

Q: This is Pam Hailey, and this is January the 31st, and it's 2:10 in the afternoon, and I'm talking with Mr. Joseph Frank Marty. I've got a few family questions that I wanted to ask you here. Some of them we may have just gone through a little bit, like "what year did you or your family arrive in Tacoma?"

A: We arrived in May, 1938 in Tacoma.

Q: In Tacoma. Did you settle anywhere first before you came to Tacoma? Just straight to Tacoma?

A: We had relatives here in Tacoma.

Q: How did you know about Tacoma then? Just through your relatives?

A: Through friends, through friends, yeah.

Q: Did you have a job waiting for you when you came over here?

A: Yes, we had work on the farm.

Q: You knew that you had a job waiting for you?

A: Oh yeah, oh yeah. I worked for my wife's cousin as a (unclear) on the farm for two years.

Q: As a milker?

A: Yeah.

Q: What did you do after you, you say you worked there for two years. What did you do after that?

A: I worked one year at a Flett dairy here, right next to our home here. Also milking cows. It's the only thing we know when you come from the old country.

Q: Yes. And then what about after Flett, where did you go on to?

A: Well, I went to work for the Atlas Foundry.

Q: *Oh, really?*

A: Yeah. During the war I worked in a foundry, out South Tacoma way.

Q: *And how long did you work there for?*

A: Three and a half years.

Q: *And that was during World War II?*

A: That was during World War II.

Q: *And then what about after World War II?*

A: After WWII...

Q: *That's going back a ways.*

A: I worked for the Olympic Dairy up on K Street for about a couple of months. Then from there, I went to driving truck for General Mills in South Tacoma. Then I was on the road for seven and a half years.

Q: *Wow, that's a long time.*

A: Yeah. Driving truck. Then finally, I could've go to work for a long distance truck, Seattle Ventures, but when you've got two children, you never home. Truck is your home.

Q: *Yeah, and you didn't want to.....*

A: So, I didn't want to do this. So, we went and bought the Swiss Tavern, from Mr. Louie, Louie J. Emhoff, in 1952 in fall --- and, this was a great experience for us (unclear). My wife and I, we were not drinking people. We were kind of green on all that stuff. Go in the tavern business. We learned fast, and it was the best thing that ever happened to us. We done good, we were there ten and a half years, running the Swiss Hall downstairs and also the dance hall upstairs.

Q: *Oh you did. You ran the dance hall?*

A: The whole building.

Q: *So you managed the building?*

A: Oh yes, yeah, yeah.

Q: *And then you retired from there?*

A: We sold out in 19 (unclear) well, we made the first trip back to Switzerland in 1958. I took my, the whole family, we went to Switzerland for four months.

Q: *Oh, lovely.*

A: And that was twenty years after we left home. It was a great experience, a big change you saw over there took place. Then in '63, we sold, I sold the tavern. We thought we had enough with their big living. So, I was doing some odd jobs after that; you couldn't retire at that age you know, you're too young. So, I was doing a lot of painting, painting houses and doing some odd jobs. I didn't, I never held a steady job anymore after we retired.

Q: *Well, good for you!*

A: After we retired from the tavern. I did manage drive-ins for the Supreme Dairy, that was for my wife's cousin. They had milk drive-ins down in (unclear). I managed them for a couple years, then we give it up you know. We made several more trips to Switzerland.

Q: *Oh, you did?*

A: Oh yeah. I've been out there ten times.

Q: *Ten times?*

A: So....

Q: *Did you ever think about retiring back to Switzerland?*

A: No, I couldn't do that. It's the changes. You live over here all your, pretty near your whole adult life. They're alright over there, they've done good. You know, I mean they're well off as far as that goes, in a lot of ways they're ahead of us. In a lot of ways, we are ahead of them, but I could not stay over there and live over there. I just couldn't.

Q: *Do you think maybe because, is the standard of living better over here than it is in Switzerland?*

A: I won't say that. Standard of living like today, they're the highest in the world.

Q: *The highest, alright.*

A: It was just in the paper the other day.

Q: *Oh, good.*

A: Switzerland has the highest standard of living.

Q: *You just feel like maybe your roots are here now?*

A: Well, this is my home. I made my living over here and I figured well, this is the place we want to stay.

Q: *Did Marie help you in the tavern too?*

A: Oh, yeah, we were hand in hand, side by side.

Q: *Good. 'Cause that's hard work.*

A: That's hard work, you said so.

Q: *When you first came to Tacoma, did you live among other Swiss immigrants, or immigrants from other countries?*

A: Yes. No, mostly around the Swiss.

Q: *You did. And whereabouts was that?*

A: Oh, in Fife.

