

## Rosemary Ross

Tape 1 of 1

**QUESTION:** Now so I can get it on tape your name is?

**ANSWER:** Rosemary Ross.

**QUESTION:** And your maiden name was?

**ANSWER:** Land; originally there was a t on the end of it. My father was from Leipzig, Germany

**QUESTION:** And do you know when it got Americanized?

**ANSWER:** I think he did that after he got here just dropped the t. He became very americanized after he'd been here so he wanted to drop all of his German connections.

**QUESTION:** Now you grew up in Gig Harbor?

**ANSWER:** I grew up in Rosedale.

**QUESTION:** How did you end up here?

**ANSWER:** My mother was born in Rosedale in 1897 in a log cabin, 2 days after her twin brother was born on Valentines Day. So they homesteaded and I have the homestead papers signed by Grover Cleveland and they homesteaded in 1885 so my family goes back a long way in this part of the country and they had an apple orchard and raised strawberries and alfalfa on a farm and when the first world war came along my mother's twin brother left to fight in France and they needed help on the farm because my mother was the only one they had, and this young German man happened to come by looking for work and started working on the farm and eventually he and my mother were married.

**QUESTION:** Wow. So how did your mother's family migrate here? Did they end up right here; did they come from the East?

**ANSWER:** My mother's family is English and Scotch. Her family came from England and Glasgow, Scotland, and they lived in.. the English family lived in Philadelphia for a while and then they migrated out to America (Washington).

**QUESTION:** And what about your father's family?

**ANSWER:** I don't know about my father's family. I've been trying to do some genealogy but all the records seem to have been destroyed. As I said my father wanted to lose all connection with Germany because of the things that were happening at the time and but consequently our daughter spent a year in Germany as an exchange student and we have had the German families here and we have traveled a little bit back and forth and they were trying to do some research for me while over there about my father since they live in Hamburg but they had no luck so didn't get anything.

**QUESTION:** My great grandfather graduated from the very first maritime class out of Hamburg and was on Hamburg Lines and came over through the Great Lakes and also had carpentry skills and worked his way through Montana, was on the first legislative government in Montana and had a brewery in Deerlodge I was just at the

## Rosemary Ross

Tape 1 of 1

log home he built for the Zoesel family in 1870 I think it was he built it and the Zoesel family still owns it. It is a beautiful log home, amazing craftsmanship and then saw the home that he lived in with my great aunt. But he came over from Montana to look at the legislative buildings because they were getting ready to build a capital there and he also had a brewery in Butte and that's when he discovered the water and then founded Olympia Brewing Co. Everybody thinks he found the water first but it was kind of accidental that he found the water.

**ANSWER:** Yeah, it's interesting.

**QUESTION:** 1874-75 was when he came to this area and worked all up and down here.

**ANSWER:** It's amazing isn't it?

**QUESTION:** Yeah, but he didn't want to give up the German aspect, he hung onto it.

**ANSWER:** That was earlier maybe but when my father came things were getting kind of maybe not so good. Actually my father ran away from Germany. He was an illegal entry, but that had nothing to do with his internment from what I can understand because we knew people who were legal citizens who were also interned. Most of them were in the same camp where they sent my father in North Dakota.

**QUESTION:** What a place to be sent.

**ANSWER:** In the winter? Ahuh and he worked, I have some documents out there to verify, he was probably.. I can't prove any of this. My mother was so bitter and upset about this that she burned all the records. It just..well I just can't believe it, well I can believe it. My father was never bitter but after doing some research I know that he was in North Dakota and he was at a place called Fort Lincoln near Bismarck. And it's very likely, he talked about railroad cars, and some of these fellows slept in railroad cars when they were working on the railroad and so I have reason to believe that is probably what he was doing some of the time.

