

## Key Information

Name: Bill Hanson

Age: ??

Current Cabin: 101

Date of Interview: October 15, 2014

Interviewer: Becca Long (University of Puget Sound)

## Ethnographic Preface

I arrived at Bill cabin to conduct the interview. I entered the house on the lower level and he great me from the entrance way. He seemed eager to start the interview but still friendly and offered me coffee before we started. He was apologetic about the cleanliness of his house which was filled with artifacts he has collected from his time at Salmon Beach and from his adventures throughout his life. He seemed very calm and collected and was easy to talk with. We sat in the front of the house near a big window that overlooked the ocean.

Our conversations included stories about cabins on both the North and the South end but no specific cabin numbers were mentioned. Bill arrived at Salmon Beach in the early 1970's and has lived there ever since. Our topics included history of Salmon Beach, wildlife on Salmon Beach, conflict between the North and the South end of the beach and Bill's political/civil journey at Salmon Beach. Bill was very willing to disclose information and he has a great insight into the inner workings and personality of what it means to be a Salmon Beach resident. This interview contains a couple in-depth stories towards the end that will certainly be valuable for analysis about the political atmosphere of Salmon Beach. I wanted to stay longer because I felt that Bill was just starting to open up but my recorder need to be passed along so I had to leave after 50 minutes.

## Transcription

BL: So, when did you first come to Salmon Beach?

BH: '73. You were not born.

BL: I was not born, no. Did you live in this house?

BH: I built this house. I'll show you a picture of the house.

[He gets up and walks across the room to grab a framed picture of his original house.]

BH: [Hands me the picture of the house] That's the house I bought.

BL: Ok, and that's this lot right here? It looks really barren right there. It looks like they clear cut it.

BH: Just one second. [BH checks his phone]

BL: It's okay.

BL: Ok, you bought this house in '73, you said?

BH: Yes, I was going to add on to it and there was no place to start. It was all rotten.

BL: So did you just...

BH: Tore it down.

BL: So when you first moved here were all the houses to your left here, too.

BH: The one right next door was here. There was a house in each spot but the only one that really remains in the one next door, to the South. All the others have been replaced.

BL: So have you known...

BH: The historical one is here, of course, it's been restored, but yeah.

BL: Have a lot of the neighbors you moved in with in '73 – are they still here today?

BH: Yeah. No, the ones in '73, some of them are still here but a lot of them have moved on. A lot of the people here now have been here a long time. Like if I moved in in the 80's. People tend to come here and stop.

BL: Why do you think that is?

BH: Once you go to a new place and stay for a while... it's better here. No cars, the front yard is that [points towards the ocean] and the back yard is that [points towards the trail]. You have houses close to you on the sides but you don't feel them and when you walk out on the deck you might see someone on their deck but most of the time you don't, but you might and it's just a short pleasant conversation because everybody is friends. And that's it. We have normal squabbles that people have everywhere but we are friends through the whole thing.

BL: Squabbles such as...what?

BH: Oh... dog shits probably. That's the most common one.

BL: [Laughs] Has that been a constant problem since you moved here?

BH: Oh, forever. Now most people leave shovels behind their house so if your dog poops there's a shovel to pick it up with and it goes into the bay. Um, but still...

BL: So is it fairly similar now as it was when you first moved here?

BH: Oh no, it is greatly better. You would walk home at night, in the dark, and of course [with] no flashlights, because that's just the way it was, and you would get the feel of your foot sliding through a pie! [Laughs] And you knew. You just knew.

BL: Do you think the atmosphere, just the people living here are similar to how you first moved here? Just general camaraderie?

BH: Well, when I first came here the people who were living here ... most the houses were empty. And the people who were living here were living here because there was nowhere else you could live this cheaply.

BL: Oh, so it's fairly cheap to live here?

BH: It was. Um, I bought my house for \$25,000, one of my neighbors here bought his for \$15,000. He just happened to get someone selling for less. See you couldn't rent a place for two years that cheaply. Nowhere. So we stayed here. You put up with the trail and the parking lot. The stairway was absolutely rotten but you just put up with it. Then it becomes a way of life and you're used to it. And it just goes on. Then we bought the land. Then everyone started doing significant improvements.

