

## Key Information

Name: Joan Rutherford

Age: 81

Current Cabin: 1

Date of Interview: October 17, 2014

Interviewer: Tammy Smith (University of Puget Sound)

## Ethnographic Preface

It was a clear, sunny day when Larry, my husband, and I headed to Salmon Beach for me to conduct my interview with Joan Rutherford. Joan had prepared potato soup and we brought a variety of sandwiches and drinks. We sat out on the deck overlooking the Narrows chatting, laughing and becoming more acquainted. It was as if we had known one another for years instead of only a few short minutes. Joan informed us that she lived alone in this cabin for many years and shared a story of how she saw this cabin while visiting a friend and she fell in love. She was given the number to the owner who was renting and since he was not an early riser, she decided to call him every day, fifteen minutes earlier than the day before, until he finally conceded and sold her the cabin.

This interview contains many stories that share valuable history, enlightening encounters, wonderful traditions and hilarious happenings that have and continue to bring joy and interest to the inhabitants of Salmon Beach.

## Transcription

Tammy: Okay so now we are recording. Thank you again for this opportunity to sit and chat with you about Salmon Beach and its history. So...

Joan: I am Joan Rutherford and I live in Cabin number one which is the farthest cabin north. If you step off the little stairs behind this cabin you are in the remote beach of Point Defiance Park. And I have lived here since 1977. I was widowed and my children were off in college before I moved here. And I actually moved here to get some sleep. I was working full-time and going to law school and I was only eating one meal a day and sleeping 4 hours a night and I falling asleep driving to Olympia where our home was. So a friend was going to go south and she said you want to house sit my cabin and I said yes (laughs). And after sleeping on the narrows and looking at the moon over the water, I never ever wanted to leave. So before she got back from her trip, I bought cabin number one. I never did go back to the lake.

Tammy: (laughs) You said law school. Where did you attend law school?

Joan: UPS use to have a school in Tacoma, the campus in Tacoma and I was working as an administrator at DSHS full-time. One of the things I wanted to tell you about was my eightieth birthday float.

Tammy: Yes.

Joan: I have lived here since '77 and it's now 2014 and last year I turned eighty years old. And as a surprise, my neighbors did a thing that had never, ever been done on Salmon Beach before. They arranged a flotilla of boats, twenty two boats, fifty five people, birthday cakes, balloons, nobody smashed a finger. (laughs) You probably noticed that at Salmon Beach that we don't have big boats. We have little boats that we can keep on our decks. And you probably know that is because the water is too swift in the Narrows. If we try to buoy them out every winter they would go away. So we have to have them small enough to lift up onto our decks. So this is a whole flotilla of little boats (laughs), and some kayaks and some walking boards. And a center boat had I think about seven preschoolers and two daddys (laughs) with a baby sitting in the middle. It was a marvelous time. Total surprise. Great party.

Tammy: That's wonderful. And you said this was the first time anything like that had ever been done?

Joan: Yes, the idea was formed the year before I had mentioned to my friend Marilyn, the sculptress of the mermaid, that I had seen a couple of the young neighbors floating their boats down together having a sandwich, drinking a beer, going on the back eddy toward the point and I thought I would love a ride on my birthday. I thought that would be fun to do and so she and they organized a birthday float as a surprise.

Tammy: That was so fun, very special.

Joan: I went down to her house for tea and it was a week before my birthday but a perfect time and the perfect weather. Perfect everything.

Tammy: Wow.

Joan: And we were having tea and one of the boats came in. It had a big balloon that said Eightieth Birthday (laughs). And it had lovely lavender balloons. And Chris Brooks had rigged a throne for me on the ports of the center of one of the boats and it was, it was exactly a throne. It had arms and a back and a cushion (laughs) and I was high enough to see into all the other boats. And I have never been so comfortable in an outboard (laughs). And the day was, the sky was so blue. There was absolutely no wind. And the children got to release the balloons, one at a time, lavender balloons into a blue sky. I have not seen this ever happen. They went straight up.

