

Key Information:

Names: Marilyn Mahoney and Roger Edwards

Age: 80 and 76.

Current Cabin: #46

Date of Interview: February 18, 2017

Interviewer: Noelle Reed (Puget Sound)

Ethnographic Preface:

Walking down the narrow trail along the houses I spotted Marilyn and Roger sitting on their front deck. After introducing myself, we walked inside and sat around a wood-burning stove in their living room where I conducted the interview. Although I was primarily interviewing Marilyn, Roger – who is known as the “historian of Salmon Beach” – often chimed in to provide dates or other facts about the history of the cabin and of Salmon Beach in general.

Transcription:

Noelle: How long have you lived in this house?

Marilyn: Since 1967.

Noelle: And did you live in another house on Salmon Beach before, or is this your first house here?

Marilyn: No. My first experience with Salmon Beach was ... for a very short time my family lived in Tacoma, and they lived up on Visscher [street]. My brother and I were always very exploratory. He's two years, three years younger than I am. And so when we were kids, I mean you could do these things when we were kids. I'm 80 now. We explored around and came down here and we discovered Salmon Beach for ourselves. We thought it was just kind of fascinating. My grandfather and grandmother had a farm up in Marysville, and we were always able to go out and explore around, so it wasn't much different than doing that except it was this very unique environment.

And then, Roger – I knew Roger – he had a reunion down here for a bunch of his friends and invited us to come down here, and so we did, and then I was more intrigued by the place because of that.

Noelle: Okay.

Marilyn: And then I inherited some money from my dad when my dad passed away, and I've always kind of lived around the water. We were living in Auburn at the time, but I grew up in Port Gamble. Do you know where Port Gamble is?

Noelle: I do not.

Marilyn: Okay I'll show you, come here.

Noelle: Okay.

Marilyn: It's on the peninsula. Okay, here is Port Gamble right up here. There is Port Townsend, there is Port Gamble right there.

Noelle: Okay.

Marilyn: See Port Gamble?

Noelle: Yeah.

Marilyn: And there was a big mill there, and my dad worked for the mill. He was a tug boat captain, because there was a lot of lumber there at the time. And so we lived there, and we were surrounded by water. And I lived in Ballard. So anyway, Roger lived down here, and he said there was a house for sale. I was very intrigued, and so he said, 'you should buy it.' So I bought it for \$900. Wasn't it \$900, Roger?

Roger: Net. We had to pay back dues of \$100. We subtracted that from the thousand dollar price they were asking for.

Marilyn: Right, yeah.

Noelle: And Roger you were living on Salmon Beach before?

Roger and Marilyn: Yeah.

Noelle: How long had you been living here?

Roger: Well I bought my first house in 1962 and sold it in 1975. Then I bought it back in 2001, and sold it again in 2016. So I am the only person you have probably ever met, or ever will meet, who has bought and sold the same house twice.

Marilyn: Yeah, that's funny. And he just recently sold that house.

Roger: Yeah, in 2016. Anyway, that's number 39.

Marilyn: You walked by it, it's right next to my grandson's place. There's a gal who's been coming down here for years and renting, Chris Bachman, and she's an RN. Anyway, so we spread the word that Roger was selling 39, and she called and she said, 'oh, I am really interested,' because, you know it wouldn't be a high price for 39. They had had a slide in the summertime down there, and Roger had just spent a lot of money getting everything all fixed up. So Chris Bachman was so grateful, and we had known her for a long long time. So she's bought it, and she's living there now very happily. She works for the Gates Foundation in Seattle and goes to Africa all the time – or, you know, wherever there are diseases.

Noelle: So speaking of landslides, has this house ever had damage to it?

Marilyn: We did have a slide in ... what year was that?

Roger: March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011, probably. Oh, a slide here? Here?

Marilyn: Yeah. We did have the one ...

Roger: Oh, well, that was 1997.

Marilyn: '97 yeah.

Noelle: 1997?

Marilyn: Yeah. It came onto the back deck, and destroyed the deck. A huge madrone came down the hill and landed right there on the beach. It really didn't do any structural damage to the house – it just moved it out about 8 inches.

Noelle: Okay. Have you made any changes to the house over the course of living here?

