

Nordic American Voices  
Nordic Museum

Interview of Sandra Haug  
June 14, 2017  
Seattle, Washington

Interviewers: Gordon Strand; Affa Sigurdardottir; Judy Kramer

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**Gordon Strand:** [0:03] Today is June 14, 2017. We are at the Nordic Heritage Museum. We'll be conducting an interview of Sandra Haug. I am joined in this interview by Affa Sigurdardottir and Judy Kramer. This is an interview for the Nordic American Voices oral history project. Welcome, Sandy. Would you please start out by giving us your full name, year and place of birth, and tell us about your family, particularly those who immigrated to this country.

**Sandra Haug:** [0:47] My name is Sandra Ann Lindquist Haug. I was born July 18, 1941 in Kirkland, in the old Kirkland Hospital. I lived on Big Finn Hill from that time until I moved away. My mother's parents were Jacob and Mary Saari. In the beginning, it was S-A-A-R-I-N-E-N. Then my grandfather changed it to Saari, S-A-A-R-I, and my uncle changed it to Sary, S-A-R-Y.

**Gordon:** [1:27] Oh, really? Okay.

**Sandra:** [1:31] I'm not sure when they came from Finland. I do have some paperwork, but I'm not sure which way they came. My dad's parents were Jacob and Mary Lindquist. They lived in Carbonado and Wilkeson. My grandfather was a miner.

**Gordon:** [1:42] And where is that located, exactly?

**Sandra:** [1:44] Near Mount Rainier. My mother had a sister and a brother. Olavi, or Ole Saari, and her sister was Alice Saari Pykko. My dad's parents were Jacob and Mary Lindquist.

**Gordon:** [2:09] Interesting. Jacob and Mary again.

**Sandra:** [2:12] Mm-hmm. I've got some dates at home when they came from Finland. They did not come as a married couple. They met here and married. They lived in the Carbonado/Wilkeson area. My grandfather was a miner. I think he was also a bit of a logger. They moved to Big Finn Hill about the same time my grandparents, the Saari's, moved to Big Finn Hill.

**Gordon:** [2:40] Were they Swede-Finns?

**Sandra:** [2:41] More Swedish-Finn. What we were told is, my grandfather Lindquist changed his name to a Swedish name because he could then get work.

**Gordon:** [2:53] In Finland?

**Sandra:** [2:54] Yes. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to get work as easily, with a Finnish name, being on the Swedish-Finnish border.

**Gordon:** [3:01] So, he just picked that name.

**Sandra:** [3:03] Who knows? Some of the particulars of my grandfather Lindquist, we don't know. When my mother was in Finland, she had gone to the church to see what the records were, and the church had burned. The records were gone.

**Gordon:** [3:23] Do you know why either of your grandparents left? What reasons?

**Sandra:** [3:28] My grandfather Saari left... He was the oldest son. He should have stayed for the farm. But he was going to be taken into the Russian Army, so he left. That's what a lot of them did at that time. They would leave to avoid the military. I don't know about my other grandfather. I have no idea. When they moved from the Wilkeson/Carbonado area, evidently they had to carry everything up what was called King's Canyon at that point. My mother would talk about her dad carrying things up the canyon. It was steep. I think there was a road, but there couldn't have been much. Even as I was growing up, the road was not too great. The school buses, in snowy weather, did not do that road. It was just not really passable.

**Gordon:** [4:23] Could you describe somewhat where this is located? Finn Hill, in terms of today's...

**Sandra:** [4:29] Big Finn Hill is above Juanita Beach. How would you describe it? Juanita School is there at the bottom of the hill. I guess it would be north of Juanita Beach. They also had a Little Finn Hill, which was east of Juanita. I think there was a little dissention among the Little Finn Hill and the Big Finn Hill People.

**Gordon:** [5:02] Why?

**Sandra:** [5:03] Oh, who knows? I don't know. Big Finn Hill had a Finn Hall. They had no church. My mother used to say she was supposed to have been baptized, but the pastor got drunk and didn't show up.