BL: Who did you buy the land from?

BH: A fellow name James Weborn [sp?].

BL: I heard that this land, you can't build on it, is it federally owned?

BH: No we own it. You can't build on it because you can't build on the water; no one will ever get a building permit so close to the water unless you bribe a politician, but legitimately, no. But you can replace your house, but you can't add on to your house. Stuff like that.

BL: So, what was it like in the 1970's and 1980's, how is it different than the community now, how are the people different now?

BH: Back then there were a lot of educated people, but not all of them worked all the time. At that time I was fishing in Alaska so I worked during the summer and had the winters off. A couple of people worked on freighters, so they would go to the Orient or something like that. Some did three months on, three months off, some did six months on, six months off. So it was just pretty laid back ... sometimes you wouldn't go up the hill for a week or so

BL: Really? Wow.

BH: If someone was going up they would pick up beer and bread for you.

BL: Were there a lot of families back then? Like families with kids?

BH: Umm... a few.

BL: Would you say there are more now?

BH: Yeah, now it's more common. But families with kids, one was a stay-at-home mom, and he would do odd jobs, stuff like that. Before moving here he was a missile designer, an area missile designer at Boeing and he was doing something with computers and missiles. After he started having kids he became a professor at UW Tacoma. So people here weren't slow thinking. The owner on this side, who still owns the house but moved out, retired, but he was a professor at UPS. One of the people who own the one down there, who has now died, his wife owns it and he still owns and designed the click (?).

BL: So, you live on the South end. Do you stay in contact with those who live all the way on the North end?

BH: Yes, we have friends, but the people there have always been in a conflict between the North and the South.

BL: On the same beach?

BH: On the same beach. But individually we have good friends on the North end. But somehow, way back when, the North end has a different personality. We were the hippies and they were the upper crust and they hated us. There were friends of ours who didn't feel this way but some of the people did feel this way. They happened to be involved in the government in the North end. But those people are going away, but they became very angry because we bought our land first and that really upset them. They were leasing from the park. That has been resolved, but not peacefully.

BL: So there is still conflict today?

BH: Yeah, I don't think I want to tell you why, because the North and the South still don't get along even in the global picture here.

BL: So you said that this end here was considered the hippie end. Why do you say that?

BH: It probably had more people who worked part of the time, those who took a large part of the year off, our shacks look like that one [points to picture of older cabin]

BL: And those guys were more pristine?

BH: Oh yeah, but now we get along fine. Several people down there just didn't like hippies.

BL: So Andrew [Gardner] told us that a big concern living so close to the side of the oceans are slides. Have you ever experienced a slide while living here?

BH: No, but other people have while I've lived here. I've seen houses knocked over, knocked out and pushed off their pilings into the ocean.

BL: Wow, when was that?

BH: Oh, just a couple of years ago. We haven't had any major slides. We had one slide last year, I think it was last year – came up against a house and plugged the trail but it didn't really damage the house.

BL: How does the community react to something like that?

BH: Pretty much get together and dig it out. Restoring the house is pretty much that person's problem and they have insurance or whatever. But they get together and clear the trail.

BL: So, I also heard that fires were a big issue...?

BH: Yeah, the South end has city water, not the North end. Once again a part of our conflict.

BL: I heard you guys share different parking lots as well.

BH: Again a part of that conflict. So we have water and what you would call a stand pipe, a smaller version of a fire hydrant, and we have four hoses so if there was a fire we probably could put it out. We could probably control it until the fire boat got it here, but you don't want the fire boat to do too much because when they hit your house their water just knocks windows in.

BL: Would you say fires are more common than when you first moved in here?

BH: I think there's only been one that burned the house down. [It was a] wood stove, and a log rolled out and caught the rug on fire, they tried to pat it out or something and it didn't work.

BL: So if you house burns down can you rebuild your house, you just can't expand?

BH: Yep, it's called the Grandfather Clause Protection.

BL: Ok, and that applies to the South end and the North end?