**QUESTION:** Do you remember him here in Gig Harbor?

**ANSWER:** Yes, oh yes.

**QUESTION:** So how old were you?

**ANSWER:** Seven or eight. You know just a child actually and I think it was in about '41 or '42. I understand they started arresting these people about that time. December 8, 1941, was when they first started it I believe according to the records I have. I remember, very well, when they came and took him. We were sitting down to dinner and a man by the name of Rass Paulson... was very good friends of my dad, and he came to the house about dinner time and said, Pete, I'm sorry you're going to have to come with us and he was crying so my dad put some things in a bag and walked out and we didn't see him for a year although we tried to find him. My mother didn't drive so we didn't have access to a car but we had friends and relatives there. Her twin brother lived in Tacoma at the time and between them and some other people we knew he was going to Bremerton. It wasn't easy to get to Bremerton in those days but somebody drove us up to Bremerton to see him and

## Rosemary Ross

Tape 1 of 1

they had already shipped him out to Seattle, so the next day we tried to get to Seattle and we were driven to Bremerton again and we went on the ferry and then my mother and I walked from the ferry landing in Seattle to see him and they had already shipped him out from there so we never did see him. I don't know how long it was before my mother heard from him.

**QUESTION:** She would get letters from him?

**ANSWER:** She did get letters from him and he sent things sometimes. Sometimes he sent a dollar or two because I think they paid them for some of the work they did. I wish I knew more about it but I don't.

**QUESTION:** But it is the perspective of an 8 year old. Did your mom try to explain this to you do you remember?

**ANSWER:** It was a shameful thing. There are a lot of people who live around here that have no idea that this happened. She was very much embarrassed about the fact that they sent him away and the interesting thing is he was an air raid warden when the war first broke out. He had a helmet that he wore and out in Rosedale where we lived we had dark curtains that we pulled down so it must have been in '42 I'm thinking when they came in and took him. I have means of finding out more about it but I haven't taken the time to do it.

**QUESTION:** Why you know it is interesting that they only took him they didn't take the whole family but he was the only true German immigrant but it seems they would have.....

**ANSWER:** In some cases, they took the whole family if they were all from Germany, but you see my mother was not from Germany.

**QUESTION:** How did your mom survive then during this time?

**ANSWER:** Well, like I said, we lived on a farm and we had cows and chickens and pigs and my aunt was a good seamstress and we had my aunt's sister's husband was a real estate man in Gig Harbor and he saw that we had money when we needed it. I didn't know about that.. but.. of course we had no money coming in. We survived. I had no idea how hard it was on my mother of course as a child. I always had food to eat and two pair of shoes, every day shoes and shoes for Sunday, you know.. and home made clothes. But everybody in Rosedale at that time that I knew were.. poor I guess you would say and didn't even know it. We were all happy. That is just from a child's point of view. I know it was very difficult for my mother.. Very difficult for my mother.

**QUESTION:** How long was your dad gone?

**ANSWER:** Just about a year. He left after apple picking season it seems to me and he came back in the summer sometime and we knew when he was coming back. I don't know how my mother found out. I don't even know how he got from Tacoma to Gig Harbor, maybe he hitched a ride with somebody. I don't know. And he didn't come right to the farm it was on a Sunday afternoon and my aunt and uncle had a beach cabin on Forest Beach and it was there he came to. But I remember when he came in.

## Rosemary Ross

Tape 1 of 1

**QUESTION:** As a little girl that must have been pretty exciting.

**ANSWER:** It was a big deal. I guess it was. Everybody cried.

**QUESTION:** Do you remember.. an eight year old may not have perspective of this, but did people look at your family , oh that's the German family whose father has been taken away?

**ANSWER:** If they did, I wasn't aware of it. I don't think they did. I think most of the people, well my mother lived there all of her life, and it was a small community and everybody knew everybody. Any car that came by would stop and pick me up and I'd get into it no qualms because it was either Uncle Joe Cherry or old man McDonald or the Peterson's or somebody I knew so and a lot of close people knew that my dad was gone but if there was any talk of it nobody said anything to me about it.. but my mother I know was very much ashamed of that.

**QUESTION:** It's interesting because like you said it is a part of history that is not spoken as much about. We hear about the Japanese internment but the fact that there were others.

**ANSWER:** Yes, there were Italians and German's both and I wasn't aware of Italians myself until I started doing a little research on the internet and then I found out about the Germans, there was over 7,000 German's interned.

