

Marguerite Parlotto

Kenney Home, Seattle

September 27, 2000

for

Southwest Seattle Historical Society

by

JonLee Joseph

Marguerite Parlotto
Interviewed by: JonLee Joseph
September 27, 2000
1st Oral Interview



JonLee: ...September, the year 2000. I will be interviewing Marguerite Parlotto at the Kenney Home in West Seattle. *(They discuss how long the interview will take, etc.)* So could you tell me please, how your parents came out West, what prompted them?

Marguerite: Oh, that's interesting. There's a wonderful book, if I could put my hands on it, but I can't, of my family coming, my mother's family. Uh, they had moved from Ohio, when, after they went from Texas to Ohio. My Grandpa was a machinist and then onto Pennsylvania, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. They were on a hill and actually they were there for the flood. My mother was born at the time of one of the big floods, I don't know if it was the biggest, but it was scary. They had all moved to the second story. And Mother was born on the second story, with the flood circling around the house. Anyway, the house still stands today. I haven't visited but members of the family have. Because this was way back in the 1980's.

JonLee: 1880's maybe?

Marguerite: Excuse me, 1880. And they were church, they were very, very ardent churchgoers. Free Methodist which was different from the Methodists. Much more strict in their rulings. And a missionary

spoke, a missionary from their denomination saying that there was starvation in India. That the crops had failed and there was a drought and people were actually starving to death. And he felt, this missionary speaking in America, to his denomination, which was the Free Methodists, although, stricter than the regular Methodists. But anyway, he felt that it was our duty to each family adopt a family. Well, my grandfather had six kids and you know, it was hard, he was a machinist. And women didn't work in those days, they milked the cows and tended the kids and cooked baked and so they really worked. And so they had six children. They had five at the time. And it was their duty to adopt. And they thought, and that they should pray about it and then make their decision in the morning. Well in the morning they both wanted to adopt not one, but two families, when you had six children and he was, you know, a machinist, probably making a dollar a day--

JonLee: This was your mother's family.

Marguerite: My mother's family, yes. And, so the very next week, Grandpa was off with his suitcase on the early Continental trains headed for Seattle. Because they saw in the morning paper that they needed machinists to build the ships for the Gold Rush. River boats, actually, that could get up into the gold fields, because gold had been discovered in Alaska. And so, he left and he worked a year in Seattle and then sent for her built a home for his family and she came with the six children and the seventh was born nine months to the day later. (Laugh) As you would expect. Anyway, and that's where they lived for the rest all of their lives. And I lived with them when I went to high school and also when I went to college. I lived

with them because their Free Methodist denomination they had the First Church there, you know, near Seattle Pacific campus and I went to Seattle Pacific High School for my first two years. My last two years to West Seattle. And then back to Seattle Pacific for my college. Uh-huh. They had a really fine teacher training program, so I lived in that house.

JonLee: The house at the foot of Queen Anne Hill?

Marguerite: Almost to the foot. Eturia (?) and then the campus below that. So, actually it was a block, a block. Right across from North Queen Anne School, which is on Florentia and then Eturia(?) Street. Then the campus.

JonLee: And what was your mother's family's name?

Marguerite: Mason.

JonLee: Mason?

Marguerite: Uh-huh.

JonLee: With an "m."

Marguerite: Yeah. They were Jessie, Margaret, my mother, Jeanette, Paul, Elisha, John, and Esther. They were all Bible names except my mother. So, I asked my Granny about that, and she said, well, she says, your mama came out with such a twinkle in her eye that I couldn't possibly name her after one of the good saints. And she

was very serious about that. And I thought that was so funny because my mother was just a real fun loving person, that's why she came to Alki.

JonLee: Was she the eldest?

Marguerite: No, uh, there was two above her.

JonLee: Now, tell me about your father's family. How they came.

Marguerite: My father's family were in the fishing business.

JonLee: And what was their last name?