BH: Yep, you have the right to add on, rebuild and enlarge, as long as it is to an existing or previously existing [house], if a disaster took out the house.

BL: How about storms? Have you lived through any big storms?

BH: Yeah, I was here for the storm that took out the floating bridge on the Hood Canal. I slept through it.

BL: When was that?

BH: 80's somewhere. Early 80's.

BL: Any other memorable...

BH: I've been here through huge storms – water washing across the decks, decks floating up, and floating out. The deck doesn't have as much weight on it as the house, so if you don't have weight on it, then it floats. I've seen storms wipe out the trail and the bulkhead. We live pretty close to the ground. That's just the personality of this place.

BL: Would you say that people are a little bit more resilient here?

BH: Yeah, in every way. We have every type of character. And we are really tolerant. We aren't the kind of people who accept stuff like cocaine, meth and pedophiles, stuff like that. We don't tolerate stuff like that but we do tolerate a lot of stuff that others may not.

BL: Can you give me an example of the things you guys tolerate that maybe others do not?

BH: Well a lot of us smoked marijuana far before it was legal. Oh I don't know.... Political differences are just lively discussions. There are all kinds of cohabitation-type situations. You know, when you don't get married until you want to have kids or something. There has never been sexual discrimination. Never.

BL: So I heard there were a few traditions on the beach, I think someone mentioned a row boat race.

BH: Oh yeah, there's the 4<sup>th</sup> of July rowboat race. It's a pretty big party. We gather in the gap down here in between the houses, and the crowd gathers, and a bunch of people are on shore, and the whistle goes off and a bunch of people run for their boats. Then they race to #1, which is all the way far North. It's about a mile. There are categories of prizes so there are plenty of prizes. Like a kid gets a prize for being the youngest rower or something like that. Then we drink beer on the beach until the tide runs us out. Then everyone goes to their individual parties. On New Year's there's a roving party. You start on this end and stop at a few houses all the way to the North end.

BL: And both the North and the South participate in these events?

BH: Oh yeah. We are friends are we get along, and that group that was always a pain in the butt at the North end is thinning out. One of the people who was kind of a nuisance was a neurosurgeon or a cancer surgeon, but anyways he was a surgeon. [Pause] There are other things. On Thanksgiving there will be a bunch of parties, so everyone gets involved in those festivities. In the winter it tends to be a lot more quiet. In the summer there's all kinds of boats anchored out and people rowing by. You probably passed by those great big chairs that are filled with air.

BL: Oh yeah. I know what you're talking about.

BH: Yeah people float up and down in those and sometimes you run out of beer so you have to pick up a beer from a neighbor.

BL: Do you know how the row boat race started?

BH: I don't know how it started but it's gone on for a long time.

BL: Before you came?

BH: I don't know. I don't recall it in the beginning years it started.... And Mt. St. Helens day ... There's a Mount St. Helen's party

BL: [Laughs] What do you do there?

BH: We make a model of Mount St. Helen's and put a bunch of fire crackers in it, and then we drink beer.

BL: What year was Mount St. Helen's, 1983?

BH: 1980's yes.

BL: Were you here for that? How did the community respond to it?

BH: It didn't affect us.

BL: Yeah, just my side of the state.

BH: Yeah we sent it to you guys. All the ash showers. I was on your side of the state and I was rafting the river [inaudible] in Montana. I had to get there the day after it blew so I had to go South through Portland. And I saw it all in the river and I saw a house, or the remains of a house, coming down the side of the hill full of logs.

BL: Do you guys have a lot of stuff that washes up on shore by your house?

BH: Oh yeah. Everything from buoys to boats to lumber logs to firewood. But not much garbage. Garbage doesn't last very long in the bay.

BL: Why do you think that is?

BH: Everything is biodegradable. Except plastic. People are pretty good about not throwing plastic in the bay, and they are pretty good about picking up Styrofoam. The Styrofoam floats by and you pick it up out of the water because that stuff lasts for a long time. People are pretty good about not throwing in water bottles.

BL: Do you think people of this beach really respect the area?