Q: *In Fife.*

A: We lived out in Fife first.

Q: *And so, most of your neighbors were Swiss people?*

A: Yeah, they were at that time. They're all gone by now. There are no more farmers left out there. To this present location here, we moved in 1942.

Q: *So, you've been here since 1942?*

A: Yeah, 1942. We built this house here.

Q: *Great. I asked you this and I'm going to ask you again so we can put it on the tape. When you first came over to this country, what language did you speak in the household?*

A: Mostly Swiss. We didn't know anything else.

Q: Did you know any English at all when you came over here?

A: No, no.

Q: No English.

A: Had to talk with the hand.

Q: So, when you got off the, you came here on the train, is that right?

A: Yeah.

Q: So give me your journey from Switzerland to here.

A: Oh, we came by boat.

Q: From Switzerland, did you go to Le Havre?

A: No, we took the boat in Bremerhaven.

Q: Bremerhaven?

A: In Deutschland¹.

Q: And straight to New York?

A: To New York, yeah.

Q: And then from New York?

A: By train.

Q: By train?

A: Took five days.

Q: Five days on the train?

A: Five days on the train.

¹Germany

Q: *And straight to Tacoma?*

A: Yeah.

Q: *And you got off the train at Union Station in Tacoma?*

A: No. The Old Milwaukee Railroad. We came on the Milwaukee Railroad.

Q: *On the Milwaukee Railroad?*

A: At the old Milwaukee Station that would be.

Q: *Is that down on Puyallup Avenue somewhere?*

A: It's on 28th, 27th Street there, next to Puyallup Avenue. The Old Milwaukee Station is not there no more, you know.

Q: *What did you think when you got off that train?*

A: Well, there was a guy picked me up on the other station.

Q: *You had a friend picking you up?*

A: Yeah, and took us up to the Swiss Hall, that was my first stop. At the Swiss Hall, that's where they usually come, in them days.

Q: *And how long did you stay at the Swiss Hall?*

A: Oh, not very long. We went out to my, see, the people I worked for, that was my wife's cousin out in Fife you know.

Q: *It would seem to me you were one of the fortunate ones in that you actually had a job to come to.*

A: Oh yeah, oh yeah.

Q: *Because some of the Swiss I think came over and no job to come to? It's kind of like "well, I'm here now, what do I do?"*

A: Yeah, that's right.

Q: I wanted to talk a little about your Swiss values and your beliefs as a Swiss person. You know, what you believe in, what's important to you as a Swiss person, the way that you were raised?

A: Well, we like to hang onto the Swiss culture as much as we can.

Q: And does that --- my sense about that is that family is very important.

A: That's right, yeah.

Side 1, Count 100

Q: And supporting family and keeping in touch with family?

A: Oh yeah, oh yeah, we do that all the same.

Q: What other things were important do you think, in the Swiss lifestyle? Can you think of anything else?

A: Well, most of them are farmers in them days. That's all they know, most of it was all Swiss farming out through Puyallup and Sumner Valley and out through there, there was a lot of us.

Q: Was there a real closeness between the Swiss farmers at that time when you came over here?

A: Oh yeah, oh yeah.

Q: So, you knew a lot of people?

A: I knew a lot of people who came here.

Q: You did?

A: Yes. There were a lot from my hometown living in this area, from my hometown. They lived in this area. Most of them are all gone now.

Q: So, you would get together and do things in the Swiss Hall? Parties and receptions and dances?

A: Oh yeah, that's right.

Q: *Do you think today you've been able to keep some --- still have those same values, those same cultural values today?*

A: It's been pretty good, even American-born Swiss. They keep it up pretty good, oh yes they do.

Q: *'Cause I was thinking that there was that big party for Mr. Emhoff on Saturday night out at the Sportsmen's Club, and I think Mr. Enderbitzen said there was about four hundred people out there?*

A: Yeah, that's the guy I bought the tavern from.

Q: *Right, right I kind....yeah. Four hundred people at his birthday party?*

A: Yeah, there were three hundred-fifty, four hundred there.

Q: *And Mr. Enderbitzen said that they had to limit the guest list because of the capacity of the hall.*

A: Oh yeah, oh yeah. It was all it could take. I think the capacity is four hundred and twenty or something. Somewhere in there.

Q: *So, you get together as a group of Swiss people?*

A: Oh yes, we do often, Oh yeah, oh yeah.

Q: *Often. And stay in touch with people?*

A: Oh yes, yeah.

Q: *So how many of those four hundred people there did you know?*

A: Maybe one-third.

Q: *Just a third of them?*

A: Well, a lot of them, I didn't know them and the younger ones you know them a long time when they were little. First thing they're a grown man and a lady and you don't them, you've got to ask "who are you?" now.