Marguerite: Their name was Chase. The other was Mason. And, uh, they were in Rockland Maine, in several cities in Maine. I went back a few times and my father's birthplace in Rockland was right across the street from Edna Saint Vincent Millay. The great writer. And they were born at about the same time so I'm sure they played together. Isn't that interesting? She was one of my favorite poets. But anyway, my father's family were in the fish business there. And quite successful, but the kids kept coming. And uh, so they moved to Boston and had a bigger store that was a little better business than they had in Maine, because, they were fish brokers, not fishermen. And then they heard about the great migration West and decided to come West and start a fish company. Because they heard of the Pacific Salmon and in fact they were very interested in salmon and were reading about the great potential for salmon fisheries in the Northwest waters. On the Pacific coast. And so they

came and started the Whiz Fish Company. Which continued very successfully into the Depression.

JonLee: Now, how did that name come about?

Marguerite: I wish I could tell you and I can't. But it was always that. First the Everite Fish Company because as soon as they saw that salt water of the Pacific Northwest they got off the train. That was the place. And with all six kids, you know, after a week going across the country they must have been ready to get off. So they didn't come onto Seattle until later. They started there and then moved to Pike Street in Seattle, right where the Aquarium is today. And it was just quite successful. I mean we had a great life. Mother drove a big Peerless car around Alki and to the Junction. Few women drove in those days. That was kind of heartbreaking because we always went before by streetcar down to the Market every Saturday to buy the provisions for the week. And it was just a wondrous time for us kids. The streetcar ride and the trestle and the H.F. Alexander taking off for California and the, you know, people interested in the Gold Rush in Alaska taking off there every time, there was a find up there. People would get excited--

JonLee: How did your parents meet?

Marguerite: (pause) My mother was a beautiful lady, with gorgeous curly hair. And, (pause) oh, now I know! Oh boy, do I know! My father's people had come to start a fish company and my mother's came to provide for the Indians in India. They wanted to provide money to send, but because they were raising a large family. And he was a

machinist there was little left over. That next morning after they got down on their knees and prayed first about it, but in the morning paper was a notice that gold had been discovered in Alaska and machinists were needed and that's what he was. It was an answer to *prayer*. So, he took off first and a year later he had built the house on Queen Anne Hill. North Queen Anne Hill above the Church, the First Free Methodist church, and the Seattle Pacific College, which is now Seattle Pacific University. He left on the morning train, sent for his family. Money for the tickets. And they were on their way six months later. That's a story in itself. I've written that up, I don't know where it is but anyway, that was a wondrous trip. Can't you see her with those five kids on that early transcontinental train? And the sixth one arrived exactly nine months later, to the day, wouldn't you know it? (laughs). Anyway, and we're a very close, tight family. But my Dad's family were in business and they came from Boston, they heard about the great salmon, the opportunities with salmon fishing in the Northwest, because there weren't any fishermen and the bays were loaded with fish and the four sons started their own fish business in Alaska, Everett and Seattle.

JonLee: Now, what brought your family to West Seattle?

Marguerite: Oh, my mother was real fun loving. She just, just wanted to her children to be happy and to have fun. And do all the things she longed to do when she was growing up. And, so, they came out to the Northwest from Maine and Boston, my Dad, after he, after they married, he built her a very nice house, just a block from my grandmother's above the college, Seattle Pacific College. And,

let's see, they lived there during the winter, but during the summer they rented houses along Alki Avenue. And on 59th. We lived in two different houses on 59th Southwest. One right near the beach, and the other up kitty-cornered from Alki School. Principal lived next door to us, Mr. Cassidy(?). And we, that wasn't easy! (laughs) After school we had to play nicely together.

JonLee: How many children were there in your family?

Marguerite: There were five.

JonLee: And you were the oldest?