Tammy: Wow

Joan: They just paired in a straight line, one balloon after the other. Just totally magic. So they asked if I wanted another float this year and I no (laughs), maybe when I'm ninety we're going to have another birthday float (laughs).

Tammy: So were any of your children or grandchildren able to participate in this

Joan: No. My son and grandchildren are Alaskans.

Tammy: That is just wonderful. So how long did you all stay out?

Joan: You know, were you aware that through the Narrows it's like a big saucer spinning and there's a constant back eddy on the peninsula side going south toward Olympia. Just oh, maybe fifty feet wide. One hundred feet wide just whatever the tide is doing, coming or going, ripping back and forth like a

train. On the edges the back eddy on that side is always going south and the back eddy on this side is always going north. Like on the edge of a saucer. So nobody had their motor on and it took us almost two hours to drift (laughs) from the southern most end of Salmon Beach down past all the cabins to the Point.

Tammy: Wow.

Joan: It was wonderful.

Tammy: That is fabulous.

Joan: Now what else would you like to know about?

Tammy: What's your earliest memory of Salmon Beach?

Joan: Well I told you what I was doing and I proudly brought a fellow law school student, young emergency room doctor down to see this wonderful thing I had found and bought. And I'll never forget, he looked it over and he as we went away he said, "Joan I thought you had better sense." (laughs) And so we realized that we are different kinds of people (laughs). He placed clearly a high value on safety and security and future. And I clearly don't (laughs). I mean the cliff could fall. the logs could knock your cabin down. Many things could happen. But that isn't what you think about. You just think about how lovely it is to be here.

Tammy: You mentioned earlier in the conversation about the guy from Gig Harbor that you called every morning.

Joan: Oh, how I came to buy my house?

Tammy: Yes.

Joan: Well as I say, I was staying at cabin 49 at my friend's. And we used to have a trail that switched back above cabin number one here and I was out exploring one day and I looked down and I saw this little cabin with a tin roof. And the water and the light was just...I fell in love. So. The man who owned it had rented it out was living over in Gig Harbor. And he didn't really want to sell. So I learned from mutual friends that he liked to not get up early in the morning. So every morning I called him a little bit earlier with a little higher offer. And I called him and called him and called him (laughs). And finally when it got to be about 5:45 or 6 in the morning and my offer had reached an amount he couldn't refuse. I got my cabin (laughs).

Tammy: Congratulations.

Joan: Ah, and I have not ever been sorry. The things that happen at my cabin that are special to the community and I ought to mention that Salmon Beach really is a community. An interdependent, I rely on you, you rely on me. With two hundred and twenty steps up the cliff if you run out of sugar, you don't want to go up the hill to buy a pound. You go to a neighbor with a cup. Um, if you have a lot of banging under your cabin, and it's something you need help dealing with, you ask a neighbor, you don't call a professional (laughs). If you have to replace a piling under your cabin, there aren't any professionals anywhere you can call, the neighbors get together and do it. Um, so it's a much more interdependent way of living than any I had experienced. Yeah. Um.

Tammy: And has it always been that way, even since the seventies. The late seventies when you moved here, that strong sense of community.

Joan: Before I moved in I met three people who had been in the Peace Corp together, who all came back from the Peace Corp, young men and moved to Salmon Beach. And there was a flavor to the community at that point that was Peace Corp flavor. Reaching out and helping. And making do with very little, um, that I liked. Now not everybody on Salmon Beach has those same philosophies. But then, I don't have much to do with them. Other than hosting them. What happens at this cabin, um, is every year we have a fourth of July party. Did they tell you about that?

Tammy: Uh he mentioned it but why don't you share.

Joan: It is a rowboat race. And they've been having it forever. At least forty years. Part of the reason is that people don't get up, go up the hill and drive and get injured in traffic on holidays. So on almost every major holiday Salmon Beach has its own entertainment. New Year's Eve, Fourth of July, Halloween. Um, it also is just plain fun (laughs). Now this rowboat race, I have to tell you about it of course the men started it. And then there was a wonderful trophy. I think it was an old bowling trophy. And it passed from hand to hand. Then one year, a woman won the race.