**Gordon:** [5:23] That's the first time we've heard that story. [Laughter]

**Sandra:** [5:27] So, she didn't get baptized. Most of the people up there were really not church people, because there was no church. I suppose there was a visiting pastor that would come around, but I don't know. I have pictures, and early on the hill was lots of stumps. So, perhaps somebody had logged. My mom and dad lived across a little gulley from each other, as kids. My dad's family moved farther away, but still on the hill. My grandfather Lindquist was a farmer, and he did other things as well. They had eight children. It took a lot to keep the children going.

**Gordon:** [6:26] He had been a miner in Carbonado before he came?

**Sandra:** [6:31] Yes. My mother's mother was with the children during the week. I don't know if my grandfather Saari came home from the mines every weekend. I would guess not, because that would have been a long trip. They didn't have cars like we do today. When he was killed in the mine, my

mother was 13. Her sister was 11, and my uncle was 15. [My grandmother] then had to raise the children by herself.

**Affa:** [7:07] What happened in this mine accident?

**Sandra:** [7:11] There must have been an explosion. My grandfather got out, but then somebody hadn't, or maybe more than one person. He went back to get them, and he didn't come back. I'm amazed my grandmother was able to raise those three children with minimal English skills. She didn't drive. She would take strawberries and chickens down to Juanita, and take the ferry into town to sell. How do you do that?

**Gordon:** [7:50] Down to Seattle?

**Sandra:** [7:51] Yes.

**Affa:** [7:54] There was a ferry across from Juanita to Seattle?

**Sandra:** [7:57] At one point. There used to be a ferry from Kirkland. But, yes.

**Gordon:** [8:04] Let me show you this. Is this your grandfather's death certificate?

**Sandra:** [8:20] Yes, I think so.

**Gordon:** [8:22] And what year is that?

**Sandra:** [8:24] This was 1925. Tough time. Very tough.

**Gordon:** [8:35] I'll give you that.

**Sandra:** [8:36] Sure, that would be great.

**Gordon:** [8:39] Interesting. I think I told you, but the year after that, there is a list of mine disasters in Washington State. Your grandfather's is recorded. The year after, six men died at the Wilkeson Mine. They didn't have a great safety record.

**Sandra:** [8:57] Well, did any of them, I wonder? It was probably by the seat of your pants that you would get out. We did go back one summer when I was in high school— my mother and aunt and I. We found the house that they lived in, and we talked to the people. It was kind of interesting.

**Gordon:** [9:17] In Carbonado?

**Sandra:** [9:18] In Wilkeson. It was interesting. They sort of remembered. I wouldn't have had a clue. Both sets of grandparents were friends. It was a Finnish community up there. Most everyone was Finnish. There were a few who weren't, and they must have felt very out of place, because there were times you knew someone was being discussed, because the Finnish [language] really started to roll. We had a party line phone. You may remember what those were like. My mother would be speaking English, and all of a sudden she would switch, and I knew someone was listening. Then

they would just speak Finnish. We had a Finn Hall. There were lots of activities there. They had plays. The Finns were good at plays. And they had parties.

**Gordon:** [10:18] What kind of plays? Do you remember anything?

**Sandra:** [10:21] I don't remember. We have some of the scenery. I think we have that from the Finn Hall, here in the museum. I remember seeing some of that sort of thing there. At one point in time, the University of Washington fraternities would rent the hall for parties. I remember that, because it was always such a discussion about the partying and the cleanup, and all of that business. I think most of them were farmers up there on the hill. I don't know how they survived. I really don't know how they survived. As we got to the war, some of them did then work for the shipyards in Kirkland.

**Gordon:** [11:18] How many Finnish families would you estimate were up there during the time your grandparents lived there?

**Sandra:** [11:24] Oh, gosh. I should have looked on the map. Quite a few. Maybe 15, 20? And they were scattered in and about.

**Gordon:** [11:41] The sauna we have in front of the museum— didn't it come from there?

**Sandra:** [11:46] Yes, it did.

**Gordon:** [11:47] Do you know anything about whose farm that was on?

**Sandra:** [11:50] He was Estonian. It belonged to Ed Wierlo. He is still alive. I don't know if you've spoken with him or not. I can get his phone number and address, if you want.