Q: *Who are you? But you recognize that they're so-and-so's daughter or someone.....*

A: Some of them you do, some of them you do. Yeah, oh yeah.

Q: But they all must have been of Swiss descent that were there or had married or were a spouse of someone Swiss?

A: Not all of them, but a lot of them have, a lot of them have, yeah.

Q: Do you ever regret coming here to Tacoma to settle at all?

A: No, no.

Q: If you'd have stayed over in Switzerland what do you think would have happened?

A: Well, we were farming over there. Probably would have had to do that.

Q: Was your dad a farmer?

A: Yeah. My dad passed away in 1918. I was only 6 years old.

Q: Oh, is that right?

A: Of the epidemic flu. But my mother, she raised us kids.

Q: And how many of there were you?

A: There were three of us.

Q: Three boys?

A: No, two boys and a girl.

Q: And were you the oldest boy or the youngest boy?

A: The oldest one.

Q: You were.

A: Yeah.

Q: So, could you have inherited the farm since you were the oldest one?

A: Probably could. I wouldn't know that you know.

Q: *You don't know.*

A: I don't know. If I want it or not, that remains to be seen.

Q: *So even though you could, perhaps have inherited the farm being the oldest boy, you decided you wanted to make a change in your life?*

A: Yeah, want to see something else.

Q: *You wanted to see something else?*

A: Yeah, I wanted to see the world.

Q: *And you knew people that had already come to Tacoma and liked it?*

A: Yeah, oh yeah.

Q: *When you came over here, did you have any intention of going back, making your fortune and then going back to Switzerland?*

A: Well, way back in the mind, at most, I'm thinking so you know. When you first come in, this is the land of the golden opportunity. Some people think you can just take a shovel and shovel up the dollar with a shovel you know. I never run into this, I always had to work for my living there, which that was alright.

Q: *But you kind of, in the back of your mind you think.....*

A: No, I don't hardly think so. After you're here a half a dozen years or so, you kind of get used to the country and get to know the people. No, I never wanted to go back.

Q: *Never. Did you have any trouble getting immigration papers to come over here?*

A: Well, in a certain extent, at that time it wasn't that easy you know, it wasn't that easy.

Q: *But did you, from the time that you first applied to actually being able to come over, you had a little bit of a waiting period?*

A: About eight months.

Q: *About eight months. Did you have, 'cause you know I'm from England and I had to have someone.....*

A: You're from England.

Q: *Yes.*

A: You had to have a sponsor?

Q: *I had to have a sponsor.*

A: Well, at that time you could have it too. We could have one if we needed one. We could have had one if they wanted it.

Q: *But you didn't need a sponsor?*

A: No. See my wife's uncle lived in Tillamook.

Q: *In Oregon?*

A: In (unclear) Tillamook Oregon and he would have sponsored. Even Mary's cousin, the one I worked for, they would sponsor for me if we had to.

Q: *But you didn't need it.*

A: We didn't need it.

Q: *Great, good.*

A: It was better.

Q: *What would you think were the major obstacles that you had to overcome when you came over here to the states, to Tacoma?*

A: To learn the language.

Q: *To learn the language, I knew you would say that.*

A: Are you from England?

Q: *Yes, I was born and raised in England.*

A: I've been in England twice. We were in Scotland too.

Q: *And I've been to Switzerland twice.*

A: Norway, Sweden, well, one year we went out there...you want that on the recorder too?

Q: *Well, I'll stop this for a second if you're going to tell me..... (recorder off)*

Q: *Oh, can you think of any other obstacles besides learning the language that you had to overcome?*

A: Well, not too much, no. The language was the biggest barrier. But after I got to work in the foundry, it came fast then. You are away from your language, then you have to learn it. Otherwise you're all around Swiss, they all talk Swiss, how can you learn English? But, it came pretty fast when I worked in the foundry. They had a lot of fun with me sometimes you know. They tell you something to go tell somebody something and you're not supposed to, they shouldn't do that you know.

Q: *My next question to you was, "did you feel like you faced any discrimination when you came over here?"*

A: No, no.

Q: *What about during WWII? Did you face any discrimination then?*

A: No, the people I worked for in the foundry were very, very nice. Oh, you found maybe an oddball in there once in awhile, but most of them, they were good. Oh yeah, oh yeah. They tried to help you.

Q: *That's how it should be. I've got a few questions now about the actual, some of the societies that the Swiss have, because I'm really impressed how all of you keep in touch and have kept in touch.*

A: Shut this off one minute, I want to ask you... (Recorder turned off.)