**QUESTION:** It is amazing. The other is realizing we had prisoner of war camps here, you know.

**ANSWER:** The biggest ones. I can't remember how many internments camps there were, but the two biggest ones were in Texas and North Dakota from what I understand.

**QUESTION:** Your dad ended up in North Dakota.. by Bismarck. Do you know if uh.. now with um the Japanese internment camps there are some places.. there was a place in California and there was a big one in Idaho. One of the gentlemen we talked to he went.. doing some research on his family and he started asking around.. questions and everybody... it was like it never happened and he had to ask and ask and ask and finally he found somebody who could send him somewhere.. but most of the people didn't want to talk about it, didn't want to acknowledge it, and were

**ANSWER:** To this day, I have been talking more about it because I have been trying to find out more facts about it, but to this day there's a lot of people that had no idea the German's were sent to internment camps. And some of the research I've done said it was one of the best held secrets the government ever had and there have been congressmen and senators whose names I can't remember now who are trying to have it put in the record as a matter of history and as a matter of fact. Not to get any retribution but just to acknowledge that it actually happened and I've been doing some stuff on that.

**QUESTION:** It must have been selective also? Because my grandfather in fact he turned his boat over to the coast guard and they painted it gray mounted a gun on it and used it as a patrol boat.

## Rosemary Ross

Tape 1 of 1

**ANSWER:** Well, they did that to some of the fishing boats too in Gig Harbor. Don Gillage, I don't know if you're,

**QUESTION:** I have the name but I didn't contact him this round but we're hoping to.

**ANSWER:** He isn't sure he wants to do this, but he has a wealth of information about the war. He served on a boat I think called the Liberty that was commissioned as a patrol boat in the Straits of Juan De Fuca.

**QUESTION:** And he came from a fishing family?

**ANSWER:** My husbands family are fishermen and his father had a fishing boat, has fished all his life too, and there were some of the fishermen that rather have them go to fight wanted them to keep on fishing to provide food during the war years.

**QUESTION:** And I hear there was controversy even on that. Some people. Do you remember as an eight year old hearing about Pearl Harbor being attacked?

**ANSWER:** Oh yes, I remember hearing about it. We had a radio so I knew that happened and I knew that it was a big thing but and I can remember at school we started buying war bonds. We would buy stamps each week and put them in our stamp book and all the kids did that. And then pretty soon at recess we were playing war games at school. We'd have American planes and German planes and Japanese planes and we'd go along and "ah-ah-ah" you know shooting at everybody playing at it.. even though it was such a serious thing. Of course then when my dad was sent away... oh then I had a good friend, Francis Carroll, and she and I could run pretty fast. And uhm.. when we would play the war games you had to have an enemy right, if you are going to go shooting at each other. So I conned Francis into being a German plane and she and I could run very fast and you had to tag these people when you were shooting them.. and we shot down more Americans than you can believe, and my father would have been horrified if he knew about that. But uhm.. we had ration stamps and I can remember the gasoline, there was a shortage on a lot of things.. sugar and butter that we didn't get here. And everybody was saving scrap metal and that of course is when the women started going to work in the navy yard and plants I think. Maybe they were doing that too but the men were all gone so they hired the women then.

**QUESTION:** That was kind of the beginning of the women's liberation movement and after the war they said thank you very much and you can go back to

**ANSWER:** And be a housewife again. Not everybody wanted to do that.

**QUESTION:** There was independence, there was money, there was a lot of things, that again you look at the affects of World War II and. So you lived out of town then?

**ANSWER:** Oh yes, in those days Rosedale, although it's only five miles away from where we are was like another world. It was not an easy thing. Now we go back and forth in a daze.. don't even think of it now. But in those days it wasn't that easy. You see, my mother didn't drive, so we were more or less stranded until I had a bicycle. Then when I had a bicycle I could go all over, but I didn't get that, of course, until my dad came home. The Protestants and Presbyterians lived at

## Rosemary Ross

Tape 1 of 1

Rosedale, the Catholics lived in Gig Harbor, the Lutheran's lived in Crescent Valley. And there were Methodists around here too and never the twain shall meet. That's altogether different now, thank goodness.