Tammy: That changed everything didn't it (laughs)?

Joan: so heads were put together (laughs) and it was decided that there would be two trophies (laughs), one for real rowboats and one for the canoe that she was in (laughs). And then a kayak won the race, so there had to be three trophies. And then some children won the race (laughs). So there had...but remember these are not trophies that people pay a lot for (laughs). They are old trophies or hand-made things. So the race starts at the far end of the beach, south end Tranquility Gap down where the train tunnel is. And (pause) it starts about noon. But Richard Turner who is a commodore and who does all the beautiful Salmon Beach row boat signs, have you seen them?

Tammy: No I haven't.

Joan: Well he's a true artist. Every year he does a different notice that we are going to have the race.

Tammy: What's his name again? I'm sorry.

Joan: Richard Turner.

Tammy: Richard Turner.

Joan: He's a commodore. And the only rule is that he starts the race with as few as possible people ready (laughs). So when the race comes past the cabin, and there are now trophies for best decorated cabin, best decorated person, oh you should see our costumes (laughs). Best decorated boat, and it always ends at cabin number one. When I first moved here, there were no plants on this deck (laughs). It's now covered with roses but it was a nice, bare, open deck and the party was on the deck. I could show you a picture with maybe sixteen people throwing beer at each other (laughs). And it was nice 'cause you could just hose off a deck. And there is a standard affair at the Fourth of July party. It's watermelon filled with fruit and hot buttered popcorn and lemonade. And in my mind that's for the children and anybody else who wants it. And then, there's also keggers of beer. And I always used to provide all of it. But when I retired, the community decided that I shouldn't have to do the beer and ice

since I didn't drink it anyway (laughs). So Richard Turner had been making these beautiful posters and he put them in both bulletin boards. Both ends of the beach, just reminding people about the row boat race. So about that time Kinkos had come into our lives and you could make colored copies. So decided that he would make even nicer signs, copy them and sell them at the party and that would pay for the beer and the ice.

Tammy: Aah

Joan: And that has happened every year since. And it got to be so many roses on my deck and so many boats and so many people. And then we realized that if the tide was right, we could have the party on the beach. Right around this point is a cove and I have to wait 'til the tide goes down to put up the tables and take out the food and then the people are closer to watch their boats anyway. And they feel even more freely to throw the beer. So that's where the party is now but a couple of years ago, now Richard Turner has lived here, I moved here in '77, he probably lived here eight or ten years longer. We're not newcomers (laughs). We forgot to look at the tide chart (laughs). So he announced the race at a tide time and the night (laughs) so the guys had brought down the ice and the tide was too far in to take it clear up into the next point, cove so they left it on the little point right here. The tide came in and washed it all away (laughs). We were waving to the ice (laughs)! We try to look at the tide chart now (laughs). But that's, that a lovely story because the tides really make a difference at Salmon Beach.

Tammy: Oh yeah, the tide was much higher the day we came out. The water was clear back to the cliff.

Joan: It comes as high as the algae on the clay bank back here. Um, and goes out almost to the drop off when the kelp grows. High tide highest is about fourteen feet. And lowest is about three and a half minus. So that's a lot of variety.

Tammy: Now I heard about another event from Professor Gardner. He said something about building a volcano?

Joan: Oh! That's at the other end. That's at Tranquility Gap. You have to ask a southerner about that (laughs). Are you going to interview Danny Anderson?

Tammy: I personally am not.

Joan: Well.

Tammy: But there are other students.

Joan: The volcano is at Tranquility and I am not involved in that (laughs), but yes I do believe we celebrate the eruption of Mt. St Helens. We celebrate a lot of things. When one of my neighbors built a new good size garage, well four neighbors went in together and built a really nice one with a concrete floor. They had a square dance (laughs) to dedicate their garage (laughs). And Halloween is another time that's special if you live at cabin one because by tradition, the children start trick or treating in the south end and work their way this way 'cause when you get to this cabin, you get to stop and little groups, kind of throughout the evening and night. Then we have hot home-made gumbo? and apple cider. And because we had mothers who were flower children when I moved here and didn't let me give their children sweets (laughs), by tradition I have given pomegranate all these years.

