

RECORDED INTERVIEW OF KAY MONTOYA

CONDUCTED BY KAREN BREWSTER

IN SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

MAY 12, 2019

ORAL HISTORY 2017-01-107

KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
TRANSCRIBED BY RUTH SENSENIG

[00:00:00]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok, this is Karen Brewster, and today is May 12, 2019, and I'm here in Scottsdale, Arizona, with Kay Montoya. Kay Lamoreaux Montoya.

KAY MONTOYA: That's correct, yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: And this is for the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park Oral History Project. And Kay, thank you for letting me come visit you today.

KAY MONTOYA: Well, thank you, Karen. I appreciate the opportunity to talk about Skagway.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And I just want to say that there is some noise in the background for an oxygen machine, and that's just what that hum is so people know. And we need to keep that going.

KAY MONTOYA: Very good.

[00:00:40]KAREN BREWSTER: So were you born in Skagway?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. August 21, 1939.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: White Pass -- or, no. White Pass Hospital. Dr. Dahl.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And why was your family in Skagway?

KAY MONTOYA: My mother was also born in Skagway.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what was her name?

KAY MONTOYA: Her name was Christine Johnston Lamoreaux.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And then you have grandparent --

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: So your grandparents --

KAY MONTOYA: My grandmother came to Skagway during the gold rush in the late 1800's as a small child with her brother, Brett, and her mother and father. Her name was Ethel May West. And her, um, and her brother was Brett West.

KAREN BREWSTER: And so, was her father a gold rush stamper?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: And he brought his family?

KAY MONTOYA: He brought -- his family followed him. He went -- he came to Alaska first, and then they followed him. They were in San Francisco, and then they came up with Gram. My grandmother Ethel May, she came up with her -- her mother and father and brought her mother also. Her mother's mother. Her grandmother.

[00:02:15]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. So Ethel came as a child.

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KAY MONTOYA: Yes.  
KAREN BREWSTER: And so, who were Ethel's parents?  
KAY MONTOYA: Um --  
KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember their names?  
KAY MONTOYA: I -- West.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Somebody West.  
KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.  
KAREN BREWSTER: And so.  
KAY MONTOYA: Jacob. West, Jacob. You caught me off guard.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: I should've gotten that out.  
KAREN BREWSTER: That's ok. Um, so he came as a stamper, and then his wife and two children followed?  
KAY MONTOYA: That's right, with their mother.  
KAREN BREWSTER: With -- with the wife's mother?  
KAY MONTOYA: Right.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Wow. And where did they come from before San Francisco?  
KAY MONTOYA: They came across -- they came across the Plains in a covered wagon from Connecticut.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Mm. [00:03:02]Do you -- was there ever a family story about why he decided to leave Connecticut to go to the gold rush?  
KAY MONTOYA: No. I don't know that, if there is. Um, I know they spent quite a bit of time in San Francisco. They -- he built a home there. I don't know the address. But, of course, it's not there any longer, but --  
KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.  
KAY MONTOYA: So they were there for a good number of years, but then when the gold rush came, he decided to go to -- come to Alaska.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.  
KAY MONTOYA: He probably ended up in San Francisco for the gold rush at -- you know, earlier days in the 1800's.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right.  
KAY MONTOYA: I would guess.  
KAREN BREWSTER: That would've been the 1840's, I think.  
KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Or 1860's? I can't remember. Um, do you know what he did in San Francisco?  
KAY MONTOYA: He was a carpenter.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Um, well, that would make sense if he was already in San Francisco, going to Skagway and the Klondike was not as far.  
KAY MONTOYA: Right.  
[00:04:04]KAREN BREWSTER: And did he make his fortune in Skagway as he had hoped?  
KAY MONTOYA: No, he didn't. He started actually -- it's my understanding. I thought I had some pamphlets that they had a transfer, which would've been a horse and -- horse and carriage type thing, livery.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: At that time. They started that, and that's how they made their money.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Was hauling things from the beach up to the different places of Skagway and Dyea.

KAREN BREWSTER: So Mr. West, whatever his first name was, started that --

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- livery business?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And that would be a way to make a good living.

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: And were there stories about his experiences? Did your grandmother talk about it?

(Pause)

[00:04:55]KAREN BREWSTER: I just realized we weren't recording that part. Ok, we gotta go back a second.

KAY MONTOYA: Ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: I pushed the wrong button. Um, so your grandfather Louie Johnston, he came to be the agent for the Canadian Pacific.

KAY MONTOYA: He came to Skagway as the agent. He was hired in Canada and came to Skagway as a Canadian citizen and working for the Canadian Pacific, yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And um, that meant he did what? What was his job?

KAY MONTOYA: He took care of all the -- all the transactions between the ship and the shore. I imagine bills of lading and things like that that the ship required.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. And --

KAY MONTOYA: Any communications they had with the shore went through my grandfather.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And you said he continued in that job until he retired?

KAY MONTOYA: That's correct, yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then he moved to Anchorage?

KAY MONTOYA: And then he moved to Anchorage, right.

[00:05:52]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And I'd asked you to tell me a little bit about him, your memories of him.

KAY MONTOYA: He was born in Canada and came to Skagway. He met my grandmother and they got married. He was a father of eight children, four boys and four girls. Um, he was very much into family. He -- family was everything to him. Um, he was very strict, but he was also a teacher. He liked to teach his children. He didn't just tell 'em to do something. He would teach them why -- why they would do it, which I always admired in him. Um.

KAREN BREWSTER: And you said he liked sports?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes, he liked -- he was one of the few golfers in Skagway. They didn't play golf in Skagway, I don't think, during those times.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: But he did. I don't -- I'm not sure how he did it. He also played tennis. I'm not sure how he played tennis, either, but he did.

KAREN BREWSTER: Was there tennis courts?

KAY MONTOYA: I'm sorry?

KAREN BREWSTER: Were there tennis courts in Skagway?  
KAY MONTOYA: I've never seen one, but I don't know what -- I have no idea where they played, but I know he played tennis.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Where did he play golf?  
KAY MONTOYA: No idea.  
KAREN BREWSTER: You don't --  
KAY MONTOYA: Probably out in the field somewhere.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I was thinking, out on the Dyea Flats.  
KAY MONTOYA: I don't know if he went that far.  
KAREN BREWSTER: No? [00:07:08]Um, and so, then your grandmother that he married, Ethel May.  
KAY MONTOYA: Right.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Can you tell me about her?  
KAY MONTOYA: Um, personality-wise, she was a very sweet woman, but very strong-willed. She was a hard worker. Um, she was very much a lady. She came from a very good family, and they used to -- her family used to send her things in Skagway for all of her children. And she was a very good seamstress. She would take clothing they would send and make it into clothing for the -- for the kids, and make costumes. Whenever we wanted a costume or something, we always went to Gram, 'cause she knew just what to do. So she was very good at that. And she -- like I say, she was very much into family as well.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Well, eight chil -- she raised eight children.  
KAY MONTOYA: Yes.  
KAREN BREWSTER: That would definitely keep her busy.  
KAY MONTOYA: Definitely. [00:08:03]My sister and I lived with her for several years when we were younger.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Um, yeah, you said that your grandparents' house was right across the street from the Nord family?  
KAY MONTOYA: That's correct. Yes.  
KAREN BREWSTER: And so, that made me think you spent a lot of time at your grandparents' house.  
KAY MONTOYA: Definitely, yes.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Since you and Carl Nord were such good friends as children.  
KAY MONTOYA: We were good friends. Lou D and Carl. Yeah.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Well, and Lou D, Louis Selmer, how did he get the name Lou D?  
KAY MONTOYA: His name was Louis, I think, and we just called him Lou D. I don't know. Too many Louises around, maybe.  
KAREN BREWSTER: So that was just your guys' nickname for him, or did the whole town call him that?  
KAY MONTOYA: Um, I don't know. I've always called him that. I -- I think the whole town must've called him that, though.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.  
KAY MONTOYA: Because we -- they -- everybody recognizes who you're talking about, so.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. It's cute.  
KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

[00:08:58]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, and so, ok, that's your grandparents. So tell me about your parents.

KAY MONTOYA: Ok. Um, my dad came to Skagway as a young man. Uh, he was -- went to work as a janitor at the high school. He was single. Very much of an outdoorsman.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: And he met my mother, and they fell in love and got married.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um, do you know where he came from?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes, he came from Vashon Island, Washington.

KAREN BREWSTER: And do you know why he came to Skagway?

KAY MONTOYA: Um, I'm not sure if it was either -- I -- his sister and brother-in-law ended up owning the dairy there. Robertson was their name.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

KAY MONTOYA: And I'm not sure if he came before them or after them.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm. So you don't know exactly -- well, if they were there, he may have come --

KAY MONTOYA: That's right.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- to work with them?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: But otherwise -- 'cause it was, do you know what year, approximately, he came to Skagway?

KAY MONTOYA: Well, it would've been -- I was born in '39, so it'd had to have been in the '30's sometime.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: So it would've been '30's.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. But why he -- I mean, the gold rush was long over.

KAY MONTOYA: No. It could've been because his -- his sister was there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Right. [00:10:25]And then -- and your mother was born there, and --

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- grew up there.

KAY MONTOYA: That's correct.

KAREN BREWSTER: Can you tell me about her?

KAY MONTOYA: She was a hard worker. Um, my dad got sick when she was -- well, maybe we should start sooner. She -- ok. She was very active in basketball and in her school. Um, she took training as a beautician, but never -- never followed through with it. She decided that wasn't her -- wasn't her goal in life. So she and my dad started the transfer business. She worked in the transfer business. They also had taxicabs, and they had airline contacts with teletypes, and took the weather for the Weather Service, and just about everything. Transferred freight. Just about everything.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, and um, the name of that business was?

KAY MONTOYA: Alaska Transfer Company. They also delivered fuel oil.

KAREN BREWSTER: And they eventually also did -- didn't they have a little gas station?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes, and a gas station. My -- one of my aunts remembers my mother and her being out at a formal occasion, and somebody ran out of fuel oil. So they, in their

formals, went out and got the oil truck and drove it over and filled up the tanks, then went back to the party.

KAREN BREWSTER: So your mom did all that?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: She didn't just sit in the office.

KAY MONTOYA: No, no. Not at all. She was very actively involved in it. Mother was always very active, so.

[00:12:19]KAREN BREWSTER: Do you know why they decided to start such a business?

KAY MONTOYA: You know, I'm not sure. I think my grandparents might've had something to do with it. I think they encouraged her to do it. They encouraged them to start the company because there wasn't a -- there wasn't one in Skagway at the time, so there was a need.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: And they figured it would be a good thing.

KAREN BREWSTER: And your grandfather working for the steamship company may have noticed that there was a gap in services?

KAY MONTOYA: That's very possible, yes. Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

[00:12:49]KAY MONTOYA: Um, my grandparents owned a little grocery store, too. Um, I don't think they were -- I don't know how -- how long they were in business. But I -- this is when I was like real little, like four or five years old. I can remember -- maybe six years old. I can remember going into my piggy bank with a friend of mine and taking my -- the money I had in it, going down to their store and buying some candy. Well, the first thing that happened, of course, I was busted because it was my grandmother there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: So they say, "Where did you get the money?" And I said, "Out of my piggy bank." And they said, "Well, you know, that piggy bank belongs to you and Karen."

KAREN BREWSTER: Your sister.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. Well, like I said, I got busted.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you didn't get to buy the candy?

KAY MONTOYA: I bought the candy, but uh, I didn't buy any more.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember the name of their little store or where it was?

KAY MONTOYA: Johnston's, I think. It was on the corner of, uh, what's the street next to -- next to Broadway?

KAREN BREWSTER: State.

KAY MONTOYA: State Street and probably would've been about 5th or 6th.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. I'm assuming you mean the street towards the --

KAY MONTOYA: West.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- west, yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. [00:14:08]Um, yeah, so we forgot to mention that yes, you have a sister named Karen.

KAY MONTOYA: That's correct, yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Had a sister named Karen.

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: And it was just the two of you, right?

KAY MONTOYA: That's correct, yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And what's the age difference?

KAY MONTOYA: She's a year, month, and a day older than I am.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, that's pretty close.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. We were always very close.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And unfortunately, she's not around anymore.

KAY MONTOYA: No, she passed away a couple years ago.

[00:14:32]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Um, so I was going to ask about, um, so the -- the transfer company was located on Broadway in this building here, right? (Looking at photo) (IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?) In that building?

KAY MONTOYA: That's correct.

KAREN BREWSTER: Or that building?

KAY MONTOYA: That building.

KAREN BREWSTER: The Verbauwhedes. What's now called the Verbauwhedes Cigar and Confectionary Shop.

KAY MONTOYA: Ok. That looks exactly like it, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then, did you live upstairs?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes, I had -- my bedroom was upstairs. We had -- there was an apartment behind it that had two bedrooms. My sister had one of the bedrooms, and my parents had the other bedroom. And then, of course, the living room and kitchen, etc. And then there was another room upstairs, so I made that into my bedroom.

KAREN BREWSTER: Pretty tight quarters? Was it pretty small?

KAY MONTOYA: It was -- I guess. I remember the -- they had a tuberculosis sanatorium there, and somebody escaped from the sanatorium, and we had a window that faced the mountains. And I don't know why this fellow escaped. Like I say, I was real young. But he was -- he ran up into the mountains for some reason. And the people were looking for him. You could see flashlights all over the mountains looking for him at night. And our window faced the mountain, and I remember my sister and I were very scared that he would come and climb in that window. Maybe that's why I decided to move on the other side of the house, I don't know.

[00:16:03]KAREN BREWSTER: So tell me about this TB sanatorium. I didn't know there was one in Skagway.

KAY MONTOYA: Yes, there was one. There was one during the big tuberculosis epidemic in Alaska. It was after -- after the war because there were a lot of barracks and things around. And they built it in the barracks.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: Up past the dairy. Do you know where that is up the road? Past the dairy?

KAREN BREWSTER: Near the bridge across the river? Over there?

KAY MONTOYA: Exactly.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: And up by the -- there may still be Quonset huts up there, I don't know.

KAREN BREWSTER: I don't think so. But that far north end of town?

KAY MONTOYA: That's right.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Huh.

KAY MONTOYA: There was a tuberculosis -- and they brought people in from all over Alaska to -- to the hospital there.

[00:16:53]KAREN BREWSTER: And so, who staffed the hospital? Were there doctors and nurses there?

KAY MONTOYA: I don't know that much about it. Uh, I got tuberculosis when I was eight.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: And I kind of always figured that it was because my parents had taxicabs, and we picked up -- they picked up people from the airport, you know, to take 'em to the sanatorium. And those were days, they weren't as particular. They didn't realize, you know, that things were so -- you could catch things so easily. And I ended up with tuberculosis.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh. And then were you treated at that sanatorium?

KAY MONTOYA: No, I was sent Outside for two years.

KAREN BREWSTER: To where?

KAY MONTOYA: From the time I was eight 'til I was ten.

KAREN BREWSTER: To Seattle, or -- ?

KAY MONTOYA: To Seattle. Laurel Beach Sanatorium.

KAREN BREWSTER: That must've been hard to be away for two years at that age.

KAY MONTOYA: It was. Well, it changed me, probably. I'm much -- I'm much different than I would've been had I lived in Skagway. At eight years old, when you have to be self-sufficient, you learn a lot of things that maybe you shouldn't learn 'til you're nineteen.

[00:18:02]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, did your parents come visit you?

KAY MONTOYA: Once in a while, yeah. But it was difficult for them, too. They had a transfer company to run. My dad got sick as well, and he -- he spent some time at that same sanatorium. I didn't see much of him, though, because he was in kind of a different area than I was, but --

KAREN BREWSTER: And so, he got TB as well?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. I had a different kind of TB. I had what they call millinery (miliary) TB, and it used to be called galloping consumption. If it didn't kill you within the first two or three months, it -- you could be cured completely. So I was cured completely.

KAREN BREWSTER: Good. And what about your dad?

KAY MONTOYA: My dad had the different kind of TB, and he had re-occurrence of it. He ended up having a lung removed, and it -- it really kind of blew our family apart.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I was thinking, for them to come to Seattle to visit you in that time period --

KAY MONTOYA: Was rare.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- was very challenging and expensive for them.

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Because as we said, no road to Skagway. No ferries yet. So how would they have traveled?

KAY MONTOYA: They were the agents for the Alaska Coastal Ellis Airlines, and so, they could travel with Alaska Coastal.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: And I'm sure they must've had privileges, too, with the other airlines. I don't know what they consisted of, but they might've had privileges.

KAREN BREWSTER: So --

KAY MONTOYA: Discounts, anyway.

[00:19:37]KAREN BREWSTER: When you went out to Seattle, do you remember how you went? Like, you went on Alaska Coastal?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. I -- yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: To Juneau? Or all the way?

KAY MONTOYA: To Juneau. And then I got on a bigger plane and went -- went to Seattle. I was unconscious half of the time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh no, you were that sick?

KAY MONTOYA: Very sick.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

KAY MONTOYA: I can remember waking up on the airplane once and saying I couldn't breathe.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: And so, they gave me some oxygen. You know, I had dropped the oxygen mask.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: Then I went back to sleep, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: And did your mother take you?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes, she went with me.

KAREN BREWSTER: She escorted you.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Wow, that must've been hard, to have her leave.

KAY MONTOYA: I imagine it was very difficult for -- [00:20:25]I'll tell you what, though. There's -- speaking of Skagway, since we're talking about Skagway. This -- there's one thing about Skagway. It had a heart.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: It, um -- at Christmas time, when I was down there by myself, I received this great big, huge box. And what everybody in Skagway had done, or many in Skagway had done, is buy me a present or make me a present and wrapped it up and sent this big, huge box.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: So there must've been thirty presents for me to open.

KAREN BREWSTER: How nice.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, it was. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: So nobody can tell me that Skagway didn't have a heart, because they did. And a very dear friend of mine that's still -- I still see today, she told me that in her church, they used to pray for me. The Catholic church used to say a prayer for me, which I thought was also very --

KAREN BREWSTER: That's very nice.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, as you say, it shows the small town --

KAY MONTOYA: I was one of theirs, and they were taking care of me.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. [00:21:21]And as we talked about before we were recording, that the small-town-ness of Skagway. What did you say? It's a small town that's a big town.

KAY MONTOYA: It's a -- it's a small, big town.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. Well, you know, that book, "It Takes a Village." Whenever I hear that title, I think of Skagway, because that's what Skagway was. It -- they -- you couldn't -- if you were little, running down the street, and you fell down and started crying, somebody'd come out of a house somewhere, wipe off your little -- put a bandaid on, and send you on. You know, that's just the way it -- everybody took -- everybody took care of everybody, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: That's the way Skagway was.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. And um, yeah. There -- I don't know what the population would've been.

KAY MONTOYA: Six hundred.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And then when World War II came around, did things change?

KAY MONTOYA: Um, well, this was probably after the World War II because I was eight years old. World War II -- I was born in '39. World War II started, what, '40? '42?

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, Pearl Harbor was, what, '41?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So, yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: So that was pretty much, uh -- Well, it was the military --

KAREN BREWSTER: So '39 -- so you were gone from --

KAY MONTOYA: From -- well, I was eight, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: '47?

KAY MONTOYA: Oh, '47 to '49.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Ok. So you -- you remember, you know, that -- being taken care of, and everybody being --

KAY MONTOYA: Oh, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: That was all --

KAY MONTOYA: Oh, definitely.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- before that, even.

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: And uh, I used to receive letters all the time from people in Skagway, just -- just being nice, to let me know that I -- you know, I still had family somewhere, friends somewhere.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: So it was a -- it was a reassuring -- I think that it helped you not lose your self-confidence, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Well, yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: You knew that somewhere out there, there was people that cared about you.

KAREN BREWSTER: Which is important.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

[00:23:38]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, but so, what do you remember about those World War II years?