Marilyn: I can go upstairs and show you. Basically this wall ... all of this that you are looking at down here is pretty much the same. The former owners used floor panels for the walls. We put this up a number of years ago, but basically the layout is the same. And then upstairs, I'll take you upstairs if you want to walk up there.

Noelle: Okay.

Roger: Make sure you mention that the floor here in the living room is from the Showboat Tavern in Ruston.

Marilyn: Yeah, yeah. It's easier, but this is all the same, I think. Well, the bathroom is a little bit different. We put that addition on right there to the bathroom where the bathtub is. And then ... I am going to take my shoes off, but you don't have to take your shoes off. The reason I do this is just because it's hard for me to walk up the stairs, and I don't want to trip. Originally there was a ladder here that took you to the second story. And then one of the guys who lives down here ... it used to be about ... this is where the window went out. There was a window, in fact, that plastic window right there, that was the window that took you outside. Nothing was finished in here, and we had it raised up.

Noelle: When did you make the changes?

Marilyn: I'll have to ask Roger. He is really good with dates. But anyway, then we had a closet put in and it wasn't totally unfinished. And the kids used to have a bed up here and we would just take that panel of plastic out in the summertime period.

Noelle: And just have fresh air coming in?

Marilyn: Yeah. There are two people that live here that are always kayaking or paddle boarding, I should say.

Noelle: Very nice.

Marilyn: This is my daughter. She is no longer alive. These are my two grandsons when they were little.

Noelle: Are they the ones that live a couple of houses down?

Marilyn: Yeah, Casey, Casey lives there now. He just lives there on the weekend. He comes down from Seattle. He works in technology, and he gets really tired of it, so he wants to get away. He likes to go up

and camp up above the house, and I say 'hey it's going to be cold'. And he says 'no, grandma, I found a place up there that will be really flat and I just want to get away for a minute.'

Noelle: So Marilyn was telling me that the upstairs used to be completely unfinished?

Roger: Well it was a peak roof like this, so it was more like a loft.

Marilyn: What year was that Roger that we did that?

Roger: 1987

Marilyn: '87

Noelle: And did you hire someone? Did you hire someone to do all the work?

Marilyn: Uh, a friend of ours ...

Roger: Yeah.

Marilyn: There are a lot of talented people down here. There are carpenters, doctors, lawyers, nurses ...

Noelle: All on Salmon Beach?

Marilyn: Oh yeah. Electricians, plumbers.

Roger: Technically, the upstairs – the entire upstairs – is a bedroom, because you are not supposed to have foot walls, and that's what the walls are upstairs.

Marilyn: But it works out great for us.

Noelle: And I also heard that there were fires sometimes down on Salmon Beach?

Marilyn: There are. There have been quite a few fires. In fact, I want to show you what this house looked like – there was another house here.

Noelle: Before this one?

Marilyn: Yeah, and this was the house – Camp Alder – and these people are dancing. You know the people that lived down here had a great time. You can see – this guy, sitting out there in his bathing suit. This was in 1915. That's a long time ago.

Noelle: And who did you buy the house from?

Roger and Marilyn: The Jordan family.

Noelle: Are they still around?

Roger: No, they are both dead.

Noelle: And so how long had they owned the house previously?

Roger: Well, they bought the house after their house in Cle Elum burned down. So, I mean, they lost everything, and this was the cheapest place they could find. They had a total of five kids: three boys and two girls.

Marilyn: Do you know how it got settled?

Noelle: I don't.

Marilyn: People would come out on the trolley from downtown Tacoma to go to the park, and then they would walk down the hill. They came down here to fish. And so, pretty soon, then they started building little places to keep their stuff while they were down here. And let me see if I can find one for you. Okay, there is one right there: Camp Alder. And you can see, they are just little little tiny places. Families camping on the Narrows – people would come out from downtown Tacoma and then go back, and then gradually, when they built the first Narrows bridge, all of the structure that was the falsework for the bridge ...

Noelle: Mm-hmm.

Marilyn: Well, they cut it all off and it just went floating down the bay, and the people that were down here fishing and getting rowboats ... In fact, Foss had a boat company down here eventually, a small one, where they rented rowboats to the people that came down here. And the scaffolding that was there for the bridge floated down here from the bridge, and the very engineering [Salmon Beach] people decided, 'well, we're going to grab that scaffolding and we're going to make a little cabin.' So that's how the cabin started.