Tammy: Wow.

Joan: Do you know how big the pomegranates have gotten and how much they cost?

Tammy: Yeah they are pretty expensive. Do you shop at the Met?

Joan: Yes. But I found a special buy at the outlet and they sold me a case at ninety nine cents a-piece. (Sigh) So it's a combination, the pomegranates got more expensive and the cabins got more children (laughs). But we're okay for this year (laughs). Um, it used to be that we had a New Year's Eve progressive party on the beach. We still have it but it doesn't end here anymore (laughs). Our original idea was that we were going to have salads and soups and meats and veggies and you'd end up at the last cabin and it would be desserts. All that fell aside except for the last cabin (laughs). Which was dessert (laughs). And it starts at the south end and it's about oh maybe five or six cabins so that you can spend about maybe forty five minutes to an hour in each cabin and you get to the last one in time for celebrating New Years. And (laughs) I had a friend to told me that I should melt chocolate in a wok and have things to dip in it...angel food cake, and fruits and strawberries and so I bring in a big long, outside table and cover it with red and that's the chocolate table. And then this table we're sitting at is covered with oh brownies and presentation cakes and baklava and just eat 'til you get sick (laughs). But the last couple years probably because I was getting older and we get more people and this cabin didn't grow (laughs), a larger cabin has been hosting the desserts. Now he just had major surgery so maybe I'm going to be doing it again (laughs).

Now is this about the kind of thing you wanted to hear about Salmon Beach?

Tammy: Tell me about the forties.

Joan: I wasn't here.

Tammy: Oh the seventies. That's right, in the seventies. Tell me what you know about the forties. Do you know anything about the notices to vacate the premises?

Joan: I understand that down, way, way north of the cabin on park land there was a slide large enough that it made like a miniature tsunami in the Narrows.

Tammy: Oh wow.

Joan: Um, I didn't even write down... I don't know how large the slide was, huge, monstrous. And (pause) the thing I have been involved with more than, in terms of time devoted, and research done than anyone on the beach is what happened after the 2001 Nisqually earthquake which took out the center of the beach. You know where that is? Did Andrew point it out when you walked by?

Tammy: Um, he may have but I don't recall. So the center of the beach is..

Joan: It took about out about somewhere between three hundred and five hundred feet of board walk and knocked two or three cabins totally out and crushed the back of a few others. And that's just the kind of thing that happens if you live at the foot of a cliff like this. Nature will have its toll once in a while. Um, but we were told that FEMA was going to send people down and they were going to help us. And so we took our precious away time from cleaning up debris and running water, preparing food and helping each other out to talk to these FEMA people. And it wasn't...nobody got any help from them. It wasn't 'til a year later we discovered they never were going to help us. They were trying to get rid of the community. FEMA withheld all the earthquake money from the city of Tacoma trying to force this

community into having codes that would not allow us to live here. And the City finally told us. At that point we put together a committee and hired an attorney to help us and partnered with the state and the city and the county because we are an historic district. And part of our value historically is surviving in these hostile conditions. Some of the swiftest water in the world go through the Narrows and this is a Class U hazardous landslide cliff we live under. Um, but we didn't think that was any of FEMA's business to destroy a historic district. And ultimately we prevailed.

Tammy: So are you able to get earthquake insurance here?

Joan: Oh no. No. But if you wanted to insure everything, you don't live in Salmon Beach. No, no earthquake insurance, no flood insurance. If you work really hard you could manage to get fire insurance (laughs) for a premium.

Tammy: So how were the seventies? How were they different from now?

Joan: Well you will still find cabins that are the same size and in not too different conditions now than in the seventies. My neighbor Dennis who is a sea captain, uh, his cabin was almost identical when I moved here. Maybe the plumbing is better and the insulation is better.

Tammy: So the structural components.