KAY MONTOYA: I didn't --

KAREN BREWSTER: There was little -- you were young, but you must have some memories.

KAY MONTOYA: I can remember seeing the soldiers marching on the street. And I also remember my mother taking us on a picnic over to Smugglers Cove. And we, at the time, I don't know if it's still there or not, there was what they called a swinging bridge. And it went from the shore over to the mountain, over the river.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: And it swung as you walked, because it was just kind of like a rope bridge. And we went to the bridge, and the army wasn't going to let us cross it. And my mother said, "Listen, I've been in this country all my life, and I'm not gonna not -- I am going to take my children over where we used to picnic. And you're not going to stop me." And I can remember walking across that bridge, um, kind of wondering what was going to happen. But we made it. We had our picnic and came back. But uh, it was a pretty scary moment.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, the soldiers didn't come after you?

KAY MONTOYA: No, they didn't.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: They didn't come after us with guns, but we probably disrupted their entire day.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, and in some of those memories that are from Carl Nord's books, there are some other kids writing about the trail to Dewey Lake being blocked.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: That the soldiers were not letting people leave the heart of Skagway.

KAY MONTOYA: That's right.

KAREN BREWSTER: Which I didn't know.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. I think -- I don't think I realized as much as -- because I was so young.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: So my world pretty much revolved right around my home.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: And I can see things on the street, maybe. I remember the fire department. They had a fire or something, and I remember an army fire truck going by. And a fellow lost his hat. And I ran out on the street and picked it up, and my mother let me take it back to him, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: So, but that's about all, you know.

[00:25:35]KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember if there was much interaction between the army guys and the local residents?

KAY MONTOYA: Well, my aunt married one of 'em, so that was --

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Do you know the story of how they met?

KAY MONTOYA: No, I don't. I know he was from Texas, and they met and went back to Texas after. She was the only one of the eight children that left Alaska, and she went back to Texas with him.

KAREN BREWSTER: 'Cause she married a Texas guy?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: But yeah, you don't remember, like, would the army guys come to your house? Or, I mean --

KAY MONTOYA: No, I don't.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: You know, we were always -- my parents and grandparents always protected us from things. We never knew of any controversy at all. We've only found out in later years that there was any controversy, you know?

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: And they protected us. We didn't -- we didn't -- weren't aware of it, so.

[00:26:31]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Well, and as I say, there's a difference -- like as children, you wouldn't know if the army guys were in the local bars drinking and causing trouble. You wouldn't know that.

KAY MONTOYA: But I expect they probably were.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: I expect that it did disrupt the -- I think there was a lot of hard feelings, uh, that may have come from it. They had buildings all over town that were abandoned after they left.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: That were kind of eyesores.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember where some of those were, or -- ?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. There were -- some of them were down by the south end of the airport. And then the sanatorium that they built there was all Quonset huts from the -- no, they weren't Quonset huts, they were square buildings. And there must have been about -- I'd say there's eight or ten of them. That's probably where they were housed.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. And then you remember there being a lot of Quonset huts?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, there were Quonset huts here and there.

[00:27:33]KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Do you remember what happened to those buildings? Like, did the Quonset huts get torn down, or did people in town use them?

KAY MONTOYA: There were a few that were left, I think, and people in town used 'em. There was some -- there were a lot of vacant buildings, though, that nobody used. To this day, I don't know what happened to 'em. You know, I don't know if they were ever just torn down or what. But they were big buildings, too. They weren't just, uh -- You know, they were good sized.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: Long, typical military buildings.

KAREN BREWSTER: They may have been barracks in some cases?

KAY MONTOYA: Well, some of them were barracks, up north of Skagway. I would say, yes, there were barracks.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: But now, the ones down on the south part of the airport, uh, I think they were supplies.

KAREN BREWSTER: Mm. So when you were a kid, did your parents say, don't go over to that part, to stay away 'cause it was the military or anything like that?

KAY MONTOYA: No. Our world revolved around my grandmother's and the Nords' and the Selmers'.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: You know I -- we didn't -- we didn't -- we thought our world was big, so.

[00:28:37]KAREN BREWSTER: So where was your grandparents' house? What street?

KAY MONTOYA: It was up on -- it was right next to the airport.

KAREN BREWSTER: So Alaska Street?

KAY MONTOYA: Probably.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's the one that goes right along the airport.

KAY MONTOYA: Ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: 'Cause -- and then, do you remember what the numbered cross street was?

KAY MONTOYA: It was the same cross street as Carl's (Nord).

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. But so, I was just wondering, if you guys were at the transfer company store down on Broadway, and you had to walk to your grandparents' --

KAY MONTOYA: Well, that -- no, this was later.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: We had another -- we lived across from my aunt up by the school for a while.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: Actually, we should go back further than that. When my dad and mom -- when we were little kids, they had a house on the beach, and my sister and I were about -- very young. Maybe two or three years old. And I think they decided it was too dangerous. So they moved the house up to -- up to -- well, the only way I can identify it is about a block from the school.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: And uh, that's where we lived until probably we were, oh, six or seven.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: And that's when they started the transfer.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And then, that's when you -- so then once they started the transfer, you moved into that building?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

[00:30:06]KAREN BREWSTER: Now, did they own that building?

KAY MONTOYA: They bought -- No, not immediately when they started it. We stayed with my grand -- grandparents, and then they finally made it livable, and then we went and moved down there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um, so do you know if they owned that building where the transfer company was?

KAY MONTOYA: I think they did, yes. Because I think when, uh, when they sold it, they sold it to Bill Feero, who just took over the transfer company and the airlines and --

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you know what year that would've been about?

KAY MONTOYA: I don't know. I don't know. I'm getting into some things here I'm guessing, and I don't think I should guess on this.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Ok. So I didn't know if they sold the business because they moved from Skagway, and then you would know what year that was.

KAY MONTOYA: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: No.

[00:30:58]KAY MONTOYA: My parents got a divorce.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: And my mother went to work for the post office.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: And my dad went to work for Picada, John Picada (sp?), the electric company.

KAREN BREWSTER: So he stayed in Skagway?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. He built another house then down on 1st Avenue, a log cabin on 1st Avenue across from the store down there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: That was out of army barracks, come to think of it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, that's what he built it out of. It was like a -- a U shape.

KAREN BREWSTER: Huh.

KAY MONTOYA: And he built -- he built a boat in there. He used to build boats.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

KAY MONTOYA: As a hobby.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

KAY MONTOYA: And then he built this cabin in the middle of that U shape, and that's where he lived.

KAREN BREWSTER: Cool. [00:32:00]Um, so tell me more about living with your grandparents. That must've been fun.

KAY MONTOYA: It was an experience. I think, uh, like I say, my grandfather was a teacher. I mean, he wasn't a teacher teacher, but he liked to -- he liked children to learn.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: And so, of course, he was insistent that my sister and I learn. And he wasn't the gentlest person in the world. You know, if he taught you to sweep a floor, you learned to sweep the floor. You know, there was no -- he didn't cut anybody any slack. But my grandmother, of course, was all loving. You know, she was -- she was such a sweet lady. She was always watching out for us. And my grandfather was a good man, too. He was -- nothing wrong with him.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Just a different generation.

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And so, you were -- 'cause those pictures of you with Carl Nord and Lou D Selmer, you and your sister are what, like, five, six years old, maybe?

KAY MONTOYA: We were probably, yeah, six, maybe seven.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. Yeah, I'd say five or six. Or four, five, or six, yeah.

[00:33:17]KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. So there's pictures of you guys, you know, on bicycles and things. So what kind of things did you guys do for fun as kids?

KAY MONTOYA: We used to do just about anything we could think of. Uh, we'd dig forts. We'd -- we would -- you know, typical kids. Climb trees. My sister and I were kind of tomboys, so it worked out fine.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: Um, just anything you could think of, we'd do.

KAREN BREWSTER: You were, like I say, riding bicycles?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, riding bicycles.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um, did you go out to the river?

KAY MONTOYA: No, we never went near the river.

KAREN BREWSTER: Were you told not to?

KAY MONTOYA: I don't remember being told not to, but I know we never did. So we must've been told something.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: Somewhere along the line.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what about up to, like, Dewey Lakes?

KAY MONTOYA: Well, after we got older, we used to go up there all the time. As a matter a fact, as teenagers, we used to walk up there every day, Lower Lake.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: But when we were little, we just -- we would go up there -- I remember several times going up there accompanied by our parents, but not by ourselves.

[00:34:27]KAREN BREWSTER: And so, when you went as a family, what would you do up there? Fish -- was there fishing?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, fishing and take dinner up there, and light a campfire and roast marshmallows or hot dogs or whatever.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: They had little cabins there, you know, that you could --

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, really?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. I remember one time we went up there and spent the night with my mom and dad.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I didn't know they had cabins up there.

KAY MONTOYA: At one time, they did. They were just little old shacks, you know. Probably left over from the gold rush, I'd guess.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I don't know.

KAY MONTOYA: They must've been.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: Um.

[00:35:02]KAREN BREWSTER: What about in the winter? What kind of things did you guys do for fun?

KAY MONTOYA: In the winter? Oh, winters were fun. We used to ice skate, of course, and my parents used to take a sled and put it behind a car. Wicky board (sp?), they call it, you know, going to sled behind the car. Uh, we didn't ski. No skiing. Course, there's indoor things, too. We always learned to put -- do puzzles and play cards and a lot of indoor things.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm-mm. And were there sports at the school? 'Cause you had mentioned your mom played basketball.

KAY MONTOYA: Yes, we did, too. My -- my mom played basketball, and my sister and I played basketball.

KAREN BREWSTER: And that was by high school, though, yeah?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. Yes. That was high school, right.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: Elementary school, our main things were like the carnival. The Halloween carnival was always a big deal.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, tell me about --

KAY MONTOYA: Christmas pageants.

[00:36:06]KAREN BREWSTER: Tell me about Halloween.

KAY MONTOYA: Um, the carnival was -- the gyms, they used to have separate booths in the gyms. And different people would set up these different booths. And it would cost you tickets, or you buy tickets. That was how they supported some of the projects for the school. You'd buy tickets to participate in these different -- throwing a ball, or doing something like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: Typical carnival stuff, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And did you do a play or something for Halloween, or that was just for Christmas?

KAY MONTOYA: Usually, just Christmas. Yeah. We did a lot of that kind of stuff. We had a teacher, well, this is now getting to high school. We had a teacher called Mr. Swick, and he was very good at -- at doing things like, he -- he was in a history-type teaching position, but he did things like, um, musicals and stuff like that, which were really kind of fun.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: Things that we had never done before. And so, that was in high school.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

KAY MONTOYA: That was fun.

[00:37:17]KAREN BREWSTER: And it does seem like Halloween was a big event for the community.

KAY MONTOYA: It was. It was. And just -- Everybody'd go trick-or-treating. Course, you could go trick-or-treating up there and never worried -- worried about a thing, you know. There was no crime. The older kids always kinda took care of the younger kids, because the younger kid was usually a cousin or a brother of theirs, you know, or sister.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: So they were always pretty good to the younger kids. Nobody picked on 'em.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's good. So -- but there was some pranking that happened?

KAY MONTOYA: Some pranking, but I don't think it was ever real serious pranking. The boys -- the senior boys always used to take the bicycle rack at the school and put it on top of the school. That was -- every year, it was just a tradition.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: They wouldn't even try to stop 'em. They'd just go ahead and take it down the next day.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then, in one of those memories, it's something about the light bulbs, the streetlight bulbs?

KAY MONTOYA: Oh, um, well, yeah. We used to do that. Turn the lights off people.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you'd climb up the light poles?

KAY MONTOYA: Not me. I didn't ever do that. Some of the boys may have. I didn't go that far. But I did go along with some kids one time that we turned them off at the breakers.

KAREN BREWSTER: Where was that?

KAY MONTOYA: In Skagway. The breakers.

KAREN BREWSTER: No, I mean, where did you find the breakers? Were they in a building?

KAY MONTOYA: They were in a box on the outside of a house.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, you'd -- you'd turn off the house's lights?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, I thought you meant all the lights in town.

KAY MONTOYA: Oh, no, no, no. Just the house lights.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, yes.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's why now they put locks on breaker boxes.

KAY MONTOYA: That's probably right. I think the worst thing we ever did, though, was walk along the top of the fence, you know. We didn't do -- there wasn't the vandalism like you see today. Somebody's window might get soaped, but, you know, a little hot water, you'd get rid of that. It's not a big deal.

[00:39:12]KAREN BREWSTER: Right. And it -- it sounds like it was sort of a tradition in Skagway, so people were expecting some pranks on Halloween?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, I think they kind of did. Um, they could've probably stopped the boys from putting the bike rack on the top of the school, but it was just something that they did, and they just let 'em go ahead and do it. It was no harm.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. I can't imagine how they got it up on top of there.

KAY MONTOYA: I don't know, either. Probably hoisted it with something.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: I was never witness to it. I just knew it always happened.

KAREN BREWSTER: You were a good girl, you didn't do those things?

KAY MONTOYA: I guess so.

[00:39:48]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, and you had mentioned your grandmother being a good seamstress.

KAY MONTOYA: Very good, yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember what kind of costumes?

KAY MONTOYA: Well, she made her own costume for -- she was in the Days of '98, you know, the little skit that they had.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

KAY MONTOYA: And she made her own costume. Uh, which was -- you'd have to see it. Looked exactly like a mining woman would, you know, with the -- the tan-colored stuff. And it was --

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: She just made good costumes. She had a good imagination. I think she always wanted to be an actress, because she had a really good imag -- she used to read the -- the Dan McGrew, at the --

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, the poem -- um --

KAY MONTOYA: Soapy --

KAREN BREWSTER: "The Killing of Dan McGrew" or what -- Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: Right.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: "Bunch of the boys were whooping it up in the Malamute Saloon." I still remember it from listening to her.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. You didn't have to memorize it in school?

KAY MONTOYA: No.

[00:40:44]KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I was wondering if you remember any of your Halloween costumes, or some favorites that you had growing up?

KAY MONTOYA: No, I don't remember. She always whipped something together, you know. It was --

KAREN BREWSTER: Did she ever earn any money doing that for other people?

KAY MONTOYA: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: She --

KAY MONTOYA: No, it was just a -- like I say, she had relatives that used to send her used clothing that they had, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: And -- to -- for the kids.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, well, with --

KAY MONTOYA: Then she'd rework it, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: With eight children, she probably didn't have time --

KAY MONTOYA: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- to be doing much work out of the home.

KAY MONTOYA: No, she didn't. [00:41:21]She had on top of the -- she had a big, huge garden every year. She had chickens in her backyard that she took care of. You know, she was pretty self-sufficient.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: They had this big root cellar underneath their house that she would put all her canned goods and stuff down there. Cool -- it was cool down there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Do you remember what kinds of things she grew?

KAY MONTOYA: Oh, yeah. Carrots. She grew the most beautiful carrots in the world. Peas, potatoes, uh, that's all I can remember. I think that was all that ever interested me, so that's all I can remember. We used to sneak by the -- we used to sneak in the pea patch. On the airport side of the pea patch, we'd go over there and lay on the ground, and eat peas. She could never figure out why the peas never grew on the airport side of her patch.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did you leave the pods attached, or did you take the pods off?

KAY MONTOYA: We took the pods off.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: And then, we used to go to her yard, get her carrots. She had huge carrots. They would be about, oh, probably eight inches tall and about four or five inches around.

And we'd get a carrot, and we'd carry that carrot all day long with us. We'd get hungry, we'd take it out of our pocket and chew on it a while.

KAREN BREWSTER: Then put it back and keep --

KAY MONTOYA: Put it back in our pocket, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, it's good snacking.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, it was. Healthy.

KAREN BREWSTER: Healthy, that's for sure. Yeah. [00:42:54]Did you ever help her in the garden?

KAY MONTOYA: I don't think. We probably just --

KAREN BREWSTER: You didn't go help her dig potatoes?

KAY MONTOYA: No, we were just takers. Just --

KAREN BREWSTER: 'Cause I think it's fun to go dig potatoes. It's like an Easter egg hunt or something.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So I didn't know if that would be something kids would do or not.

KAY MONTOYA: I do remember digging potatoes a couple of times. I don't think I was on the main page, but I was just kind of following around, helping the adults.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: And the chickens. She used to let us feed the chickens once in a while.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh. You didn't have to clean up after them?

KAY MONTOYA: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: But your family, your parents, your mom, didn't -- they -- did they have a garden?

KAY MONTOYA: No. Mom never had time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: She's, uh --

[00:43:38]KAREN BREWSTER: Well, it's interesting that they -- you know, part of their transport business was, they had the gas pump.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: How many cars were there in Skagway that needed gasoline?

KAY MONTOYA: Um, there must've been quite a few. I mean, not a lot, but I imagine there were quite a few. I can remember my sister and I used to go out and pump gas.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, you did?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: It wasn't self-serve back then.

KAY MONTOYA: No. No, no. No, you had to go do it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: And we used to go pump gas every once in a while, but it -- the pump wasn't busy all the time, but I remember it being busy like, in an hour, you might have one or two customers, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. 'Cause I was thinking, yeah that, you know, the highway to Whitehorse wasn't built. And where were people driving?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, just around town.

[00:44:29]KAREN BREWSTER: Was the road to Dyea --

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- drivable?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: So would you guys go out there?

KAY MONTOYA: We had a cabin out there, a beautiful log cabin that was -- that my dad and mom built. It was built out of natural logs that were skinned, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: I remember them building the logs -- I remember having to help them skin the logs and then put the stuffing in between 'em.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right.

KAY MONTOYA: And they built a great, big, huge fireplace that took up one -- one end of the building. A granite fireplace. Beautiful. Matter of fact, I heard it burned down. And the only thing left was the fireplace.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm. So was that -- were those rocks they collected locally?

KAY MONTOYA: I guess from the riverbed.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: 'Cause I remember them being round, granite rocks.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow. So did you guys spend a lot of time out there?

KAY MONTOYA: We used to. As we grew up in our teens, we used to have to spend every summer over there. My mother was taking us out of the big city, you know. And that's when they had the -- Mac Moe (Malcolm Moe) had his horses over there. And I used to go and catch one of his horses, Rusty, and lead it way upcountry. And then, I'd jump on Rusty's back, bareback, and he'd run as fast as he could back down toward the beach. But if I'd start to fall off, Rusty would stop and let me get back on, and then he'd take off again. And I used to do that all day long.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

[00:45:58]KAY MONTOYA: And I can remember walking through the woods, and the trees, you know, would be right up next to the woods. Cut right through the wooded areas.

(phone rings in the background)

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: And uh, I -- we were taught to whistle or make lots of noise.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: 'Cause there were bears around there, too.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

(Kay's husband's voice on the phone in the background)

KAY MONTOYA: But my -- I was much more adventuresome than my sister was, so most of these things, I did by myself.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: In my teens.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

[00:46:24]KAY MONTOYA: I remember one time, we were -- wanted to go to a dance in Skagway, my sister and I did. We must've been fourteen or fifteen, or fifteen -- something like that. Mom said, "Sure, but you're going to have to get yourself over there." So we had one bike. Have you seen the Dyea Road?

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: It's up and down and around, of course.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: So she and I rid -- rode that bike, both of us on that bike, all the way from Dyea to Skagway to go to the dance.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh my goodness.

KAY MONTOYA: She'd ride me for a while, then I'd ride her for a while. By the time we got to Skagway, we skipped the dance and just went to bed. We were too tired.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. You were exhausted.

KAY MONTOYA: I think that was probably her ultimate goal.

KAREN BREWSTER: Your mom figured, this is the only time you'll try this.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: I'm going to take a pause because, um, the phone rang and your --

KAY MONTOYA: Ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- husband's on the phone, and we don't need to record that.

KAY MONTOYA: No.

(Pause)

[00:47:15]KAREN BREWSTER: Go back now. Ok, so we were talking about being out in Dyea and riding your bike back to town.

