Ooh. When I think about how he'd sit and sweat over the bills that we had and we had a house here, a little old shack. That's where we lived when I first started up there. And then we moved into the garage downstairs, which is a nice, a pretty complete apartment and then we had bedrooms upstairs. And by that time, and see, he and I did a finishing on all this, on all the house, this house. We had a guy come in, we knew, put up the beams and put all the structure in the walls and stuff and then we put up, well, I learned to lay brick. Part of that.

**JonLee:** You did great.

**Maxyne Barkes:** And I hit a nail when I aimed at it , too.

**JonLee:** What I remember when you were building this house when I was a little girl, you did some beautiful craft things with shells and beach glass that you found on the beach. You encased it in--

**Maxyne Barkes:** In Fiberlay. Yes. That window is one of them

**JonLee:** Right. And that you built a boat in the house that you needed to somehow make a larger opening for when the boat was done to get it out.

**Maxyne Barkes:** [laughs] Yes right!

**JonLee:** The house got built around the boat!



**Maxyne Barkes:** That's right! And so he had to put big doors down there in order to get it out.

**JonLee:** That's what I remember.

**Maxyne Barkes:** Aw, shoot! But I wouldn't live anywhere else. Wouldn't.

**JonLee:** Oh, this is beautiful right here on the water.

**Maxyne Barkes:** We've been having, and they didn't come through in the thousands like they did before, but we've had at least a hundred Brants come in in small groups, you know. Which is, in fact, you can see some of them out there.

**JonLee:** And I've heard there were Orcas last week.

**Maxyne Barkes:** Yes!!

**JonLee:** I didn't see them

**Maxyne Barkes:** Well, we could see it with our naked eye. The fins, particularly Big Daddy, you know. They said it was about six or eight feet tall, his fin, you know, that sticks out. So we could see all that. But with the binoculars, it was just a wild rush of fish over there. They're not fish, I guess, they're mammals, aren't they?

**JonLee:** They are mammals. Yes. They are.

**Maxyne Barkes:** Well, anyhow, it was just a wild scramble and the ferry came up there and stopped and turned around sideways so the people could see. And they were just all on one side of the boat. I said, "Watch [inaudible. laughs]"  
[dog barks] That's Rinde.

**JonLee:** Windy.

**Maxyne Barkes:** Rinde. He's a dachshund. So that's German what he's talking right now. Now, stop it. Enough's enough.

**JonLee:** When you had your accordion school, did you call it a school?

**Maxyne Barkes:** Yes.

**JonLee:** What was the name of it?

**Maxyne Barkes:** Actually, Maxyne Barkes Accordion Studio.

**JonLee:** Do you remember other businesses around there? And how did they get on with you with your studio?

**Maxyne Barkes:** Well, I was in the appliance store, upstairs. And if you look over there you can see there's two big windows on the back end of this appliance store and they thought it was great. Because I brought a lot of people in, passed through their refrigerators and dishwashers and stuff, you know, they thought that was really great. And they hated it when I

closed the studio. They said, "Fine thing, leave us in the lurch!" [laughs] That's mint tea.

**JonLee:** That's nice. Now do you have any other early memories of West Seattle that you'd like to share at this time? You said that you remembered the Indian ladies down on First Avenue selling their baskets. Would you please talk about that?

**Maxyne Barkes:** Well, it's not too fresh in my mind. I remember it was going [laughs] and seeing them and wanting to look, you know. And I went down and looked, but, at the time I was not very flush with money so I didn't buy anything, but I did chat with the Indians and so on. But it's been many, many moons ago.

**JonLee:** Were they on First Avenue or were they up farther by the, by Frederick's?

**Maxyne Barkes:** No, they were on First Avenue in one of those, there was a lot of vacant lots along First Avenue a long time ago, you know. And we didn't have a viaduct to--

**JonLee:** When did you come to Seattle? Because you mentioned Yakima earlier.

**Maxyne Barkes:** Yes, well, I was about, it was just before we got married in '39. Mama and my sister and brother and I moved out to a house out in the north end. And, of course, I did a lot of, and the streetcar came right up, parked just a block away. So, it