BH: I think people on the beach are fanatic about respecting the area. And just people in general. We throw garbage over, just food stuff, not even bones. We throw food scraps because something over there is going to eat it. It's just the way.

BL: So, when did you first hear about Salmon Beach?

BH: [Pause] A woman

BL: What?

BH: A woman who was living here. We are still friends.

BL: What?

BH: We are still friends.

BL: Oh, okay good. So do you remember your primary reaction to this place?

BH: I liked it right away. I didn't move here for a few years after. When you first come here, when you come here at night, and there are now lights on the stairs because that's the way it was. The steps were rotten and some were missing and you wonder why anybody would live this way. But as time goes by, a few trips up the stairs, you get used to it. The first time you experience it you are like "What the hell"? And now people come down here for 4<sup>th</sup> of July and they want to buy a house.

BL: Is the movement of people on and off the beach more or less than when you first moved here?

BH: Well there's a ... even though there were empty houses before ... they were so cheap whoever owned them would use them every once in a while. And that didn't result in a change of ownership or occupancy. I think that the number of transfers, the number of people moving or renting, is probably just about the same ratio and when someone changes the usage of the house, like someone has been renting it and the owner wants to move back in, the tenant is automatically putting ads on the bulletin board looking for another rental. So there's no vacancy unless someone chooses to [keep their house] empty. I know of one empty house now and it's just because the guy hasn't gotten around to dealing with it.

BL: Have you had issues with people moving into the community that don't necessary fit the atmosphere?

BH: No. I rented out this house for a while because I had kids, so I moved up the hill because little kids are a lot of work down here. Five trips up and down the hill a day, and stuff like that. I rented it to a woman who was a professor at UPS, and she was begging me to rent to her, and I said "you don't want to live there," and she kept pushing and pushing and she turned out to be a great tenant. She got right involved in what was around here and never complained about winter. I thought it would be too tough for her – it's half a mile from here to the car, and when it's raining...

BL: You're going to get wet.

BH: Yeah you're going to get wet. And so largely I think when people see what they have gotten into they have largely committed their mind to dealing with it. Some people bought the house two houses down, and they have three kids, three boys, and like I said – it's tough having kids down here and they do it. They just do it.

BL: I feel that it would be a really safe area to raise kids. It seems contained.

BH: Oh yeah. Kids learned about the edges real quick. People are conscious about life jackets. If you get into a boat you wear a life jacket, and people who have kids don't let them go wild on their decks. They won't chase each other to the edge and fall off, but they will get right up to the edge and throw popcorn to the seagulls. Kids don't shove each other off the decks. Kids know they are perfectly safe here. They can go into any house if they need help. I've never had a lock on my door and I'm gone a lot.

BL: You've never had any trouble. Has any else had trouble with intruders?

BH: I don't think anyone has had any trouble with people breaking in their house. At one time we had trouble with someone coming by boat and stealing boat stuff off the deck, like motors or stuff like that.

BL: Was this recently?

BH: No, this was later 70's. And we figured out who it was. The father was known gangster until he died in jail. If you know Tacoma history you know who I'm talking about!

BL: Who?

BH: If you asked anyone who the known gangster was in the Janovich era, you will find out.

BL: Have you had any other issues like that? People coming who don't belong?

BH: No. The parking lot used to get hit a lot though. A lot.

BL: The South or the North lot?

BH: Both. And after we put the gate in it almost completed stopped. Once in the while the gate will be broken and maybe the thieves will be reluctant to come in or whatever. But even when the gate is open we seem to be pretty lucky. When there is a theft going on, the news spreads real quickly.

BL: Does news about almost anything spread pretty fast along the beach?

BH: Yea. This place runs on gossip just like everywhere else.

BL: Why do you say that?

BH: Everyone wants to know who is sleeping with who and who is going to break up.

BL: Has it been like that since you first moved here?

BH: Oh yeah.

BL: Would you say there has been more or less gossip?

BH: Probably less. People are a bit more civilized. Well, I don't think civilized is the right word – maybe refined.

BL: Those hippies caused a lot of rumors.

