

Dee Mason
NPS Skagway Oral History Project
Juneau, Alaska
December 5, 2009
Interviewed by Karen Brewster

Karen Brewster: So today is December 5, 2009 and I'm Karen Brewster, I'm here in Juneau, Alaska for the Skagway Oral History Project. Here with Dee Mason at her apartment, where she lives with her Grandson Thurl and his wife Jean. And thank you very much for letting me come and talk to you tonight.

Dee Mason: Thank you

Karen Brewster: Okay I'm going to go over there. So why don't you start by telling me were you born in Skagway?

Dee Mason: No, I was born in Corey, Pennsylvania, May 21st, 1913.

Karen Brewster: Okay, when did you come to Skagway?

Dee Mason: September 10th, 1946

Karen Brewster: And why did you go to Skagway?

Dee Mason: My husband and his...we were in New York and we saw a sign where they were hiring for the White Pass Yukon Railroad.

Karen Brewster: And so ...

Dee Mason: They went up and filled out applications.

Karen Brewster: What kind of job was your husband looking for?

Dee Mason: Well, (ha) I don't think he was really looking for anything, but it was the railroad it was the White Pass Railroad. He had worked for the railroad before for short time and him and his brother decided to go up and apply for jobs up there. His brother was, they hired on...or they signed the applications. His brother came first and his wife. They worked, and he worked on the White Pass and he went into the shops and worked. Cliff did and his brother Cliff worked in the shops in White Pass, and as a Blacksmith.

Karen Brewster: And what did your husband do?

Dee Mason: He went to work on the White Pass as a Brakeman.

Karen Brewster: And what was your husband's first name?

Dee Mason: Thurlson Carlyle Mason

Karen Brewster: So I want to go back. Tell me a little bit about your childhood in Pennsylvania, growing up there.

Dee Mason: Mine?

Karen Brewster: Yeah

Dee Mason: Well I was born in 1913. My Dad owned a farm. And my Mother was a school teacher. And I had, my Dad had been married before my Mother and his wife had passed away and he had two sons and a daughter. And he met my Mom when he was older than my Mom and then they got married. I have a sister and a brother and me by the second marriage. And then the city wanted to buy the property. My Dad was going to sell because he was getting up and he decided to get rid of the farm. And the city came and asked to buy it because they wanted to put a country club there. As much ...and my Dad sold the farm to them. And the house is a country club where I was born and raised.

Karen Brewster: And then did you go to school?

Dee Mason: Oh yeah! Once the school, we all went. My Mom taught. But after us kids started she never taught us kids because she didn't believe in teaching us kids they got what they deserve, an "A" or "B" or whatever it was. She didn't want 'em saying, "Oh you're mom's the teacher. That's how come you got the "A" (ha, ha) or the "B". So my Mother never taught school where us kids went. By then she was just substituting. And my Dad was retired.

Karen Brewster: And then did you go to college?

Dee Mason: No I didn't, no.

Karen Brewster: What did you do after you finished High School?

Dee Mason: I worked for, I worked when I was in school, I worked for Murphy's Five-And-Dime. And I got nine bucks a week. And I worked there in the summer time (ha) in '39 we got paid nine dollars!

Karen Brewster: Wow.

Dee Mason: And then when I got out I worked for Raymond Manufacturing for years, until I came to Alaska.

Karen Brewster: What is Raymond Manufacturing?

Dee Mason: They manufacture all kinds of springs for G.E. and all the big...where they make all the big ...Westinghouse, G.E. General Electric they make springs for 'em.

Karen Brewster: So did you work on the line and actually making the springs?

Dee Mason: huh?

Karen Brewster: So did you work on the line making the springs?

Dee Mason: I put, I put the, what they call, cut the end off for the eye. The springs come with (out) an open end and then you work and cut it open so they can connect them.

Karen Brewster: Ahhh, so you were like a "Rosie the Riveter"

Dee Mason: Huh?

Karen Brewster: You were like a “Rosie the Riveter” doing work?

Dee Mason: Yea, (ha) yea they were kick *** in them days. You had to kick with your foot. You had a handle and you brought it down and put the spring in there and I cut that loop so they could use it. You know how a spring is. It’s got a loop on the end.

Karen Brewster: Right.

Dee Mason: Then that’s what we did to them. I got forty cents an hour (ha).

Karen Brewster: So then when you got paid at the end of the week what did you do with that nine dollars?

Dee Mason: Oh I gave my Mother some and you always put a dollar in the bank. And then you had a savings account with a buck in it (ha, ha, ha).

Karen Brewster: And so how did you meet your husband?

Dee Mason: Schoolmates, school he was a friend of my brother’s. He was a football player. They went to high school together and they were football players.

Karen Brewster: So was it love at first sight?

Dee Mason: Huh?

Karen Brewster: Was it love at first sight?

Dee Mason: No, no! I just met him and... Go off... I took him to the prom. You had to take someone to the prom. That’s how those started.

Karen Brewster: So when did you get married?

Dee Mason: I got married 19... God I can’t think...30...1930 something. Cause Tom’s what 72, 73? How old is Tom?

Jean: Well Dad’s 72 so Tom’s 71

Dee Mason: Yeah, okay.

Karen Brewster: So when in 1946 when you came up to Skagway, what did you think about that when your husband applied for the job?

Dee Mason: Oh I was really happy! And I owned the home, the home, the family home was left to me, because my Dad and Mom every other kids all got...had a place. The one owned a farm and my other sister owned a home, and my...and when my Mom died they said, “You get the home”, because I took care of my Mom. Stayed there and I took care of my Mom. And then when she passed away the kids said, “The home is yours Dee. We all have homes”. My brother owned a home and my sister owned a farm and my other sister had a home. That was all that was left for the family. So they said,” You have the home.” So I had the home.

Karen Brewster: But then you had to leave it to come to Skagway.

Dee Mason: I sold it!

Karen Brewster: Oh you sold it.

Dee Mason: Yes, we sold it. It was a ranch type. It had an apartment upstairs. My Mom lived downstairs and I lived upstairs in the apartment.

Karen Brewster: So when you came to Skagway how did you get there?

Dee Mason: We took the train from Corey, to Buffalo, New York, which is not far. We took the train, and then we took the... They didn't...they took the engine off and put a Canadian engine on and took us across the border to Toronto. And then we went from Toronto by train to Vancouver, across the whole country. It took five days. It was nice. We had a compartment. And I had...Tom was seven and a half or eight and then I had Terry. And Terry was two and a half-years-old. Then we had a compartment on the train in...then we brought T.C.'s Mom or (I mean) Dad with us. His Dad came with us. And then he had a, we had a Pullman. We sat up in the Pullman cars and they make-up the beds in the day... and in the night. And we brought him up there with us. When we got into Vancouver we took the Princess Louise. We were on the Princess Louise to Skagway.