KAY MONTOYA: Right. Right.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, it's a long way -- the road now is obviously much better, but it was probably a pretty rough dirt road?

KAY MONTOYA: It was. It was gravel, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: Rocks. It was a tough -- it was tough. Like I say, we got to Skagway, we were worn out. We just -- probably lucky to have gotten there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And were you all dressed up in dresses?

KAY MONTOYA: No. We still had our home in Skagway.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: You know, so we would go to that and change our clothes and everything. But we got there and decided we'd had enough. Had enough fun for the day.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. [00:47:56]Now, did your mom have a garden out in Dyea? Or that was in Skagway?

KAY MONTOYA: Uh --

KAREN BREWSTER: No, your mom -- it was your grandmother who had the garden.

KAY MONTOYA: No, she had it in her yard.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: You said your mom didn't have time for gardening.

KAY MONTOYA: No. No. But they did raise a couple of calves one time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: As a matter of fact, I -- I took care of them as a 4-H project.

KAREN BREWSTER: Mm.

KAY MONTOYA: Um, and they were in -- we kept 'em in Dyea.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: In a corral in Dyea. And I'd have to go out every day and feed 'em, a mixture of milk and stuff, so mix it up and take it out and feed 'em.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I was wondering what you fed them.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, it was -- some kind of grain and some kind of milk.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm. And then you raised them to a certain age, and then --

KAY MONTOYA: Well, all of a sudden, they disappeared.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: And I was -- nobody ever told me what happened to 'em. But I expect they went into my grandmother's freezer.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yes. Yes. And do you know where the calves came from? Like, how did they get to Skagway?

KAY MONTOYA: They had 'em shipped in from Juneau.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm. Interesting.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

[00:49:07]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, see, I don't know Dyea, and I don't know the cabins out there. But can you describe where yours was?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. It was over on the west mountain, um, down on the beach. Um, it's full of trees now.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: But it used to be right on the edge of the trees. It was right on the edge of the mountain. On the west side.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Um, and it was a beautiful cabin. It was small, but it was beautiful. And I guess it's -- I was told that Blanchard brought it -- bought it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Somebody -- one of the Blanchards bought it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: But then it burned down.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: The only thing that we -- matter of fact, we tried to -- we were in Skagway one time and tried to find it. And it was so different now, I couldn't -- there's no landmarks anymore.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: 'Cause it used to be right where there was an old barn there, and that's where they kept the horses. Wasn't too far from our cabin.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And that's where you said Moe, Mac Moe --

KAY MONTOYA: Mac Moe, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: They had three horses. And then there was another horse there, too.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

[00:50:33]KAY MONTOYA: Well, I was talking about the horses, though. Rusty and I got along well.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yes.

KAY MONTOYA: But I started, of course, spoiling him like you do with animals.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: And I would take over -- I'd walk over to where their barn was, with sugar to give to him. Well, they got so they'd see me coming, and they'd come stampeding

over toward me. And they just scared me half to death. So I climbed a tree, and I wouldn't come down 'til the horses left. My sister -- we had a windmill-type thing, with a platform on the top.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: So my sister would get up on the top of that platform, and she'd say, "How are you?" And I'd yell back, "I'm doing ok." But we had to wait 'til the horses left because they were looking for that sugar, and they scared me.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yes. The horses were not in a corral --

KAY MONTOYA: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- they were free roaming?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. Yep, they were wherever they wanted to be.

[00:51:25]KAREN BREWSTER: Now, that windmill thing. What was that?

KAY MONTOYA: It was for power.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok. And your dad built that?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. My dad was very clever, building things. He built several fishing boats.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, you mentioned that.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And so that windmill gave you electricity? Or --

KAY MONTOYA: Yes, some power. I'm not sure where it -- I know they built it, and I know they put it up, but I don't ever remember getting electricity from it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

KAY MONTOYA: But they might've gotten some electricity for certain things. I don't know.

KAREN BREWSTER: What about water? Did you have water at the cabin?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes, but that was a pump. You know, you put water in, you prime it, and you pump it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. (Cough) Excuse me. So um --

KAY MONTOYA: We had water, but it was a pump.

KAREN BREWSTER: So coming out from a well in the ground somewhere?

KAY MONTOYA: In the ground, it was -- right.

[00:52:17]KAREN BREWSTER: Uh, were there other people living out in cabins out in Dyea when you were out there?

KAY MONTOYA: There were. There was an old hermit that lived south of us. I can't remember his name right now. He lived down there by himself, and Jim Alexander used to go down and help him a lot. As a matter of fact, when we were little kids, when they were building their cabin in Dyea, Jim Alexander was about fourteen, and he was down with the old hermit. And the old hermit sent him up, and he used to sit outside our little tent we had and build smudge fires to keep the mosquitoes away. So that's how I remember Jim. Jim used to sit there and build little smudge fires for us.

KAREN BREWSTER: And that's how your sister met him. 'Cause they eventually were married, right?

KAY MONTOYA: Right. Well, he was about ten years -- he's about ten years older than we were. So um, we've known each other all our lives.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: You know, both of us have, so.

[00:53:17]KAREN BREWSTER: So can you tell me about him and who he was and what he did in Skagway?

KAY MONTOYA: He was called -- they used to call him Jimmy the Bake. I think -- I don't think I should -- I don't think I should because I don't know enough of that for sure.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: But uh, but he was kind of a loner, and he used to spend a lot of time in Dyea. Al Nelson, that was the name of the cabin.

KAREN BREWSTER: Of the hermit?

KAY MONTOYA: South of -- very south of the beach.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Al Nelson. He used to go over to Al Nelson's cabin all the time. He used to go hunting all the time, and uh, he went into the navy as a young man. It was a funny thing, when I was in the hospital in Seattle, he came to see me as a sailor.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, neat.

KAY MONTOYA: Isn't that sweet?

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Um, but did -- was he from Skagway originally, or he was born there?

KAY MONTOYA: As far as I know he was born there. He was always there as long as I knew.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: You know, I don't know, but.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, 'cause there's that picture you have of him standing by a truck in Skagway, so I kinda wondered what he did, workwise and stuff.

KAY MONTOYA: He was a longshoreman.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: And um, he was a very responsible person. He saved several people's lives. He went into the navy and became a -- oh, I think, like a frogman, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: And he used -- he saved several lives in the water in Skagway. Um, very much of an outdoor person. He used to go hunting and fishing and, you know, all that.

[00:54:57]KAREN BREWSTER: And did he continue to -- did he have a cabin in Dyea that -- where he lived?

KAY MONTOYA: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: Or he just came out to visit?

KAY MONTOYA: Oh, no. He used to go down to Al Nelson's all the time. Al Nelson was the hermit down there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Right.

KAY MONTOYA: And he used to go down to help Al all the time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. But he didn't have his own cabin?

KAY MONTOYA: No. He was just a young guy.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: He was a teenager.

[00:55:15]KAREN BREWSTER: But later, after Jim and your sister were married, did they live out at Dyea?

KAY MONTOYA: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: No. They lived in Anchorage. In Skagway, I'm sorry.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Eventually in Anchorage?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. Eventually in Anchorage.

KAREN BREWSTER: Where he lives now, but yeah. Ok. And so, when they were married, what kind of job did he have?

KAY MONTOYA: He was a longshoreman.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, that's right. You said longshoreman, ok. Um, ok. [00:55:43]And so, if you went out to Dyea so much, did you guys drive out there?

KAY MONTOYA: We drove.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. You didn't always ride your bicycle?

KAY MONTOYA: No. Only once.

KAREN BREWSTER: So eventually, you and your sister learned to drive?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. We had an old car that my grandm -- my mother and dad had out there. And they -- we had -- it was in Dyea. And I learned to drive that on the roads in Dyea, the dirt roads in Dyea. You know, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Who taught you?

KAY MONTOYA: I think I kinda taught myself. I don't remember anyone ever teaching me.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah? Your dad and mom?

KAY MONTOYA: From observation. I'd watch and ask questions. They might've taught my sister. She was a little older than I. If anyone taught me anything, it would be my sister.

KAREN BREWSTER: 'Cause she was the one who was a little older?

KAY MONTOYA: She was a year older than I was, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: But you were the more adventurous one, it sounds like.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

[00:56:46]KAREN BREWSTER: So you talked about walking in the woods, and, you know, bears and things. Were there a lot of animals -- wild animals around?

KAY MONTOYA: I can remember people coming to our cabin that had shot a bear or something, and with the -- they had the bear with them.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

KAY MONTOYA: Long claws, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: They were big bears. Yeah, there were a lot of animals around. This was down on the south end of Dyea now, where -- where our cabin was. And then further up north, the Pattersons had a cabin up there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: And there's several others, too.

[00:57:21]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, I know about the Patterson one. Hosford Sawmill was not in existence anymore, was it?

KAY MONTOYA: They just started it, I think.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh. Do you remember it?

KAY MONTOYA: Um, I remember Hosford.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: He was a good friend of the Pattersons. I do remember him. And all -- he had a lot of children. But we never were really in the same world.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm-mm. And why was that?

KAY MONTOYA: Um, no particular reason, I don't think. It was just -- it just didn't -- didn't happen. He was more into the logging type of -- and my dad was, you know, that wasn't his forte, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: So they just didn't -- Patterson -- where Patterson was kind of into anything. Pat liked to do a lot of things, and so I'm sure he worked with Hosford.

KAREN BREWSTER: Now do you remember Patterson and Hosford enough to describe what they were like and -- ?

KAY MONTOYA: The Pattersons?

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

[00:58:29]KAY MONTOYA: They're great people. Very close family. There's Collins, who became friends of ours. Um, I don't remember, did Carl mention Collins?

KAREN BREWSTER: No.

KAY MONTOYA: Ok, 'cause he lived right across the street from Collins and Bondie.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I don't remember. He may have. I don't remember.

KAY MONTOYA: They might've -- no. They came before he left, but -- but there's Collins and Bondie were their two kids. And because they had a place in Dyea, and we had a place in Dyea, of course, and they're kitty-corner from my grandmother's house --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: -- we became friends. And we used to run around Dyea together when we were little, you know. Collins and I did. We were the adventurous ones.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: Bondie and my sister would read books.

[00:59:18]KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember Mr. and Mrs. Patterson?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes, I do.

KAREN BREWSTER: What were they like?

KAY MONTOYA: Very nice people. He was a very happy type person. He was kind of a -- very intense. But a very -- a very good person, in my opinion. And Vivian was his wife. His name was Pat (actually his name was Wesley or Wes, so maybe Pat was a nickname?)

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: His wife was Vivian. She was part Native, and she had a lot of home remedies and stuff, you know, that she would use.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

KAY MONTOYA: She was part American Indian.

KAREN BREWSTER: From --

KAY MONTOYA: Beautiful person.

KAREN BREWSTER: From -- Tlingit from that area?

KAY MONTOYA: No. From San Francisco area.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

KAY MONTOYA: And uh, she was tall. I remember -- always remember her because she was tall. There weren't -- I was used to little short people with my mother and grandmother, but Vivian was tall.

KAREN BREWSTER: And I can't remember, what did Mr. Patterson do? Was he into logging also?

KAY MONTOYA: He -- he was a longshoreman.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. [01:00:26]And so, Hosford Sawmill was operating while you were a kid there?

KAY MONTOYA: I don't remember if it was or not. I thought he was -- no, it wasn't in Haines.

KAREN BREWSTER: I can tell you. I happen to have a paper here about it.

KAY MONTOYA: Oh, cool.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh, it began in '46.

KAY MONTOYA: '46?

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: Ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um, is when they built their cabin, and then, winter '48-'49, a road was cleared to the Hosford cabin. But it says that logging operations took place from '48 to '56.

KAY MONTOYA: Ok. That might've been when I was in the hospital when they started.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: '48. But it would've still been going on when I got back, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Do you remember it?

KAY MONTOYA: I -- I was never really too interested in logging, so I didn't pay too much attention.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I didn't know if you were out, up into those woods and everything, if you --

KAY MONTOYA: No. They're way north of us.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, we were much further south.

[01:01:30]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, so in all your adventuring in the woods, did you ever venture onto the old Chilkoot Trail? Was there even a trail?

KAY MONTOYA: No. No. I know where it is now because I've been back since then.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: But no. I -- the cemetery, we went into the cemetery once. The old cemetery that has all the people that died during the avalanche.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

KAY MONTOYA: But uh, my mother went -- we went through it one time, but that's all. I don't remember the trail itself.

KAREN BREWSTER: You don't remember -- people didn't talk about going up it or anything.

KAY MONTOYA: No. They do now.

KAREN BREWSTER: I know, they do now.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's why I was wondering is, you know, if it was even recognizable in the '40's and '50's as a trail?

KAY MONTOYA: I don't know. I couldn't answer that.

[01:02:14]KAREN BREWSTER: And there was a cemetery at Dyea at some --

KAY MONTOYA: There is. It's still there, isn't it?

KAREN BREWSTER: I think they've moved it.

KAY MONTOYA: Oh.

KAREN BREWSTER: But you remember --

KAY MONTOYA: I went to the cemetery in Dyea.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Do you remember --

KAY MONTOYA: No. There was nothing -- nobody -- nobody I knew or would have any connection with.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: They were just a lot of people died on the same date, I think is what -- what my -- what caught my attention.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Um-hm. [01:02:44]Um, so that car you learned to drive in. That was your parents'? What --

KAY MONTOYA: The what?

KAREN BREWSTER: The car you learned to drive in.

KAY MONTOYA: Oh. It belonged to my parents.

KAREN BREWSTER: Was it part of their transport business, or did they have their own car?

KAY MONTOYA: No, it wasn't one of the taxis. It was an old car.

KAREN BREWSTER: A World War II car? It wasn't an old army car?

KAY MONTOYA: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: No.

KAY MONTOYA: Just an old station wagon.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: I can picture it in my mind. It had -- it was one of those that have the wood panels on the side, you know?

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right.

KAY MONTOYA: It had no back in it. Just had a tailgate that came down, or something that you could sit on the back. Because every once in a while, when my parents were driving, they'd go over a bump, too -- my sister and I would sit back there. They'd go over a bump, and we'd go "pssht!" End up on the road.

KAREN BREWSTER: Gotta hold on.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

[01:03:38]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, well again, about this -- the feeling of what Skagway was like in that time period. Um, the -- the big small town. A little bit about communication with the outside world.

KAY MONTOYA: None.

KAREN BREWSTER: What -- did you --

KAY MONTOYA: I can remember my grandfather huddled around a little shortwave radio, trying to find out what was going on during the war, or when it was building up to the war, I guess.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: But that's the only communications that -- we didn't have a newspaper, even a local newspaper, at the time, that I knew of.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: And uh, the telephone, of course. Very expensive to call out of Skagway, so we never did.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: And uh --

KAREN BREWSTER: Could you call people around Skagway?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm. [01:04:34]Uh, what about radio? Did you -- could you, for entertainment, did you get radio programs to listen to?

KAY MONTOYA: The only ones -- only ones I ever saw was my grandfather's shortwave. I don't know. Maybe other people had 'em, I don't know. We used to have a record player.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: You know, with CD's -- not CD's.

KAREN BREWSTER: Records.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, with the old-type records.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: I know for Christmas, I got one with the little 45's, you know, that kind, the little 45's.

KAREN BREWSTER: That was brand new technology.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, right. My mother used to let us have -- we had a hardwood floor. My mother used to let us have parties. There were certain restrictions, you know. And the kids all -- the girls all -- we all had to go over and do the floor first. We had to wax it, and then kind of buff it out a little bit. And then it was a sock party. So the kids could come and dance on it, and really shine it up.

KAREN BREWSTER: A true sock hop.

KAY MONTOYA: True sock hop, that's right.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's right. But yeah, you didn't have radio to listen to entertainment programs, huh? Like, it's -- you had no TV.

KAY MONTOYA: Nope. We entertained ourselves or each other. We had just, uh, records. That was the music, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. And books? You said your sister read.

KAY MONTOYA: Books, yeah. Books. And we played a lot of cards.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: I got really good at cribbage when I was in high school. And uh, you know, that's -- puzzles. We put a lot of jigsaw puzzles -- a lot of jigsaw puzzles together. Um, charades. My grandparents used to play charades with the whole family.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: That was their thing. They liked to do that. And so, like I say, it was just -- you entertained yourself.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did you ever get bored?

KAY MONTOYA: I don't remember ever being bored 'cause you always figured out something to do.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: You didn't have -- it wasn't like today, you expect -- today you expect to be entertained. You didn't expect to be entertained then. So you enter -- you kind of expected to have to entertain yourself. So that was what you did.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: That's where your imagination went off, is you were -- You would think of ways that you could entertain yourself.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

[01:06:50]KAY MONTOYA: I went to Upper Lake once. That's straight uphill, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: I came back, soaked in the bathtub for about two hours afterwards. I never went -- never did it again.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, really?

KAY MONTOYA: But I can say I did it once.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um.

KAY MONTOYA: We used to go hike Lower Lake at least once a day.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. What about berry picking? Did your family ever go out -- you said you went picnicking, so I didn't know if you went berry picking.

KAY MONTOYA: No, I don't remember ever going berry pick -- [01:07:16]We used to go hooligan fishing.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: You know what hooligan are?

KAREN BREWSTER: Yes.

KAY MONTOYA: Ok. We used to go over to the river. And my dad and mom would dipnet, you know, and we would -- my sister and I would catch the little hooligan in the little streams by our hands.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

KAY MONTOYA: We would contribute to this when we were little.

KAREN BREWSTER: And that was in the Skagway River?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember what season, what time of year?

KAY MONTOYA: It was in the spring. I thought it was in the spring.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. So did lots of people in town do that?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: That was a popular thing?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, and then, actually, hooligan are pretty good if you cook 'em right.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: Some people turn up their noses at 'em. But I think they're also called candlefish, aren't they?

KAREN BREWSTER: Um, I don't know if those are the same or not. Maybe, yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: 'Cause they're so oily.

KAREN BREWSTER: They're very -- yeah. They're kinda like big sardines, right?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Sounds pretty good to me.

KAY MONTOYA: Very oily. Yeah, they are.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah?

KAY MONTOYA: I didn't like it when they left the heads on, but if they'd take the heads off, I'm ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: So how would they cook them?

KAY MONTOYA: Dip 'em in flour and fry 'em.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: They're really quite tasty.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Bony?

KAY MONTOYA: They're bony. You have to strip the bones off 'em.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And then would you catch a lot and freeze them, or would you --

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. Put 'em in milk cartons. Put water in milk cartons and then put 'em in the milk cartons. You know, and freeze 'em.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: This is when, you know, the square cartons.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Yeah, before plastic milk jugs.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, exactly.

KAREN BREWSTER: I know what square milk cartons are. [01:08:48]Um, which -- that makes me think about groceries and food coming in that you buy at the store.

KAY MONTOYA: Very expensive.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

KAY MONTOYA: But that's what you had to do. You didn't have much choice.

KAREN BREWSTER: And did shipments only come in certain days of the week?

KAY MONTOYA: I don't remember if they did or not. I remember that produce was -- produce was hard to come by.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: And water -- if you had watermelon, it was really a big treat, you know. So usually, we would get a watermelon at Fourth of July.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

[01:09:28]KAY MONTOYA: Fourth of July was another big celebration.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. What happened on Fourth of July?

KAY MONTOYA: Oh, they had a parade. First was a parade, and then they had races for all different age groups. And then they had -- they used to have one that was throw rolling pins at Tojo's head?

KAREN BREWSTER: Who's Tojo?

KAY MONTOYA: Well, they had a picture of Tojo.

KAREN BREWSTER: Who's To -- I don't know who that is.

KAY MONTOYA: Tojo was during the war.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: He was a Japanese guy.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

KAY MONTOYA: They probably don't have that anymore.

KAREN BREWSTER: No.

KAY MONTOYA: Because it's not politically correct anymore.