BH: Yeah them and their free love – nickel beer and free love. I don't remember which one it was.

BL: When do you think that mindset started to wane on the beach?

BH: It could be when we all hit that magic age when you settled down because we were all the same age.

BL: So when you first moved here there were never older people who would yell at you for being too loud or...

BH: Oh, no, they would never yell at you for the way you lived. They might have feelings but they would never yell about it. They were at the North end.

BL: [Laughs] I'm seeing some patterns here.

BH: Oh yeah. One couple got married here, but most people weren't married until you wanted kids, and it's just easier for the kids if you're married.

BL: How do you think the rest of the Tacoma area sees Salmon Beach?

BH: How do I think Tacoma sees Salmon Beach? Well, it's gone through a lot of changes. The city use to want us gone. They wanted the property, to incorporate it into the park, but we were hard to get rid of. When you live somewhere, and we've lived here before the 1900's, it's hard to just move us. So they tried to condemn us and stuff like that.

BL: When was this?

BH: Oh, in the 80's – early 80's. And that didn't work. We bought it and they lost the argument, and now they look at us like a tax base. A couple of thousand dollars in houses isn't going to generate more than 50\$ in taxes, but now it is generating thousands in taxes and they like that. But we have had a lot of issues with the city and we tend not to trust the city, but that's most politicians. So the city's gone through changes and we've gone through changes. We try to cooperate with them but they just aren't trustworthy. They will say one thing ... typical of government, the person that said it isn't the person in charge of it, so they have this way of passing the buck and changing what they're committed to, and a contract with the government doesn't mean anything – really, they don't. So we've learned.

BL: So, in 1980's when they tried to kick you out, how did they go about that?

BH: I was building this house, so we had building permits, and they saw I was building a large house so they hit me with a stop work order, and at first I ignored it. Then they hit me with a notice that I would get fined \$1,000 a day and 90 days in jail for every day you keep working. That got my attention. Then I was in court for two years fighting them until the city was ordered to give me a building permit.

We always won. I won at every level and they keep coming back. They had endless lawyers and I didn't even have money.

BL: Do others on the beach have a similar story?

BH: Well, once I blazed the trail my case was cited and the city has to deal with it. So I don't think anyone else had to go to court. My wife and I were in court all the time.

BL: Do you see the relationship between Salmon Beach and the city improving in the future?

BH: It's a lot better now. It's tolerable. But back then it was not good. They wanted the land. And City Light – they have always been great to us. They send us electricity.

BL: And that goes for water, too?

BH: Yeah.

BL: So the North end is not on city water. They have a well, I'm guessing?

BH: No, it's springs off the back of the hill – no guarantee on the quality of the water. That goes back to when we bought our land and they were jealous. And then we were going to put ... they were going to ... we bought our land ... let me see if I can get this timeline right: We bought our land, then two people down here, one who had been in Tacoma government his whole life and one who had been an attorney in Tacoma and quit to be an electrician, [they] contacted the park and had arranged for the North end to buy another piece of dirt and trade it to the park for their property. The park could not sell property, but it could trade property, so if there was piece of property that the park wanted they could get involved in a trade for the property.

So the people on the South end arranged for the people on the North end to buy this other piece of dirt and trade it for the North end of Salmon Beach. There's a group of houses that live in the center of the beach who have always parked in the North parking lot. We said that all we want is those middle beachers to maintain that right to park in that parking lot, so put that in the contract, and that stays with them because parking is really limited in the south parking lot. The north parking lot is really big. So the North said, sure, that's fine with us. We wanted to put it in the contract and they said no, let's not confuse the park with that, and we can just get it taken care of and we can just include you guys as soon as the deal is closed.