Q: *I've got some questions about some of the societies. Apparently today, there are four different Swiss societies: The Swiss Men's Club, The Swiss Women's Club, The Swiss Sportsmen's Club and the Swiss Aid Society.*

A: Right, right.

Q: *Can you tell me why these societies were formed?*

A: Well, the Swiss Society was formed on October 6, 1889, at the Swiss Hall down there.

Q: *At the Swiss Hall.*

A: The Swiss Ladies' Society was formed in 1908. The Swiss Sportsmen's Club, they merged with the Wrestling Club in 1959. Actually, that was a rifle club also.

Q: *Oh, the Swiss Sportsmen was also a wrestling club?*

A: Yeah. Originally the Swiss Sportsmen's Club was a rifle club.

Q: *Oh, is that right?*

A: Yeah. There would be another extra club, then they merged them together. The wrestling club and the rifle club and....

Side 1, Count 200

Q: *The wrestling club and the which other club again?*

A: The wrestling club and the rifle club that's where they merged. That's where they made the first Sportsmen's Club in 1959.

Q: *Oh, okay.*

A: And, it's been that way since. The Swiss Aid Society, I can't say for sure. It was founded in the early 20's. I wouldn't know the exact date when. It still exists.

Q: *And it still exists today?*

A: Oh yeah.

Q: *In fact, all four of these still exist today.*

A: Yeah.

Q: *And they were just simply to help out different...*

A: Yeah, the same like Christmas we give to all the older, the shut-in people, we give them a present for Christmas or Thanksgiving or so.

Q: *Just the Swiss people or anybody?*

A: Yeah, just to Swiss people, yeah, yeah.

Q: *What happened to, there were a couple of other ones that were formed. The choir, a Choral Society?*

A: Yeah, that took place later. That was also the --- Swiss Singing Society.

Q: *Yes. And is that still in existence?*

A: They're still in existence, yeah. It was, they quit once about 1949 or 50. They give it up and then they started again twenty years later and it's been going since then. They have the Swiss Sangerfest² every three years.

Q: *Oh, and that's coming up, isn't it?*

A: Yeah, in '96.

Q: *In '96, right.*

A: They had it in Portland, Oregon just last year.

Q: *And that's the one that's going to be in Seattle?*

A: Going to be Seattle and Tacoma north or whatever, including the hall up there.

Q: *Did the Swiss people join any labor unions or any political parties at all?*

A: No, not that I know.

2 Swiss Singing Festival

Q: *Not that you know. You didn't belong to any type of a labor union or political party?*

A: No.

Q: *Did the Swiss associate with any other immigrants, like in the Hilltop area, like the Italians or the Scandinavians at all?*

A: Well, yes we do, and sometimes we go to Scandinavian dances.

Q: *And meet Scandinavian ladies? Well, you wouldn't because you were married, but other?*

A: We go to German dances.

Q: *You would?*

A: Yeah.

Q: *So you would socialize with them?*

A: Oh yes, oh yes.

Q: *And they would come to the Swiss Hall dances?*

A: Some of them do that too, yeah. Especially from the Austrian Club.

Q: *The Austrian Club?*

A: The Austrian Club.

Q: *Is that because there is some similarity between Austria and Switzerland?*

A: Well, they talk pretty close. They talk high German. (unclear) Some have come to our doings and we go to theirs when they have their doings.

Q: *Because there is that connection of the high German language?*

A: Yeah.

Q: *And the main employment of the members of the Swiss Society was in the farming business?*

A: Yeah, at that time.

Q: *At that time. But, would you say that today, they've branched out into lots of, you branched out...*

A: Branched out in different, branched out in almost any kind of activities, different jobs.

Q: *You name it and there's Swiss people/immigrants in those professions today?*

A: Yeah.

Q: *Were the Swiss, when you came over here, members of any other ethnic organizations? Did you actually belong to any of like the Austrian Clubs, or you just worked with members of your own organization?*

A: No, no --- no. That's right.

Q: *Okay, yes, let's get into some questions about the Swiss Hall itself. Why was the Swiss Hall built?*

A: The Swiss Hall was built in 1878, by a Swiss, his name was Fred Wild, W-I-L-D.

Q: *And that was the original part?*

A: The original, but not the tavern; the original hall.

Q: *And why did he build that?*

A: Oh gosh, I don't know. I wouldn't know that, that's long before my time. But there is, in the old hall, there is a steel plate on the south side, I told the university guy, I told him there also. There's a steel plate up there in the brick that says Fred Wild.

Q: *Oh, is that right.*

A: Yeah. Way up there on top of the building. Oh yeah.

Q: *Fred Wild was a Swiss immigrant?*

A: Oh yeah.

Q: *You might not know the answer to this, but how did he get the money to buy a building like that?*

A: I don't know. They built that in 1878.