Joan: But that is a perfect little Salmon Beach cabin. And the historic one in [cabin] 97 where someone lives, that's exactly the way it was even forty years before the seventies. Uh, other cabins people have renovated for a variety of reasons. A tornado took my roof off (laughs). It really was. A neighbor was half way up the cliff looking down on his way to work and he saw this little whirlwind of water come. It touched my house and it used to be that my house, this room's roof and the porch roof were a continuous piece. And they were supported by twigs (laughs). Well, very thin branches. It ran from the peak of the roof out. Well the porch roof, that portion, got put on the cliff, two cabins down and halfway up the cliff by that wind. And the house roof just got laid back so I was in bed and I'm look up at the sky (laughs). A neighbor got out of her sick bed and came and help me put the tin back. And we tied my roof down with a tarp. My roof was tied with a tarp for the next eight years (laughs). I was happy with that but the City went just absolutely bonkers. And finally I had to remodel because the City made me (laughs). But, um, some cabin people have bought maybe what were one or two or three cabins and built a great big, big, big house. I don't know why.

Tammy: So in the seventies when you moved here, how many cabins were there?

Joan: I don't know. You know we're numbered one to one hundred and four. We used to be one to one hundred and ten. But anyway, (inaudible). And because that's where the little camps were, the fishing camps where you maybe had a tent or you maybe just had a fire pit when the tide was out or maybe you put a little platform that would last a tide or two to put your tent on. And those were the camp numbers assigned back years ago. And so we kept those. But now we have maybe sixty five full-time residences, I'm guessing. Well we can look at a beach list and count. Richard, here's some of his Fourth of July signs. They are all over the house and all over cabins. We're still within the forty five minutes. Roger Edwards our historian who is responsible for the district being in an historic district and cabin 97 being on the national list also puts out a beach list. Have you seen one those?

Tammy: I have.

Joan: So, it doesn't help looking at the numbers because it goes from one to one hundred and four. But for instance, I'm cabin one. My neighbor is cabin three. Oh because December 4, 1934 George Potter fell asleep in the bed right there with a cigarette in his hand, probably dead drunk, and burned the cabin down. He burned this cabin down and two and three. And we know about it because it was on the front page of the Tacoma Newspaper because at that moment he was the fire chief for the City of Tacoma (laughs). So we know that the value of this home, his full time residence was one hundred Depression dollars. And the value of all he held dear, all its contents was another three hundred (laughs). Well over the years cabin one, cabin two didn't rebuild, so cabin one and cabin three extended their decks 'til they touched. Well that kind of thing on Salmon Beach (laughs). So we go from one to three, you'd have to count. You can't just look at the numbers to know how many.

Tammy: So this seems pretty challenging for the fire department.

Joan: Oh, did you see my neon sign on my, the back of my cabin? It's a red neon one.

Tammy: I may have. I'll look for it.

Joan: It's a beautiful red. It's an artwork. Richard Turner who does the signs, his son is an artist in neon, among other things. And I've ordered one for this water side of my cabin 'cause when emergency people come, it's always by water. And there's stuff about the fire boat in the papers I gave you. But the fire boats come and if we had neon lights in front, even every three or four cabins it would help them.

Tammy: Oh I bet.

Joan: My little light also serves as a night light to light the boardwalk which we all do. And to light this little sidewalk into my cabin. Oh, it's just gorgeous!

Tammy: So when did he design that for you.

Joan: Just a few years, two to four years. The back orders on some things are not fast (laughs). I think I'll have a turquoise one and I'll put it up high so they should see it really well on the water.

Tammy: That's a nice wind chime with shells.

Joan: Yeah, palowa, I think.

Tammy: Did you get that when you were living on the island?

Joan: Which we're not going to talk about now we're going to talk about Salmon Beach now (laughs).

Tammy: Well I want to hear about that too.

Joan: But I will tell for the tape, the one time since '77 that I did not live in my little cabin here, uh, and you know about footprints, each cabin can build no larger than the footprint, over water footprint it inherited from its predecessor.

Tammy: Okay.