Karen Brewster: And how long did the boat ride take?

Dee Mason: Well I think, if I remember right, I think it takes about probably five days, probably about what it takes now, maybe, maybe a little longer. I can't remember it's been so long since I rode on the Princess Louise.

Karen Brewster: And did that ship have cabins?

Dee Mason: Huh?

Karen Brewster: And did that ship have cabins?

Dee Mason: Yeah we had cabins, on the ship. And I met some people that lived in Skagway on that ship. They were going home from the summer. They had been out visiting. I met Dorothy Shelby and her two kids. Her son and daughter Rita and ah...I can't think what the boy's name was..., yes. Yes, her son and daughter and they were going home after spending the money out, or spending the summer out with their folks or their vacation. And I met Father Glonan on the, on the, we did on the ship. He was going home.

Karen Brewster: He's the one who had the Mission school?

Dee Mason: Yeah, yeah uh-huh

Karen Brewster: So what did you think when you arrived in Skagway?

Dee Mason: What did I think?

Karen Brewster: Yeah

Dee Mason: I was happy. My sister-in-law met us on the dock. And it was bright sunny day. It was a nice day. It was September 10th when we got there. And it was bright sunny day and it was payday for the White Pass. It was a nice day. It was nice and I liked it.

Karen Brewster: So your husband had a job with White Pass. Did you live in Railroad housing?

Dee Mason: Huh?

Karen Brewster: Where did you live? What kind of housing?

Dee Mason: I lived down the, right across from Barbara Kalone's.

Karen Brewster: Okay

Dee Mason: Over on State Street, I guess, yes that's State Street, yeah.

Karen Brewster: On State Street, yes

Dee Mason: Yeah cause T.C.'s brother lived on the corner. And I bought a little house that right back of it. I think West Mark owns it now, I think if I remember right.

Karen Brewster: Did the White Pass provide the housing for the men?

Dee Mason: No. you had to provide your own. Of course Cliff lived there. Cliff had a house. Then I, but I didn't buy the house right then. I, we lived up at Mammie Golts' one of Mammie Golts' houses. And it's up there by; I have to stop for the names, ah...

Karen Brewster: That's okay.

Dee Mason: Mickey Malhille's and Carl own the house on the corner. That was where Carl was raised. Yeah born and raised. And I lived in the house next door to it. It's still there.

Karen Brewster: Yeah. So what was life like in Skagway, when you got there?

Dee Mason: Huh

Karen Brewster: Yeah. So what was life like, what was the town like, what did people do?

Dee Mason: Oh they all worked. People worked. White Pass, they had the boats that came in. The Princess, like I said, I came in on the Princess Louise. They had another name the Princess Nora came in. And then they had the warships and oil was in and went out on the tankers and just regular railroad. Or else they had a pipeline. Maybe they had a pipeline into Skagway/ Whitehorse. Yeah.

Karen Brewster: At one point they did.

Dee Mason: Yeah, I think that was what they had. And then they had the tankers that went. It's been a long time (ha).

Karen Brewster: Well it sounds like it was a pretty busy little town.

Dee Mason: It was very busy. People were nice, friendly town. I worked for Jimmy Patterson up there. He had the only good restaurant out there, Jimmy Patterson.

Karen Brewster: Tell me more about that.

Dee Mason: He, well as much as I know, he owned the Skagway Grill. And he owned the Skagway Grill when I went there. That was the only good restaurant there. And he had, he used to say in the winter time it would be cold and he'd say, "Everybody say why don't you close?" And he'd say, "Once you close

your door on a business and you open it up again and you never make no money.” I remember him saying that.

(Conversation with Granddaughter off screen)

Karen Brewster: So were you a waitress for him or a cook?

Dee Mason: Yes, it was where I learned to be a waitress was there. I did work ...they were hard to find people to work. They had the sanitarium there when I went there. They did.

Karen Brewster: They had a sanitarium.

Karen Brewster: The railroad had a small hospital.

Dee Mason: Yeah, they had a small hospital.

Karen Brewster: That was different from the sanitarium?

Dee Mason: Yeah, they had a small hospital. I don't know how many beds, maybe five or six. I don't know.

Karen Brewster: Uh-huh, but that was different than the sanitarium?

Dee Mason: Yeah, oh yeah, different than the sanitarium, yeah. I remember that. It is hard to get my brain working.

Karen Brewster: Well you're doing a great job! So after, were you a waitress for a long time?

Dee Mason: For Jimmy?

Karen Brewster: Yes

Dee Mason: (nodding) until he died. I guess I worked there a couple or three years. And then Jimmy passed and the restaurant closed up. But he was an old timer. I didn't know how to, I tell you, I didn't know how to wait on table when I went to work for him. But he had an immaculately clean restaurant. And he used to say Dee when they come in, they used to be the people from the White Pass, they'd come in and they'd have coffee. He always had magazines and newspapers for them to read and he used to say, he said "And you always give them a glass of water." I remember him telling me that. But I say, "But they never drink it." And he'd says, "You never know. You always put down a glass of water. And then you pour them their coffee." That was when coffee was only 15 cents a cup, I guess, I don't know. I know it wasn't very much. And he said, you never know! And he always made his own pies and he had the mission kids come and do the dishes. He hired the mission kids and the...and they were there and it was quiet in the winter time. And he had a good crew. I didn't work for him until after...I'd been up there for a while before I worked for him. And I remember he had a big Yukon stove in the back. And he baked his own pies, and did everything. He was just a great guy to work for. There's a postcard. I've got one someplace. I couldn't tell you where it is. Where it's taken was out at the airport and the green is Skagway and he's standing behind with his arms, I can't spread my arms out cause I got a lame shoulder, on top of the sign and he has his kitchen hat on and everything, greeting the people of Skagway. And that was always nice. But he taught me to be a waitress. I said, "I quit!" And he said,

“Delia”, he had a table in his kitchen and he said, “Come on out and sit down and talk it all over.” He said, “You’re not going to quit. You’re gonna learn.” And that’s how come I stayed with Jimmy Patterson. Then he’d say, “Dry your tears. Comb your hair. Put a little powder on your nose and go back out there and wait on the customers.” (ha, ha) He was a great man. He was good to everybody and he loved kids. And then he opened up that place. Did they tell you that they had a restaurant there across from the pack train?