KAREN BREWSTER: No. No.

KAY MONTOYA: But uh, let's say, it was just a person. And so what they would do is they would throw rolling pins, and they would try to knock the head down. It was on a hinge at the neck.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh. Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: They just had all kinds of different --

KAREN BREWSTER: Pie eating?

KAY MONTOYA: Yep. Pie eating. All different kinds of races.

KAREN BREWSTER: And there's that photo of a running race that it looks like your sister won. (IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?)

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you --

KAY MONTOYA: They used to go each -- each year, you know. They would have, like, six to seven, seven to eight, blah, blah, on up the line.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember what the prizes were if you won?

KAY MONTOYA: They were -- they were a dollar, maybe.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: You know. I think it was fifty cents. It was money.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Did you participate in any races?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. I don't remember ever winning, but I may have. I don't remember.

[01:10:51]KAREN BREWSTER: And the whole town would come out?

KAY MONTOYA: Do what?

KAREN BREWSTER: Would the whole town come out?

KAY MONTOYA: Oh, everybody. Matter of fact, we were there not too long ago on the Fourth of July, and it was just like the olden days. Everything was just like the olden days. It hadn't changed. It was really nice.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And so that was all down on Broadway, all those activities?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. On the corner where Riewe's store is, that corner.

KAREN BREWSTER: Which is, oh, I can't -- it's Broadway and --

KAY MONTOYA: Right near the Pack Train. It's across the street from -- kitty corner from the Pack Train.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. I can't remember which building it is, but anyway. Yeah, basically just downtown.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, right in the center of town.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then, there's the Days of '98. Was that also Fourth of July or -- ?

KAY MONTOYA: No, they used to have that all the time when the ships came in. As a matter of fact, I heard that this -- at least the year that we were there several years ago, that they requested that the -- that the cruise ships not dock until a certain hour, like in the afternoon. Four o'clock or something like that, to give the townspeople a time to enjoy their Fourth of July.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: Which I thought was very well done. I'm glad they did that. 'Cause we were down there another time, and the cruise ships were in, and you couldn't walk down the street. It was too packed. Course, they all want to see what was going on. And the local people didn't even have an opportunity, you know, to enjoy their own Fourth.

[01:12:21]KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Um, but so that Days of '98, was that a show, or that was celebrating the anniversary of the --

KAY MONTOYA: No, it was a show that they put on. Um, I would say it was probably financially -- there must have been some financial gains from it somewhere.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: And they had the show with Dan McGrew, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: And then they had funny -- funny money. Funny paper they gambled with.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: And they had a little cart they ran around and arrested people.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right.

KAY MONTOYA: For certain things, you know, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: It was just a tourist thing.

[01:13:05]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Now you mentioned cruise ships. Nowadays, you know, that's quite the business that goes on in Skagway. When you were growing up, were there tour ships coming in and tourists coming in?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes, but not to the -- not to the extent they have them now. Then it was the Princess -- just the Princess Cruise Line was the only one.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

KAY MONTOYA: "Princess Norah," I think, and "Princess Kathleen." I think there was another one. "Prince George." These were all ships that my grandfather was the agent for.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Yeah, when you said that he was an agent, I was thinking it was a passenger service that then they, you know, connect to the train to Whitehorse. I didn't think that it would've been tourists also.

KAY MONTOYA: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: But it would've been.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. He -- he interacted with the cruise ships.

[01:13:57]KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Do you remember, besides the Days of '98 show, what other things tourists did in Skagway when they got off the ship?

KAY MONTOYA: They'd go up to the graveyard, the old graveyard from -- that Soapy Smith is supposed to be buried in. And uh, just walk around town, check out the gardens, you know, and that's about it.

KAREN BREWSTER: 'Cause in those days, people had big flower gardens?

KAY MONTOYA: Oh, yes. Yes.

[01:14:27]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, what were the buildings -- what did downtown look like? Where your parents had their business. Was it old buildings? What did it look like?

KAY MONTOYA: Old buildings. A lot of them were vacant. I think they were probably left over from the -- from the gold rush, some of them left over from the gold rush.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: Just deserted, you know. And so, a lot of them were vacant.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: I think a lot of them have been renovated now, but at that time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. That's why I'm wondering, what it looked like in the --

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. At that time, there were a lot of them vacant. I'm thinking on Mom's -- on the transfer company, I think that whole block all the way north was vacant. Then across the street was Kirmse's.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: And then I think somebody came along and put a little five-and-dime store in there or something.

KAREN BREWSTER: But the Arctic Brotherhood Hall, that was there?

KAY MONTOYA: That's the AB Hall.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: That's across the street, yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. But that was there? And then next door to it was the Washington Alaska Steamship Company. That was --

KAY MONTOYA: That's where my grandfather --  
KAREN BREWSTER: Where your grandfather worked.  
KAY MONTOYA: Right.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Um, ok. [01:15:40]And now you mentioned something about a house  
next to the Eagles Hall?  
KAY MONTOYA: Yes.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Another house you lived in on 6th Avenue?  
KAY MONTOYA: Right. Right.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Near the Pullen House?  
KAY MONTOYA: Right. That house actually belonged -- ended up belonging to my sister and  
I.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Um, and where was -- um. Hm. Was it next to the Pullen House or  
across the street? Where --  
KAY MONTOYA: Across the street. Well, the Pullen House kind of extended the end of the  
street. It covered both north and south of that street.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.  
KAY MONTOYA: The major -- main Pullen House was north of us.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Right.  
KAY MONTOYA: Was across the street.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Well, now there's this Peniel Mission building.  
KAY MONTOYA: That's it.  
KAREN BREWSTER: That was it?  
KAY MONTOYA: Yep.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Did you -- so you owned that?  
KAY MONTOYA: Yes.  
KAREN BREWSTER: And then, did you transfer -- give it -- did the Park Service buy it from  
you, or you sold it to somebody else?  
KAY MONTOYA: We sold it to somebody else.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: I don't remember -- my sister was in Skagway and took care of the details. I  
don't remember.  
[01:16:49]KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh. So when did you live there? Or why did you have  
that building?  
KAY MONTOYA: We -- when Mom and Dad gave up the transfer company, they sold the  
transfer company to Bill Feero. And he owned that house at the time, so that was in the  
trade.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Ok. And so, do you remember living in it?  
KAY MONTOYA: Yes.  
KAREN BREWSTER: What was that --  
KAY MONTOYA: That was the one with the hardwood floors that we used to polish for our  
sock hops.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ah.  
KAY MONTOYA: And I used to have to cut that hedge out in front. There's a big hedge.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Not anymore, but maybe.  
KAY MONTOYA: Might've taken it down.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. There's an apple tree.

KAY MONTOYA: There used to be an apple tree there, too.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. 'Cause there's still an apple tree next to it.

KAY MONTOYA: That's good.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. I was there in October, and it was producing quite well. And the Moore Cabin and House is kind of behind it? The old Moore Homestead?

KAY MONTOYA: You mean, a building behind it?

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: I don't remember, um. I remember it being a church behind it, but I think they've taken that church down.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: From what you said.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: I don't know.

[01:17:54]KAREN BREWSTER: And then, you have photos of a fire at the Eagles Hall. (IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?) Do you remember?

KAY MONTOYA: But that was -- yeah, I don't remember that. I don't -- it was either before or after my time. I don't know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Um, were there other fires in Skagway? I mean, the fact that at least downtown, all those buildings close together.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. I don't remember any others that I can speak of.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: I -- I'm sure there must've been, but I don't remember.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. You don't -- it wasn't --

KAY MONTOYA: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: Like, the house you were in or the house next door burned down.

KAY MONTOYA: That's right. Or anyone I knew close up.

[01:18:31]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Um, so the -- one thing we haven't talked about is the railroad in Skagway.

KAY MONTOYA: Ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: 'Cause I know your family didn't work for the railroad.

KAY MONTOYA: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: It was a big business.

KAY MONTOYA: It was the main thing in -- in Skagway, yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: It was the lifeblood of Skagway, actually.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: But my family, no. It did --

KAREN BREWSTER: Was there a social separation between railroad families and non-railroad families?

KAY MONTOYA: Um, I don't -- Well, if there was, I'm not aware of it. My grandparents, kind of, they played cards with Dr. Dahl and his wife, and uh, Elmer Rasmuson. And Elmer Rasmuson was, um -- his -- his family, his children, were my uncles' friends.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: His two boys. And I don't remember my grandparents having any other friends, particularly railroad friends. But I don't remember ever having excluded either, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: So. They only had so much time for social life, and that's what their -- their -- like I say, playing cards.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: Playing bridge, you know, this type of thing. That's all I can remember.

[01:19:50]KAREN BREWSTER: But as kids, was there any push-pull between railroad kids and regular city kids?

KAY MONTOYA: I don't remember any, if there ever was any. I think most of the kids, like myself, that were born there, were pretty -- pretty independent. You know, we didn't pay too much attention to anything else, just -- you know, we had our groups, and that was it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: The group that I belonged to, I -- there's five kids I used to run around with. One was railroad. Sharon's dad was the postmaster. Let's see, Barbara, Sharon. Janet was her husband -- her father was the railroad. And, of course, my dad was an electrician. And let's see, Janet, Sharon, Barbara. There's five of us. My sister and I.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. So what were those gals' names? Janet --

KAY MONTOYA: Janet Purdy, P-U-R-D-Y. She's deceased.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

KAY MONTOYA: Sharon McGuane. And she's the one I see now. She lives in La Jolla.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Her dad was the postmaster. Janet's dad worked on the railroad.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: And Barbara, Barbara Beitinger. Her dad worked on the railroad.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: And then, of course, my sister and I were the ones that --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: -- I used to spend time with.

[01:21:22]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, did it feel like a company town with the railroad being so dominant?

KAY MONTOYA: You know, I can't remember ever feeling like it was a company town. You know, as a child, what is around you, is the world.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: You know, so if I'm surrounded by my grandparents and then, you know, Canadian Pacific is the world.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: So I don't remember ever having any controversy or anything with any railroad people.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: Or like, "Nah nah" or anything like that. I don't remember anything like that. Had you run into something like that?

KAREN BREWSTER: No, I'm just wondering. That's why I'm asking.

KAY MONTOYA: Huh-uh.

KAREN BREWSTER: Because I don't know.

KAY MONTOYA: I think a lot of people were Skagway first.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: They were Skag -- Skagwegians.

KAREN BREWSTER: Is that what -- Skagwegians?

KAY MONTOYA: Skagwegians.

[01:22:13]KAREN BREWSTER: And, you know, also I ask because I know when the railroad shut down, it was a big hardship for people in the community.

KAY MONTOYA: Oh, yeah. Oh, definitely.

KAREN BREWSTER: So um, and that was after you weren't there anymore. So it's just getting a sense of what the town was like, and, you know, and how people interacted with each other, and that's all.

KAY MONTOYA: Well, in a case like that, where something -- where the people depend on one entity so much, it has a ripple-down effect. You know, it's going to affect the grocery store. It's going to affect the electrical company, the transfer company. It affects everything.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: So you know, that's -- it's too bad they don't have another source of tourism.

KAREN BREWSTER: Now it's tourism.

KAY MONTOYA: Course, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. And in the -- And that's why I was asking, in your memories of the '40's and '50's, how much tourism was a factor? And now --

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. Tourism was -- I can remember when the boats came in. I remember the tourists on the streets. And I remember when the boats went out, us kids used to walk along and look in the cracks of the --

KAREN BREWSTER: The boardwalk sidewalk?

KAY MONTOYA: The boardwalk sidewalk. We'd look in the cracks and see if they dropped money.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did you -- did you find any?

KAY MONTOYA: Then we'd harvest it. Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: How would you get it out?

KAY MONTOYA: Oh, all different kinds of way. Gum on the end of a pencil.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: Or two sticks, or -- those are the two ways that we used to.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, there was your candy money, right?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. Then I didn't have to break my piggy bank.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. [01:23:47]Um, there was something else. So in the -- do you remember, you may have been too young, during the war years when the military was there, was there a lot of train traffic going back and forth?

KAY MONTOYA: I don't remember. Like I say, I was too young, and my -- my world was too little. You know, it's not --

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: A child that age doesn't pay too much attention to what's going on --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: -- down the end of the street.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Right. And when you were living on Broadway in the transfer building--  
KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.  
KAREN BREWSTER: -- that was later?  
KAY MONTOYA: Yes.  
KAREN BREWSTER: So the trains wouldn't have been going by.  
KAY MONTOYA: Hm-mm. No. I can remember the trains, but it was just a normal --  
KAREN BREWSTER: Right.  
KAY MONTOYA: -- couple times a day, you know.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Right. And by that point, they were hauling ore?  
KAY MONTOYA: Yes.  
KAREN BREWSTER: For the mining.  
[01:24:34]KAY MONTOYA: As a matter of fact, they, uh -- there's been some concern about the effect that ore's had on Skagway. Cancer, etc.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Do you have any thoughts on that?  
KAY MONTOYA: No, I don't. I have a friend, though, Janet, I mentioned, that we used to run around with, that died of cancer. She lived right near the railroad track. She died of cancer at a very early age, like thirty, thirty-five, something like that.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, yeah.  
KAY MONTOYA: I don't know.  
KAREN BREWSTER: It has -- you're right, it has been a continuing question.  
KAY MONTOYA: Uh-huh.  
KAREN BREWSTER: By people who still live there. But did you take the train up to Whitehorse as passengers?  
KAY MONTOYA: I did a couple of times, yes. We went up as a basketball team once.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.  
[01:25:20]KAY MONTOYA: That was a fun trip. The first time I'd ever swam in a hot springs.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.  
KAY MONTOYA: And we went to the Whitehorse hot springs.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.  
KAY MONTOYA: It is etched in my memory. I can remember coming up out of the water and my hair being frozen.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, you did it in the winter time?  
KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.  
KAREN BREWSTER: That's very fun.  
KAY MONTOYA: It was below zero.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.  
KAY MONTOYA: The only problem was getting out of the water and running up to the dressing room. That was a tough one.  
KAREN BREWSTER: That's the hard part. [01:25:47]So did you guys regularly compete with the team in Whitehorse? Or --  
KAY MONTOYA: No, this was just a one-time thing. We had kind of an active basketball team at the time. We played Haines, and we played Whitehorse.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

KAY MONTOYA: But we never went further than that. I guess they have now -- I guess they took the state championship a couple years ago.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, yeah. So you didn't go to Juneau to play?

KAY MONTOYA: No, we never went that far.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: Oh, somebody always beat us.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, certainly basketball's a popular sport.

KAY MONTOYA: Yes, very popular in Skagway, too.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: 'Cause there was so little else to do.

[01:26:23]KAREN BREWSTER: Did they have baseball or football teams?

KAY MONTOYA: There was baseball. The Fourth of July, there was always a big baseball game.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

KAY MONTOYA: But I don't remember ever -- no football teams.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Did the school have a baseball team? The high school?

KAY MONTOYA: Hm-um.

KAREN BREWSTER: No.

KAY MONTOYA: Probably because that's a summer sport, and they were not in session during the summer.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Yeah. Nowadays, they play it in the spring time.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: After the -- not in Skagway, but in other parts of Alaska, it's a late spring kind of, I think, truncated season.

KAY MONTOYA: They have boys club and other things, too, now in other areas that have, you know, that have their Babe Ruth League and Little League and stuff like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: That don't involve the school, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. [01:27:11]But in Skagway, that reminds me of clubs. There's this picture of the Emblem Club, the women's auxiliary.

KAY MONTOYA: Yes, it's very active. Emblem Club was very active.

KAREN BREWSTER: And that's part of the Elks Club?

KAY MONTOYA: I think so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Was your mother involved?

KAY MONTOYA: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what about kids? Was there Boy Scouts? Girl Scouts?

KAY MONTOYA: There's girls --

KAREN BREWSTER: There was 4-H unit.

KAY MONTOYA: 4-H. Mm, I don't remember Boy Scouts, and I don't remember Girl Scouts. But 4-H is the only one I knew about. That doesn't mean they weren't there. It's just something --

KAREN BREWSTER: That's what you guys did?

KAY MONTOYA: Exactly.

[01:27:48]KAREN BREWSTER: And do you remember what the Emblem Club did?

KAY MONTOYA: They did a lot of charitable things. They put on a lot of things. Very active in the community. Different things. Not being directly involved, I can't be more specific, but.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Charity events makes me think of Christmas. And that was at the Elks Hall?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Can you talk about that?

KAY MONTOYA: Every child in Skagway had -- had a present under the tree. Now I don't know how they did that. Logistically, that is an amazing feat.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yes, they had to order things way early.

KAY MONTOYA: And not only that, but they had to have the name of every child. It had their name on it. It wasn't just a present for somebody.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: And so, that was quite an event, too. Everybody knew if they went down to the Elks Club, they would have -- they'd have a present under that tree.

KAREN BREWSTER: And everybody went?

KAY MONTOYA: Oh, yeah.

[01:28:39]KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And then, what about Christmas programs at the school? You remember performing in those?

KAY MONTOYA: There was always a Christmas program, yes. And at the church. We used to -- we used to -- on Christmas Eve, we used to go to church at the Presbyterian Church.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: The candlelight service. And then we would go up to the Catholic Church and go to their midnight mass. That was a tradition for us kids.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm. Was your family Presbyterian or Catholic, one?

KAY MONTOYA: Presbyterian. But Sharon was Catholic. But Sharon couldn't go to our candlelight service, but she -- we would go with her to our -- her midnight mass.

KAREN BREWSTER: Huh. Interesting. [01:29:21]And then, what -- how did your family do Christmas at home?

KAY MONTOYA: We had the usual celebration. You know, everybody got together, turkey dinner, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: On Christmas Day?

KAY MONTOYA: Uh, yes -- uh, yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: They opened presents on Christmas Day, and then the big family dinner.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. And when was the Eagles Hall part? Was that --

KAY MONTOYA: Do you know, I can't remember. It must've -- Wasn't on the same time, I'm sure.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: Maybe it was Christmas Eve? I don't remember. Might've been the weekend before, I don't know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. [01:29:55]Well, and we've been talking about the schools and teams and things. I wanted to ask you about the Native community in Skagway. Because we have that one photo of the students at the Immaculate Conception -- the mission -- oh

the -- what's it called? Mission -- (Pius X Mission\_students\_staff.jpg)



KAY MONTOYA: Mission School.

KAREN BREWSTER: St. Pius Mission School.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um, and that looks to be more Native. What --

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. They eventually got so that at least the boys played basketball with our boys' team.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: They had their own school, though. And the girls didn't have near as much freedom as the boys did. The girls were very, uh, they didn't go anywhere without a group of nuns.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: The nuns.

KAREN BREWSTER: And was there much interaction as kids?

KAY MONTOYA: Not the girls. The boys, there were, but not the girls -- were not allowed to.

KAREN BREWSTER: Even outside of school? Like, if you were out with your friends, would they be at the Sweet Tooth, or wherever you were hanging out?

KAY MONTOYA: No, the girls -- the mission girls never went to those places. The only time we ever saw them was when they walked in a line out of the mission school, down to the theater, once a week or however often they went, and that was it. They'd go to the theater, and then they'd go back to the mission school. They didn't go out otherwise. They didn't go out in the community.

KAREN BREWSTER: But the boys did go out in the community?

KAY MONTOYA: The boys were allowed out, yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm. Did they also stay in groups, kind of, or they were --

KAY MONTOYA: No, they intermingled.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: They played basketball, intermingled with the rest of the kids.

[01:31:36]KAREN BREWSTER: Do you have a sense of how the community of Skagway felt about having that mission there?

KAY MONTOYA: You know, I don't. I know that there was -- I was always taught not to discriminate, so -- and that's the way I lived my life, so I don't know if there was discrimination otherwise or not. I don't know. I know we had a Native girl in our -- in our -- in my class, who I walked to school with every day because she lived further down the street from me, and we just happened to meet at my corner, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: And that was -- that was not a big deal for me.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Well, but as you say, you were taught not to discriminate, and you didn't ever witness any obvious discrimination?