Q: *So, Fred built that building.*

A: Yeah, as far as we know.

Q: *I mean you just kind of think how he'd have the money to do that.*

A: I don't know that, and he held his hall until 1903.

Q: *And then what happened?*

A: In 1903 he sold it to the Tacoma Swiss Society, and they were the owner until it was sold to the university.

Q: *So it's really been just..... (telephone rings, stop tape) So, in 1903 he sold it to the Tacoma Swiss Society, and then again it sold one more time to the University of Washington?*

A: Yeah, last year.

Q: *Talk to me then, about the new hall that was built next door to that that's got...*

A: There was a couple of guys before my time that had the tavern. It was in the old building.

Q: *Oh, the tavern was in the old building?*

A: Yeah, the tavern was in the old building, where is the warehouse right now. That's where the tavern was. Until 1912 - in 1912 the Swiss Society added on this present Swiss Hall that was built in 1912, and I think it opened in 1913. Then they had several different owners. It always was leased out. The Swiss Society never ran the tavern.

Q: *They never ran the tavern, it was always leased out?*

A: It always was on the lease.

Q: *When the original hall was built by this Mr. Fred Wild, it was built like there was two stores on the ground floor. Is that right?*

A: Yeah.

Q: *What were in those stores?*

A: Well, on the old hall?

Q: *Yes, on the original old one that Mr. Wild built.*

A: Part of it was warehouse and part of it was the tavern.

Q: *So he built it, with the tavern? He built it to have a tavern there?*

A: Oh yeah, oh yeah.

Q: *Okay.*

A: I wouldn't know if it was under the Swiss Hall or not, I couldn't tell you that. In them days, they called them a saloon. That's the old days.

Q: *But, let me ask you about this. What about prohibition?*

A: We'll come to this. The first one I think was a Mr. Portmann in the new hall.

Q: *And this Mr. Portmann was the first...*

A: I think so, yeah. The first....

Q: *Lessee?*

A: Yeah.

Q: *At the new Swiss tavern?*

A: The new Swiss Tavern where it is today. The bar was built that year. The present bar was put in in 1912.

Q: *That is a beautiful bar.*

Side 1, Count 300

A: And the mirror in the back bar was imported from Belgium. It's still there.

Q: *Have you been into the Swiss Hall Tavern recently?*

A: Oh yeah, went down there just last week.

Q: *Did you have something to eat down there?*

A: Oh yeah, they're good eat down there.

Q: *Good food, yeah.*

A: Oh yeah, oh yeah. Well there was a couple owners until about 1917, Portmann and another fellow that I wouldn't know the name of, but then the next one was a fellow by the name of Louie Mosier.

Q: *When did Mr. Portmann first lease that tavern? Do you know what year?*

A: In 1912.

Q: *1912. Thank you. Oh, I'm sorry, you did tell me that, yes. 1912. And then Louie Mosier took it over?*

A: Louie Mosier and Louie Suter.

Q: *Do you know how do you spell Suter?*

A: S-u-t-e-r. He had it until about 1923. Then there was a fellow by the name Bueller in there for a couple of years.

Q: *Bueller?*

A: Bueller, yeah.

Q: *B-u-l?*

A: (unclear) That was only a short time.

Q: *Do you know his first name?*

A: No, I don't know his first name. Then, came in Frank Fonau, I'm not sure how you spell Fonau, I better write it down.

Q: *Sure. That's how I have to do it sometimes.*

A: Fonau. Frank Fonau. Fonau.

Q: *F-o-n*

A: He was there four years, until 1929. Then he sold it to a fellow by the name Albert Felchlen.

Q: *How do you spell that?*

A: F-E-L-C-H-L-I-N. Felchlin. L-E-N. He was there (unclear). He was there during the prohibition days. Louie Mosier also was, see the country went dry in 1917.

Q: *I'm sorry, say that again. The country went dry in 1917?*

A: Yeah, and that meant that Suter and Mosier, they were there also during the prohibition days and Felchlen also. Well, then in 1933, the beer come back.

Q: *How did they get beer during prohibition?*

A: Oh, I don't know.

Q: *But they got it.*

A: They had some sweet cider.

Q: *Sweet cider. Was it made locally?*

A: Oh, yeah, oh yeah. They sold cider.

Q: *But it was the alcoholic variety?*

A: Oh yeah. Well, you're not supposed to have alcohol then.

Q: *Right, right. But, do you think it was made around the Fife area?*

A: Oh yeah, the cider was made locally, the farmers.

Q: *Made locally by the farmers?*

A: Apple trees. They had apples, yeah.

Q: *Do you think there was any beer made at all, locally?*

A: During the prohibition days? Oh, probably have, bootleg.