Karen Brewster: No

Dee Mason: For the kids

Karen Brewster: No, tell me about that.

Dee Mason: Yeah he had a restaurant there and it was rented. I know Doris Boyd worked there. And that was the place the kids went after school. And he had a place where they could play their juke box. And Friday nights they could stay till I forget how late, I think ten or so. Yeah he loved kids, Jim Patterson did. And mission kids used to go down there. They had a great mission. Somebody must have told you about the mission?

Karen Brewster: Well I’ve heard about it but we haven’t talked to anybody yet who was a student there.

Dee Mason: Oh I wasn’t a student

Karen Brewster: No

Dee Mason: But he had a beautiful Chapel. The first mission burned. And then they were in barracks building. And Father Glough went out and begged the money. That’s what he’d say. He raised the money to build the mission. And he’d go and he’d get. He had a beautiful chapel. The sisters were there and he had Father Cogel was there, Father Baker was there. And Father Glough of course was the senior there. And then they transferred Father Glough. When they transferred Father Glough he had a beautiful chapel.

Karen Brewster: So did you go to church in that chapel?

Dee Mason: Oh yeah, uh-huh. And my two sons, Charles and Terry, went to school there. They loved it! There were a few kids that went to the Catholic school there.

Karen Brewster: How come they went to the school there not at the public school?

Dee Mason: Because I wanted them to go there.

Karen Brewster: But why?

Dee Mason: (ha, ha) because I liked it there. I like the catholic school. There’s no sassing the sisters. (she points her finger) You don’t sass the sisters. The sisters are the best teachers in the world. That’s what I think. That’s my opinion. I think all Catholics. And my kids were raised pretty good. Tom went there and he wanted to go to the Protestant’s school so we let him go. But Terry and Charles went there. So did some other kids. I don’t know who but they went there.

Karen Brewster: How many children did you have?

Dee Mason: Just three.

Karen Brewster: And so why did you decide to go work for Jimmy Patterson?

Dee Mason: Because they asked me. My girlfriend was head girl there. E Glacier and that's how come when he was short of help, that's all, I went to work there, yeah. I never asked for a job. Everybody's asked me. I raised, I raised my kids. Their Dad died when he was...with pneumonia.

Karen Brewster: Oh no.

Dee Mason: And he was only in his, I guess he was about 50. He died 50...right after Tom got back from the service, when Tom got back.

Karen Brewster: So you mainly raised your kids by yourself.

Dee Mason: Yeah. Well Tom helped when he got out. He'd just got back from Korea and been home for just, on leave for thirty days when his Dad got pneumonia and died. And when Tom got, he had a few more months to go before he would be released that was way back in the 50s. But he got drafted right after he got out of high school. So he had to go.

Karen Brewster: Uh-huh. So did you ever remarry?

Dee Mason: Huh?

Karen Brewster: Did you ever get married again?

Dee Mason: Yes, I remarried ten years later. I married, that's my husband (she points) right there on the TV.

Karen Brewster: Uh-huh, and what was his name?

Dee Mason: He was a salesman. He was a salesman of...He sold property.

Karen Brewster: He sold real estate.

Dee Mason: Uh-huh, he sold real estate.

Karen Brewster: And what was his name?

Dee Mason: Wayne Malchee

Karen Brewster: And was he from Skagway?

Dee Mason: (Shakes her head no) San Francisco

Karen Brewster: Oh, so how did you meet him?

Dee Mason: Well he was there selling property. He'd been living in Anchorage, he had. He worked for Britannica Books; ten years he was manager for them. And then...books wasn't the thing anymore. You know what I mean. He used to go to their houses and sell them books.

Karen Brewster: Encyclopedias, yeah

Dee Mason: Yeah. But he was ten years manager in San Francisco.

Karen Brewster: So what other kind of jobs did you do after you?

Dee Mason: Me?

Karen Brewster: Yes after Jimmy Patterson what did you do?

Dee Mason: Well then I worked for Benny in his hardware, Benny Lingo. I became a waitress. I was a waitress and then I was a, my husband was living; I was a night telephone operator. When Charles was just a baby; they didn't have, they couldn't find a night, it was hard to...help was hard to find. With the war on and people were out working and you could get a job in Skagway easy.

Karen Brewster: Oh

Dee Mason: It was easy to get a job in Skagway. I just settle down and think I was going to be home and somebody want me to come to work.

Karen Brewster: Tell me about being a telephone operator.

Dee Mason: I was on the nights. *** (name of person) was the main ...was the head of the telephone office and it was in the army barracks, they had the jail there they had City Hall there and they had the telephone company there. And then there was an opening and there on the corner was the ACS. The ACS was up there.

Karen Brewster: What was the ACS?

Dee Mason: The ACS used to be up there. They had an office up there. It had something to do with communication. Yes

Karen Brewster: Okay

Dee Mason: City Hall was on the corner and ACS was behind them.

Karen Brewster: I wondered about telephone service in Skagway. Did everybody have a telephone at home?

Dee Mason: Oh yeah, I guess

Karen Brewster: By then they did?

Dee Mason: By then they did. I was a baby; (ha) oh I shouldn't put this in the conversation.

Karen Brewster: So what did you do as the operator?

Dee Mason: Well you answered the telephone, took their number, and plugged it in. You know. Worked the switchboard.

Karen Brewster: It was a switchboard.

Dee Mason: Yeah

Karen Brewster: So every call to Skagway came to you first?

Dee Mason: Well they'd call, you'd pick up you know and say, and I'd say, "Number please." And they would give you a number and I'd plug it in. The board, you've seen these old boards and all like that (she motions large with her hand). And they've got holes and numbers. Everybody had a number.

Karen Brewster: Uh-huh. So did you memorize everybody's number?

Dee Mason: Oh no, you can't memorize, but you know right where they're at when you work there for a while. I didn't work there all that long. I didn't want to work there. I wanted to be home at night.

Karen Brewster: As the telephone operator, could you listen in on all those phone calls?

Dee Mason: If you wanted to. I never paid no attention. It's none of my business. If you wanted to I'm sure they did. But I never paid no attention. I'd plug it in and shut my end off and let them go.

Karen Brewster: That's good

Dee Mason: Yeah

Karen Brewster: And then what else did you do?

Dee Mason: That was about it outside of being a waitress. And then I worked for Benny.