**Gordon:** [12:10] Yeah.

**Sandra:** [12:11] I think he'd be here now. He spends his winters down in California. It was his family's sauna. My Lindquist grandparents had a sauna. It was the old fashioned *savusauna*, where the fire is kind of open, with a chimney that goes through the roof. So, it was kind of smoky or sooty at times. On Saturday night, everyone was expected to appear for a sauna. My grandma would bake *pulla*, or cardamom braid on Friday. Everyone was expected to show for sauna.

**Gordon:** [12:56] When your parents married, they lived on Finn Hill, too?

**Sandra:** [13:00] Yes. My mother's mother, my grandmother Saari... I don't know how she did it. She bought land. She had three pieces. I guess it totaled five acres together. So, each of her children got a piece of that land. So, when my folks got married, they got their piece, and they built a house there. They lived there until my dad died, and my mother then moved to a nursing home.

**Affa:** [13:31] Were they all farmers? Were they all small farms there?

**Sandra:** [13:38] Probably in the beginning.

**Affa:** [13:41] Did they all have saunas?

**Sandra:** [13:42] Most everyone had a sauna.

**Affa:** [13:44] Was it just the family that would get together for the Saturday saunas?

**Sandra:** [13:54] Usually, or some of the neighbors who didn't have a sauna who wanted to come. My grandmother Saari didn't have a sauna. But I think about some of the other families— they did have saunas. If you had a large family, and you expected your children and grandchildren to come...

**Gordon:** [14:14] You'd all go in at one time?

**Sandra:** [14:16] Oh, no.

**Gordon:** [14:17] I've never done it, so I don't know. [Laughter]

**Sandra:** [14:19] Oh, you haven't? Well, you went in as kind of the little family. My mom and dad and I would go together. My dad's youngest brother... I don't know that he was born with polio, but he had polio early on. So, he was unable to work outside at a job. One of my aunts said he was probably the brightest of them all. He couldn't walk very well. He had to use a cane, and he had a cart that he had made for himself. So, he would drag or haul the wood down to the sauna and start the fire early, because it took a while to heat the sauna and the water, because the water was unheated at that point. Early on there was no piped water. They had to carry it.

[15:09] People would start coming usually after dinner. You'd go down as a family. I remember as little kids, we had the big washtubs, and they'd fill it with water, and you could sit in that and play and get washed. There were two levels in the sauna itself. If you went up higher, it was hotter. They would throw water on the stove, on the rocks, and you'd get the steam. In the spring, they'd have the birch boughs to beat yourself with, to stimulate the circulation. It smelled good. It smelled really good. The kids, mom and dad, everyone had their saunas together. Then we'd go back to the house and have coffee, and whatever goodies.

**Gordon:** [16:04] Pulla.

**Sandra:** [16:05] Yes.

**Affa:** [16:08] So, the families would take turns.

**Sandra:** [16:11] Yes. There were a couple of neighbors... We were naughty kids. They would go down, and of course, we'd sneak down there, and we'd peek. I'm sure they must have guessed. I don't know how we could keep still, or keep quiet. We had to observe their sauna habits. It was a time the family always got together and communicated. We had a bathtub at home, and I took a bath once in a while, but it was usually a sauna on Saturday night.

**Affa:** [16:50] In the wintertime, would you go outside after the sauna, like they do...?

**Sandra:** [16:56] No. Our outside was walking back to the house, because it was a little ways from the house.

**Gordon:** [17:03] Did you continue that even as you got older, a teenager?

**Sandra:** [17:07] I think it was by then that my grandfather had passed away, and it didn't happen, because of the logistics of doing it then. My dad and his brother didn't take care of the sauna to any degree so that people could have a sauna. But that was just part of our life, to do the sauna. And it's so good for your skin.

**Gordon:** [17:39] Yeah. I wish I had done it.

**Affa:** [17:41] Yeah. We did interviews down in Naselle, and everybody talked about the Saturday saunas. It was wonderful.

**Sandra:** [17:48] Yes. And if there was something happening on the Saturday, they would do it either earlier or later, so that you would have your sauna for the week.