KAY MONTOYA: There's always a few jerks, but heck, they could discriminate against anybody, you know?

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: They're gonna dis -- if they're a bully, they're going to discriminate against somebody who's weaker than they are.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: So, uh, I don't know there was more looking down at that person or, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: There were no "No Natives Allowed" signs or things like that?

KAY MONTOYA: No, not that I can -- not that I was aware of.

KAREN BREWSTER: I'm aware of in other parts of Alaska, so yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: Were there in other parts of Alaska?

KAREN BREWSTER: I've heard that there were, yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, I don't know. [01:32:50]Skagway was a funny town. It was -- Skagway was -- when I say it was the biggest little town in the world, it really was. It was very sophisticated for being so little.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: It's amazing.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, and you said something about, yeah, it was very sort of liberal and accepting.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: For its time.

KAY MONTOYA: That's what I felt. That's the sense I got, yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. [01:33:13]And was it a good place to grow up? How --

KAY MONTOYA: It was an excellent place to grow up. I'm not sure that's -- well, I can't say that 'cause I'm not aware of it. I don't think there's any place that's safe right now, whether it be Skagway or Washington, or, you know, Anchorage or anyplace. I think it's a tough time for kids to grow up.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: And uh, but at that time, it was a very safe place for children. Very safe.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. [01:33:42]Well, and it sounds like you formed very close relationships. The -- you know, the -- you spent years as best friends with Carl Nord and Lou D and --

KAY MONTOYA: I -- it was years before I could leave Skagway without tears in my eyes. It just was so implanted in me. It was -- and when I say, that title, it takes a village, that's exactly what it was. Every time I hear that, I think of Skagway because that's what it was. It was my village.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: It was my strength. It was my, um, courage. It was -- it was my everything.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: And it always gave me that -- it gave me that to live by.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Well, and I say, it sounds like from your stories and talking to Carl Nord, having that freedom as a kid to just run around and do whatever.

KAY MONTOYA: Exactly.

KAREN BREWSTER: Helped shape you?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes, exactly. There's very few things I think that we were forbidden to do. And I don't remember being forbidden to go to the river, but I never -- we never did.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: So that was the only thing that would've been --

[01:34:47]KAREN BREWSTER: Well, and it was so cute that what Carl -- the Nord family and then the Selmers also went and moved to Bainbridge Island.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And you and your sister continued to communicate with them and write letters and send pictures and things.

KAY MONTOYA: Uh-huh. Well, we were very close to 'em when we were kids. They were -- they were our world. They were part of our world.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: We didn't -- I don't remember having friends outside of Carl and Lou D and just that area. Collins Patterson and -- that was all within a two-block area, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And Carl Mulvihill, he lived down the street or something?

KAY MONTOYA: He lived down the street, so I didn't see too much of Carl Mulvihill, but.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um, well, it's very fun. Maybe we should take a little break, you think?

KAY MONTOYA: Ok, that sounds good to me.

KAREN BREWSTER: And then we can -- I can look at some of the pictures and talk about that a little bit.

KAY MONTOYA: Ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Would you like some --

(Pause in the recording)

[01:35:39]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok, we are back from our lovely little coffee and coffee cake break. All now energized. Um, we were talking about grandparents, and you had mentioned living with your grandparents and reflecting on how that contributed to your life.

KAY MONTOYA: I think that -- I think we've lost something in our society these days because our children don't have the benefit of the knowledge from the grandparents. Um, there's a whole different perspective on life and their understanding of patience, etc. that you can learn from them, that they're not getting -- they don't have access to. And I think it's too bad. I think we have done a great disservice to the young people in our communities.

KAREN BREWSTER: And -- and so, you feel you benefited from --

KAY MONTOYA: Oh, definitely.

KAREN BREWSTER: And how so?

KAY MONTOYA: Well, um, my grandmother was the ultimate patience. You could do anything, and she would talk about it and never get angry with you. Or never criticize you. Everything you did was ok, but maybe she might show you a better way to do it. Now, my grandfather, he was a teacher, harsh perhaps. He was -- but he wanted you to learn something. He wanted you to learn it right. And I've thought -- I've been asked before, if I would've had a chance to be without that type of encounter with my grandfather since he was so harsh, if I would have chosen the same path. And very definitely. He added something to my life. He made me more curious. He made me more thorough about things I do. There's just a great deal that I've -- I -- I learn from both my grandparents, and I think it's too bad that other children don't have that opportunity to learn from their own. I think they've got something to -- they've got something to offer, and the kids are missing it.

[01:37:47]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, yeah, you said that you were curious, and his curiosity helped spawn more of your curiosity.

KAY MONTOYA: Exactly. What he would do is, if you would bring something up, he would make you explore it. He wouldn't just give you answers. He would make you explore it. He would take you down the path to find out where it started or whatever -- whichever way it went, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: That was just what he would -- he would teach you to do that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Neat.

KAY MONTOYA: It was, very neat.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: I had exceptional grandparents, I think.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: I'm very lucky. And I was very lucky to be able to spend time with them.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Yeah. Definitely. [01:38:25]Um, one thing that I re-discovered during our break that I was going to talk to you about that I had forgotten, was this movie "Harpoon."

KAY MONTOYA: Oh, yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: That Carl Nord also mentioned that was filmed in Skagway in 1947. Do you remember much about that?

KAY MONTOYA: I do. It was a big time in Alas -- in Skagway. The movie company had come, and everybody was excited. Some of the local people were in the movie. And I remember one of the boys our age, in our age group, named Patrick Sullivan, had been given the part. And we all memorized his lines. It was, "Hit him again, Pa! He falls funny." And I've never forgotten that because we all -- that was his line in the movie. "Hit him again, Pa! He falls funny." And all of us kids remembered that line.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's funny. Do you remember what the movie was about and why they filmed in Skagway?

KAY MONTOYA: Uh, actually, I would like to see it again if I could ever find it. It had to do with a very harsh environment, I know, with the water and the -- and the mountains, mountainous area, so I suppose that's why they filmed it there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. So was it about commercial whaling? I mean, "Harpoon" makes it sound like --

KAY MONTOYA: Yes, I think so, yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm. Well, it says here on this thing that's, I think, from Carl Nord's books, that "Released by Screen Guild, September 24, 1948. 83 minutes long." (IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?) Um, so were your parents in the movie?

KAY MONTOYA: No, they weren't in the movie, but they were very involved with the technical part because of the transfer company. You know, they transported their equipment and the logistics, you know, helped them with that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Well, and it says your grandmother's in this picture, too.

KAY MONTOYA: Um, she -- Gram always wanted to be a star. I don't know if she -- I don't know if she was in the movie or not. She may have been, but I don't know.

KAREN BREWSTER: I don't know. She's dressed up in, it looks like jeans and a plaid flannel shirt. But maybe that's what she wore all the time?

KAY MONTOYA: No, she was -- usually wore dresses at home, but she was -- she was play-acting there, but I'm not sure what it was -- I don't know if she was in the movie or not. I really don't know if she was or not.

[01:40:50]KAREN BREWSTER: Now, who's Mack?

KAY MONTOYA: Mack --

KAREN BREWSTER: It says, um, Grant Means, Ethel Johnston, Jack Benson, Christine Lamoreaux, Mack, and Dean Spencer.

KAY MONTOYA: I don't know who Mack is.

KAREN BREWSTER: I don't know if you recognize him. (Photo shuffling) I think he's the guy in the back there.

KAY MONTOYA: No. Huh-uh. He's not anybody from Skagway, I don't think. Maybe that's why they couldn't fill in the name because they just knew him by his first name.

[01:41:18]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, so was there a lot of excitement about this movie star?

KAY MONTOYA: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. The whole town turned out. I remember they -- the part that Patrick had was down on the dock in Skagway, and the whole town was there to watch. And he was in a fishing boat, and there was this big, would-be, uh, fist, you know, there fighting.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

KAY MONTOYA: And it was such an interesting thing for us to see because we'd never seen behind the scenes of a -- you know, you see the cameras and everything, and you don't see that when you're looking at the movie.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: So it was quite interesting. Yeah, and there was a lot of excitement, and while they were there. It was really quite a deal.

[01:42:05]KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember how long they were there?

KAY MONTOYA: No, I don't. I -- I do remember when I was in the hospital. I must've been gone to the hospital right about there or shortly thereafter because Dean Spencer, who's pictured there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: Wrote me a letter that asked if he could do anything, and I told him that I wanted a picture -- a signed picture of Roy Rogers and Trigger. And he got it for me and sent it to me.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

KAY MONTOYA: And I never forgot that.

KAREN BREWSTER: So he was part of the film crew?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes, he was the sound -- he was the sound person.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh. Ok. Yeah, 'cause it says that it was August of '47.

KAY MONTOYA: '47. Ok, that would've made me eight years old. Ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: So September 16th is how long they were there, according to this article.

KAY MONTOYA: To August of '47?

KAREN BREWSTER: August 14, 1947 until September 16, 1947. So they were there about a month.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. I remember them, but I must've gotten tuberculosis right about that time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: Or right after that time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. But yeah, you were still there, though, when that happened?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Sounds pretty exciting.

KAY MONTOYA: It was. Everybody was excited. Well, you know, that was something different for Skagway.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: We never -- all we ever watched is the movies, you know, once a week in our little theater.

[01:43:28]KAREN BREWSTER: Well, yeah. That's interesting that there was a movie theater in Skagway, right?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. I think they had a different movie, either once or twice a week, I can't remember.

KAREN BREWSTER: And were they current movies, or were you getting old ones?

KAY MONTOYA: Old movies. Abbot and Costello, and etc. You know. Old movies. Pretty much old movies. A lot of cowboy -- Roy Rogers.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: And Trigger. And Dale Evans and Hop-Along Cassidy and --

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, you might -- you might've been too young if the military guys went to those movies, too?

KAY MONTOYA: I don't remember ever seeing military people there, but I don't know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Um, because yeah, Skagway does not have a movie theater now.

KAY MONTOYA: Not one, uh?

KAREN BREWSTER: Nope.

KAY MONTOYA: That's -- oh, because they've got television now.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Maybe that's why.

KAY MONTOYA: With CD's, you know, they can buy the videos.

KAREN BREWSTER: Or they can download -- Yeah, Netflix and all those things now.

KAY MONTOYA: Definitely.

KAREN BREWSTER: But I don't know when the movie theater closed down.

KAY MONTOYA: I don't know. They had two at one time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Huh.

KAY MONTOYA: And Bill Feero owned one of them. And this -- when I was -- I worked at one of them and sold popcorn, and my sister was the tick -- sold tickets for about six months. And then --

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember which theater that was?

KAY MONTOYA: It was the Coliseum.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: It was next to Riewe's. Next to Riewe's grocery store.

KAREN BREWSTER: And what was the other one?

KAY MONTOYA: I can't remember, but that was -- the other one was owned by Bill Feero, but then Bill Feero became manager of the Coliseum.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

KAY MONTOYA: I don't know. I guess the other manager quit or something or went back.

KAREN BREWSTER: But the other theater, was it also on Broadway, or it was -- ?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: And uh, it was owned -- the Coliseum was owned by the Gross brothers in Juneau, I remember.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm. I wonder what the name of the other one was?

KAY MONTOYA: I can't remember.

[01:45:23]KAREN BREWSTER: And then, um, 'cause there was this photo we had of the movie theater and the -- (IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?)

KAY MONTOYA: That was the --

KAREN BREWSTER: The café that was next to it. Where is that picture? Where we were trying to figure out which building.

KAY MONTOYA: I think that was the other one. See, this is Riewe's grocery store right here.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right next. Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Right. And this is the Coliseum.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. So Riewe's is to the left on this photo. If you're facing -- looking at this picture, Riewe's is the building on the left?

KAY MONTOYA: Right. You go -- left is north.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And then, this other one is the Igloo Snack Bar. Do you remember that?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. That was a bar.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, it says here, "Fountain service, lunches and dinners, confections, magazines."

KAY MONTOYA: Well, I don't know when that turned -- last -- we went there one time. Herb and I were there one time in -- oh, it must've been the '60's, and it was a bar.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. It was no longer a snack bar fountain?

KAY MONTOYA: I don't know what that -- when that picture was taken.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I don't know.

KAY MONTOYA: That might've been afterwards. They might have changed it from a bar to a snack bar, I don't know.

[01:46:32]KAREN BREWSTER: Did -- you don't remember going there when you were a teenager or anything?

KAY MONTOYA: No. No.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: We went to the -- oh, what was the name of it? I'll have to think about it.

There was another one across the street that we went to.

KAREN BREWSTER: It wasn't the Sweet Tooth? That's more recent.

KAY MONTOYA: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. But, it was like a soda fountain kind of place you guys would go to?

KAY MONTOYA: Right. There was a restaurant by the name of Pattersons.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: And this was -- I can't remember the name of it. I've been -- it wasn't the Igloo, it was -- I don't remember.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, as you think about it, we'll look at some of these photos.

KAY MONTOYA: Ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: That maybe it'll spark your memory. [01:47:18]Um, let's see. So this photo by the gas pump (Christine and Kenneth Lamoreaux.jpg), you told me that's your mom and dad by the gas pump?



KAY MONTOYA: That's my mom and dad, looking, um, looks like they're looking south.

Looking south from the transfer company on Broadway.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: That's Christine and Kenneth Lamoreaux.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um, do you know when that gas pump got removed?

KAY MONTOYA: Boy, I don't know. As far as I -- I have no idea.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: It wasn't during my time there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. But that was out in the street in front of the building?

KAY MONTOYA: It wa --

KAREN BREWSTER: But there were train tracks. There was room for a gas pump?

KAY MONTOYA: Train tracks -- train tracks on Broadway?

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: They took those out a long time ago.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok. They were already gone?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: And uh, cars used to pull right up, and we'd pump gas for 'em.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you remember how much gas was?

KAY MONTOYA: No. I'd probably just given it to 'em.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's great. [01:48:54]So was that a successful business for them, that transport company?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. Yes, it was. But it was a lot of work, too. And it was strenuous work. When my dad got sick, it was just too much for my mother by herself. My uncle worked for her for a while, my uncle Hal, but he got sick, too, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm. So what was so hard about it? Were they doing the physical lifting of freight and all that?

KAY MONTOYA: Right.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, it wasn't just sitting in the office and coordinating.

KAY MONTOYA: No. No. Taxicab was easy. They had taxis. That was easy. But you had to drive down the docks and pick up freight and move it to the -- to where it went, and uh, also deliver oil.

KAREN BREWSTER: Was there an oil truck that delivered it?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. A big tank on the back of a truck, oil truck.

[01:49:43]KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. And um, did -- did they have employees, or it was just the two of them?

KAY MONTOYA: No, they had -- my uncle worked for 'em for a while, and then, um, Warner. A fellow by the name of Warner worked for 'em for a while. What was his first name?

KAREN BREWSTER: Jack? No.

KAY MONTOYA: He owns that big hotel there now.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, Wanda Warner was his wife later?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, Wanda.

KAREN BREWSTER: I think. Was that his wife?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: I can find out his first name.

KAY MONTOYA: They weren't married, though, when this happened.

KAREN BREWSTER: No. Right. I want to say Jack Warner, but I don't know why.

KAY MONTOYA: No, that's not it.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's not the right name.

KAY MONTOYA: I want to say Curt Warner, but that's not it either.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, that I could -- we can find out his name. We now know who you're talking about.

KAY MONTOYA: Nova. Nova Warner.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: N-O-V-A.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: I'm sure of that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Yeah, it's just an unusual name.

KAY MONTOYA: Yes, it is.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. So he was the taxi driver or the --

KAY MONTOYA: He did whatever. Duties as assigned, I think you'd probably say in today's job descriptions.

[01:50:49]KAREN BREWSTER: Right. And other people that worked for them?

KAY MONTOYA: Uh, yeah, off and on. I think -- I think that -- I know my uncle Hal did.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: Hal Johnston. And I think my uncle Vernon did, too, off and on. And I think Bill Feero did, off and on.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Well, it makes sense, if Bill Feero took over the business that he'd been an employee at some point. That's a common --

KAY MONTOYA: Right.

KAREN BREWSTER: -- transition.

KAY MONTOYA: Transitional.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Ok. [01:51:24]So now we have this other photo of a family group (Johnston Family Group.jpg).



KAY MONTOYA: Ok, the top row is my dad, Kenneth Lamoreaux.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-oh. My pen just ran out. Of course.

KAY MONTOYA: Ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: So this family group picture?

KAY MONTOYA: Ok. Top left is Kenneth Lamoreaux, my dad.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Next to him is Lewis Johnston, Jr. He is Hal Johnston, we call him.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: And the next one is Rodney Johnston. He's the old -- oldest of the -- my aunts and uncles.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: And then Walter Price, who's Beryl's husband. Was Beryl's husband. And then down from him is Polk -- uh, Ed Polk. And then, Beryl Johnston.

KAREN BREWSTER: B --

KAY MONTOYA: B-E-R-Y-L. Her name is Justine, but we called her Beryl.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Margaret Johnston. Then the second row from the bottom is, uh, L.H. Johnston, my grandfather. (Lewis H Johnston)

KAREN BREWSTER: What was -- what is it?

KAY MONTOYA: L.H.

KAREN BREWSTER: L.H. Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: And then Ethel May Johnston.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: My mother, Christine Johnston.

KAREN BREWSTER: Was she Lamoreaux yet?

KAY MONTOYA: Lamoreaux, yeah, she is. Next to her is, uh, Mildred Johnston, holding their daughter baby, Diana, Deanna.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: And then sitting on the steps is Karen Lamoreaux, my sister.

KAREN BREWSTER: So left to right?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Karen.

KAY MONTOYA: Myself.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Karen and Kay.

KAY MONTOYA: Right.

[01:53:27]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Now I have to just double check this. I wasn't looking at the photo -- that I have this right. So the -- the back row, top left, with the white t-shirt.

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's your father?

KAY MONTOYA: No. This is my father right here.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Right here. This one.

KAREN BREWSTER: With the white collar. Ok, so with the white collar.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, um --

KAY MONTOYA: I kinda screwed that up.

KAREN BREWSTER: No, that's ok. That's why I'm asking, is so I get it right. So the very back row with the white t-shirt on the left.

KAY MONTOYA: That's Hal.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's -- equals Hal or Lewis. And then --

KAY MONTOYA: Walt Price.

KAREN BREWSTER: Walt Price, uh, is to his right. Ok. And then the next row is -- ?

KAY MONTOYA: Kenneth Lamoreaux.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Ok, second row from back equals Ken -- Um --

KAY MONTOYA: Rodney Johnston.

KAREN BREWSTER: Rodney, ok. Uh, the woman who's just down.