Karen Brewster: So where else did you waitress, after

Dee Mason: They had all kinds, they had the home kitchen and I worked at the Golden North when they remodeled it. I was never without a job.

Karen Brewster: So tell me about the Golden North. What was that like?

Dee Mason: That was a very nice place, very good. You should talk to some of the Soldeans. They owned it. They bought it from Mary Kopanski. And they refurnished it. And it was all done in the old Ninety-eight stuff. The business people all had a room there. You know they put the furniture in and then the room was named Will Kopanskis or Ferrel's or whoever had the room, they furnished...yea. It was a nice place to stay. It has a lot of history, a lot of history.

Karen Brewster: Yes, I don't know much about its history. What can you tell me?

Dee Mason: Well I really don't know a lot about the history, I just know the people that owned it. Let's see Debbons owned it. And I don't remember much about when Debbons owned it. And then they sold it, I think Debbons sold it to Kopanskis, Les Kopanskis. Yes I think Debbons owned it and they sold it to Kopanski. And then I think Kopanskis sold it to Soldeans. They're old families and you should talk to somebody with them and they could tell you the history of that stuff more than I can.

Karen Brewster: I was just wondering what the place was like.

Dee Mason: It was nice. People liked it and enjoyed it. The food was always good. It was well maintained.

Karen Brewster: So were there a lot of tourists that stayed there when you worked there?

Dee Mason: Well when the tourist season started it was. When Chuck First was, if I remember right, now you've heard of him?

Karen Brewster: yes

Dee Mason: I believe he started the tourist business.

Karen Brewster: So what kind of food did you serve when you were a waitress?

Dee Mason: We served all kinds, sourdough hotcakes in the morning and they had a nice lunch, sandwich and soup and salads. And you could always buy a nice piece of pie. Everything was homemade. And at nights they had good dinners. They had good food in Skagway, I always thought. Of course they had the Golden North. I never worked much at night. The Golden North and then they had Bill Ferrel opened up the, Oh god I can't remember, my names...the Sourdough Inn, it was the Sourdough, Bill Ferrel did. And you should talk to somebody and they tell you how they started the business there. They started out with sandwiches and soup. And then it became into breakfast and then it became into dinner, lunch and dinner, yeah

Karen Brewster: So did you like being a waitress?

Dee Mason: Oh yeah, I was a waitress a long time. I was here too.

Karen Brewster: Yeah, what did you like about it?

Dee Mason: Oh the people, I like the people. I've been a people person forever. I like the conversation and I just like it.

Karen Brewster: And you make pretty good money being a waitress?

Dee Mason: You have to; if you can't make your wages you're not a good waitress. That's what Jimmy Patterson always said. Of course my money wasn't big back then either. A dollar and a half an hour, you know. He'd hire you and you'd get a dollar and a half and then you'd make money out of your waitressing. If you're a good waitress you'd always make good money. Yeah

Karen Brewster: So when you were first living in Skagway what were people doing for fun?

Dee Mason: Well they had the Eagles and the Elks. And the Eagles was the family lodge. I belonged to the Eagles. I was, I am a past president and I'm a ten year secretary for the Eagles. But they had a family night once a month they did and they'd have a potluck dinner and you went and took your family, you took your kids.

Karen Brewster: Nice

Dee Mason: You didn't have babysitters like you do now. You'd go take your kids and the lodge would buy whatever you were going to have maybe it was a turkey or a ham or whatever. They always furnished the meat. And then the members always furnished the rest. And you'd go take your kids and sometimes they'd have music and the kids would learn to dance. And they'd play games. It was just a great place. But people don't do that no more.

Karen Brewster: I don't know much about the Eagles. Can you tell me about the organization?

Dee Mason: It was an old family lodge. It was 116 years old here this summer when I was up there. And they had a big celebration but the thing I didn't like [] I don't know who brought the Eagles into there. They had a celebration but it seems like they celebrated the new lodges aren't like they used to be.

Karen Brewster: So what is a lodge? It is a social group or service organization?

Dee Mason: It is a family lodge, a family organization like the Moose Club. You've heard about the Moose.

Karen Brewster: I've heard of them but I don't really know how they work.

Dee Mason: Oh yeah, that's how they work, they're family lodges.

Karen Brewster: So it's a place for the families to get together and visit and

Dee Mason: For the families to go, but it isn't any more like that. That's what it was established for. Now the Moose here has a thing. You'll hear about that.

Karen Brewster: Uh-huh. So when your husband was working for the railroad did you socialize with railroad people or?

Dee Mason: Oh you socialized with the whole town. People all socialized. Christmas time people would have open houses and you'd go visit and it was...people were neighbors. They went back and forth and around with people. Like the Tomlees and the Rapuzzis all those people. And they all had kids, you socialized, you went and took your kids. And then they'd have a train once a year where you'd go to the glacier and pick blueberries. And White Pass would put a coach on, or they'd put extra people go up to glacier and go blueberry picking when the train would come in from Whitehorse they'd pick us up and take us back to town.

Karen Brewster: Oh that sounds like great fun!

Dee Mason: And that was great fun! You took your kids.

Karen Brewster: And did you go on picnics and things?

Dee Mason: Oh yeah they had a picnic every year. The midnight picnic and you went and took your kids to them.

Karen Brewster: What a midnight picnic? What was that?

Dee Mason: Oh yes. Well they used to have it over across; well they had a bridge there that went over across the river there. Down by, well it was down in the lower end of town is where they had it. You could walk over, you could take the...you could walk over the bridge to the point or go there to Smugglers' Cove. Somebody took an old piano down to Smugglers' Cove. I think it was somebody from the sanitarium because they used to go down there on Sundays and relax and play the piano and sing and all that. They left that old piano over there. (ha ha)

Karen Brewster: That's fun

Dee Mason: Yeah, but it used to be great fun. You used to take your kids. I know we used to take Charles in the wagon. We'd pack a picnic and go over there. There was always somebody over there picnicking. And then they had a midnight picnic!

Karen Brewster: For in the summertime?

Dee Mason: Yeah, on the longest day of the year.

Karen Brewster: Oh what fun!

Dee Mason: And they'd have a picnic. And everybody'd go to the picnic and take food and roast wieners and they'd have all kinds of fun over there. Yeah and they'd go over there to Smugglers' Cove. Didn't they tell you about that up there?

Karen Brewster: No, nobody's talked about that.

Dee Mason: Oh.

(Conversation about being out of the camera shot and rearranging the speaker in the camera)

Dee Mason: What do they talk about?

Karen Brewster: I ask different questions. Nobody talked about Smuggler's Cove.