**QUESTION:** It's amazing how whatever way segregated it self. You know they set up their communities. I hear also they referred to east and west or something like that. Person I was talking to yesterday saying when they came here it was "east" and "west". The Slavs lived on one end and other people lived where ever else.

**ANSWER:** Oh yes, oh definitely That is exactly right. My father-in-law's first wife died and he was raised Catholic. They were Catholic and then he married of all things a Norwegian Lutheran from Crescent Valley which caused a real uproar in the community you know. He was excommunicated from the church for that.

**QUESTION:** How times do change.

**ANSWER:** Oh yes they do.

**Question:** As a little girl, what was a big treat then, was coming to downtown... was that the city for you?

**ANSWER:** Well we still when we.. we had bus service for some of the time and we could take the bus to Tacoma. So I can remember going to Tacoma was a big treat and there were certain places we could go and get ice cream. There was a Mannings Market behind Rhodes Brothers Dept. Store I think it wa. And when you came to town you always went there and had a sandwich and an ice cream cone. And of course we road on ferry boats. The first bridge was built in 1940 and that was a big deal but it only lasted a few months before it fell down again so then between 1940 and 1950 we were back on ferry boats again.

**QUESTION:** You know it's funny I didn't realize until today I didn't realize how what a short time it was it was July and then November.

**ANSWER:** In November it went down.

**QUESTION:** I would have hated to be the architect on that one.

**ANSWER:** Or the insurance man?

**QUESTION:** Oh.

**ANSWER:** That was another. No I can remember going with my mother and dad and grandmother to.. wanting to go to Tacoma and going to the bridge and it would be undulating to the point you saw a car one minute and not the next minute. It would just go down in the dip and come up. There were cars actually going on it like that. I don't know what they were thinking, but we didn't do that. We didn't make that trip, but I'll never forget seeing that. And of course there was actually someone, there was a car on the bridge when it did go down. But the man got out but the car and his dog did not.

**QUESTION:** Yes, that famous film footage.

## Rosemary Ross

Tape 1 of 1

**ANSWER:** Did you know we have the camera here that took some of the still pictures?

**QUESTION:** That's amazing. It's neat to see the pictures and then here is the camera that took them. They have a nice display here. The new one is going to be..

**ANSWER:** Oh. It is going to be fantastic. My husband is helping to take care of the Shenandoah the boat that is going to be inside the museum.

**QUESTION:** Now there's a job.

**ANSWER:** Yes, it is.

**QUESTION:** Boats, great things for friends to own, but.

**ANSWER:** Yes.

**QUESTION:** So when your dad came back did he pick up life like it was?

**ANSWER:** When he came back he wasn't skilled at any profession and he started building creosote bulkheads in the Kopachuck and Forest beach area for a lot of people. There were a lot of people moving out there then to have summer cabins and he was a good builder that is why he started doing what he started doing for awhile and then he was a ditch digger in Bremerton and that is what he did most of his life. He died when he was only 55.

**QUESTION:** Wow.

**ANSWER:** Hard work can kill a person.

**QUESTION:** And that good German food.

**ANSWER:** And he did like his pickled pigs feet. Oh my yes.

**QUESTION:** My grandpa was about the same age and the same thing, heart attack.

**ANSWER:** Um huh.

**QUESTION:** Did he ever talk about the camp, you said he wasn't bitter.

**ANSWER:** No he wasn't bitter. I wanted to learn German but he wouldn't hear of it so that's why I wonder what he would think if he knew his granddaughter spent a year in Germany and speaks very fluent German and just went back there last year again. But he didn't want to have anything to do with his German ancestry. I know who his mother and father were and I know he had a brother named Karl.

**QUESTION:** What a dilemma both your father and other immigrants faced in that they came to this country and considered themselves Americans but when the war came they said thank you very much but we're putting you in this camp we don't trust you.