KAY MONTOYA: That's Beryl Johnston.  
KAREN BREWSTER: That's Beryl. And then Ed Polk.  
KAY MONTOYA: Margaret -- Margaret Polk.  
KAREN BREWSTER: And then who's that man between --  
KAY MONTOYA: Oh, we missed --  
KAREN BREWSTER: Between the two women?  
KAY MONTOYA: That's, um, Ed Polk.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ed Polk, ok. And then, Margaret?  
KAY MONTOYA: Right.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And then the front row is, L.H. -- that one's easier. It's L.H., Ethel.  
KAY MONTOYA: Christine.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Christine, and then um, Mildred.  
KAY MONTOYA: Mil. Yeah, Mildred.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: Deanna.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Right. And then you two girls?  
KAY MONTOYA: Right.  
KAREN BREWSTER: It was the group in the back that --  
KAY MONTOYA: I know. They didn't -- they didn't make very good rows in those days.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Well, no, and I couldn't see what you were talking about, so I wanted to  
make sure I got it right. [01:55:21]Um, so now, this is a -- Patty L. Jacob's tombstone?  
**(IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?)**  
KAY MONTOYA: Yes. This is one of my grandmothers. It's buried in the cemetery up on the  
Dyea Road, toward Dyea.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: She was born in 1848 and died in 1922.  
KAREN BREWSTER: And now who -- and she was one of your grandmothers?  
KAY MONTOYA: Yes. Now my other grandmother's buried across the -- across the valley  
over on the old, old cemetery where Soapy Smith was buried.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: But we've never been able to find her grave.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. So how is Hattie related to you?  
KAY MONTOYA: She is my great -- she'd be my great-great-grandmother. Great-great-  
grandmother.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Great-great --  
KAY MONTOYA: Grandmother.  
KAREN BREWSTER: On your mother's side?  
KAY MONTOYA: My mother's side.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And then the other one that you couldn't find. Do you know her  
name?  
KAY MONTOYA: Um, I -- I can't remember her name. I could look it up.  
KAREN BREWSTER: No, it's ok. [01:56:40]Ok. And then, here's this great photo of you and  
your sister on your bikes in front of the transit -- (Karen and Kay Lamoreaux on  
bikes.jpg)



KAREN & KAY LAMOREAUX ON BROADWAY

KAY MONTOYA: Right. This is in front of the transfer company. My sister and I, looking north up Broadway.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: My -- you notice my bike. That was my uncle's bike. I didn't have my own bike, so I commandeered my uncle's bike from my grandmother. It's a wild one.

KAREN BREWSTER: They -- the bikes look a little bit big for you.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. I think that one from my sister is hers, but that was -- she got it for her birthday.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you're the one in the -- on the left, in the front?

KAY MONTOYA: That's my sister.

KAREN BREWSTER: Your sister's the first one on the left, and you're the one behind.

KAY MONTOYA: Yes, that's me. I'm the tomboy.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok. So Kay is on the right. Now did you ride your bikes on the boardwalk sidewalk?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: No problem, huh?

KAY MONTOYA: Hm-um.

KAREN BREWSTER: Can you guess about what year this would've been?

KAY MONTOYA: Oh, let's see. Probably --

KAREN BREWSTER: Based on how old you might look?

KAY MONTOYA: I would say we were probably seven or eight. I'd say about seven or eight.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Maybe my -- yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: So about 19 --

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: '46-'47?

[01:58:09]KAY MONTOYA: Oh, here's the sign here, Alaska Transfer.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: Fuel oil, taxi, and hauling. And then it has the Alaska Coastal Ellis Airlines. I think it was just Alaska Coastal at the time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: Sign right next to it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, is it -- oh, it's a separate sign?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, is that what that sign -- I couldn't read what that sign behind it says.

KAY MONTOYA: You can't read it, but I can recognize the symbol.

KAREN BREWSTER: But you recognize the logo?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Cool.

KAY MONTOYA: I worked for Alaska Coastal in Juneau for a couple years in my youth as a ticket agent.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you definitely know the logo.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: But it was all the same building?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, it's just -- Yeah, now that you say it, I can almost read "airlines."

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: But I wouldn't have known that. That's awesome. That's great.

[01:58:50]Do you remember what was in, like, the building next door?

KAY MONTOYA: It was vacant.

KAREN BREWSTER: It was vacant?

KAY MONTOYA: Like I say, that whole block, I think, as I recall, was vacant. And the first one was Ki -- uh, Kirmse's, I think, was across the street, down that block.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um, yeah, I don't know. So you were between 2nd and 3rd?  
KAY MONTOYA: Right.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Golden North Hotel.  
KAY MONTOYA: 2nd and 3rd. I would say --  
KAREN BREWSTER: It was across the street.  
KAY MONTOYA: Which street was the railroad -- took the railroad --  
KAREN BREWSTER: The depot --  
KAY MONTOYA: -- the depot on?  
KAREN BREWSTER: -- is on 2nd.  
KAY MONTOYA: On 2nd?  
KAREN BREWSTER: Yes. The corner of 2nd and Broadway.  
KAY MONTOYA: Broadway. Ok, so then 3rd would've been the next street. We would've been on the corner of 3rd.  
KAREN BREWSTER: No, you were between 3rd -- according to this map of Skagway, you were between 2nd and 3rd.  
KAY MONTOYA: No. Kirmse's was -- no.  
KAREN BREWSTER: That you were here.  
KAY MONTOYA: Where -- well, that could be. Um -- is a railroad. There's this. That's right. I guess that's not really a street, then.  
KAREN BREWSTER: There was that alley, is that what you're talking about?  
KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, just kind of an alley, I guess.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Where the old cribs --  
KAY MONTOYA: Our driveway, whatever it was.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, in that -- in that photo I showed you, there's a building that was in the back.  
KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.  
KAREN BREWSTER: That they're now saying was up -- in the gold rush time was a crib, a prostitution place.  
KAY MONTOYA: Ok. [02:00:20]Now, they were talking about where the Quonset huts were.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.  
KAY MONTOYA: And where the -- they were -- there's a whole bunch of them on that side of the valley, too.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.  
KAY MONTOYA: I just remember now. They were all vacant on that side of the valley.  
KAREN BREWSTER: So behind --  
KAY MONTOYA: Behind us, yeah.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Well, that's kind of where the Westmark Hotel is now, right?  
KAY MONTOYA: Right. But it's not on those buildings, of course.  
KAREN BREWSTER: No, no, no, no. But there were Quonset huts there?  
KAY MONTOYA: The Westmark Hotel is where -- right behind where our office was, yeah.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Right. And you remember it being lots of Quonset huts?  
KAY MONTOYA: Yes. I don't know if Quonset or just the square buildings.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: Barracks type.

KAREN BREWSTER: Cool. Ok. [02:00:59]This is a basketball team photo (Skagway Girls Basketball Team\_black and white.jpg).



KAY MONTOYA: Ok, the only ones here that I can tell you is the front row. I had all the names at one time. I don't know what I've done with them.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: But that's my mother in the front.

KAREN BREWSTER: Starting on the left?

KAY MONTOYA: Uh, starting on the left, right.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: She's number three, and my aunt Beryl is number one. Justine.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, on their shirts.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Is um, Mom and number one equals -- I see why she used Beryl instead of Justine.

KAY MONTOYA: B-E-R-Y-L.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: Her actual name is Justine.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: It's not Beryl, but we always called her Beryl.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And that's all you recognize? Do you --

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Any idea -- well, they were in high school, so I guess we could figure out the dates.

KAY MONTOYA: I could find -- no, I have a picture with them written on the back.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: I sat down with Beryl one time, and she gave me the names, but they're not on this picture.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Right.

KAY MONTOYA: So I'll have to look it up.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. [02:02:01]And now we have this colored basketball picture, team picture (Skagway Girls Basketball Team\_color.jpg).



KAY MONTOYA: Ok. This is, um, my high school team. And that's Janet Purdy.

KAREN BREWSTER: So where are you starting?

KAY MONTOYA: On the top, left to right.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Janet Purdy.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Kay Lamoreaux.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Tooky Solden.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: Um, Sandra. I can't remember her last name.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: Ok, in the front row, Shirley Cooper.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: Karen Lamoreaux, my sister.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: And this girl, I don't remember her name.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. That's ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: She hadn't been there for very long. Percy, I think, was her last name, but I don't remember her first name.  
[02:02:57]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Do you remember about what year this would've been?  
KAY MONTOYA: That would've been, um, when I was a junior in high school.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: Which would've been '56. '55-'56.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Um, and Tooky Solden? How -- do you know how to spell that?  
KAY MONTOYA: SOL -- S-O-L-D-E-N.  
KAREN BREWSTER: And Tooky?  
KAY MONTOYA: Tooky. T-O-O-K-Y.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: I know that's --  
KAREN BREWSTER: It's a nickname, I would think.  
KAY MONTOYA: I know.  
KAREN BREWSTER: But that's ok. That's how you knew her.  
KAY MONTOYA: Well, I would say Irene, but I might get her mixed up with her sister, so I'd just as soon leave it at Tooky.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Let's leave it at Tooky.  
KAY MONTOYA: Because I know who that is.  
[02:03:45]KAREN BREWSTER: This is a photograph of an old postcard that, you know, I don't know what year, but there's Skagway, and it looks like there's a cruise ship (Skagway Postcard.jpg).



KAY MONTOYA: That's not that old, then.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: I think the reason I kept that was because you don't see many views of Skagway from the ocean looking north.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, well, it has to be -- well, there's the ore terminal.

KAY MONTOYA: Um-hm.

KAREN BREWSTER: Is still there. But all this, um, empty land here in front. Um, that's not like that anymore.

KAY MONTOYA: What's there?

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I don't know. I mean, it looks like there's empty -- I think there's more buildings, or there's a kind of a garden area along the creek.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And there's a ferry terminal and dock that, I think, is longer than what's shown. But I don't know.

KAY MONTOYA: Might be the angle, too.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, it could be.

KAY MONTOYA: Because I think the depot is either there or there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um, ok. Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: But I think that's an interesting picture because like I say, you don't see many pictures of Skagway looking toward the north. They're all looking south.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Or from the air.

KAY MONTOYA: Exactly.

KAREN BREWSTER: Most of them are taken from the water.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. [02:05:04]This lovely, stunning couple. (IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?)

KAY MONTOYA: This is my grandfather, L.H. Johnston, and my grandmother.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ethel?

KAY MONTOYA: Ethel May.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did she go by Ethel May? Was that her --

KAY MONTOYA: Just Ethel.

KAREN BREWSTER: Just Ethel, ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Do you know what the L.H. stood for?

KAY MONTOYA: I'm sorry?

KAREN BREWSTER: Your grandfather went by L.H.?

KAY MONTOYA: It was Lewis Hallet.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok, you said that before. Ok. And in that beautiful fur coat.

KAY MONTOYA: Isn't that lovely?

KAREN BREWSTER: And fancy shoes.

KAY MONTOYA: And these trees. This was around their house. These trees, when they planted them, were all really small, and by the time -- the last time I saw them, they were just dwarfed the house.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: They're huge. They've got this house on this street, this block, and that's all you see is all these trees, and just an opening.

[02:05:55]KAREN BREWSTER: So is their house still there?

KAY MONTOYA: It's been sold to somebody else, and they've redone it. And they've taken down the trees, from my understanding.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: But I think Gramp put them up there because of the wind.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: They were wind blocks from the trees so it wasn't so cold.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, yeah. And that's on the corner of Alaska and what did we say?

KAY MONTOYA: Alaska and wherever Carl's house was, whatever street.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, right. Um, I can't remember, but we can --

KAY MONTOYA: If you had a map, I could probably --

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, I -- I -- I didn't bring one with me other than this downtown historic one. I don't think I have my map of all of Skagway. I don't think I brought that with me. I have one, but -- but that's close enough. [02:06:42]Well, and I was going to say that, you know, to see them so well-dressed.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: And they look like, you know, regular city folk.

KAY MONTOYA: I'll tell you something. Gramp, not a day in his life did he ever go to work without a tie and a white shirt and a tie and a suit on.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: And he walked to work every day and back.

KAREN BREWSTER: Even in the cold winter winds?

KAY MONTOYA: Even in the cold.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Well, and this lovely fur -- 'cause I say, and it looks like they're, you know, going out to the theater in Seattle or something. You don't think about that in frontier Skagway. [02:07:14]Ok, this looks like the group of aunts and uncles? (Johnston Siblings.jpg)



KAY MONTOYA: That's exactly what it is. This is all of 'em here.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok, so do you want to start from the left?

KAY MONTOYA: Ok. That's Christine --

KAREN BREWSTER: So your mom.

KAY MONTOYA: Johnston, Christine Lamoreaux.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: Haleen Ingalls. Johnston Ingalls.

KAREN BREWSTER: How do you say that again?

KAY MONTOYA: H-A-L-E-E-N, Haleen. Ingalls, I-N-G-A-L-L-S.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Beryl --  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: Johnston.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.  
KAY MONTOYA: Uh, Margaret Johnston.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: Hal Johnston.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.  
KAY MONTOYA: Um, Vernon Johnston.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: Ken Johnston. And Rodney Johnston.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And now the only one -- you said your uncle Hal is still alive?  
KAY MONTOYA: Yes.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Out of that whole group?  
KAY MONTOYA: He's the youngest. He and Margaret were the youngest, but Margaret's passed away. He's still alive.  
KAREN BREWSTER: So Haleen, is Ingalls her married name?  
KAY MONTOYA: She what?  
KAREN BREWSTER: Haleen Ingalls, you said?  
KAY MONTOYA: Yes, that's the second one.  
KAREN BREWSTER: And is Ingalls her married name?  
KAY MONTOYA: Yes.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: I'm sorry, I'm getting apples and oranges mixed up.  
KAREN BREWSTER: That's ok. No, that's ok. But the other ones -- so yeah, your mom was Lamoreaux. Beryl became --  
KAY MONTOYA: Beryl Price. I mean, it's Beryl, um --  
KAREN BREWSTER: Polk?  
KAY MONTOYA: It's Beryl Johnson now.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.  
KAY MONTOYA: She married a Johnson.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: She went from a Johnston to a Johnson.  
KAREN BREWSTER: And Margaret.  
KAY MONTOYA: Polk. P-O-L-K.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And then the men. See, this women changing their name is --  
KAY MONTOYA: I know.  
KAREN BREWSTER: It's very confusing. [02:08:55]Ok. The two women -- moms and daughters there (Lamoreaux Girls and Aunts.jpg).



KAY MONTOYA: Oh, this is Margaret.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Holding Karen, my sister.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: And Beryl holding me. And I was struggling to get away.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, you mentioned that you were an active child.

KAY MONTOYA: Very active. I nearly drove everyone crazy.

KAREN BREWSTER: That was unusual in your family, to be so active?

KAY MONTOYA: Um, well, I think everybody was probably normally -- normal active level, and I -- I was probably a little abnormal.

KAY MONTOYA

MAY 12, 2019

ORAL HISTORY 2017-01-107

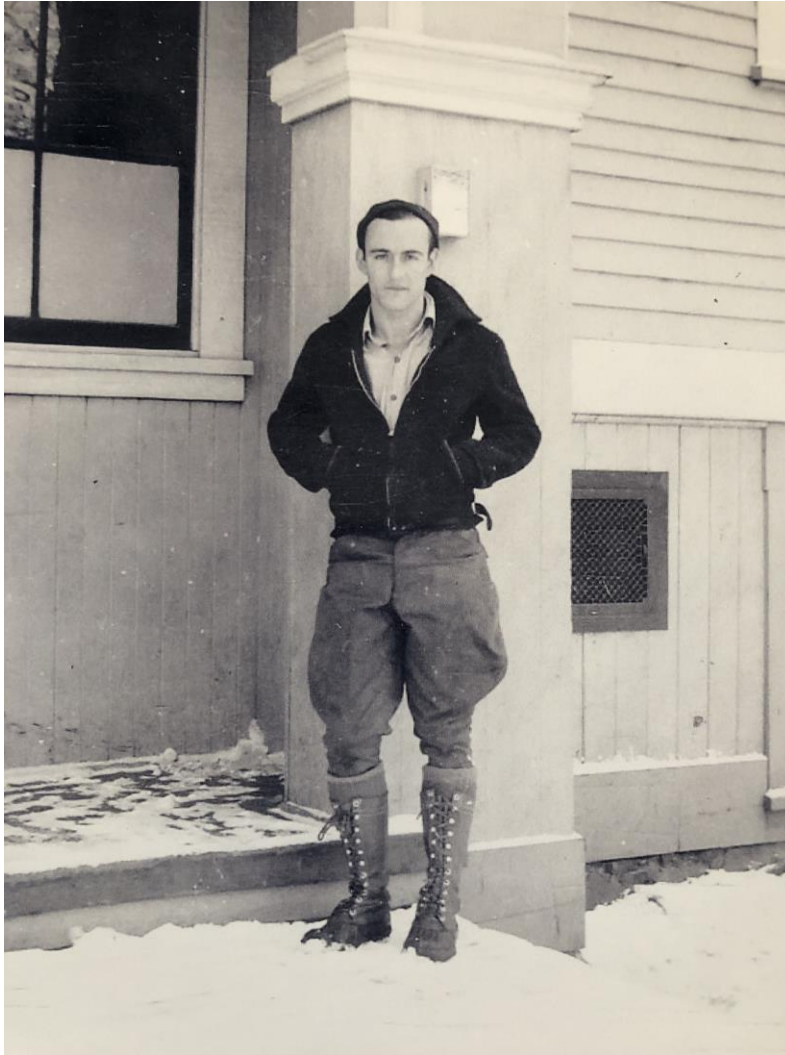
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KAREN BREWSTER: That's why you went and did all that adventuring by yourself, right?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. That's exactly true, too. I was afraid of nothing.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

[02:09:48]KAY MONTOYA: And this is my dad (Kenneth Lamoreaux.jpg).



KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Kenneth Lamoreaux.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: As a young man.

KAREN BREWSTER: And you think that may have been when he was the janitor at the school?

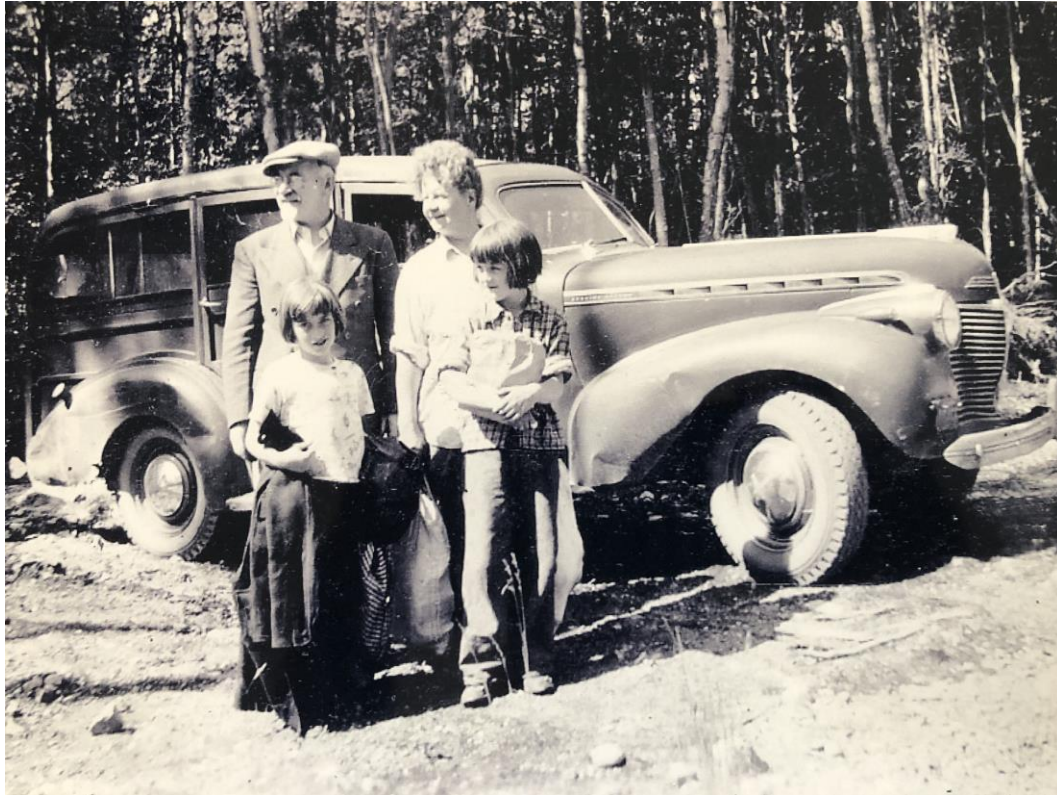
KAY MONTOYA: It was. This was the school here.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. It's a lovely photo.

KAY MONTOYA: Yes, he was a handsome man.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. No wonder your mom married him. And now he --

[02:10:17]KAY MONTOYA: This is my grandfather (Johnston Grandparents\_Lamoreaux Girls.jpg).