Dee Mason: Oh I thought somebody would have talked about that. That was part of the fun. And I know on Sunday the mission, the sisters would take the little kids. What I called the little kids, they were five, fifth grade, sixth grade, seventh grade you know, and they had a school there. And the sisters would take the kids and go to Lower Lake. And they'd go up there and they'd have a marshmallow roast or sometimes hotdogs and then they'd take them back down in the afternoon. They'd go up after mass and in the morning after lunch. They'd go up to the Lower Lake. And then they drove back down about four o'clock in the afternoon. And the kids would have an outing, the mission kids would. Yeah. When they'd go back and they always had... and the sisters were always very good at that. Sister Florence and Sister Amy used to go and take the little kids. I don't know how many they'd be. I guess probably twenty maybe would be in the group. And they'd have fun playing and seeing different things, yeah.

Karen Brewster: I'm wondering when you got there in 1946, how were you received by the other people living there, because you were then a newcomer?

Dee Mason: Oh yeah, they, they...it all fit in because my husband's brother was there. And him and his wife, she was a seamstress and she fit right in with all that bunch up there. Everybody liked Jerri. She had a lot of friends up there they did. Ma Poolin was living when I got there

Karen Brewster: Tell me about her.

Dee Mason: Well she used to have tea in the afternoons in the old Poolin house. And people would go over there and they said she had rockers out there and she'd spin the stories, tell the stories how she came to Alaska and how she got started. And they'd drink tea and she'd serve cookies. Yeah. And then Mrs. Rasmuson, they owned the bank, then they'd come back in the summertime. And they owned a big home there. And she always opened it up and she always had a tea for the ladies. She'd invite the ladies to tea, yeah. They always had, they had a few natives, not many, but they had a few natives. They were all good natives. There was Maggie KaDonnal who used to make moccasin, sit on the street and make moccasins and sell them. It was just good. I thought it was just a very good place to be.

Karen Brewster: Yeah I wondered about the native people.

Dee Mason: We didn't have very many. There was Maggie and there was the... well they're still there the few that still there.

Karen Brewster: Yeah I wondered how the natives and non natives interacted with each other.

Dee Mason: They took them in. They were good people.

Karen Brewster: Did they live in Town by everyone else?

Dee Mason: Down by the, they lived way over, they didn't live by, they lived where the old ACS. They lived over there.

Karen Brewster: They had their own part of town? I've heard of Indian Town

Dee Mason: Huh?

Karen Brewster: I've heard it called Indian Town.

Dee Mason: I don't know that, but it probably was. They lived all on one street. They've got some houses that live right there yet. Oh I can't think of their last names, I knew them all. Oh Dennis', they lived there. Their whole family, they still live there the Dennis'.

Karen Brewster: So when you lived in Skagway did you see a change in the town?

Dee Mason: Oh yeah, now I do. I see a lot of change, yeah.

Karen Brewster: Tell me about that.

Dee Mason: Well, I don't know how much there is, there isn't much there anymore (ha). You know the old people are gone.

Karen Brewster: Well how has the town changed?

Dee Mason: Well it's changed in the way they act. Young people they've changed. Lodges have changed. The Elks have changed. The Eagles has changed.

Karen Brewster: In what way have they changed? What's different?

Dee Mason: Well, class isn't there anymore. The Elks has always been a class lodge I guess you know that. It has always been, I shouldn't say this, maybe you shouldn't publish this on there so I won't say.

Karen Brewster: Okay we'll talk about something else. I'm wondering about the tourist business. I'm wondering about Skagway and tourism.

Dee Mason: Tourism has been good. It's changed too you know. It's changed the tourism has changed. You know. They used to meet the train and they wore '98 clothes. That's when the train used to come down to the depot. That's before they had all these boats and everything. And people used to go over and meet the train. You'd wear a long skirt and maybe a nice blouse, and maybe a shawl wrapped around your shoulders. And you'd take your kids and you'd go over and meet the train, meet the tourist that had come back on the train. And that was always a nice time.

Karen Brewster: Did you ever; were you ever one of the Can-Can dancers?

Dee Mason: No I wasn't a can-can (ha). But I, they had the best '98 show you ever wanted to see. It was all local talent. The '98 show that they put on there now is a disgrace in my mind. It is. But they had the can-can girls and they had the Ethyl *** would do the reading and the play where the man from the creek came in. It was all played by the local people. And it was a good show. They used to pack them in.

Karen Brewster: Sounds fun

Dee Mason: It was. It was fun. They'd pack 'em in. But now they've commercialized it. I have been there. I've been there a couple times and I didn't like it. I don't like it.

Karen Brewster: So did you ever perform in the original one?

Dee Mason: No

Karen Brewster: No

Dee Mason: No but I used to go. We used to go and take the kids. And it was always fun to go and see the '98 show. And they had some very good ones, Ann ***, and the...Dorothy Shelby always took part in the '98 show. And the man from the creek used to be Bill Hidilberger. It was just people they just pack it in. Now I guess they don't do as well as they used to. No now they... I don't like it.

Karen Brewster: Do you remember when the tourist started increasing? When that was?

Dee Mason: Well it started shortly after I got there I would say. Because the 50s it was coming up, the '98 show and all that was started in...it had been started but that is when it really did good was the '98 show. That's when tourist season really started. And that's when things opening up, the docks started opening up and tourist ships had started to come more often and that's when the ferry system started. And that was a big help to the town when the ferry system came. When the ferry system first came, it came out first class, first class all the way. They had white table cloths on the tables. They had waiters. It was all first class. And then all of a sudden it went down the tube like everything else.

Karen Brewster: So when did the ferry start?

Dee Mason: They started, I think in the 50s. I think that's when they first started.

Karen Brewster: So before the ferries how did people get in and out of Skagway?

Dee Mason: Well they come in on the boat.

Karen Brewster: Oh it was a different boat?

Dee Mason: Oh yeah, they had the boats that came, came from Vancouver. You had to go to Vancouver to get the ships. Otherwise they had, they had a...airplanes then. And they had...I can't think when Skag Air started. But they had Alaska Coastal came in. And the airlines started, not the big ones just the little ones. You know the small ones. They'd fly into Juneau and then they'd fly up to Skagway. Otherwise there were boats that went back and forth.

Karen Brewster: When you arrived in Skagway was the army still there?

Dee Mason: Oh yeah they were just starting to move out. They were when we got there. Yeah they were starting to move.

Karen Brewster: So what was that like having the army there?