**Gordon:** [17:56] What was your uncle's name that you said had polio?

**Sandra:** [17:59] His name was George. He was the youngest. George Lindquist. For someone who didn't have the schooling, he had a lot of wonderful ideas about things. He was very creative. He had a little workshop. We were discussing this the other day. He had the King Albert tobacco. My grandpa would smoke cigarettes, and roll his own cigarettes. He had those little tins, and he had nuts and bolts and screws and nails, and they were all lined up on the shelves. Those cans would be worth a lot today.

**Gordon:** [18:41] He didn't get to go to school?

**Sandra:** [18:43] No. He couldn't go to school. Today he would have gone to school, but in those days he was kept at home. My grandma took care of him, and my grandpa, as long as he could.

**Affa:** [18:58] Mentally, there was nothing wrong with him, right?

**Sandra:** [19:00] No, I don't think so.

**Affa:** [19:02] It was just because physically...

**Sandra:** [19:04] Physically, he couldn't. He couldn't walk well, and he couldn't run. Getting on a school bus would have been difficult. He couldn't have done it.

**Gordon:** [19:19] That's a shame.

**Sandra:** [19:20] It is.

**Affa:** [19:21] It's good things have changed today.

**Sandra:** [19:23] It has. Yes. It's good.

**Gordon:** [19:27] Describe some events you went to at Finn Hall that you remember, if you can. Were they weekend things?

**Sandra:** [19:37] Yes, pretty much, I think. I remember one Christmas, my dad was Santa Claus. It was something you didn't tell anybody. "Your dad is Santa."

**Affa:** [19:50] But you knew it.

**Sandra:** [19:51] Oh, yes. I knew it. And they used to have dances. I remember that. My mom's sister and her husband would hold me between them, and they'd dance, when I was a little kid. And that was fun. They had an association, I guess it was. They had their meetings. The kitchen area was old-fashioned, with big, old, enamel blue coffee pots. Do you remember those?

**Judy:** [20:21] With the white specks.

**Sandra:** [20:23] Yes. And they would do coffee, and other things for parties. They would have parties, and I'm sure there was alcohol, and food.

**Gordon:** [20:38] Was it as big as our auditorium? About that size?

**Sandra:** [20:43] Probably that size. And they had a stage.

**Affa:** [20:49] Were things performed in Finnish, or English?

**Sandra:** [20:52] I don't remember.

**Affa:** [20:54] Did you speak Finnish at home?

**Sandra:** [20:55] Yes. As a small child, yes. I learned Finnish. I learned English, too. We spoke Finnish with our grandparents. When we started school, my cousins and I... Most of us lived fairly close. We learned English. I don't think I thought it was odd that my grandparents didn't speak English. I don't know about that. It was just life. The older people around spoke Finnish.

[21:40] Summers, there were lots of strawberries up there. People picked strawberries. I sold strawberries. I remember one of the families up the road— she would fix an oven pancake, a *pannukakku*, in the summer, and we would have fresh strawberries that had just been picked. Oh, that was wonderful. I remember my mother saying that oftentimes the women worked so hard... They'd be pregnant, and they'd be out in the field, working. They'd go in and have the baby, and then go out and have to keep working. You know, that's hard.

**Gordon:** [22:27] How long did your Grandma Saari make those trips into Seattle? Do you know?

**Sandra:** [22:33] I don't know. By the time I came along, it was long past that. She had been a widow a long time.

**Judy:** [22:47] Do you know how old your grandfather was when he died?

**Gordon:** [22:50] The death certificate says 48.

**Sandra:** [22:54] Yeah. So, she was fairly young. My uncle was a fisherman. He had gotten a job, and he bought a car, and the girls wanted to drive. I guess one of the first driving lessons was not too successful. They were out somewhere, and he said, "Take the car home." So, they had to get the car home. You know, you become creative if you have to. But to think that they did have a car, later. They had an aunt who lived in Winlock. She was a seamstress. She was way ahead of her time. They loved having her come. She brought things that they couldn't afford, and a new light to their life. She was a seamstress, and she'd had a number of marriages. They loved to have Auntie Hilma come and visit.