Marguerite: I was the oldest girl. My brother was the oldest. And we were very, very, very close. I think it was all of the happy times, because my mother was real fun-loving person and we didn't eat at home. We ate in the summer at the beach or we ate in Schmitz Park, we carried our picnic with a pot of stew or whatever, and it wasn't easy. (laughs) Because it was usually warmed up, not hot but warm and the two of us would carry the pot of stew and then the dishes and they weren't paper plates back then. And anyway, so we'd go up there in Schmitz Park and we'd play for an hour and then when we got tired we came and Mother had dinner on the little cook stove there. Just up from the caretaker's house on the path, maybe a hundred feet, maybe a hundred and fifty feet up that path was kind of a level area and they had a little cook stove there and a table, one table. That was reserved night after night in the summer for the Chases'. Or we'd go to the beach and we'd have our dinner down there and then we'd swim after dinner and dive

from the bulkhead. And it was just wonderful growing up. And Luna Park was very much a part of our lives.

JonLee: Did you learn to swim in the Natatorium?

Marguerite: No, not in the Natatorium, but I met my husband there.

JonLee: Do tell about the yellow bathing suit.

Marguerite: Oh-ho-ho! (laughs) We were married two weeks later.

JonLee: He saw you and you had a yellow bathing suit.

Marguerite: And a beautiful tan--

JonLee: --and it looked very well on you.

Marguerite: --August tan. Yeah, I was just, really golden because, we lived outside. And he saw me and he was uh, he, uh, came over, oh, I was trying, I saw that he was looking at me, so I was diving and swimming underwater and trying to get away, but I'd come up and he there first. (laughs) He was following me under the water.

JonLee: Now you mentioned that he was in the service and he was stationed--

Marguerite: He was on the big guns on Sunset Avenue.

JonLee: On Sunset Avenue.

Marguerite: Guarding straight out to the Straits where the Japanese ships would have come in.

JonLee: About what year was this?

Marguerite: That was in 1942. So the War was on. And he came, a National Guard group and they were, what, Federalized, or they call it, and they become part of the Federal Government instead of the State Militia. But anyway, they came to Washington, D.C., because they were kind of a show outfit, because they had started before the War as a National Guard outfit so they were very well trained and all. And they wanted such a group in Washington, D.C. around the President, so he went to Washington, D.C., and then one night some of the guys got drunk and you know, that didn't look right at all and the next day they put them all on the train, with their whole outfit, officers and all, to Seattle, and they were sure that they were headed for overseas. And instead they got in trucks. And went past the waterfront and up the West Seattle Hill to Sunset Avenue.

JonLee: Was there a barracks up there?

Marguerite: There was nothing. there was nothing. There were no houses, all those big houses have been built since. Right at the end of Sunset Avenue toward Alki.

JonLee: Because there were barracks down on Harbor Avenue. That Carmecita Muñoz remembers. They were in different areas guarding Boeing.

Marguerite: Uh-huh, uh-huh. I don't doubt that.

JonLee: Eva Falk was her mother. So she remembers playing basketball as a little kid, with, she's...

Marguerite: But they were, I can ask my husband, I'm sure they were in tents up there. Uh-huh. And then there was a clear area, maybe two hundred feet, and there they had the big guns. And they were pointing right out at the Straits.

JonLee: How did you know, within two weeks that this man would be a good man, a good husband, a good, father, how did you know that?

Marguerite: Well, he was very, very interested in nature. Because he'd grown up in New York City near Bronx Park, and near the Botanical Gardens. And on his way to school he'd, or on his way home from school, he would stop in those two places. Especially in the Zoo. He loves animals, and has all his life. And couldn't have them, of course, living in apartments in New York City. And, so when uh, let's see, the next day we were on our way to Lincoln Park, walking along the beach and on the path up above too, but he was just so interested in things like insects that he would see or different weeds that he didn't know. And I thought (laughs) he should be talking about me instead of, you know, nature. But he was really interested and when he got up in the park and saw those magnificent trees you know, that were seedlings there, when Columbus discovered America, he was just enthralled with the Northwest. And he couldn't believe the sight of the Olympics. Just magnificent. And I'm sure he felt then that he never wanted to go back to the old life.

And we just had so much in common and we were just so happy together.

JonLee: Did you elope?

Marguerite: No, huh-uh.

JonLee: Did your parents put on a big wedding for you?