The day it closed, they gave the middle beaches those eviction notices. So when I was mayor – when they did the road, the gate and the South parking lot, built the stairway and put in the sewer – and after all that was done we were going to put in the water. This was a year later. I was mayor for four years. So I said we were going to get water and we could include the North end in it if you gave the parking rights back to the Middle Beachers. They accused me of being a pirate and they called me all kinds of names. So we put in a water system that was going to be too small to ever include them – because we had access to water that they didn't. And they still don't have it. They spent a quarter of a

million dollars trying to bring water in and all they got was a fire hydrant near the parking lot. That's all they got for it. I'm sure those parking lots weren't worth a quarter of a million dollars. And they could have had water. We have endless water. We have never had a problem with our water. Water goes down and smoke goes up and we are down. And that's just one example why we don't get along. There was no reason for that attitude. Those people already parked there. They still park there. They are just charging them a whole lot.

BL: Do you think that they Middle Beach was caught in this crossfire?

BH: Absolutely. But it wasn't their fault. Negotiating a really equitable settlement would have been easy but the North end was just greedy or vicious or just didn't like the South end. I don't know what their trip was. I don't know. All I know is that it didn't work.

BL: Where do you think the Middle Beachers stand now?

BH: They don't want to put money into the South parking lot because they already have to pay to use the North parking lot. So we had an opportunity to improve the South parking lot and widen the road and pick up 40 more parking spots in the South lot by widening the road just ten feet, but the middle beachers killed it.

BL: How?

BH: By saying how they already pay for the North lot, so why would they put any money into the South lot? We tried a lot of things. Ok, you don't pay for it, we can pay for it, just stay out of it. Forgo your parking in the South lot until you pay in, but no, they wanted in without pay, because they already paid in for the North parking lot. It's always about money. Nobody necessary wants the best deal they just want the most for what they can get for their money. Screw you. That's the way it goes.

BL: So, how do you see Salmon Beach changing in the upcoming years?

BH: Improvements cost money and there are still improvements on things that we need. As a beach they will get behind paying for them and doing them. I don't know. As house prices go up the people who move here may be at the beginning of their careers and they can't take on lots of debt so there is a reluctance to spend the money that is needed to fix things up. They want put the money into their house instead of [inaudible]. So I don't know. I think they will go on for a while doing the minimum. Making sure things are working right. Replace the step in the stair instead of the whole stairs. The deal on widening the road would have included a big ditch lined with concrete, small rocks and big rocks and the collection of all the water that runs off from the hill, protecting all those houses below it from a slide. Those houses are where the slides have been. The road would have been paved, other that ditch. So parking would have taken place on that ditch. And that is what was voted down

BL: By the North end?

BH: By the North end and the middle beachers. At that time, stuff had just hit the fan economically and construction companies were begging for work. It was going to cost us \$100,000, \$2,000 per house. I had arranged the financing, and they voted it down. Half the people would have just paid in cash the other half would have just paid \$25 a month to pick up 40 parking spaces and build a real ditch. So they said, "Oh we'll have some work parties and fix the ditch." So they rented a back hoe and dug out the ditch and put drains and tile in it. Well, the first weekend pieces of this drain tile were coming out down at the bottom because they didn't know how ... they weren't engineers. They spent \$15,000 – \$15,000 for a failed system, and if you had to do that six or seven times you could have had the whole thing done forever. So they will have to redo it sometime.

BL: Who do you think will pay for that when they redo it?

BH: Oh, they will, and it will cost them \$200,000 because asphalt companies are pretty busy, but back then asphalt companies were scrambling. They were just trying to keep the crews employed. So I thought it was a no brainer. It was just too good of an opportunity to pass up. I was just appalled. It was my fault. I didn't campaign it. I thought it would be met with applause.

BL: From the South beach right?

BH: Yeah, it's those middle beachers, against spending any money. They will wish they had. One day it will rain a whole lot and they are going to have a slide. But that ditch would have caught it all. The ditch was going to be 4 or 5 feet deep and lined with concrete so it would have caught everything. I don't sound bitter about that, do I? [Laughs]

BL: [Laughs]

BH: Yeah I might not be a very good housekeeper but I don't like to do things twice. This house is pretty solid. That's how I slept through the storm that took out the floating bridge. I didn't know it. Storms are a lot of fun here.

BL: Yeah I can imagine.

BH: Things get blown down and these curtains get blown down. Water crashes into the bulkhead and comes in through that door you walked through on the trail. Yeah, it's pretty exciting.