Joan: And we don't own the land under the cabins, we just own the cabin. The land is owned by the association. So, I lived for five years on an island smaller than my footprint (laughs). The island was thirty

feet wide and eight feet long. So, I think that says something about my character (laughs). It was also a hundred sea miles from the nearest car, roads, or mailbox (laughs). So that probably says something about which I valued more (laughs). Beauty and curiosity or safety and ...

Tammy: One of the things that you mentioned a little earlier, you said that you notice now that there are more young families.

Joan: Oh yeah, that's interesting. In the Depression as I understand it, there were some huge families, I mean eight - ten children living in tiny cabins on the beach. And the reason was in the Depression people didn't have much money and you could live here, people were at that point not even sure who owned the land and so everybody was squatting. So you could live here kind of free. Uh, lots of children. Then in the sixties which is the first I know about, well let's see, first we had prohibition. And prohibition is when we were the party capital of the county. Uh, see all the blackberries on the cliff? We made blackberry wine. We could run spirits in from Canada by water. We could post ?? at the top of the cliff. Prohibition was really a great time at Salmon Beach (laughs). And then we had the war. As I understand it, then Salmon Beach practically emptied out. And the first time I ever saw Salmon Beach was in the fifties when I came down as a young welfare worker. And the stairs were really rickety (laughs). And I was in high heels. And there were just a few people living in little cabins, mostly hold overs from Prohibition. Uh, and then we had the flower children in the sixties. And that was the heyday as far as I'm concerned (laughs). The high point of living on Salmon Beach because the flower children; it was green (laughs). They had, ok I'll tell you this (laughs). But a judge who will be nameless..

Tammy: Nameless (laughs).

Joan:... went by in a boat one day and he saw on the roof of a mid beach cabin (laughs) marijuana growing in the breeze. I mean it must have been eight or ten feet tall. It was a beautiful crop and he went back (laughs) and did something he wasn't supposed to do. He issued a warrant, search warrant on the beach. Uh, and so, did you hear about this from somebody else?

Tammy: No.

Joan: Okay! So over the weekend, long three day weekend, Tacoma's finest organized themselves. There were forty men. Some were disguised as fishermen (laughs). Little boats in front of the cabin. They had vans up at the top of the hill to haul away the miscreants. And they came down the hill. Now, somebody over the weekend told somebody down on Salmon Beach that there was going to be a raid Tuesday morning. And so everybody vacuumed their decks for seeds (laughs) and put their pot up in little vases in the cliff or moved it out somewhere else except, except for the man, young man who had the green growing on his roof. He fell off the roof and broke his hip over the weekend. And when his mother was told they were going to raid, she said, "Well George Washington grew pot!" And so the pictures of the Tacoma newspaper are the only stuff that got taken. [The photos] show this beautiful sheath (laughs) of marijuana in the officer's arms. And his mother got arrested. And as I said she had her George Washington statement. And then there was a couple from Connecticut I think who had arrived to visit over the weekend. And their friends told them there was going to be a raid (laughs) and they didn't believe them and they had a little stash in their backpack (laughs). But nothing came of it because we have marvelous attorneys on Salmon Beach. One of whom happened to notice that the judge who saw the deed shouldn't also issue the warrant (laughs and coughs). But it was really the last swath in our buckle.

So there were, you asked about children (coughs)..

Tammy: Do you want some water?

Joan: No, I just don't have much air. So in the sixties there were quite a few children 'cause the flower children had them. They were wonderful children. Do you want to hear about one of those children who is kind of typical of the sixties? He was known as the patron saint of the slugs. Because when he was two or three (laughs), his mother had told him not to pick up the slugs because they ate dog poop. And so she went out and discovered him picking up slugs on the trail and carrying them to the dog poop (laughs). These are the same children to whom I could not give sugar, remember (laughs)? When I arrived in the seventies, there was still a lot of us. But in the eighties and on into the nineties, people with more money moved here because now we had a sewer that they paid for, now we owned our land, and they had more money and they built bigger cabins and they also came with uphill philosophies. Many of them lived up the hill and this was just a summer place. And what was important to them in their philosophies...(inaudible)...and there were very, very few children. I remember Halloween where if you got five children at your door that was a big deal.