Marguerite: No. We didn't give them a chance. That night we walked along the beach and home. And came home and built a little fire in the fireplace and there again, the fireplace fascinated him, because he lived only in apartments in New York City. They were nice apartments, but gas fireplaces, and, you know. Just so unlike anything in Seattle. And so, he was just so intrigued by everything. Schmitz Park and just couldn't believe it all, it was just so natural. And, we just, I just loved the way he was interested in the little bugs and insects seemed to be more interested in nature than holding hands, and I was just, you know, I wasn't used to that. Anyway, I just thought he was the man for me. And he felt the same way. I was the one he had been waiting for

JonLee: And he was and he is.

Marguerite: He was and he is.

JonLee: Now, I want to go back then, to you going to college at Seattle Pacific and when you graduated it was during the Depression.

Marguerite: Boy, was it ever.

JonLee: Do you remember about what year that was?

Marguerite: Let's see, I graduated from West Seattle, 1933, '36. But I didn't have my degree, I wasn't truly a graduate but I had a three year teaching certificate. And went back later in the summers and got my degree.

JonLee: Would you talk about where you first went to teach?

Marguerite: Sure. Black Diamond.

JonLee: And the mines were just starting to close then and you had students from--

Marguerite: --different backgrounds.

JonLee: So they spoke Polish and Lithuanian and Italian, Welsh--

Marguerite: --Welsh.

JonLee: And Welsh--

Marguerite: -- Austrian, German--

JonLee: --and Italian and--

Marguerite: Yeah. Very interesting. And lots of clashes. Especially among the baseball players. The different teams. Just (laughs) they'd fight for their very lives.

JonLee: And how long did you teach there?

Marguerite: I was three years there. And if you can believe it, I made nine hundred dollars and really helped my family a lot because my Dad had lost his fish business. And so I was able to provide and help them.

JonLee: You mentioned that the money that you contributed paid the taxes.

Marguerite: --the taxes, uh-huh--

JonLee: --so they could still have the house.

Marguerite: So they never left the house. Which was good.

JonLee: Did your mother ever work outside the home?

Marguerite: Oh, no. Huh-uh. She had so many children. And she never needed to. She drove a big car. And everything was great and we had our own home that he had built.

JonLee: But even in the Depression when it was hard?

Marguerite: The Depression, my Dad lost his fish business, went to Oregon and worked for a brother at Reedsport. And I had wonderful

grandparents that brought their six children across the prairies to Seattle and they helped us. And I went to live therewhile attending Seattle Pacific High School and College.

JonLee: So it's family coming together to help--

Marguerite: --and my--

JonLee:-- from together from different generations.

Marguerite: Right, and my brother went to a wealthy Aunt and Uncle on Queen Anne Hill. And went to the University of Washington and worked at their fish house, Superior Fish Company, which made kippered salmon. They shipped it all over the world. And they kept going during the Depression. Later he graduated from the University, started his own company, Everett Seafoods.

JonLee: Now, then, after Black Diamond--Oh, I know what. You mentioned that even though it wasn't a great deal of money, it was enough, given the value of the dollar on the world currency market, for you to go to Europe. And travel in the summers.

Marguerite: Yeah, right. Thirteen countries one year and fourteen the next. And the trip across the country. I don't know how I ever did it. I do know I learned so much that is still with me today.

JonLee: Well, the dollar--

Marguerite: Oh, yeah. Did it ever. And every month I'd take my paycheck and go on down to Cunard White Star Line and they'd cash it and give me some back and put the rest in a fund to pay in a trip for the trip to Europe.

JonLee: Wonderful. And to help your parents, too.

Marguerite: No, I didn't give that to them. I had, what I had for myself was very little. But I didn't really need it in Black Diamond. Milk was five cents a quart. My mother would send up, every weekend when I came home, she'd send back maybe three or four quarts of, or two or three quarts of canned fruit, canned berries, wild blackberries that we picked around Alki. The little wild ones--

JonLee: --the little wild ones--

Marguerite: Yeah, that grew over the logs.