**ANSWER:** You know there was Japanese internment camp in Puyallup, a big one, on the Puyallup Fair Grounds. Everybody knew about the Japanese. You see in

## Rosemary Ross

Tape 1 of 1

those days we didn't have any Japanese that I knew of living right in this area although there were. There were the oyster people at Purdy, their whole family was uprooted and sent in. In most cases the whole family and their property was confiscated and they had nothing when they got out. In our case we still had the farm. All they did was they came and took him, and then when they were through with him they sent him home again.

**QUESTION:** And you said the sheriff was a friend of the family.

**ANSWER:** Yes. Rass Paulson and my dad had been good friends and uhm.. he felt.. he felt just terrible. I know. Like I said.. I can remember him crying when he said, Pete you're going to have to come with me. And we had no warning, so he put some things in I think he had a black leather bag of some kind, he put some stuff in it and that was it.

**QUESTION:** Do you think your dad knew what was going on?

**ANSWER:** I don't really think so, maybe he did, but if he did he didn't say anything to me or to my mother either. It just wasn't something we talked about. I'm really sorry about that now. A lot of people who fought in the second World War and the first World War too when they got through with that experience if they came back they wanted it out of their lives, they wanted to forget about it. They wanted to go on with their lives and forget this whole thing had ever happened. So I'm really sorry I don't know more about it, but I may find out more.

**QUESTION:** Do you know of any other German families?

**ANSWER:** No I don't. I know of them but I don't know other German families that went through this. I've been in touch with a few of them on e-mail whose stories are very similar to mine. One the whole family was sent but they came back to their base too. They lived in eastern Washington. When I first started thinking about it I thought it was people on the west coast but it was all over the United States.

**QUESTION:** See originally I believe all immigrants. It was not just Japanese. I can't remember the general's name, or admiral, in the bay area. He changed it because he didn't like the Japanese. He said it will be the Japs, and that's why it got changed especially up and down the coast, and even at that Washington was divided. The Columbia River was a, so if you lived in Kennewick you were taken away and if you lived in Richland you weren't taken away. It was just surreal.

**ANSWER:** It didn't make a lot of sense.

**QUESTION:** No, and the interesting thing is cause I asked a lot of people could it happen again, and this was prior to 9/11 that I asked, and oh no it could never happen again, well sure enough it didn't happen that way, but the abuse that you saw.

**ANSWER:** Yes.

**QUESTION:** Anybody that looked like they were from the Middle East.



## Rosemary Ross

Tape 1 of 1

**ANSWER:** They are talking about profiling all the time nowadays because if you look the wrong way... and it is happening again and now as you say, to a certain extent and in a certain way. I don't know if it is human nature when you are attacked by a certain segment of society all of a sudden.. everybody in that society is suspect. So in a way it is happening.

**QUESTION:** especially if they look different which is easy to detect. Japanese you know then everybody just guessed anybody that was Asian looking was Japanese. What are you Chinese, or Korean. Oh you look different. My dad was down at a Menlo and he said they had Japanese janitor and they were all sure he was a spy. You just.. you could tell, but here my dad is a Schmidt and nobody said oh wait a minute you must be with Hitler you're a German. Although so many did uhm. My grandfather got a radio for his boat and was upstairs and had the headphones on and was trying it, well somebody called the FBI. And so somebody started following my grandfather and my father called a friend of his who was with the FBI in Seattle and said I think I'm being followed so the FBI from Seattle came down and followed the guy who was following my grandfather so we had the FBI following the FBI following my grandpa.

**ANSWER:** Yes.

**QUESTION:** So you were pretty young when the war was going on. Did you go into Bremerton to see the change, the activities?

**ANSWER:** Isolated is not the word but that is probably as good as any other. As I said my mother didn't drive and we could walk everywhere we wanted to go. We did take the bus as a child to Tacoma sometimes. And somebody would go to Gig Harbor we'd get a ride with somebody. Well, when my father was home of course we went to Tacoma. We had a car then, but when my father was gone we didn't, but when my dad did come home and we had the car there we did drive to Tacoma and drive to Gig Harbor but it wasn't an everyday thing, maybe on a weekend if we had something to do. And I was brought up in the Rosedale Presbyterian church and you did not go to movies, and you did not wear lipstick, until you got to high school and then you put the lipstick under a little thing under the mailbox and would put it on while waiting for the school bus when your mom couldn't see you know.