Tammy: Oh wow.

Joan: By the way, there was one Halloween when I working and I was in law school and I was really tired and I decided not to have the Halloween at my cabin. So I worked late and I came down in the dark in the rain and the cold on the switchback trail which was above my cabin. Pitch black! And I heard these little voices at my deck. And they were saying, "Oh, she'll come!" (laughs) She always has (laughs). I never again didn't have the party (laughs).

Tammy: (inaudible)

Joan: Oh my goodness no, I came running down and did the best I could with practically nothing. I apologized. But we had very few children. Now I bet we have a couple little ones every few cabins.

Tammy: That's quite a troop. And then I don't know if it's the latest one but the day that we came, when Andrew gave us the kind of walking tour, there was a one month old. One of your neighbors.

Joan: Oh, do you know our tradition down here if you have a baby?

Tammy: No.

Joan: The first month of the baby's life some, you don't have to cook dinner, you don't have to buy the food, carry it down the hill or cook it, clean up after it or lunch or breakfast for that matter. 'Cause every evening a meal is delivered by someone in the community.

Tammy: That's awesome.

Joan: You know, enough for dinner, a little something to snack on for breakfast, and leftovers for lunch. And the next night it happens again. So for a month. Isn't that a great tradition?

Tammy: That is a great tradition.

Joan: I don't think that's why we're having all the babies (laughs). But it's why we are all very conscious of each new one (laughs).

Tammy: This is an awesome community. You know it seems like that many years ago we had that sense of community. About when I was growing up and then somewhere that's gotten lost.

Joan: It's, I'll tell you one thing it does not have, one thing we've always been concerned about. People put more money into the cabins or we're forced to by the government. And they got more expensive. And the taxes got higher. It became increasingly difficult for the young people just out of school, just out of college to be homeowners down here. We really need them or the community will disappear. Um, so a number of people like Roger Edwards, our historian, will make some cabins available for rent for not too much, to encourage the young people to stay until they can buy. And we all try to hire them for as much as we can for as often as we can. I was going somewhere with that and I forgot where I was going. There's another thing we lack and I've forgotten what it was. I digressed with the young people. (Sigh) Turn the tape off so I can think a minute.

What has deteriorated since I moved here in the seventies is diversity. We had a much more diverse group in terms of race, in terms uh, what the people do for a living. We've become a really white, middle-class Salmon Beach and it wasn't on purpose. It was, it was a terrible accident (laughs). And so I, it occurred to me about three days ago. A friend was down and we were talking about, you know Colleen, my friend who worked at Child and Welfare Services and head of the ACLU and I and we were talking about you know how in our own lives, we don't have nearly the diversity in our close friendships that we did forty years ago or thirty years ago or twenty years ago. So I need to talk to my neighbors about that.

Tammy: Why do you think that is?

Joan: I think we probably should advertise differently the next time we have a couple of our cabins for sale. And I think we ought to advertise them differently. I don't know how that would be but I think we need to have people know that they are welcome in this community. 'Cause it wasn't purposeful. (Sigh) It just. Tooichi's [?] wife was Native American and they got a divorce and she went away. And we had two or three black families in the sixties and seventies and they got promoted on in their jobs and went elsewhere, you know. Or went back to where family was somewhere else. I mean, you leave for good reasons. 'Cause when my little granddaughter, Jordan who is adopted and black, like when she comes down she is the only child in this sparkling white community on our boat trips. And I think that's really bad for the children on Salmon Beach.

Tammy: Do you think they...

Joan: Have your classmates do a little discussion. What they think we should do about it. It happened partly as a result of as I say, the cabins getting more expensive. Um, I need my glasses on. Have your class talk about it a little bit. 'Cause I would really like some input back going forward what we could do without wasting a lot of time. Having more diversity on Salmon Beach.

[A few more things were said as we ended the interview]