JonLee: I love those.

Marguerite: Well, they're very special. Anyway.

JonLee: And after teaching at Black Diamond--

Marguerite:-- where my salary was seventy-five dollars a month

JonLee : -- then you went to--

Marguerite: -- I went to the Edmonds School District. A lot of people were coming to work in Boeing from the middle west and the outskirts of Seattle were growing. And Edmonds had a housing problem, so houses were built up in the woods around Esperance School which was about a block from the highway. Which was highway then, not a freeway, of course. To Everett. So I lived in the north end of Seattle, and I was picked up every morning by my principal and we drove up to this school.

JonLee: And from there you came back and taught at Alki, did you not?

Marguerite: Oh, that was, those were wonderful years. After I was married and had our children in Alki School.

JonLee: How many years did you teach at Alki?

Marguerite: I think twenty. My daughter has some silver pieces that were given to me, on, as I left. And it has the date on there and all. But, boy, 'm awful at dates.

JonLee: No, that's okay, we get the general--

Marguerite: --general picture.

JonLee: --epoch. Now, when you taught at Alki, where did you and your husband live?

Marguerite: When I started. Let's see now, no, we lived in a little house at 64th and Hinds. Right where the sewage disposal plant land is. Not the

plant, was just below us on Beach Drive, and, but part of it always, on that property between Admiral Way and West Hinds. Which would be a long block. And it would be just behind the beach. 64th.

JonLee: You remember that stone house?

Marguerite: Oh goodness! Yeah, sure.

JonLee: And you were telling a story last time we met about Blackie Meager's(?) dock. And the ferry to Manchester and you knew it before Blackie was there.

Marguerite: Oh, sure, the Cross line and the Air line and the, Cross line, Air line, there's a third, I can't think of the name right now. Bearline.

JonLee: So you would go across to have a picnic--

Marguerite: --a nickel to spend at the general store --

JonLee: --in Manchester.

Marguerite: A nickel for kids on the ferry. And Mother was having babies every year or so, and she wanted us out of her hair, and so she'd give, pack our lunch and send us with my older brother, who very responsible, and became a very wealthy man, in Everett, in a fish company in Everett. But anyway, he was always responsible for us and probably developed a lot of his--

JonLee: Was that Jack who I met last--

Marguerite: No, it isn't Jack. Jack was the Bohunk. He was the youngest. He was our baby and we spoiled him to death. You met Jack, I'd forgotten that. Oh, he's a wonderful guy. We have such good times together. Such strong family times together. But, my brother died, my Everett brother a few years ago, and just about finished us. He was so special. Uh, but, what was going to say? We traveled with his wife and my husband to Alaska, Europe, New Zealand.

JonLee: I was going to ask you about businesses along Alki that you might remember. Do you remember Scotty Wilbur's grocery?

Marguerite: Was that at 61st?

JonLee: It's about where the Taco Time is. Which is next door to where the--

Marguerite: I knew the Tracy family. If you could get her to talk, you'd really have someone to talk to.

JonLee: Who's that?

Marguerite: Well, it's Betty Tracy. And her family had a huge house across from the Stockade. Was it called the Stockade? Where you eat? What is that called?

JonLee: The Homestead.

Marguerite: The Homestead. Across the street. They owned that whole block and they had a grocery store on the corner, of 61st. That would be the eastern corner. 61st and Alki. And then they lived behind the store and then behind that were their fruit trees and berries, bushes, and clothes lines and that sort of thing. So they owned all the way back to West Stevens. That whole block they owned. They owned the, there was a bowling alley in there, they owned. They owned the little grocery store, there was a shoe store.

JonLee: Was there a barber?

Marguerite: Oh yeah, there was a barber shop. And the--

JonLee: And across the street, was the drug store there?

Marguerite: Richie's was across the street, but he didn't own that. Uh-huh.

JonLee: Did she marry or would her name be under Tracy still?

Marguerite: No, she's Betty White. And I introduced her to her husband.