Dee Mason: It never bothered me. I don't know I wasn't around much where the army was. They had barracks buildings on every street corner. They did. Because they didn't have, but they had the one up where the mission was. That was a big base. I can't remember much about the barracks much. I know on the corner where Jerri lived was a barracks. Where the Elks was, where the Elks is, that was an Army base. That was they had army in there. They had them all over. I couldn't say where because I wasn't that much interested and they were moving out. You know moving so I didn't pay much attention to the army. The big lot, the big lot had already gone when I got there. There were just barracks here and there. And I don't remember much about the army.

Karen Brewster: Now when did you move to Juneau?

Dee Mason: 1968

Karen Brewster: And why did you move here?

Dee Mason: Oh my family thought it was time I moved down, (ha, ha). Tom says, "I think it's time you move down Mom" I was single. I'd been single ten years. He says, "I think, kids are gone. I think it's time you come down to Juneau. Maybe find yourself a job and change your life a little." And so I did.

Karen Brewster: So you worked here in Juneau?

Dee Mason: (nodding) I was in Barren's store for seven years and then they built the Nugget and I had a chance to go out work there. And Bill said I know better than to ask you because you don't like to commute. And he was the big shot at Barren's. He decided to put the model in. I stayed two years after he left and then I left Barren's. And then I went to work for the Prospector. That was my next job. I wasn't going to go to waitress work again. In fact I was going to retire but they called me and asked to come to work. And I said, "I don't want to go to work." "Oh yeah you gotta come and help us out. Dee come on." I used to work at Barrens yet and I said I don't really want to. And they said, "Oh come you're off on Sundays." And I said no. And they said, "I tell you what, I'll see 6:00 tomorrow morning." Well I had to go then (ha). That's how come I went to work at Barrens. I worked out my Sundays cause I didn't hardly know any...I knew a lot of people but not to run around with or anything, you know, from being down here. And I knew the L.C. worked at the, the head girl, she did the hiring for the Barren. And I went in there one day and she said, "Why don't you come in to work for me on Sunday? I said, "I don't think I want to work". And she said, "Yeah come on." And I said, "I'll try it" because I really didn't go anyplace. And I lived right across from the Barren, one of the best addresses, the McKennal apartments, right across the street from my job at Barrens.

Karen Brewster: Oh right

Dee Mason: And you can't get in there. They were all known people, Governor Parks, who wasn't governor any more. He lived there. You had to be recommended. And Pearly Peterson his secretary lived there. Rae Hoofs who owned the dress shop, she lived there. And Bob Brant and his wife, and he was the first territorial policeman, he lived there. Judge Crosby's sister lived there. It was a well known address. But you just couldn't go there and get in. I had a recommendation. And I lived there fifteen years.

Karen Brewster: That's good

Dee Mason: Yeah

(Paused - second DVD disk)

Dee Mason: Tom has a new cabin, right over the border there. You know where the customs is. Well he owns a cabin about a mile or two miles down there. And Tom is about two miles from the border.

Karen Brewster: Well I just have a couple more questions, which is what was the best thing about living in Skagway?

Dee Mason: The people, friendly and they always, it don't matter if you don't like them. If something happens in your family the people are right there for you. Isn't that right Jean?

Jean: That's right.

Dee Mason: Yep, if you have a problem it's everybody's problem. They've got some good people there, very good people. And they're there to help one another. They may not be the best of friends the time you know all year, but if something happens they're there for you. Skagway is. They've got some nice people there. I think myself.

Karen Brewster: Uh-huh. What was the hardest thing about going to Skagway?

Dee Mason: The hardest thing?

Karen Brewster: Yeah, yeah.

Dee Mason: I don't know I don't think I had any. I knew when we were going. When we got, when we decided to go I just put the house for sale and said goodbye to my family and left (ha).

Karen Brewster: Living in Skagway did you feel isolated? Was that a problem?

Dee Mason: No I never felt isolated in Skagway. We always had a boat or plane. And you could always go to Whitehorse on the train then. Of course you can't go to Whitehorse on the train now you can only go...they go everyday to, I think Bennett. And then they go to Carcross. I don't know how many times.

Karen Brewster: Yeah

Dee Mason: But they don't go into Whitehorse no more.

Karen Brewster: So when you were living in Skagway did you go to Whitehorse a lot?

Dee Mason: Oh yeah. People used to go up there. They had a winter carnival up there. And people would go, go on the train and take their kids and stay and go to the winter carnival, yeah. Whitehorse's a nice place. Of course it's changed too.

Karen Brewster: But people went back and forth a lot when the train was running?

Dee Mason: Oh yeah, they do now.

Karen Brewster: Yeah now there's a road.

Dee Mason: Yeah now there's a road to go back and forth. They go down there and fish.

Karen Brewster: Is there good fishing in Skagway?

Dee Mason: Yeah. They fish all the...there's quite a few boats that stay down there all winter from Whitehorse. I guess, maybe I shouldn't say that but I think they do.

Karen Brewster: I don't associate Skagway with fishing?

Dee Mason: Huh?

Karen Brewster: I don't think of Skagway as a big fishing town.

Dee Mason: They go down there and fish.

Karen Brewster: Not like Petersburg or something

Dee Mason: They fish a lot. They go towards Haines and go down around Haines, go around there. That's open waters. They got a lot of boats up there. A lot of people got boats. They put the boats in the water and go fishing. They crab up there, too...and shrimps. I don't know about their crabs. I guess they do don't they, Jean?

Jean: I don't think so much crabs since quite like a long time ago, Granny. But the shrimp, I hear the shrimp are coming back. And the Canadians definitely come back for sport fishing.

Karen Brewster: What else did you do in Skagway? Tell me more, what else about your life in Skagway should I know about?

Dee Mason: Oh I liked it for you could hike up the mountains and take the kids to camp out. Good place to raise kids, I think, I always thought. We used to go camping, take the kids and go camping. My husband would put a tent up one summer and left it up at Lower Lake. Go up there and stay all night we would. Until someone and they had a little boat right in the water. They bought a little boat. Until the tourist started and then that was the end of it.

Karen Brewster: Why was it the end of it?

Dee Mason: Well you couldn't go up there. They took over, tourist did. Kids can't go up there and play like they used to. I went up there; my kids went up there to take the boat out. They left the boat oars right there and you could go get it. And pretty soon the tourist came and they went up there one day and someone threw the oars in the water

Karen Brewster: Oh no!

Dee Mason: So they've ruined it. They really have I think. That's my version. Went up there one time and the picnic tables were thrown to the other end of Lower Lake in the water. They're just destructive.