Q: *Bootleg beer?*

A: Probably, I don't know. They probably have, you know, when you hear some of the old fellows talking.

Q: *And that could have also been made locally too, couldn't it?*

A: Oh yeah, oh yeah.

Q: *I mean, that tavern probably didn't stay in existence without having something good to drink there.*

A: Oh yeah, oh yeah. Then Felchlen was there until '43. Then he sold it to Louie Imhof, Louie J. Imhof, in 1943. And he was there during the war, 'til 1952. That's when we came along. We bought Louie Imhof's business in 1952, in November, 1952. We operated there until '63. Then it was time to get out, and you can listen to this stuff so many years and then you get tired of it. And then I sold it to a fellow by the name of Walter Bisig, another Swiss. There was also, there always was a Swiss proprietor, until the last one we come to there.

Q: *Alright.*

A: Walter Bisig, and he was there ten years.

Q: *Until '73.*

A: Yeah, until '73. Then it got sold to a fellow named Tom Evans.

Q: *E-v-a-n-s?*

A: Uh huh. And he was there longer than any of them. He was the first non-Swiss.

Q: *He was a non-Swiss.*

A: You couldn't find a Swiss around the Tavern. We did, we sent cards out to the whole Swiss Club, which it always was customary of having a Swiss in there, so we let them know the tavern is for sale, if anyone is interesting to buy it, so they can't come along and say after that, "oh, I didn't know about it." you know. So this Tom Evans was there until he sold it to, until we sold the place to the university. He was there sixteen years. He was there longer than any proprietors. He's retired now too.

Q: *And then when it was sold to the University of Washington, the present people took it over?*

A: Present people bought it from Mr. Evans, Tom Evans. He bought the license, you know.

Q: *Right, and that's what I was going to say. 'Cause they can't buy the property, they just bought the license.*

A: Just the license. And the business.

Side 1 Count 400

Q: *And the business, ok.*

A: The property belongs to the university. Same as it did, previous owner belonged to the Swiss Society and we were to lease it same as these people now. They're nice people down there.

Q: *They're really nice people down there.*

A: Gail is just a sweet girl.

Q: *Gail is very nice. Gail is where I got your name from. She said, "this gentleman knows so much about who has run this place and the whole Swiss Society and the Swiss Hall."*

A: Oh yeah, oh yeah.

Q: *Let's just, I'm going to go back to the money issue again. When you came to raise money to buy the new Swiss Hall, you know, to build the new Swiss Hall...*

A: You mean up there?

Q: *Yeah, when it came to build you know, what's now looked at as the Swiss Hall, the new part?*

A: Oh, at that time.

Q: *Yeah. I mean, money didn't seem to be any problem.*

A: Well, I suppose they had to borrow money from somebody, and I know they had a hard time going afterwards to pay off, you know.

Q: *They did have a hard time paying it off?*

A: Well, it wasn't that easy, no. I assume they borrowed money from somebody to build that addition.

Q: *Yeah, and I mean, there were some people that gave some money to it, but...*

A: Well, I wouldn't know that you know, because I know they worked hard afterwards to pay off the debts you know.

Q: *How much, if you stayed there a couple of nights, as just coming new into Tacoma, do you remember how much a night that it cost you to stay there? How much you had to pay to stay there?*

A: You mean upstairs? Well, we leased it was mostly all bachelors. At that time you paid about maybe \$20-25 a month.

Q: *\$25 a month?*

A: Rent, somewhere in there, \$25-30, but they all patronized the tavern.

Q: *So some of them would have stayed there for more than two or three days. Some of them would have lived there for up to a month or six weeks?*

A: There were some that stayed there for years upstairs.

Q: *Oh they did?*

A: Oh yeah, we had the same guys living there sometimes for some time.

Q: *And they weren't out on the farms?*

A: Well, most of the retired people came and stayed there. They were not, they were mostly not Swiss.

Q: *Oh, they weren't Swiss?*

A: We had a few, but not very many. We had to rent it out to whoever came.

Q: *And that's one of my questions, one of the last questions I was going to ask, but I will ask it right now. When did the Swiss Hall start to decline as far as it being associated with the Swiss people? And, I'm talking about not the tavern right now, I'm talking about the rooms that were there for rent. When would you say that started to decline?*

A: Well, we always had it occupied.

Q: *You always had it occupied?*

A: We always had it full. When I was down there, we always had the place full.

Q: *But, toward the end, it was not full of Swiss people, it was full of other people?*

A: Other people. Oh yeah, not Swiss, no.