BL: Yeah it sounds like an exciting place to live.

BH: Neighbors are all real sociable. Everybody knows everybody.

BL: Do you like that?

BH: Yeah. And nobody is always in your face. Nobody is coming over all the time and taking advantage of you. You just all know each other, you see each other on the trail and you say hi. You know who drives what car, so you if you see someone's lights on you call them and tell them or if the car isn't locked you shut the lights off. Everybody watches over everybody.

There's all kinds of drama. Someone's canoe sank out there. [Laughs] It gives you something to watch. There's always something going on. There's always a movie going on to watch. There are always seals doing something. Oh and this one, this has been one of my favorites for a while – I don't know what type of bird this is but you'll see this dark cloud kind of out there by the shadows of the hill by the beach. You'll see a weird shaped cloud that changes formations and it's a flock of birds. Then it will disappear and then it will regroup. And it's some kind of bird that flies in a flock and they communicate with each other, telling each other which flight pattern they are going to do, and it's amazing because they [snaps] will be gone like that.

When I first came here there were never any sea lions and we have lots of them now. They aren't here all year long. They come in with the salmon. They are big and they are ornery. Seals are constant. Otters come and go – some years we will have three or four of them and some years we will have none. Then they will move back in. You see all kinds of things going on. If the time's right you'll see seals, or no, sea lions making love, and it's really fascinating to watch. There's not thrashing going on but you can tell they are hooked together and their heads will be twelve feet apart, and one head will come up and the other one will be underwater a little while longer they will roll over, change positions and drift with the current all the way over there, and a couple of hours later you see them coming back down. You see all kind of things like that.

Eagles are real common. One morning a grey young eagle came over the hill and a bunch of seagulls ganged up on it and hassled it, and it gave up and flew past the bridge. They weren't going to fly that far. The next morning a grey eagle came up over the hill and a gang of seagulls ganged up on it and the battle was starting again, and then another eagle came up over the hill and started attacking the seagulls, playing dive bombers. And this took place right here. And you could see the moment when the eagles decided which seagull was going to be made an example of. After a while the seagull collided with an eagle, broke his wing, fell into the water and the other eagle picked him up and took him home for lunch. That was the end of that battle. The seagulls never bothered the grey eagles again.

We have a lot of these storks or herons, I called them pterodactyls. They sound like a pterodactyls and they are beautiful to watch. They fly so close to the water and their neck bend in an L shape, and sometimes it straightens out. There's always a movie going on.

BL: Is that how's it's been since you first moved here?

BH: Oh yeah there's always something going on. It's real easy just to stay here. Stay here and putter around in the basement for a while. You can tell I don't spend a lot of time cleaning up. Just move forward. People are also into good food, so we have dinners. I don't play bridge but there are a lot of people who play bridge all the time. We probably have a pretty high alcohol consumption rate. Are you going to rent a place here now?

BL: What? Oh, yes it is very compelling, I have to admit. So I think it is almost time to wrap up the interview, is there anything else you would like to add. Any stories that come to your mind when you think about Salmon Beach?

BH: The stories are endless. My son lives in 104 and he ... his girlfriend was pregnant and broke her water down here and was evacuated by the fireboat – it took her away to have her baby. So, there are all kinds of adventures like that all the time. There are all kinds of adventures and stories that take place that you wouldn't really want to have in the library. It's just a fun place. It's a way of life.

BL: Yeah, I can see that.

BH: The stairway is not issue. It's a long stairway but if I forgot my keys in the car I would go up and get them. Don't buy more than you can carry down – if you do, you got to make two trips. And it's good for you too. Most people here wouldn't get that much exercise if it wasn't forced upon us. No matter how many times you go up it's not bad for you. There's a couple of people who have had to move off the beach because of stuff like their knees, and that bummed them out. One those people, who is a huge financier in Tacoma, always says this is his favorite place that he has ever lived. He's had houses, exotic houses – but this is just a fun one.

BL: Anything else?

BH: Nope, don't think so.

BL: Okay, I can turn this off.