Karen Brewster: Yeah! Why was it such a good place to raise kids? What about it made it good for kids?

Dee Mason: Well, I think, I always thought it was a good thing cause you can't get into trouble like you can in the city. Kids play with one another, I think, that's always been my opinion. Kids can go out and

play at the lake and nothing would happen. But you don't do it now. You wouldn't do it no more, no. I always thought it was a good place for kids, didn't you Jean?

Jean: I did yes.

Karen Brewster: Jean grew up there?

Dee Mason: (nods)

Jean: I think you actually *** you kind of spoke to that earlier you know everybody in the community whether they're your good friends or not they were looking out. They were always looking out for you. So I got calls on my kids from people.

Karen Brewster: Everybody in the community would look out for each other.

Dee Mason: Yes they do. Kids used to be able to go fish off of the dock which they can't do no more. They can't fish down there no more cause there are too many boats too many ships.

Karen Brewster: So Jean any particular stories that you guys have heard that you want recorded?

Jean: Gosh yes, I didn't get to sit through all this but she's full of stories.

Karen Brewster: I know if there are any in particular

Jean: Some she probably doesn't want to repeat but, yeah I was thinking did she talk about it was her first winter, your first winter here Grandma here that was really harsh. And you had to put blankets up and *** in the living room

Dee Mason: Oh yeah,

Karen Brewster: Oh the first winter in Skagway.

Jean: Did she tell you about the first winter in Skagway?

Karen Brewster: No, no tell me about the first winter in Skagway. That's a good question.

Dee Mason: Well that was the hardest winter I had ever seen. It got down to 20 below and the wind blew. And my husband was working on the railroad by then

Karen Brewster: He was a brakeman

Dee Mason: A brakeman and they didn't come home. They didn't come home all night and I kept wondering where, I heard the whistle. I knew I heard the whistle. And he didn't come home and he didn't come home and I thought well where did he go? And I couldn't go out, why it was twenty below zero myself. We had blankets. We had a little poitiee and blankets hung over the doors to keep the thing out. And then I moved out of our bedroom, we moved out to the living room. And then I had a day bed that opened up to a bed. And then I had another bedroom where Grandpa and the two boys slept. They had two beds in there. We did. And he didn't come home. And I worried. And I worried. And I thought oh my god we were warm as far as our house is concerned. We had an oil heater and we had a Yukon stove there in our kitchen. But you couldn't heat the whole thing with the one in the living room. So that's how come we moved into the living room. And our bedroom wasn't heated very good. I could

hardly wait till morning came. And the morning came and I looked out the kitchen window and I saw Mickey Mahalahill, I didn't know him very well. But this was the first winter. And he was out there and I hollered out the door, "Mr. Mahalahill," I said, "TC didn't come home last night" and he said, "Mrs. Mason he won't be home for a few days." And I said, "Why?" And he said, "He can't plow out. We plow so far and it's as far as we get and we have to come back." And he said, "*** and they're hold up there and it will probably be five days before we can get them plowed out." And he said, "If I had known that I'd have found the door and told you last night." He said. And that's how I knew that he wouldn't be home for five days. And when he got home (ha), he got home in the middle of the night they got home. And by that time I was kind of used to it, you know. And he come to the front door and he couldn't get in cause I had it all tacked down with blankets. And he pounded on the door and I said you have to go around to the back door. And he came in the back door and I said, I couldn't, we just had to block it off. It was so cold. But he said that it is warm in here. But I had two oil stoves going. I had this oil stove in the kitchen and one in the living room and

Karen Brewster: So what did you do for those five days without him?

Dee Mason: Ha, well Grandpa was there, we still had his Dad there and. You do just what you have to do. Kids go to school. And you go to the store. And everybody owned a parka and all you could see was a nose. You didn't know who was underneath the nose. But everybody would go say good morning. Life went on.

Jean: Did you tell that story too Grandma about why everybody, having the same parkas?

Karen Brewster: Oh no, about everybody having the same parkas?

Dee Mason: Oh yeah they all had army parkas (ha ha)

Jean: Tell that story Grandma.

Dee Mason: What?

Karen Brewster: Jean says you have a story about everybody having the same parkas?

Jean: Yes Grandma tell about everybody having the same parkas from the army.

Dee Mason: Yes everybody got their parkas from the army

Jean: Yes but you have more to tell about that

Karen Brewster: Tell me more about that. I'm moving you back. She keeps rotating.

Dee Mason: Well, everybody owned one and everybody wondered how they'd be, they were too big for you. Mine was too big. But I'd put mine on and go to the store. And you'd see someone and they'd say, "Hi Dee." and I didn't know

Jean: But how did you get it. Go clear back to how you got your it

Karen Brewster: Did the railroad issue your parka?

Dee Mason: No

Karen Brewster: No?

Dee Mason: Oh no, no, no they belong to the army.

Karen Brewster: Then how did you get it?

Dee Mason: Everybody went into that building where they had them and took em. The army was moving out and leaving them. That's how you got em. And your army blankets, everybody had the army blankets. They'd go in at night with a little flashlight and look at these... they'd left them. You'd go and get a parka. You'd go and get a blanket. Or maybe you'd take a stove (shrug) yeah. Everybody had something that belonged to the army, Toilets.

Karen Brewster: So you went in and take them. Some good ole recycling, huh?

Dee Mason: That's what you'd call it. Well they were only going to throw it, they were moving it out. They were going to shove it all right in the bay.

Karen Brewster: Really

Dee Mason: If you went up there and could see the bottom of the bay you probably find hundreds of oil stoves, toilets up there because they did a lot of it. Then they would just move out and left it.

Karen Brewster: Now did the army know you guys were going in a taking...

Dee Mason: Oh I'm sure they did.

Karen Brewster: They never said anything?

Dee Mason: (Shaking head no) nah they wouldn't take the lumber, they were shipping out now. Their warehouse burnt up there. You'd see people walking with a couple boards or something all the time. People, they didn't think anything of it. Everybody had army blankets. Wasn't a house in Skagway that didn't have ten or twelve or five or six army blankets and parkas.

Karen Brewster: It is funny that everybody had the same parkas cause they went and took them from the army.

Dee Mason: yeah

Jean: And no one knew each other cause

Karen Brewster: Cause they all looked the same

Dee Mason: Everybody had an army parka.

Karen Brewster: And then everybody looked the same so how did you recognize people?