KAREN BREWSTER: With the car or the truck.

KAY MONTOYA: My grandfather and my grandmother (Lewis Hallet and Ethel May Johnston)

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: And my sister Karen. And myself.

KAREN BREWSTER: So your sister's on the left?

KAY MONTOYA: That's correct.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. All right. Do you know where that was?

KAY MONTOYA: That was on the Dyea road somewhere.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

[02:10:38]KAY MONTOYA: And this car, remember I was telling you about, that I learned to drive in?

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

KAY MONTOYA: That was that one.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh. Yeah, it looks like kind of an old woody station wagon.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, exactly. And this was the one that you could sit in the back. When they'd go over bumps, you had to be careful, you'd bounce out on the road.

KAREN BREWSTER: So it was a manual -- old kind of manual transmission, huh?

KAY MONTOYA: Um-hm. I can drive anything.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Well, I think if you could drive that, you could drive anything.

KAY MONTOYA: Definitely.

KAREN BREWSTER: I'm going to just pause for a sec.

(break in recording)

[02:11:04]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, so this is photos from -- that you got from Carl Nord.

This is says "Elks Fire, 1943." This was the old Elks Club. But you may not remember that. (IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?)

KAY MONTOYA: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: You were little.

KAY MONTOYA: No. It wasn't -- that wasn't the one we lived next to. This must've burned down and they built the one then -- the one we lived next to.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. [02:11:25]Um, and this is another basketball. "1950 Panthers, Coach Barney Anderson." Which has the names identified. (IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?)

KAY MONTOYA: Right. Do you want me to read the names?

KAREN BREWSTER: No, we don't -- I took a -- I -- you're giving me this copy, right?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: It's more if you have anything to say about it.

KAY MONTOYA: No. Barney was very active with the -- with the Panthers Basketball team, though. I remember one time, he -- there was this -- one of the players was named Eric Selmer. And Eric had a way of throwing a basketball over his head and making a basket, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

KAY MONTOYA: Well, you know, half the time he didn't make 'em, too. And Barney told him that he could not do that during the game. Well, it was like, 40 to 40, and Eric came running down. They had one minute to play, and he made this back end, and made the basket.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

KAY MONTOYA: And Barney gave him one swat with the paddle because that's what he told him he would do if he did another one, so that was a big story.

KAREN BREWSTER: But they won the game?

KAY MONTOYA: Won the game because of Eric's backhanded basket.

KAREN BREWSTER: Cool. [02:12:30]Well, and this -- this is pictures of the ration stamps. (IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?)

KAY MONTOYA: Right.

KAREN BREWSTER: And the ration books. Which prompts me to ask something I didn't ask about, which were things rationed during the war?

KAY MONTOYA: They must've been. Now this came from Carl also.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: And so, I'm not sure exactly what this is, but I think that yes, they were.

KAREN BREWSTER: But you don't remember specifically? You were too young?

KAY MONTOYA: No. It didn't affect us. But I think I do remember every once in a while, Mother telling us, no, we couldn't have such-and-such because it was rationed or something, but.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. Well, I love that in the instructions, it says, quote, "If you don't need it, don't buy it." So there -- there must've been --

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

[02:13:12]KAREN BREWSTER: You know, I mean, there was rationing in the rest of the US, so so far away in Skagway, where it was already hard to get things, I can't imagine. If that was difficult.

KAY MONTOYA: Well, the worst part about Skagway, what happened in Skagway, is they cut -- they shut down all the lakes and all the trails. And the guys in Skagway always went hunting and fishing. So they cut out that source of -- source of food.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: Which was -- didn't work out very well.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Did guys go around the guards and go anyway?

KAY MONTOYA: Um, I'm not sure what they did. I know later on, I know my dad used to go up in the mountains and catch rabbits.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

KAY MONTOYA: And bring 'em home and make rabbit stew and stuff like that. So I don't know if they went around them or not. I know you'd have -- probably Jim would know something like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: 'Cause he was quite a --

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: -- a outdoorsman.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. But they didn't -- you could still go out to Dyea, or they kept you from going to Dyea, too?

KAY MONTOYA: I don't -- we didn't have a cabin. Oh yeah, we did have a cabin in Dyea. I don't remember ever having any trouble going to Dyea.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

KAY MONTOYA: But I think our cabin was being built at the time. It wasn't -- yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm. Ok. [02:14:28]And then this is some old photos of -- you know, copies of old photos of old, um, Skagway and Broadway, like the train. This was before your time. (IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?)

KAY MONTOYA: Right, it is.

KAREN BREWSTER: So -- And we've seen lots of those kind of pictures. And here, this is "Audience at school carnival, October 25, '47." (IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?)

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. Must've been for -- they must've had a program of some kind. But see the boots around here they had? The different boots?

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, in the back?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, it almost looks like they're all sitting down waiting for a performance.

KAY MONTOYA: There must have been a performance or something before that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um, yeah. It looks like everybody's waiting for something.

[02:15:14]Ok, here's more Elks Club photos. And oh, Carl Nord's mother's, um, Emblem Club membership card. (IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?)

KAY MONTOYA: Uh-huh. Ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: So this must be the different Eagle -- is this -- is that the Eagle building you remember?

KAY MONTOYA: BPOE. There's the Eagles and the Elks.

KAREN BREWSTER: BPB?

KAY MONTOYA: This is --

KAREN BREWSTER: This is Elks. You're right. I said Eagles. It's Elks.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, that's Elks. I think that other one we were looking at was the Eagles.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And I don't know, where was the Elks building? Do you recognize this building?

KAY MONTOYA: It's on 5th Avenue.

KAREN BREWSTER: Is it still there?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, I've been into it. It's on 5th Avenue, I think.

KAREN BREWSTER: So the Emblem Club was the Elks? 'Cause that's what this says.

KAY MONTOYA: Ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: For Carl's mom. [02:16:08]Oh, here's this nice photo of this group of young women all dressed up, circa 1941. (IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?) It has their names. I don't know -- there's a couple names missing, but you probably don't recognize --

KAY MONTOYA: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: And you don't -- we talked before about what they might have been dressed up for.

KAY MONTOYA: We don't know. It might've been a prom. It might've been a -- could be just about anything.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Did women dress up for like a dance or something?

KAY MONTOYA: Well, we did have proms and senior balls.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: So it could've been one of those.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. And your Aunt Margaret's in this picture.

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Any guess -- yeah, I don't know how old these --

KAY MONTOYA: Let me take a look at the picture. I can't tell.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: She looks like she would be a junior or a senior, though.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you think they would've been high school age? Yeah, Barbara Dedman is in this picture, too, but I don't know, um, her age. [02:17:09]Um, more -- the Pullen House and the McCabe House, and the Catholic Church. And you said -- and priest's house. You said that Catholic Church and priest's house was where?

KAY MONTOYA: It used to be behind our house on -- where we lived.

KAREN BREWSTER: The Peniel -- on 6th Avenue?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, behind our house. I think that's the one. It burned down.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm. Ok. Did it burn down during your time?

KAY MONTOYA: No, it was burned down during my time.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: When we lived in that house, it had burned down.

KAREN BREWSTER: It had already burned down? Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: It wasn't burned down completely. I think there was some of it that was still standing.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

KAY MONTOYA: The steeple was still there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And, of course, the Pullen House was still there when you were living in Skagway?

KAY MONTOYA: It was there, but it was pretty well abandoned. She lived there, I think, by herself. We would see her every once in a while. Just shadows, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. [02:18:05]Um, this is this, um -- I'm trying to find. These are these pictures of the military ships during World War II. (IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?)

KAY MONTOYA: Right.

KAREN BREWSTER: At the dock. Um --

KAY MONTOYA: There's three of 'em.

KAREN BREWSTER: Three of 'em, and then there's another one. And then, this bigger picture is labeled "USS Hudson, 1945." Do you remember seeing these kinds of ships? You were too young?

KAY MONTOYA: No. Those came from Carl's files.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. But you -- you don't remember seeing them out in the --

KAY MONTOYA: Hm-um.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Yeah, this bigger one, the USS Hudson, does have, you know, gun things.

KAY MONTOYA: Um-hm.

KAREN BREWSTER: Those other ones, we don't know what they're doing there.

KAY MONTOYA: They're not close enough.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. [02:18:48]This is a -- oh, this is the batch of pictures of the school. (IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?)

KAY MONTOYA: Right. The first school and then the second school and then the one I remember.

KAREN BREWSTER: Is on the bottom?

KAY MONTOYA: 1938. Must've been -- these must've been built. This was one built in 1900 to 1938. And this one is 1938 to -- it's gone now.

KAREN BREWSTER: But the one at the bottom, 1938, that's the one you remember?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's the one you went to?

KAY MONTOYA: The high school was upstairs, and the elementary school was downstairs. And the gymnasium was on the end.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, that's at the right back here with just those two windows?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: That was the gymnasium? Hm. Do you remember how many kids were in the school?

KAY MONTOYA: Um, well, let's see. There was twelve in my -- twelve in my 1957 graduating class, and so -- we were an extra-large class. Let's see, six -- you know, I can't -- I don't even think I can guess. Um, used to have, like fourth and fifth grade

together, and I don't think there were more than twenty-five kids in the room. And then fifth and sixth together. Seventh and eighth together. And then high school together.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, the high school was all together?

KAY MONTOYA: The high school was upstairs, all together.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. [02:20:09]Do you remember any favorite teachers? Particularly influential teachers for you?

KAY MONTOYA: I can remember some teachers. Dot -- Mr. Swick.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: He was like the history teacher, the social science -- the social studies teacher. And also the drama teacher. Band teacher.

KAREN BREWSTER: Mr. Swick was --

KAY MONTOYA: He also had -- yeah. He was the band teacher.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did you play an instrument?

KAY MONTOYA: Clarinet.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.

KAY MONTOYA: Not too well, but I played the clarinet.

KAREN BREWSTER: I was going to ask about music because I know a lot of people took piano.

KAY MONTOYA: I took piano lessons, too. I can play a little bit of piano, but nothing to brag about.

KAREN BREWSTER: And you -- and you did some singing in the choir?

KAY MONTOYA: And I sang in the choir at the Presbyterian Church.

KAREN BREWSTER: Pretty musical.

KAY MONTOYA: For several years, I sang in the choir.

[02:21:11]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, ok. Let's finish these photos. (IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?) So this is an "Elks Auxiliary 1946 Emblem Club." This, again, came from Carl Nord. Um, is there anybody in there that --

KAY MONTOYA: Marian Fraser lived next to my grandparents. Marian was a -- she baked things all the time. She was a great baker and gardener.

KAREN BREWSTER: Hm.

KAY MONTOYA: She was very much of a home maker.

KAREN BREWSTER: And she's the front, second from left.

KAY MONTOYA: Second from the left in the middle.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: Middle row, I guess she'd be. They had a beautiful home that her husband had built. His name was Harry. And it was a log home, and he stained all the logs, you know. It was just a gorgeous home.

KAREN BREWSTER: What did he do? Did he work for the railroad?

KAY MONTOYA: I think he worked for the railroad, but he was an excellent carpenter. He, um, knotty pine throughout the house.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: It was just a very pretty house.

[02:22:12]KAREN BREWSTER: So would you go over there to get pie or something from Mrs. Fraser?

KAY MONTOYA: We would go over there -- Um, Marian would watch us every once in a while, my sister and I, if my parents and grandparents were doing something together. She would watch us. And she never had children of her own, so she scared the heck out of both of us. So we toed the line, you know.

KAREN BREWSTER: She was strict, huh?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. She didn't know what -- we didn't know how to -- you know, most of the time, if you're around the parents of your chil -- of their children, you kind of get a viewpoint of how to act. With Marian, we never knew what was right and wrong. We just had to toe the mark.

KAREN BREWSTER: She didn't bake cookies for you?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, she did. She was -- she was good to us.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: But she didn't really like kids.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh. [02:22:54]So again, here's some old photos of downtown Skagway. **(IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?)** AB Hall, and you can sort of see in the side right here, the transport building.

KAY MONTOYA: Right. See, there's one of our trucks, it looks like, sitting in front of it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh. Yeah, it looks like --

KAY MONTOYA: Flatbed.

KAREN BREWSTER: Flatbed. Yeah, cool. So that's a more recent picture than -- these top two are like old postcards. 'Cause it says -- one says 19 -- says 2010, but it must be, um, 1910. Anyway, that's right. That's cool with the truck on the bottom. And it does -- there's the Richter's Jewelry Store sign.

KAY MONTOYA: Richter's. That's what I kept thinking of, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um, to the south of your building.

KAY MONTOYA: Right.

[02:23:46]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, so again, some more -- well, the top photo's baseball, and the bottom one looks like more basketball. **(IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?)**

KAY MONTOYA: Um-hm.

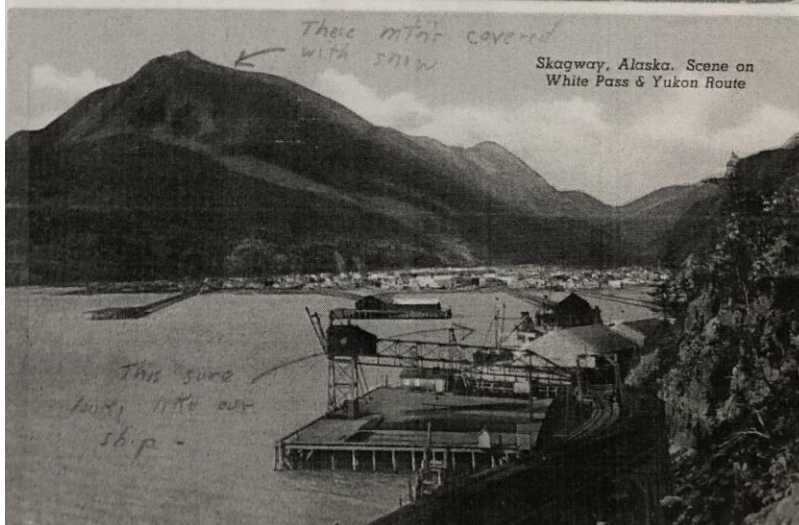
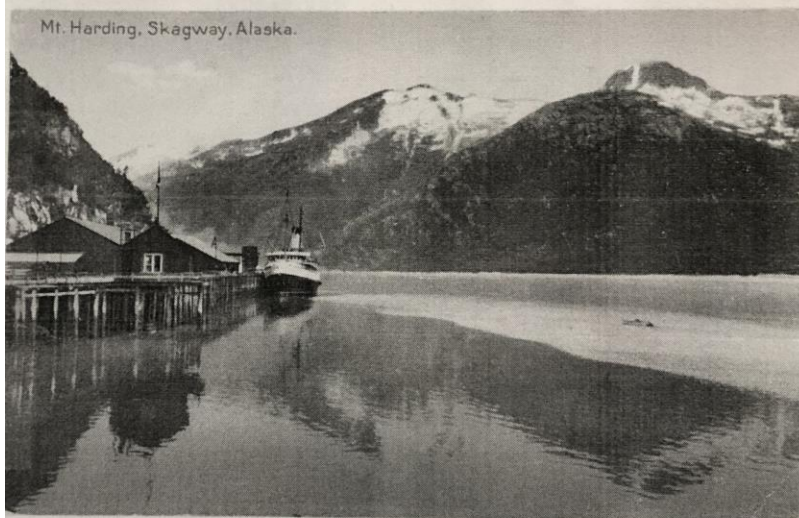
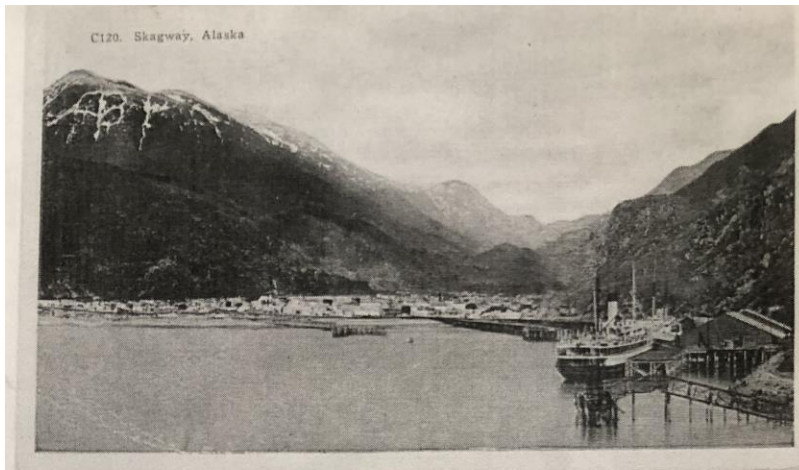
KAREN BREWSTER: 1947. Anything?

KAY MONTOYA: Uh, no. Those are just --

KAREN BREWSTER: Just life in Skagway?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. Just kids that went to school there.

[02:24:10]KAREN BREWSTER: And then, here again, postcards of the Skagway dock, 1930's. And this bottom one really shows the big dock (Skagway Docks\_1930.jpg).



KAY MONTOYA: Uh-huh.

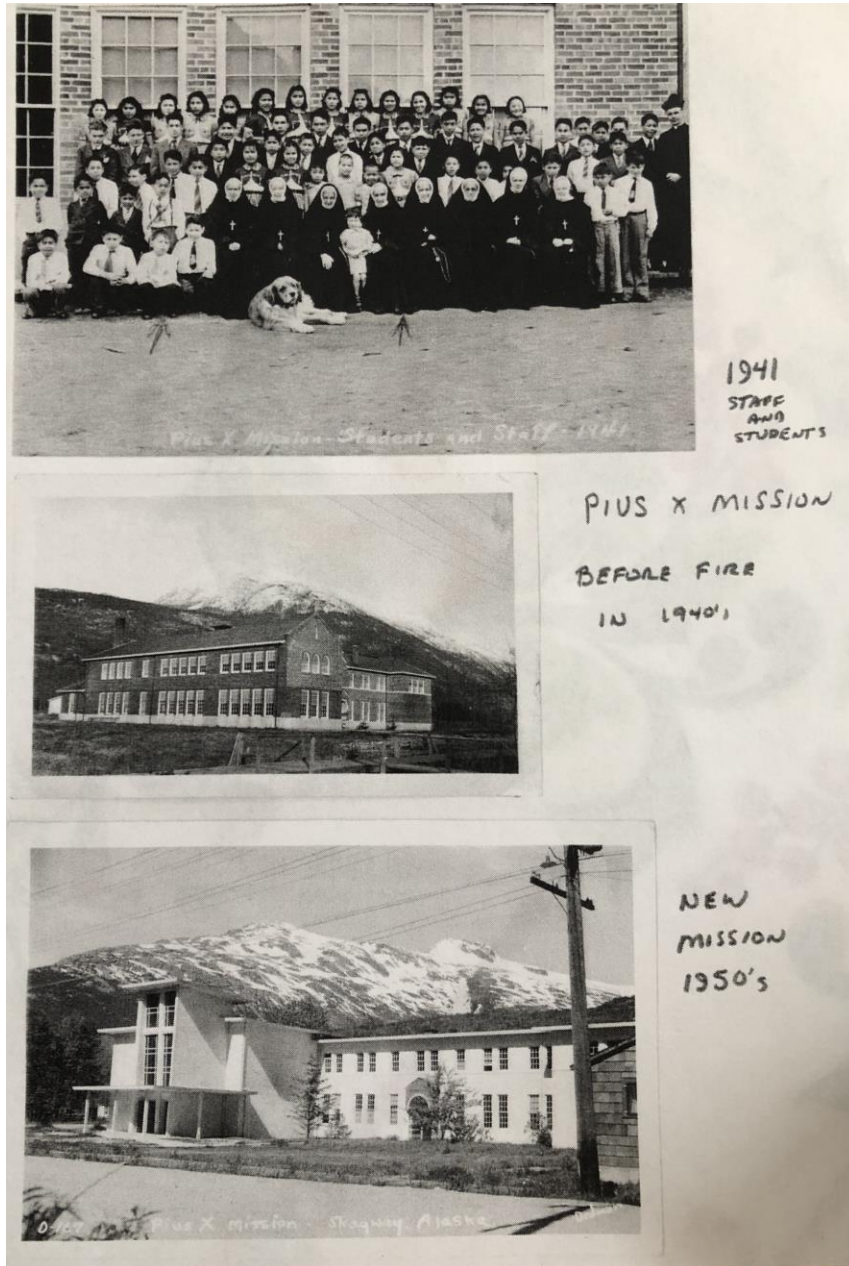
KAREN BREWSTER: Was the dock -- is that what the dock was like when you were there?