Noelle: Do you know how many cabins originally were here?

Marilyn: Roger would know. He's the historian.

Roger: 125 originally.

Noelle: And now there's how many?

Roger: Now wait a minute when I say 125, on certain parts of the beach there was a cabin on the water side of the trail and a cabin behind the trail. So it might be ... Well, at any rate ...

Marilyn: There's a picture of that in here, isn't there Roger?

Roger: Well I think so, that's near the back of the book, not near the front.

Marilyn: Look – women in their bathing suits [paging through Roger's history of Salmon Beach book].

Roger: Well, I know.

Marilyn: Isn't that funny?

Roger: That's pretty normal for those days.

Marilyn: Well, I know, but I mean, it wasn't normal to have a bathing suit look like that! That's a timely bathing suit ... Let's see if I can see ... it's towards the back, Roger? Oh! Here is the tug boat, or the boat house. See, this was is the boat house where they rented the row boats.

Roger: Yeah that's the Salmon Beach boathouse.

Noelle: Okay. Do you know what year that was in?

Marilyn: Um, 1934.

Roger: 1934?

Marilyn: Or '37?

Roger: What are you reading?

Marilyn: About the rowboats being rented.

Roger: Oh, really? Well, yeah, this is the extension, okay, but the actual boathouse itself started ... was moved here in 1906.

Marilyn: Oh, okay. There is probably a picture back there but I wanted to find the double cabins.

Noelle: Where was it moved from?

Ross: It was moved from what is now the Thea Foss Waterway.

Marilyn: And that's a sculpture over there of Thea Foss that I am working on.

Noelle: Wow.

Marilyn: See her over there with the oars and the bucket of herring?

Noelle: Yeah. It's incredible.

Marilyn: Have you seen the mermaid?

Noelle: Yeah, it's just that way [pointing north]?

Marilyn: I did that.

Noelle: Wow!

Roger: Oh, yes.

Marilyn: But because of slides and things like that ... which, the slides don't happen all the time, you know, and they do damage, but this house wasn't completely demolished. But there have been times when they have been and the bigger houses that you see down here – you probably came from this direction [pointing south]? Yeah. Well, there are a whole series of three-story houses down there that when the slide occurred, the city let them rebuild on the spot if they did it within five years. And they built two stories and then attics went in, so then they were really three stories.

Noelle: And you said that one of the slides pushed this house slightly more into the water?

Marilyn: Uh, just on the beams.

Roger: It hit the corner and it pivoted the house on one corner so that this corner of the house moved out 8 inches, that way, to the north. So it turned the house on its foundation.

Marilyn: I don't see any of these pictures where they have the two houses back to back, Roger.

Roger: Well, let's make sure there are some in there.

Marilyn: Well, you can look.

Noelle: Have you ever thought about selling this house?

Marilyn: No. Not as long as I can go up the hill. It's good for my heart!

Noelle: I know. That's a big hill!

Marilyn: Well, it's not when you get used to it, and it's always pretty. I go up pretty regularly. I go up about three times a week, because I go up to the Tacoma Community College, where I retired from, two days a week.

Roger: Okay, that's the trail. Those are the houses in the front and those are the houses in back, and she's stringing her laundry on a clothes line that goes down the length of the trail – pretty practical.

Marilyn: It's a very unique place.

Noelle: It is. Do you make all of these statues?

Marilyn: Quite a few of them, yeah. Most of them. Yeah, actually all that you're looking at I have, yeah. I was a reading teacher – college textbook reading and critical thinking at the college – and there was this man who taught sculpture there. I used to talk to him all the time because we were colleagues, and anyway, he was having a class. He knew I liked art, and he was having a class on making sculpture, on a Saturday afternoon. And he said, 'Marilyn, do you want to take my workshop?' And so I said, 'Okay, that sounds like fun, Rich.' That got me going, and I still go up there twice a week. And I did Thea Foss, right over there, which will be enlarged and put down on the Thea Foss Waterway, I hope. I don't know for sure yet. Oh, and I did the Goddess of Commerce in downtown Tacoma. I will show you a picture of her – I have a picture somewhere.