**QUESTION:** And better remember to wipe it off before you got home.

**ANSWER:** Oh yes, oh yes. Well by the time you got home it would wear off, but I remember taking it to school with me sometimes too. But then I can remember when my daughter was in high school and girls didn't wear pants very much in those days. When I first started working in the library at Harbor Heights School, women didn't wear pants or pant suits and eventually it came to the point where we were doing that and I didn't think I would ever actually wear pants to work you know, but eventually I did. And my former boss gives me a bad time to this day because I swore up and down I wouldn't do it and then pretty soon I was doing it every day cause crawling up and down bookshelves it's the easiest way to go you know so. But I can remember our daughter in high school, I didn't want her to wear jeans to school. She was doing the same thing with the jeans sneaking them out like I would with the lipstick so what goes round comes around.

**QUESTION:** Exactly, exactly, so times have changed quite a bit.

## Rosemary Ross

Tape 1 of 1

**ANSWER:** Oh yes.

**QUESTION:** Do you remember if your mom was patriotic?

**ANSWER:** I think she was patriotic, but this business with my father upset her so much. I can't answer that. I can't remember if she was oh yes, God first and country next and that kind of thing I think, and we did fly the American flag. My father was more patriotic I think than my mother was, in spite of everything.. I think.

**QUESTION:** There again, there is that irony.

**ANSWER:** Well, he thought this was the greatest country in the world. And where he had come from.. his own father had been persecuted actually killed during the time that Hitler was coming into power and I don't understand the whole story behind that. And my father ran away from Germany. He actually had a bullet hole in his back. He ran away when he was about fourteen years old, came to this country via South America. Hitch hiked up here from South America. I got that much. I tried to nail him down.

I was really pretty close to my father and I would try and get information out of him and I couldn't always get a lot of information out of him. He, when I went away from home or went to work, he liked to have beer. You know these good old German's, but it wasn't allowed in the house so he kept it down in the creek. It was nice and cold in the creek, and sometimes he smoked and he did that in the house although my mother did not like it at all and when I went to work I didn't smoke and I didn't drink. Coffee, alcohol, or anything like that. And everybody would have a coffee break and go out and have coffee and a cigarette. It was the thing to do in those days, and I didn't do it, I would have hot chocolate and a donut or something so pretty soon they were making clothes way too small for me anymore and I couldn't get in to anything, so I struggled to learn how to smoke a cigarette and I can remember I was sick to death of it but I was going to learn how to do this and I did master it but then on weekends I would go home and my dad and I would go down behind the barn and have a beer and a cigarette together. My mother would... I don't know who we thought we are fooling you know. You can't smoke and not have somebody know it. But I have good memories of those kind of things.

**QUESTION:** So that would be the time that.. you'd have a beer with your dad

**ANSWER:** That was when I was much older.

**QUESTION:** and he would kind of maybe tell you a little more.

**ANSWER:** But he never would talk about that. He wanted to know what was going on in my life and you know who my friends were and how I liked my job and that kind of stuff and yeah. He was kind of a quiet man, not like me.

**QUESTION:** It sounds like some of the feelings he had were some of the same feeling that the vets had, I mean basically escaping from Germany, being shot doing it and moving to a better life. He had seen what was bad. He had seen what was good and just moved forward.

**ANSWER:** And he loved his country and he liked working on the farm. It maybe reminded him in some ways of his homeland maybe, I don't know, I've never been

## Rosemary Ross

Tape 1 of 1

to Leipzig. I've been to Hamburg and Nuremberg and other places in Germany but never. When we went over there the first.. it was..the still the Iron Curtain was still up and the family we lived with while we were there took us along the border where we could see the fences and the guardhouses along the fences and there would be a big space between that you could not... halt you couldn't go any farther, close to even the fence, and then there was the guards in the guardhouses and then way way off in the distance you could see a little village and it gave you an eerie feeling to see that but of course now it is over and done with so.

**QUESTION:** Wow, pretty interesting tale of your dad and what he had to face but yet through all that to stay true to the country.