KAY MONTTOYA: Yes. It was on -- against the mountain. Against the east mountain.

KAREN BREWSTER: And the train went all the way out to the dock?

KAY MONTTOYA: Yes. Unloaded ore.

[02:24:34]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok, these are more Pius Mission photos (Pius X Mission.jpg)



KAY MONTTOYA: Um-hm.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um, which --

KAY MONTTOYA: The mission in Skagway took in -- took in a lot of children that had been misplaced by the war, from the Aleutian Islands.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. They were orphans, or -- ?

KAY MONTTOYA

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KAY MONTOYA: Some were orphans, yes. I guess most of them were, or their parents couldn't take care of them.

KAREN BREWSTER: As you said, there wasn't much interaction.

KAY MONTOYA: Not a lot. There was -- the boys started playing on the -- on the basketball team with our high school boys, and so. But they went to a different school and things, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, they didn't come -- they weren't in your classes?

KAY MONTOYA: No.

KAREN BREWSTER: No. Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: And the girls, there was very little interaction at all.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. [02:25:23]Ok, more boys and girls basketball teams. "Girls 1938." Boys, it looks like '47-'48. (Skagway Basketball Teams.jpg)



Miss SUNDELLAND - CHARLOTTE HERN - JOAN HANNAH -  
MARY ESTHER GAULT - DOROTHY WILSON - DOROTHY GARDNER 1938



KAY MONTOYA: That's -- it is what it is.

KAREN BREWSTER: It is from Carl Nord's identification.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

[02:25:39]KAREN BREWSTER: And then, um, I don't know this -- (Ken Johnston.jpg)



KAY MONTOYA: That's my uncle Ken there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ken Johnston --

KAY MONTOYA: No, I mean he's -- this is him here.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, he's standing behind the truck?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. That's his truck.

KAREN BREWSTER: So Ken is behind the truck. Now was that him working for your parents and --

KAY MONTOYA: He worked for them some. Not as much as Hal, but he did some.

KAREN BREWSTER: That's not -- that's not what he's doing in that picture.

KAY MONTOYA: No. No.

[02:26:06]KAREN BREWSTER: And then, a very handsome Jim Alexander next to a truck in the 1960's (Jim Alexander\_1960s.jpg).



KAY MONTOYA: Yeah, that's Jim.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. [02:26:13]Um, and then "Alice Story, 1930's." (Alice Story\_1930s.jpg)



ALICE STORY - 1930'S

KAY MONTOYA: That's Lou D's mother.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Oh, no. Dennis Story's mother. I'm sorry. That's not Lou D's mother.

That's Dennis' mother.

KAREN BREWSTER: And Dennis is one of the kids you played with?

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah. He was -- he played with us a lot. He was -- I think he was Lou D's cousin.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, ok. What did his dad do, do you remember?

KAY MONTOYA: Um, Dean Story was a good friend of my dad's. Um, I'm not sure.

Construction, I think.

[02:26:46]KAREN BREWSTER: Um, and then Lou D's father, did he work for the railroad?

KAY MONTOYA: That would be Dean's -- Lou D -- I don't know. I don't know what his dad did. I don't remember.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. I know Carl Nord probably told me 'cause they were really good friends.

KAY MONTOYA: Yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: I was just looking at this picture of Jim, you know, on Broad -- looks like on Broadway. (Jim Alexander\_1960s.jpg) Looks like it's in front -- something Igloo. But I don't know if you recognize.

KAY MONTOYA: Let me see. Uh-huh. That's the Igloo Bar.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: That we were talking about.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: And then this over here, this building.

KAREN BREWSTER: Behind him, yeah?

KAY MONTOYA: That was -- looks like it was boarded up then, but a man came into town by the name of Stein, and he opened it as like a dollar store or something like that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: I don't remember his first name, but they call it Stein's.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: And then, down this same block was the Pack Train.

[02:27:43]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. Oh, here's your Skagway Public School. (IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?)

KAY MONTOYA: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: Right. That's the one I went to.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. That's a bigger --

KAY MONTOYA: That's a better picture.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Um, more postcard pictures of on Broadway with the train. Um, before your time. (IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?) [02:28:14]And here's White Pass Hospital and the Presbyterian Church.

KAY MONTOYA: Right.

KAREN BREWSTER: '46-'47.

KAY MONTOYA: That was the hospital I was born in.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: Says 1947. Oh, the picture was taken in '47, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. And the church picture was taken in '46. So this is what you remember?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did you have any other time in the hospital? Well, your TB, you probably were in the hospital.

KAY MONTOYA: I did. I was in the hospital for about a week before I was transferred to the hospital in Seattle.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Do you remember any of the -- you said Dr. Dahl?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: He was the doctor? Um, and then were there nurses?

KAY MONTOYA: I'm sorry.

KAREN BREWSTER: Nurses? Or other people?

KAY MONTOYA: I don't remember any of the nurses, no.

KAREN BREWSTER: Was Dr. Dahl -- what was he like?  
KAY MONTOYA: He was a family doctor forever and ever, you know.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.  
KAY MONTOYA: He was -- he'd been there for a long time. He's, um, just everybody knew Dr. Dahl.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.  
KAY MONTOYA: He just was like one of the family. You know.  
[02:29:14]KAREN BREWSTER: And there was a -- I think in the Emblem Club there was a Mrs. Dahl?  
KAY MONTOYA: I don't know.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: My family was never involved with the Emblem Club, so I don't know.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. You only remember Dr. Dahl, not Mrs. Dahl?  
KAY MONTOYA: I remember, uh, I remember her -- Vera Dahl was her name.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.  
KAY MONTOYA: But I don't remember -- I had -- I had contact with him because of illness and stuff.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Right.  
KAY MONTOYA: While I never really had contact with her.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: She didn't babysit for me or anything, and I was just a kid.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Right.  
KAY MONTOYA: You know, she wasn't interested in talking to me.  
[02:29:44]KAREN BREWSTER: So here's this picture of your sister running the Fourth of July race. (IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?)  
KAY MONTOYA: Right.  
KAREN BREWSTER: This is a great picture. And uh, oh, this is your poem about skating. Do you want to read it?  
KAY MONTOYA: Hm. "Skating Time. When in Skagway the ground is blanketed with snow / and the north wind has decided not to blow / then skating the boys and girls will go. / When you go happy and jolly and gay / through and through their little town all day. / When we all -- when we fall flat in the snow / we jump up and off we go / then every one of us say / we had so much fun in Skagway."  
KAREN BREWSTER: That's great.  
KAY MONTOYA: That's funny.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Any idea how -- and then the lovely little drawings of two people skating. Any idea how --  
KAY MONTOYA: I'm amazed at what a good drawer I was at seven. Must've been about seven.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah? Well, yeah, that picture I showed you that Carl Nord had that you guys sent him, somebody was a very good drawer.  
KAY MONTOYA: That was me.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. [02:31:00]So here's this wonderful photo of you guys. (IN HARD COPY PHOTOS FROM KAY?)  
KAY MONTOYA: Oh, yeah.

KAREN BREWSTER: Of you kids, so I'm assuming the labeling is right. "Carl Nord --  
KAY MONTOYA: Lou D.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Maybe you got Lou D from Louis Dean? Lou D. That might make sense.  
KAY MONTOYA: Um, maybe his middle name was Dean, you're right.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, 'cause it says here, "Louis Dean Selmer," so Lou D -- 'cause maybe there was a Louis Somebody Else Selmer.  
KAY MONTOYA: Maybe. Louis Dean, yeah.  
KAREN BREWSTER: And then, you and your sister. Um, Denny Story and then Meryl Nelson in front. Do you know where that picture was taken?  
KAY MONTOYA: Let me see.  
KAREN BREWSTER: If you can tell what you're standing in front of.  
KAY MONTOYA: I don't know, but that's a gun I have in my hand.  
KAREN BREWSTER: What? You have a gun in your hand?  
KAY MONTOYA: It was probably a -- probably a play gun. Does that look like a gun?  
KAREN BREWSTER: You're the one in the middle?  
KAY MONTOYA: I'm the one on the outside.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Oh. No, I don't see that you have anything in your hand.  
KAY MONTOYA: Can't you see it? Let's see.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Maybe I'm not --  
KAY MONTOYA: See this here?  
KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, I see. I thought that was your arm. No, I think that's your arm. I think this white thing is like a --  
KAY MONTOYA: That's my arm.  
KAREN BREWSTER: No, down here's your arm. I think your arm goes here.  
KAY MONTOYA: Oh.  
KAREN BREWSTER: And this is like a --  
KAY MONTOYA: That's a handkerchief or something.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Kerchief.  
KAY MONTOYA: That Carl has a hold of.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Or it's on the doorknob.  
KAY MONTOYA: Ok, well good. I'm not as bad as I thought I was. Phew!  
KAREN BREWSTER: That's a wonderful picture. Meryl does not look happy.  
KAY MONTOYA: No.  
[02:32:43]KAREN BREWSTER: No. But it's an interesting building you guys are in front of. I'm wondering --  
KAY MONTOYA: For some reason, I want to say that was in front -- in Carl's yard.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. I'm wondering --  
KAY MONTOYA: It was like a lawn, where they keep lawn mower and equipment.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. I'm wondering -- well, it might be too small. But Carl mentioned that his father got one of the old Quonset huts.  
KAY MONTOYA: That's probably it.  
KAREN BREWSTER: And used it, part of it, like, as a greenhouse. And I'm wondering if that's what it is.  
KAY MONTOYA: That's probably it.

KAREN BREWSTER: But it seems too short.

KAY MONTOYA: It is a little small, isn't it?

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah, so, but --

KAY MONTOYA: He might've altered it, though.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. But it does look like a garden shed kind of thing. Ok.

[02:33:17]Well, that's all the photo things to talk about.

KAY MONTOYA: Ok.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um, you know, in looking through those photos, and we had talked a little bit before about the discrimination question, and how we know that you did not discriminate, but um, if you ever heard other people say things?

KAY MONTOYA: Well, you know, in thinking back, since we discussed it once before, I did run into discrimination every once in a while. The reason that I -- I kind of sloughed it off is because if I don't recognize it, it doesn't exist in my mind. But if I get realistic about it, I had an instance one time where there was a Native girl in our school that was in my class. And a very nice girl. And I used to meet her at the corner leaving my grandparents' house to go to school and walk to school with her. Well, one day this older lady pulled me aside and told me that I shouldn't associate with her because she was Native. And I remember being totally horrified, and I think at my young age, I told her off.

KAREN BREWSTER: The woman said you shouldn't associate because it would affect her?

KAY MONTOYA: Associate with her because she was a Native girl.

KAREN BREWSTER: And it would affect your reputation?

KAY MONTOYA: And it would affect my reputation, yes. But anyway, I think in so many words, I told her that I didn't see anything but a friend, a nice girl, and uh, I was not about to give up a friend just because of somebody else's prejudices. I don't think I said it in that mature way, but, basically, that's what I told her. I was horrified that she'd even ask me to do such a thing, and I felt terrible, which made me even more determined to meet the girl and walk to school with her regardless, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Well, you probably said, "Well, she's my friend, and I'm going to hang out with her."

KAY MONTOYA: Yes, exactly. That's right.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: I didn't even understand what it was when it was brought up to me, because in my family, discrimination didn't happen.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: You know, if you even started to discriminate against somebody, thinking that they were lesser than you were, we would get punished for it. And my grandfather, one of his favorite sayings was, "Everybody is the same. They put their pants on one leg at a time." And they not only did this to bolster me up for my self-confidence, but it also made me understand that people around me are just as important as I am.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: So when they -- I ran into a form of discrimination, I -- I was very surprised by it, and I did rebuck it as best I could.

[02:36:04]KAREN BREWSTER: Now do you remember about how old you would've been when that incident happened?

KAY MONTOYA: I had to be -- and everything in my life is pro-sickness --

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: And after sickness.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: And I think it was -- it was after. After I got back.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you were an early teenager?

KAY MONTOYA: So I would've been -- I would've been probably eleven, twelve, something like that.

[02:36:26]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And then, do you feel that older woman who said that, do you think she learned something?

KAY MONTOYA: Well, I found out later in life, as a matter of fact, I talked to somebody, a friend of mine from Skagway, and I had -- I recanted this story to them. And they said, that was interesting because later on in life, this girl got married, and this woman that had told me I should discriminate against her threw her a shower. So I think she might -- I don't know what happened. I don't know what happened in the years between, but something apparently opened her eyes that she was incorrect, and I feel good that she -- that she was kind to this girl. Because she was a nice girl.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. So I want to thank you for sharing that story. It's very important, I think, for people to know that --

KAY MONTOYA: Well --

KAREN BREWSTER: -- you know, the past is not always perfect, and things change, and it's good to hear that -- those kinds of things.

KAY MONTOYA: Well, you're welcome. I uh, I -- I -- I -- like I say, I wasn't brought up to discriminate.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: So I didn't even see it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: But when I stop and really pay attention, I do see that it has happened.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Right.

KAY MONTOYA: And if I were -- I would certainly never contribute to it and do anything I could to stop it.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. [02:37:44]And now, you graduated from high school in Skagway?

KAY MONTOYA: No. I left Skagway, uh, my junior -- after my junior year, and went to Anchorage.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: Came to Anchorage, and then I spent the summer in Anchorage and went to California with my mother and her -- she remarried.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: And I graduated from Pomona High School.

KAREN BREWSTER: Oh. And then what did you do after high school?

KAY MONTOYA: Went back to Skag -- Anchorage. By then, that's where all our family was except for my sister.

KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

KAY MONTOYA: Uh, and my dad were the only ones left in Skagway. Um, so I figured I had a future in Anchorage, and I was promised a job. So I went to work for the bank in Anchorage. Bank of America. Bank of Alaska.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: National Bank of Alaska.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. [02:38:34]And so, was banking then, did that become your career?

KAY MONTOYA: No. I worked there just long enough to get enough money to go back to California. And I did. I went back to California and went to work for a bank down there. Then I got a better job offer from a finance company, so I went to work for a finance company. And then, I ended up coming back to Anchorage and pretty well stayed there forever.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: It doesn't take long to be out of Alaska to realize you want to go back, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm. And so, did you get a college degree?

KAY MONTOYA: No. I have no college degree. I've spent -- I've taken classes, community college classes, but never -- in psychology. I also have a certificate in labor relations, but.

[02:39:16]KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. And then, when did you meet your husband, Herb, your current husband?

KAY MONTOYA: We met in Anchorage at the Fourth -- picnic on the Fourth of July. And uh, my sister and I, with her kids and my kids. Jim was working out of town. We went to this picnic in our neighborhood, and Herb was there. And Herb started playing with the kids, you know, doing things with the kids, which was right up my alley. So I started, too, and we took the kids around the neighborhood. And Herb bought 'em fireworks. You know, Karen and Kevin were three years old at the time, so he kind of, you know, was nice and kind to 'em. So we became friends, and from friendship -- he had two boys from a previous marriage that he tried to get custody of down in -- it's a long story, yeah. Anyway, we ended up with a family of four.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: A family of six. Four children, and two of us.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: We had one boy, six, three -- three others, five.

KAREN BREWSTER: Wow.

KAY MONTOYA: So that's what we had every summer from then on.

KAREN BREWSTER: So what year did you get married?

KAY MONTOYA: Got married in 1967.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. [02:40:30]Um, yeah, I don't know if you want to say anything about your first marriage and having the children or not, that's up to you.

KAY MONTOYA: They were born, uh, yeah, no. They were born in Dillingham, Alaska.

KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.

KAY MONTOYA: They're Alaskan kids.

KAREN BREWSTER: So you went from Anchorage to Dillingham at some point?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: I was in Dillingham.

KAREN BREWSTER: Did you work in the fisheries, cannery?  
KAY MONTOYA: No. They were redoing a -- refurbishing a barge over there.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Oh.  
KAY MONTOYA: My ex-husband was in charge of the operation, so.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. [02:41:01]Um, and so, when did you move down here to Arizona?  
KAY MONTOYA: Oh, in 2000, year 2000 or 2001.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: Actually, my husband retired.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.  
KAY MONTOYA: And medical is the only thing that keeps me here all the time is medical.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Right.  
KAY MONTOYA: Otherwise, I would be in Anchorage.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: And uh, I'll always be an Alaskan. I can't -- I don't know how to be anything but an Alaskan.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Well, you were born there, which --  
KAY MONTOYA: Alaska's not just a thing -- a piece of something written on a piece of paper. To me, you are either an Alaskan or not. Somebody can live in Alaska for ten years and be an Alaskan.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.  
KAY MONTOYA: Or somebody can live there for their whole lives and not be an Alaskan. It's in -- it's in your blood. I mean, it's just part of you.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. [02:41:48]And now, when did your -- did your father pass away in Skagway, or did he move?  
KAY MONTOYA: He's buried in Sitka.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: He moved to -- he moved -- he went fishing, commercial fishing, in one of his boats and moved to -- uh, huh, huh, huh. Darn, it's -- Tenakee Hot Springs.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Oh, yeah.  
KAY MONTOYA: And he passed away at Tenakee Hot Springs. And we went down, and he was buried in Sitka.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Uh-huh. And about what year did he leave Skagway?  
KAY MONTOYA: Um, '57 -- it's got to be in the late '60's.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok. [02:42:32]And so now, none of your family is currently in Skagway?  
KAY MONTOYA: No.  
KAREN BREWSTER: But in Anchorage?  
KAY MONTOYA: No.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Ok.  
KAY MONTOYA: All of my family except, um, like I say, one -- one of my aunts moved to Texas, and she had three children that live in Texas.  
KAREN BREWSTER: Right.  
KAY MONTOYA: All the rest of them, all my cousins and everything, live in Anchorage.  
[02:42:53]KAREN BREWSTER: Well, I -- I really appreciate your time today. This has been fun to hear your childhood memories and what it was like growing up there.

KAY MONTOYA: Well, it's been kind of interesting because, uh, your questions, of course, have made me think back, and so, it's kind of brought up things with me, too. And the more I think about 'em, you know, the more I expand on 'em.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah. Are there other things that as I -- that I haven't asked about?

KAY MONTOYA: I don't think so. I think it's been fairly thorough.

KAREN BREWSTER: Enough of your memories have come out?

KAY MONTOYA: Yes. I -- I'm proud of my Alaskan family. Um, like I say, we're probably the oldest Caucasian family in the state.

KAREN BREWSTER: Um-hm.

KAY MONTOYA: I still have lots of cousins and nieces and nephews and things that live in Anchorage, and so I'm proud they're holding down the fort. My daughter is still in Anchorage.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right.

KAY MONTOYA: And she's quite happily married there.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yep.

KAY MONTOYA: So I guess that would be about it.

KAREN BREWSTER: That would be about it, unless you have anything else to say.

KAY MONTOYA: But I'll always -- I'll always love Skagway.

KAREN BREWSTER: Yeah.

KAY MONTOYA: I just, physically, I'm just not able to spend any time there now, so.

KAREN BREWSTER: Right. Right. Well, um, unless there's anything else, I'll turn off the recorder.

KAY MONTOYA: Nope. You may do that.

KAREN BREWSTER: Thank you.