Noelle: So, Roger, how long have you lived on Salmon Beach?

Roger: Well, after I sold the house to a young woman – Bonnie in '75 – I moved into number 63 for a couple of years, and then eventually I wound up in this house, thanks to her. I became a guest and then half-owner.

Marilyn: This is the Goddess of Commerce. She is down on 6<sup>th</sup> and St. Helens in the city.

Noelle: I don't think I've seen her. It's beautiful.

Marilyn: She's about 8 feet tall on a 4-foot base. She is big when you see her on the street. And the Goddess of Commerce – in 1880, when the city officials decided to put a Goddess of Commerce on top of the old Chamber of Commerce building that was down there ... where ... what's the name of that bank, Roger, that's there where the original Goddess of Commerce was?

Roger: Chamber of Commerce, wasn't it? Well, it's now the Wells Fargo.

Marilyn: Yeah, the Wells Fargo building in downtown Tacoma. And an old friend of mine said, 'Marilyn you know, you do sculpture, why don't you bring her back?' So she and I collaborated, and we collaborated with people who funded it, and we brought back the Goddess of Commerce. And now I'm going to bring back Thea Foss.

Noelle: Do you have any other installations along Salmon Beach?

Marilyn: No.

Noelle: Just the mermaid?

Marilyn: Yeah. And Chris Brooks, though, did the totem pole. He lives down here too.

Noelle: Okay. I don't think I have seen that yet.

Marilyn: It's on the trail going up the hill. See, there are two parking lots.

Noelle: Yeah.

Marilyn: I think you parked in the one that Andrew parked in, but there is a north parking lot that we use, and it's a trail going up.

Noelle: How have you seen things change over the years here?

Marilyn: Well, right now, we have thirty youngsters that are under ten. We have a lot of – I guess they are millennials – that live here, and they are very environmentally responsible and love this place because of nature.

Noelle: Mm-hmm.

Marilyn: Because you see whales! We see humpback whales, not so many right now ... And we see orcas and we have a favorite California seal that we call Salvador that is always going back and forth with his ladies to Point Defiance. We started calling him Salvador last year. And then we had dolphins that would follow the paddle boarders.

Noelle: So you don't predict any drastic changes happening along Salmon Beach structurally or otherwise?

Marilyn: I mean there could be a small slide. I mean, who knows? Or we could have an earthquake – that's what caused the caused the major slide where the houses were destroyed.

Noelle: What year was that?

Marilyn: 2001 – the Nisqually earthquake. But my gosh, you could be hit in a car going to the grocery store.

Noelle: Right, it can affect you anywhere.

Marilyn: And the environment is worth living in, you know? There is always something to see. We have blue herons, we have eagles, we have osprey, we have deer, we have raccoons, which are my enemy.

Noelle: So you said your daughter grew up here? Or do you have ...

Marilyn: No, we lived in Auburn and then this was purchased as a summer home only.

Noelle: Okay, when did you purchase it as a summer home?

Marilyn: In '67. And then when my two daughters – I have two daughters. The one that passed away, she was an artist, and she had multiple malignant myeloma, very unexpected, and she died in 2011 when I finished this. And then my other daughter is a social worker and she works for DSHS, and she lives down here. And then the house that my grandkids are in ... really, my daughter and son-in-law's house, and then when my daughter passed away she left it to my grandsons. One is an architect: Riley is an architect in New York, and Casey is a techie in Seattle. So we are really lucky because we do see them a lot of them – even Riley, who is in New York.

Noelle: That's great. Is that entire book on the history of Salmon Beach?

Marilyn: Yeah.

Roger: The sad thing about it is that if I hadn't started this in 1971, most of the people who donated pictures wouldn't even be alive.

Marilyn: Why don't we give her a book Roger? Just give her a book.

Roger: Well, okay.

Noelle: I would love to glance at it, but I don't want to take one.

Roger: Well, here is one here right here.

Marilyn: No, no. I will pay for one – you don't have to worry about it.

Roger: Is that one of the ones signed by the author?

Marilyn: I don't know Roger.

Roger: Well look on the front!

Marilyn: I'm going to!