**ANSWER:** I think a lot of them did. I think a lot of them just felt that's why they came here, and this country had to be protected and that meant that they had to go someplace for awhile. You see.. I don't really know, but I do know that he was never bitter about it.

**QUESTION:** We were lucky in that way, I mean the Germans in the fact that..you know again everybody talked about the Japs and things like that.

**ANSWER:** They were so different, you know you could spot them a mile away. .And I can remember when we were allowed.. when we did go to see movies. I was allowed to see Roy Rogers and Gene Autry movies sometimes and they would always have the war clips on and show and then every once in a while a picture with the Japanese in their airplanes or the German's in their airplanes and they were made to look like a little less than human beings. The world has changed a lot.

**QUESTION:** So when you went to the theatre, was that right here in town?

**ANSWER:** There was a theatre in Gig Harbor, the Rialto. It was down on Harborview near a place called Mostly Books, in that area, and just the one theatre

**Question:** and it's all gone now.

**ANSWER:** There is a new theatre in Gig Harbor but it's up on the other side of Highway 16. Those I think they have three theatre's in one. It was a big deal to go to a movie when you did get to go to a movie and have a hamburger and a coke for fifty cents afterwards.

**QUESTION:** That is what's interesting the perspective of kids. What a big treat was. That's why I asked you what a big treat was, to go to Tacoma, and you stopped and tradition you got an ice cream cone and sandwich I think you said. But all of those things that was special as a child because you didn't get them where now days a kid goes to McDonald's 4-5 times a week and doesn't think anything about it.

**ANSWER:** I remember when I got my Schwinn Bicycle, which was wonderful. It had skinny tires and it went fast and that was a wonderful thing to have because that gave me wheels. That gave me access to the whole country and in those days it was safe to ride the bikes on the roads. Nowadays you take your life in your hands when you go on any road around here even if there is a bike trail so I did a lot of traveling. We would go from Rosedale where I lived to Gig Harbor just for an example I used to go from (inaudible) store to Gig Harbor and there were maybe... between the Arletta store and the head of the bay there were three houses. Now

## Rosemary Ross

Tape 1 of 1

there's probably hundreds of houses set back in the woods that you wouldn't see and you would maybe pass 2-3 cars. The other day, I have a friend who lives in Arletta, and I came from her home to my home in Gig Harbor. I went through seven stop lights and 204 cars.. and I was in the car going fast myself.. and this was about five o'clock when the people were coming home from their jobs I suppose but I've seen a lot of changes. It's grown. It's different.

**QUESTION:** Wow, the one thing when I hear people talk about riding a bike out here there's advantages and disadvantages. There are hills here. Can you ride anywhere here there's not a hill.

**ANSWER:** I can't go from my home anyplace without going up or down cause I live on a hill that sort of overlooks Gig Harbor. I can remember my friend Frances and I would ride our bikes to church sometimes. She lived in North Rosedale and I lived in what they called South Rosedale and the little Rosedale church was in-between and I had a new dress.. taffeta later on that probably my dad probably worked a month to pay for this. And I wanted to ride my bike to church and my mother didn't think I should do it in my dress but I had done it all the time so I conned her into letting me do that. Frances and I went up the Rosedale Hill and came down. That was a good ride and I got in some gravel put my foot on the brake I went end over teakettle right over the handlebars, the dress was torn to shreds, I was a bloody mess, I was in such trouble when I got through with that little episode.. but we did, you know things like that. And my mother didn't like me to climb trees, well my dad knew I could climb trees pretty well.. and we had a big tall fir tree and he limbed it in such a way I could go way up to the top and my mother. He got into big trouble for that. So I have good childhood memories. I really do. I didn't have anything like the kids have now days. I had a good childhood. I didn't have any brothers or sisters, so I'm one of those.

**QUESTION:** Had to find your own entertainment?

**ANSWER:** Ahuh.

**QUESTION:** Yeah, what a great place to grow up too.

**ANSWER:** It was. It was.

**QUESTION:** Well, thank you very much.

**ANSWER:** You are very welcome.

**QUESTION:** I appreciate you. It's another piece of the story