Dee Mason: Well they'd speak to you and sometimes you'd recognized their voice. They'd say hello Dee or hello Patty or hi or they'd always say hello. People always spoke or you'd see in the grocery store.

Karen Brewster: I was thinking, when you were a waitress you must have had some pretty funny things happen when you were a waitress.

Dee Mason: Well not really.

Karen Brewster: It was all boring?

Dee Mason: huh?

Karen Brewster: It was boring?

Dee Mason: No it wasn't boring. They always talked. They read the magazines and they'd talk to you. And people were nice, just nice to everybody.

Karen Brewster: No funny customer stories?

Dee Mason: Huh

Karen Brewster: You don't have any stories about some funny customers or something?

Dee Mason: Oh I probably could if I could think of them

Karen Brewster: Or did you drop a whole tray of food once or something?

Dee Mason: Oh well that was at the banquet. That was after the war. That was after all that. That was at a banquet at the Elks. There was Egan and Jesse Carr, Lou Dishner and Gil Johnson. They came in on the ferry

Jean: In Skagway or Juneau Grandma?

Dee Mason: Skagway, that was in Skagway. That's when the ferries were first class. They came up. They had a big union meeting in Skagway. That's when the railroad was shut down.

Karen Brewster: Oh in the early 80s. Oh so what happened you dropped a tray of food?

Dee Mason: Yeah I had the head table to serve. And I served and I had one plate to serve and it belonged to the lawyer Gil Johnson the lawyer. I knew him. And he always kidded and hollered at me and I had his plate of food. And just as I was going to set it down in front of him, he upped with his hand and it went all over him and the plate went on the floor. (ha ha) Yeah, that happened that night at the banquet. Oh yeah, there was a lot of fun up there. Going to the Pack Train and people danced and they had a lot of fun, a lot of fun.

Karen Brewster: What was the Pack Train?

Dee Mason: That's a bar, a bar that's the bar up there, the Pack Train was.

Karen Brewster: That was the center of activity, huh?

Dee Mason: Well people go in there and hang out. I was in there one time and that's what they delivered...Benny Lingo airplaned from Indiana, I forget where, but that's where this plane come from and these two pilots brought it in one of these planes. And they were going to take them hunting. And the weather was so bad that they couldn't take them. And they had to get back to Indiana; I forget the name of the town now. And they hadn't gone hunting and McGee said to them, he went to the back room and he had a bag with some bow and arrows in it. He had an old moose head that hung up on the wall. I guess it must have been a hundred years old. He said, "Just aim at that and we'll take your picture shooting a moose. And they did. And you should have seen the moths. The moths flew out all over (ha ha) that was the two pilots that had brought Benny's plane in from Indiana. And then he said, "There

now we'll give you the pictures and you can take them home and show them that you shot a moose. And he did.

Karen Brewster: Good times, yeah?

Dee Mason: Oh yeah, they used to gamble back there in that back room there.

Karen Brewster: What kind of gambling?

Dee Mason: Oh I guess they shoot the dice, I guess that's what they did. Play poker. I don't know I guess that's what they did. Used to be quite a place the Pack Train was. Yeah, they did the city business there. I know you couldn't get in to see the city but here'd be the City Clerk, and here'd be the Sherriff Repoosee, George, and the City Clerk and Pat Carroll the Mayor. And I forget who else used to be in there. They used to go in there to play cards and to pay your bill over at City Hall you had to go over there and get em. Cause *** was there, he was the City Clerk. And you always had to go over to the bar and get him to pay your bills. That was in the early years when I was there. Oh yeah it was a long time but it was a lot of fun. People had a lot of fun there. A lot of good people there; then the years, through the years it's changed. It's changed now. It's not the same.

Karen Brewster: So since 1968 you've been in Juneau but you go back to Skagway?

Dee Mason: Yeah, I...

Karen Brewster: Do you still consider yourself from Skagway?

Dee Mason: Yeah, I don't go out cause I don't drink anymore. I don't drink. But I go out and visit but I don't go out at night. Very seldom do you see me out at night any more.

Karen Brewster: But you still have lots of friends there.

Dee Mason: Oh yeah I have a lot of friends there.

Karen Brewster: Well thank you so much for spending some time with me.

Dee Mason: Well I hope some (ha-ha)

Karen Brewster: Yeah. Do you have a favorite story that you always tell about living in Skagway that?

Dee Mason: (She shakes her head no.) I used to go to them all. When I was there we didn't have all these shops that they got up there now. You didn't have all that stuff when I lived up there. They had a few Kalors and the...Ricters, Kalors and Ricters and Dadmons. And they had the bakery there. *** used to be out on the corner, a grocery store. That's not there no more. There was a theater there. Then they put the Sourdough in there. And Morgan he had the bar. And then there were those two *** that they had there for a long time that were connected to the Pack Train. And then there was always the hardware. And then Beddingfree's office was right there, the office was in up there, in one of them. Of course they put some new stores in since I lived there. And then they had restaurants. They had two or three restaurants in there when I...that was always open. They did. And then they had Moe's Bar. But of course that closed up. There's no more bar. Pack Train is no more the Pack Train. Morgan's is no more Morgan's. All they've got is the Red Onion.

Karen Brewster: Yeah I've heard about Moe's Bar. That sounds like that was a pretty happening place.

Dee Mason: Huh?

Karen Brewster: Moe's Bar was a pretty happening place.

Dee Mason: Oh yeah, it was pretty active, yeah it was. I haven't been in there for a long time. Well she sold it you know. It belongs to Giovanni the Greek. But he didn't get a liquor license so he didn't open up a bar.

Karen Brewster: So do you have a special memory of Skagway? Your favorite memory?

Dee Mason: I don't know whether I do or not. I suppose if I thought long enough I would. I always like that...the kids...the kids were always able to go play and not be...never get in trouble or things. Kids grew up there, grew up and came out good kids. You've got one of the biggest lawyers in the state grew up there, R*** Brenna from Anchorage. He's a big corporate lawyer. You had Charlie Tunley who was a judge from Skagway. Many, many years he was a judge in Nome, Charlie was and he's retired now. And you raised some good kids, some very good kids in Skagway. It's been a good place for kids.

Karen Brewster: Good. Well Jean anything else you can think of to spark a story?

Jean: The years with her [] she lived every day

Karen Brewster: Yes she did live every day.

Dee Mason: Then they owned a lodge up there, her people did.

Karen Brewster: Well we hope to talk to her Dad. Well thank you very much. I'll let you go have your dinner.

Notations:

[] indicates gap in replay

*** indicates the recording was garbled