Roger: Here is one that is unblemished.

Marilyn: Well, this one is unblemished too!

Roger: Oh, okay, alright.

Marilyn: But if you want to sign your name to that we can give her that one.

Roger: Okay.

Marilyn: And I'll show you, there she is: Chloe, in all her glory.

Noelle: What year was that?

Marilyn: 2011.

Noelle: Okay.

Marilyn: And then that's the Goddess of Commerce. No! She was two thousand ... Chloe was ... what year did you finish Chloe, Roger? I forgot.

Roger: Chloe? 1997, I think. It's on the plaque.

Marilyn: 1995.

Roger: '95 okay.

Marilyn: Roger will give you the book.

Noelle: Okay. That is very kind of you. Thank you.

Marilyn: Well, it's a unique place, and you can say you've been down here and you got pictures by the historian of Salmon Beach. Roger is the historian of Salmon Beach.

Roger: And today is ... what's the day?

Noelle: It's the eighteenth.

Roger: Okay.

Noelle: When did you write the book?

Roger: 2006. And it's kind of unusual, because the editor for the Pacific Northwest had heard about me and asked me to write a book. She's the publisher. Now not very many people have a publisher come to you and ask you to write a book.

Noelle: Right – it is normally the other way around.

Roger: So the sad thing is, a lot of people have written books but they never get them published, and it's very unfortunate.

Marilyn: Here you go.

Noelle: Thank you! And so you said this house used to be called Camp Alder?

Roger: Yeah.

Marilyn: And the one next door was called Flap Jack Lodge.

Roger: Yeah, they were all named because they didn't have house numbers. There was no electricity here until '34, so there was no reason to number them!

Marilyn: And in 1934 we got electricity. I mean, we weren't here, I mean. But then, in 1991, we got the sewer and then we got water ... what year did we get water? City water?

Roger: 1991.

Marilyn: Was the sewer.

Roger: Oh the sewer ... Wait a minute, okay.

Marilyn: I mean, we're old so we have a hard time remembering.

Roger: What year did we get water? Well about the same time. No, wait a minute, the sewer came first.

Marilyn: Yeah, because it pumps the sewage up the hill, and they had to have water for that.

Noelle: Where did you get your running water before the sewer system?

Marilyn: The hillside.

Noelle: The hillside?

Roger and Marilyn: Yeah.

Marilyn: It just pours off the hillside.

Noelle: Oh is it the little stream that comes down?

Marilyn: But there's all kinds of streams, there is not just one. That's why we have slides, because all that water. There is an aquifer up here on Point Defiance and it drains down into the soil. And one of the things that makes it pretty stable is that we have a clay bank. But up above the clay bank, like Casey's down there, he clears it out above the clay bank because it's glacial gravel and that slides. But if you have clay – that's pretty pretty rigid. You can look across the Narrows there and down below you can see the clay bank. And it goes like this – it isn't just flat because this used to be a lake. This was a lake, you know, with glaciation.

Noelle: Right.

Marilyn: And then pretty soon it was getting bigger with the melting of glaciers, and bigger and bigger and bigger and bigger and bigger.

Noelle: And reconnected?

Marilyn: Mm-hmm

Noelle: Cool.

Marilyn: And there were Indians that used to come down here and fish too.

Noelle: They don't fish here anymore?

Marilyn: No. Well I mean they fish, but they fish out in – probably with their boats.

Noelle: And do you or residents on Salmon Beach still fish?

Marilyn: Oh, sure. I mean if you look in that book there are lots of pictures. Oh, I'll show you one that is really hilarious! What page is it in your book, Roger, where the guy giving a salmon a shot of whiskey?

Roger: Oh! Page 42.

Noelle: What happened to that Salmon?

Roger: Page 43.

Marilyn: Isn't that funny?

Noelle: It is.

Marilyn: And then I love this picture of the women out in their boats.

Noelle: Did you fish at all?

Marilyn: No, but my daughter does, Terri does. They're feeding ... yeah, this was in 1940 ... See, these are pictures of people fishing and the fish they got. In fact, I've got a picture of my daughter Terri upstairs, and there are octopuses down here, too. I forgot that. And my grandson Casey has planted oysters under our deck here. But look at the size of the fish – king salmon.