Q: *Not Swiss. When did the Swiss people stop using that as a place to you know, as a temporary residence?*

A: There were a couple, three of the retired guys that were around and they stayed there had also an apartment upstairs, and the rest of them are outsiders.

Q: *So there were three Swiss people?*

A: Two of the Swiss people we had, they were retired people that stayed there.

Q: *But the rest of them were non-Swiss.*

A: No, non-Swiss yeah.

Q: *And did they rent them on a monthly basis?*

A: Oh yeah, monthly basis, yeah.

Q: *When's the last tenant been there?*

A: You mean upstairs?

Q: *Yeah.*

A: Well, when the university made them move out.

Q: *Oh, there were people there until then.*

A: Oh yeah.

Q: *Oh, okay, well that's just very good.*

A: They set a deadline for them, they had to move.

Q: *Oh, okay, I did not realize that. I thought people had vacated that a long time ago.*

A: No, no, no, they got booted out of there, they had to move.

Q: *Was it full when the university bought it?*

A: No, there were about 8 or 9 or 10 of them living upstairs when they bought it. Yeah.

Q: *And they made them move.*

A: Oh yeah, they wanted to have it empty, that's the way it is today.

Q: *Okay, that was just about two years ago, so there were people in it about two years ago?*

A: Yeah, it's about two years ago. Yeah, yeah.

Q: *So, how long altogether did you actually manage then, all the property at the Swiss Hall?*

A: Well, as long as I had the tavern.

Q: *Were you like the booking agent for the hall upstairs as well?*

A: Did I do what?

Q: *Were you the person that they would call if they wanted to reserve the hall upstairs for a dance or something?*

A: Yes, yeah, yeah, yeah. Or renting the hall or so on.

Q: *If someone wanted to rent the hall, they'd go through you, and it would be a non-Swiss Society or a Swiss organization?*

A: Oh yeah, yes, yeah.

Q: *Alright. I do know that for a time, the Carlisle Distributing Company rented some space.*

A: Oh yeah, I remember them, Carlisle Distributing Company. They were next door in the warehouse. They were wine distributors.

Q: *Yes. Wine Distributors, yes. When did they leave? When did they leave?*

A: Carlisle Distributing Company, they left about I would say 1950.

Q: *And what reason did they leave?*

A: Oh gosh, I don't, I wouldn't know that.

Q: *You don't know.*

A: There was a few different guys in there afterwards, Ovel Distributing was, I think they bought out Carlisle's. Ovel Distributing Company.

Q: *Ovel? O-v-e-l?*

A: Yeah. They bought out Carlisle's. I heard about that, I never know them you know, but that was a little bit before my time.

Q: *So they bought out Carlisle Distributing? And how long were they for, there?*

A: Oh, they were there ten years.

Q: *And then do you know what happened to them?*

A: Oh, they moved down to the tide flats.

Q: *They moved down to the tide flats?*

A: Oh dear, they're all gone now, retired.

Q: *So it's out of business now?*

A: Oh yeah, they're out of business now.

Side 1 Count 500

Q: *But before they went out of business, they actually moved locations?*

A: Oh yeah.

Q: *Who else did you rent to besides the Carlisle Company?*

A: Well, then there was Berg, what was his first name....Blue Bell Potato Chips, they were in there.

Q: *Blue Bell Potato Chips?*

A: They were in there for awhile.

Q: *Just for warehouse space?*

A: Yeah. Warehouse space. They were in there quite a long time.

Q: *Do you know the approximately from and to?*

A: Yeah, they leased it from the Society.

Q: *Okay, do you know what years? From what year?*

A: Oh, gosh I couldn't tell you there what year. It was in the 60's, somewhere in the '70's.

Q: *And anyone else?*

A: Well, then after that, Comfort Machine Works came in there. They've been there since until they retired last year.

Q: *Comfort Machine Works?*

A: Comfort Machine Works.

Q: *C-o-m-fort?*

A: Yeah, I think so, Comfort Machine Works.

Q: *And that was just a, like a little factory?*

A: No, it was a machine shop.

Q: *A machine shop. And they were there from; do you know what years they were there?*

A: He was there seventeen years. He told me that.

Q: *And so when did he leave?*

A: Well, when the university bought out.

Q: *Okay, so he left, he was also asked to leave?*

A: He was there when they sold the place, he was still there....yeah.

Q: *So, he had to move out too?*

A: Well, he retired anyhow.

Q: *And any other tenants?*

A: No, not that I know.

Q: *That was, that's all.*

A: Yeah, he was there, he was there a long time in the machine shop. I don't know what they do now with this machine, that warehouse, I don't know.