JonLee: What was his first name then?

Marguerite: His name was Arthur. She's Mrs. Arthur White. Boy, if you could get her to talk, you'd have someone to tell you stories. Because her family was a very early family and they owned a lot of property at Alki. Her grandparents actually.

JonLee: Does she still live in West Seattle?

Marguerite: Yes, I introduced her to her husband, in fact. And she lives in a big house up there but kind of behind the Admiral Theatre.

JonLee: Well, we'll give her a try.

Marguerite: They owned three different houses that we rented during the summertime along 59th and Alki. Another across from the play field, across from the tennis courts and kitty-corner from the school. That house is still there. The others are I think apartment houses where they were. Because my mother loved Alki beach. Like no one else. And the tennis courts.

JonLee: Didn't you say she was very, very active in sports and in the Field House?

Marguerite: Oh yeah. Oh. Yeah. And they'd play at night at 6:30 and so Mother would go off and I'd take care of the kids, the oldest girls. And get the little ones to bed and all.

JonLee: Who made supper for your Dad?

Marguerite: My mother, but he had a restaurant at his fish house. A little restaurant out in front on Railroad Avenue. In the building his fish house was behind that. And so he ate his meals down there for the most part. My mother was a play girl. She was a fun person and didn't take cooking or house keeping seriously.

JonLee: You have her eyes!

Marguerite: Oh, she was much, much prettier than any of her girls. That's okay. And we just had a wonderful life and she had help, not full time, but they'd come a couple of times a week and clean us up. And clean the house.

JonLee: Now, where did you get your groceries at?

Marguerite: Now, that's a wonderful story in itself.

JonLee: You went to the Pike Street Market.

Marguerite: We went to the Pike Street Market every Saturday.

JonLee: But was there a meat market in West Seattle or did you get it--

Marguerite: With a Dad in the fish business you know what we ate. The finest of fish. Halibut and salmon, kippered salmon. Dad kippered salmon, too. And just, uh, and then every Saturday we went to the Market. And like I say, that's a, that's a big story about the street car tracks and the trestle, and all and we came home with four or five shopping bags, our food for the week.

JonLee: The trolley?

Marguerite: Oh, yeah.

JonLee: That swayed that across the tide flats.

Marguerite: And the red wing black birds. Oh how we loved those and the herons that we'd see. Because those were real tide flats and sometimes we'd be, just under water. Uh-huh. When the tides were high. The birds were just fascinating to me. And I went to high school at Seattle Pacific, so I'd be home every weekend riding the trestle and back again. But every Saturday our ride to the Market was a great adventure and the donut machine. Mother would park us at the donut machine!! Do you know about that? Just when you went into the Market, it was, it was one of the first little businesses, but it had a glass front. And they had a donut machine in the window and uh, the donuts would go through this hot grease fat vat and then they'd be turned over and turned over again turned over again as they went around in circles and finally flipped off onto the counter and with the salesgirl's marvelous big hands she would grab a dozen at a time and get them into the boxes. And then we'd each got a donut for our reward for being good because we stayed at the donut machine with our noses pressed to the glass until Mother had filled a shopping bag, she'd bring it back, and take off again to get another bag because all our food came almost solely from the Market. And from my Dad's fish house. And Mother knew everyone in the Market on a first name basis. They were her friends. It was all just a great adventure every Saturday.

JonLee: Did you buy your clothes in West Seattle? Or go to the movie there--

Marguerite: No, my mother actually was a dressmaker and she was very skillful with her fingers and our clothes were made by her. And

other clothes would come from the department store. From the Bon.

JonLee: Downtown?

Marguerite: Nothing in West Seattle, because, when I was little, my mother was shopping downtown. And she didn't have a car and then when she got the car she shopped at the Junction, the meat market. But like I say, my Dad brought home marvelous fish, night after night. Oysters and clams and you know, and all the, kippered salmon. And so we just had a wonderful healthy life. And then the vegetables from the Market.

JonLee: And I want to come forward then. When you married what decided you and your husband to stay in West Seattle?