Noelle: Wow, they're huge.

Marilyn: Isn't that something?

Noelle: So you know where the name Camp Alder came from? Why specifically it was called Camp Alder?

Marilyn: Well, there are a lot of alders on the hillside, and that probably has something to do with it, I'm guessing.

Roger: I think it describes it in that picture doesn't it? The picture on page 15.

Noelle: Do you know who the Jordan family had bought the house from?

Roger: Yeah, I do as a matter of fact. They bought it from the Schulers, Schuler and Whitemarsh. They had the house next door and the family was getting too big, and this one was available so Ken Whitemarsh sold it to the Jordans, and the Jordans sold it to us – to Marilyn, actually.

Marilyn: Actually, see there is an Indian canoe in there that probably just went adrift. And the kids are playing with it. I mean they have their boats, so it must have been around. It's an old Native American dugout canoe.

Roger: Wow.

Marilyn: And they had fun down here because they would dance on their deck, and you'll get a bang out of it, looking at their clothes, the styles of their clothes and things.

Roger: I happened to run across one picture, you know, of students in a botany class. Now if you were an instructor of a botany class, you would want your students to dress appropriately, wouldn't you? Yeah, well, I've got a picture of a botany class.

Noelle: How were they dressed?

Marilyn: In bathing suits?

Roger: No, not in bathing suits! It's a botany class, gee whiz!

Marilyn: Oh, okay.

Roger: There – there is the botany class. And they are all holding flowers. It says botany class, and this would be ten and ten and a half ... that means that they used to basically run schools on a semester

system where, if you could afford it, you might get to the first half of your sophomore year and you couldn't afford the second half. But anyway, I think that's kind of a priceless picture.

Noelle: Wow. Do you know what year that is from?

Roger: I think I am going to have to give you a copy of that because the appropriate dress for a botany class had to have flowers, wouldn't you think? I mean I thought that was a great picture. Most people just took snapshots of people, because in those days the Kodak camera had just come out and they were very popular. Nowadays, everybody's got a smartphone!

Marilyn: I got a smartphone that I am still figuring out how to use.

Roger: Yeah, wow.

Marilyn: Casey was down here and asking me how I was doing and I said 'Oh Casey, Grandma doesn't even want to talk about it right now.'

Noelle: Have the prices of the houses changed over the years?

Marilyn: Yes, because this one I paid ... fifty... five thousand ... or ... five hundred?

Roger: What? What are you trying to say?

Marilyn: Five hundred and?

Roger: We had to buy the land so we had to come up with some money for that first.

Marilyn: Yeah, \$5,900 I paid for it.

Noelle: For the land?

Marilyn: \$5,090

Marilyn: For the land, and I just leased it at first when I bought it.

Roger: Yeah, right.

Marilyn: And then, probably about a year or a year and a half later we were able to buy the land from Baker Investment Company.

Roger: In 1978.

Marilyn: And this house was \$6,000. So, for seven and a half thousand dollars I bought the land.

Roger: The land cost more than the house did.

Noelle: And what land do you own?

Marilyn: We have a footprint and it extends to the edge of our house and the boat ramp and it goes across over to Ralph and Carrie's where their fence is. This is our footprint.

Noelle: Okay. And the footprint is the land that you bought?

Marilyn: Mm-hmm, yeah. And we pay taxes individually, but we get a lease for our cabin from the corporation that we own that owns the parcel of land. So we actually lease from ourselves. There's two corporations down here, there's Salmon Beach North and Salmon Beach Improvement Club.

Roger: We are right there, okay?

Noelle: Mm-hmm.

Roger: And we bought all this land here in 1978, and then in 1985 they bought all this land here for the people that live here. Okay?

Marilyn: And now it's a historic district.

Noelle: How many acres?

Roger: Well there's 46 in here, and there's 38 there.

Marilyn: How many acres, she was asking?

Roger: Oh, there's 10 acres there and there's 8 and half there.

Noelle: So you bought 8 and a half acres?

Roger: Yeah.

Marilyn: For SBIC, for Salmon Beach Improvement Club and then 10 acres.