Q: *I think it looks like it might be empty. If you look through the window, there's some miscellaneous things stored there, that are just stored there, but it looks empty to me. It's like big wooden garage doors there, it's not....big doors there yes. Wasn't there a dairy there or wasn't there a store there at one time?*

A: What (unclear)

Q: *I think there was a store there at one time.*

A: The store on the corner was a grocery store.

Q: *Oh there was a grocery store on the corner? When was that, do you know what years that was there?*

A: 1902 they called it. But the present tavern on the other side.

Q: *But it comes out to a corner, and there was a grocery store on the corner?*

A: There was a grocery store in there.

Q: *What years was that there?*

A: Oh, it was in the 20's and early 30's. That was a grocery store in there, yeah.

Q: *But people from all over the area would buy groceries there?*

A: I supposed it was like a corner grocery. It was gone when I came here.

Q: *Did the Swiss run that?*

A: I wouldn't know who ran it, I couldn't tell you that. But, it was gone when I came in this country.

Q: *It was already gone.*

A: It was already gone. Then the tavern took over the other side also.

Q: *So, the tavern took over the grocery store space.*

A: Well, to move the location anyway. I don't think they ever ran the tavern.

Q: *Oh, the tavern took over that space, okay.*

A: Yeah, the space.

Q: *So, there was not really, but there must've been a tavern in there before? They just made the tavern bigger?*

A: Yeah, right. There also was a barber shop in there.

Q: *Oh there was?*

A: Yeah. That was there when we bought the place; had a barber in there. That's on the other side.

Q: *So, do you know what, on the other side of the street?*

A: Yeah, they had a barber shop in there.

Q: *Do you know what years that would have been there approximately?*

A: Oh, it was there in 1952, and it was there until about 1957 or 8, somewhere in there. He retired and he just moved out.

Q: *Was he a Swiss barber?*

A: No. We never replaced him again, we just left it vacant.

Q: *Any other people that have rented space there?*

A: No, not that I know.

Q: *What would you like to see happen to the Swiss Hall?*

A: Well, I'd like, well...the upstairs, have you seen the upstairs?

Q: *I have, yes.*

A: I just hope they never tear out the woodwork in that hall.

Q: *And that woodwork is beautiful in the hall.*

A: It can't be replaced.

Q: *Right. Where did the woodwork come from?*

A: Oh gosh, I don't know that. It's a beautiful setup upstairs. The dance floor is one of the best dance floors in the city of Tacoma.

Q: *And the floor is in excellent condition.*

A: Oh yeah, we refinished it two or three times. I just hope they don't tear the woodwork out.

Q: *Oh, and I can't think that they would.*

A: I don't think so.

Q: *You know, because it is beautiful up there.*

A: You can't replace those things.

Side 1 Count 600

Q: *I agree, it's a very beautiful building. The actual hall itself there, with the stage.*

A: Oh yeah, it's a good building.

Side 2 Count 000

Q: *Okay, go ahead.*

A: The chandelier that hangs on a cable, up in the attic. It's on a pulley, and you can let it down to about three feet from the floor.

Q: *Oh, okay.*

A: Then you can clean it.

Q: *I had visions of you getting up there on a big ladder.*

A: Oh, no, no, no. You let that down, it's a cable on it, up in the attic.

Q: *Right.*

A: You let it down, it's on a pulley.

Q: *On a pulley, okay.*

A: It comes down to about three feet from the floor, and then you can clean it.

Q: *Do you know when that was put up, the chandelier?*

A: Oh, during the first World War.

Q: *During the first World War. Do you know where it came from? Is it crystal?*

A: Oh, I don't know, I don't know.

Q: *It's a beautiful chandelier.*

A: Oh, I took that down several times and cleaned it. We usually replaced all the bulbs when we took it down, cause it's not that easy to put a bulb in up there.

Q: *No, but it's better, whoever designed it to put it on a pulley, that was a very good idea.*

A: Oh yeah, it's on a pulley.

Q: *Yeah, very good idea.*

A: It's up in the attic. I don't know if they know it or not, but you can see it if you go up there.

Q: *And I don't know if they know that or not either.*

A: I don't know if they know it or not.

Q: *Yeah, that's interesting.*

A: I told them, you know Mr. Selig?

Q: *No.*

A: He's kind of the realtor for the university.

Q: *Oh, is that right.*

A: I think he's overseeing things.

Q: *Oh, I have talked to Mr. Selig, yes. I have talked to him.*

A: He's a nice fellow. I told him a couple times if he wanted to know something he don't know it, to call me,

Q: *Do you have anything else that you wanted to add?*

A: No, I think we've been through most of it.

Q: *This is great. This should not be lost, it really needs to be put together, because you are just such a wealth of information. And you're talking about your own heritage here, and I think it's important to keep it.*

A: Oh yeah, oh yeah.