Marguerite: Oh! There's no other place. Nothing like it anywhere.

JonLee: Well, for a while though, you did follow him .

Marguerite: Oh, yeah. Oh, absolutely.

JonLee: I think you said you went to Texas, was it?

Marguerite: We went to El Paso, Texas, but we also went to different camps in California. And then finally he went overseas and I came home. Then when the War was over he came home and we found our own house on 64th and West Hinds, right by the disposal site. Far end of the site. Just today. And so, let's see... I'm trying to think--

JonLee: And you said he went to work for Boeing for thirty years. When he came out of the Service.

Marguerite: I'm trying to think what he, what we paid in rent, I think it was about, I don't think it was more than twenty-five a month. So we were able to save quite a bit.

JonLee: Did you begin to have children right away?

Marguerite: I had miscarriages. Uh-huh. And then I had our two children.

JonLee: A girl and a boy.

Marguerite: A girl and a boy. And our boy drowned when he was in college. That was real tough. But our girl... Do you know my daughter Mary?

JonLee: You know, I don't. I think Pat Filer knows her.

Marguerite: Yeah. She's just a jewel and she's just so good to us. And she lives right on the beach. Just at the foot of the hill here. Basil and I had traveled a summer in Europe and we stepped off the plane and there was Mary with Scott Gunderson, an Alki boy.

JonLee: That's nice.

Marguerite: Husband's a pilot and they have wonderful, wonderful children....That trash there I picked that up on a picnic we went on up in the woods by Mt. Rainier. (laughs)

JonLee: Last weekend?

Marguerite: Uh-huh. Kind of a mess.

JonLee: And you've got mushrooms.

Marguerite: It's happy to just look at it. Yeah, there's a couple. My husband's very much into, or was, very much into mushrooming, with the Society.

JonLee: With the Mycological Society. I was active in that, too. So you and he went to Mt. Rainier?

Marguerite: Yeah.

JonLee: Did your granddaughter take you?

Marguerite: No.

JonLee: Your daughter?

Marguerite: No, my brother. Uh-huh. My brother, my sister. Oh, it was beautiful. I just walked around and picked that mess up.

JonLee: Well, I want to ask you because you've lived long enough to have lived through some wars, to have lived through a Depression, and you talk about your mother's family as having this religious dedication to Free Methodists. What kept you going in hard times?

Marguerite: I felt very rich, with my job. Seventy-five dollars a month.. Because so many people didn't, they just--

JonLee: --didn't have jobs.

Marguerite: --on Welfare. Uh-huh.

JonLee: Did you have an inner faith, did you also follow the doctrine of the Free Methodists?

Marguerite: Yeah, uh-huh. And the Presbyterian. My mother was Presbyterian. And, Seattle Pacific meant a lot to me.

JonLee: So were you active in alumni.

Marguerite: I was, but then I was, I got so involved in all these different communities that I taught in and then home for the weekend that I really didn't have time, but now, I 'm going back. Uh-huh. And enjoying it. We belong to University Presbyterian.

JonLee: is there anything, for someone who doesn't know West Seattle, as you have known it over your lifetime and from the time you were a small child practically, what is so special about West Seattle, would you say? Could you address that?

Marguerite: There's so much that is natural. Like Schmitz Park and like Lincoln Park. I mean trees growing there that were seedlings when Columbus discovered America. And there we have them, still growing. That's so special I think. Yeah. No, and my mother loved the fresh air. She always talked about the fresh air. And it's so true. You know, when the wind's blowing right, I just open all my windows, and say, thank you, Mother, for moving to Alki. Yeah, no, I just, I just really have been very, very happy all my lifetime. And I still walk in the park and enjoy it so much. And feel so fortunate with my daughter down there on the beach. Raising those grandchildren, there just couldn't be a better place in the world. She's so lucky.

JonLee: Okay, then I think we'll stop here.

Marguerite: Okay.

JonLee: Thank you very much.

Marguerite: Oh, you're so welcome.

End of Interview