Roger: You could get her out the tax rolls if you wanted to look up the actual figures. You can see that this is deeper than this because all they would sell was back 150 feet from this line here. So it's 150 feet from there to there and that's all they would sell, but it's not the top of the bluff.

Marilyn: But this one is.

Roger: But this is the top of the bluff!

Marilyn: And this is the parking lot, the north parking lot, and this is the south parking lot where you parked.

Noelle: Okay. And there are houses along the whole stretch?

Roger: Well yeah, you can see the houses, they're kind of dim, but anyway they go all the way down to there.

Marilyn: 80 houses.

Noelle: Is there a divide between the beaches?

Marilyn: Yeah it's just on this other side of this house.

Roger: Like I said this is number 46 right there. And there is 43 and so forth. You have to see it with a magnifying glass.

Marilyn: And you know, at one time they had all kinds of — I mean, we didn't own the property, we just leased from the persons that owned the property, and then we made an attempt to buy the land.

Noelle: Okay, and who did you buy the land from?

Roger: Well this we bought from James and Anne Wiborg, W-I-B-O-R-G, and this we bought ...

Marilyn: From the park.

Roger: Well, we didn't buy it directly, it was a property exchange. We actually bought property on Ruston Way for \$300,000 and traded it with the park.

Noelle: The park meaning Point Defiance?

Marilyn: Yeah.

Roger: Yeah, see, the park doesn't sell park property directly.

Marilyn: They can't sell.

Roger: They can't. I mean, you can imagine if somebody made an offer to buy a whole park, you know, there's all kinds of parks in Tacoma... But anyway, so we acquired this by a property exchange with the park.

Noelle: Okay.

Roger: And anyway, so that's a convenient map. It's nothing to do with this interview, but, I mean ... Essentially, what this is is it's kind of like a cooperative. Are you familiar with a cooperative?

Noelle: Yeah.

Roger: It's kind of like, you know, the Quakers.

Noelle: You all own a part.

Roger: We all own the land in common.

Marilyn: Or the Indian tribes for that matter.

Roger: There's two cooperatives down here. And that's the story! I mean I don't want to detract and interfere with your interview of Marilyn Mahoney, which is your primary job.

Noelle: Okay.

Marilyn: No, that's okay.

Roger: I can fill you up with all sorts of history, but that's not the purpose of oral history!

Marilyn: No ... That's cute.

Noelle: So if someone were to buy a house now? How does that work?

Marilyn: The individual sells it and they sell their lease.

Roger: Yeah, they sell their lease.

Marilyn: They sell their share of the property and then their lease.

Roger: The most recent sale was \$390,000 for number 17.

Noelle: And does that cause tension in the community?

Marilyn: No, not at all.

Roger: Well ...

Marilyn: It doesn't cause tension in the community! When somebody sells a lot? And a house?

Roger: Well, it depends if you're going to lose the previous owner and ...

Marilyn: Oh, well that, yeah.

Roger: And you know when somebody moves away it's kind of dramatic, especially if it's ...

Marilyn: Well, that happens no matter what – everywhere. You know, if you have a really good neighbor and they move away, it's sad.

Roger: I mean if the Harrison's sold we would be upset, wouldn't we?

Marilyn: Yeah, we definitely would. Yeah. Because there are kids that have grown up down here.

Roger: Yeah, but there's all kinds of reasons why ...

Marilyn: Katie is now going to medical school in St. Louis with her husband who is also studying to be a doctor.

Roger: But the fellow who bought number 17, I've actually met him and he seems like a nice guy. He just spends most of his time flying these humongous planes out at the McChord Air Force Base, and so he's essentially ...

Marilyn: But you do know all your neighbors.

Roger: Yeah.

Marilyn: I mean that's the thing about Salmon Beach, because you pass each other going down the boardwalk or going up the stairs, or going up the trail. And you say hello! And you know their children, and they know you, and they call you by name! And then with the younger people here that have children ... they are actively engaged, connecting the nature of Salmon Beach with their children. Like one person works at Point Defiance park and she took the kids out at night one time down to the point, walking down there by the park to show them all the sea life at night when the tide went out. And, you know, all kinds of things like that! They make cookies together and they do this and ... the social aspect of Salmon Beach is extraordinarily important, not the material aspect of Salmon Beach so much. The social aspect of it!