**Affa:** [24:09] Did she make clothes for them?

**Sandra:** [24:11] I imagine she did. Yeah. I would guess she did. I do remember her. When she died, I inherited her sewing machine. It was an old treadle. I wasn't old enough to really appreciate the fact. I guess I was the only great niece.

**Affa:** [24:39] Do you sew?

**Sandra:** [24:40] I did. My mother worked hard. My dad was a machinist. He worked in the canneries in the summers. My mother had a huge garden. She did day work for some of the families in Bellevue. She did hard work.

**Gordon:** [25:13] Where were the canneries he'd work?

**Sandra:** [25:15] In Alaska.

**Gordon:** [25:16] Oh, he'd go to Alaska for the summer?

**Sandra:** [25:19] Yes.

**Affa:** [25:21] You talked about shipyards earlier. Were there shipyards in Kirkland?

**Sandra:** [25:25] Yes. There was a big shipyard in Kirkland on Lake Washington during the war. Now it is a couple of fancy restaurants and a hotel.

**Affa:** [25:40] Is that where Anthony's is?

**Sandra:** [25:43] No, it's farther... In the Houghton area.

**Affa:** [25:51] Would they build ships there, or just fix them?

**Sandra:** [25:55] I think they built them, and repaired them as well.

**Affa:** [25:59] And then they went through the Locks?

**Sandra:** [26:01] They must have. So, they wouldn't have been huge.



**Affa:** [26:05] No, but quite big boats go through the Locks.

**Sandra:** [26:09] Yeah.

**Gordon:** [26:12] Did you take that ferry to Seattle?

**Sandra:** [26:15] I don't remember. I think it stopped.

**Gordon:** [26:17] Yeah. I can't remember how long that went on.

**Affa:** [26:21] Sorry I'm going back and forth. But the mining— what kind of mining was it?

**Sandra:** [26:26] Coal mining.

**Affa:** [26:27] Did the families live there?

**Sandra:** [26:32] They lived there for a while. Perhaps when they first came to that area, they lived there.

**Gordon:** [26:39] Do you know why they came to Washington State? Was it because of the mine, or the jobs?

**Sandra:** [26:43] You know, I don't know. Like all of us, we didn't write things down, or ask. Our parents didn't write anything down. Some of the things that happened in Finland maybe weren't discussed with the children. I don't know.

**Affa:** [27:04] Did they go straight to Washington State, or did they go to Michigan, like a lot of Finns who went to mines there?

**Sandra:** [27:11] I am not sure.

**Gordon:** [27:17] Yeah, I think the census says your Grandpa Saari came in 1901, which would be about right.

**Affa:** [27:29] Tell us... So, you don't know exactly why they left Finland?

**Sandra:** [27:34] My grandfather Saari left because of the military.

**Affa:** [27:37] The military. Yeah. And you talked about relatives... tell us about that.

**Sandra:** [27:46] My aunt's husband's cousin lived in Canada. They had been in Finland, and they were sort of disillusioned. They thought if they went to Russia... the propaganda was that it was going to be wonderful with the Communists. They were doing, I guess, okay. Then all of a sudden, they got word through the grapevine that they were going to be next to be moved out. They needed to take them someplace else. So, they were running. They hid in barns and haystacks, and they kept running until they could get back to Finland.

**Affa:** [28:28] Were they close to the Finnish-Russian border?

**Sandra:** [28:32] You know, I don't know. They must have been somewhat close, because otherwise I can't imagine running.

**Gordon:** [28:40] Did they end up here?

**Sandra:** [28:41] They ended up in Canada. They were very interesting people. He had been a carpenter. She had been a carpenter, too, I think. Very interesting people. Their English was minimal. But they did all right for themselves in Canada.

**Gordon:** [29:00] Where?

**Sandra:** [29:02] In the Vancouver area.

**Gordon:** [29:05] So, you met them?

**Sandra:** [29:06] Yes, I did. And she had written a book. Unfortunately, I never got a copy of the book, but it was in Finnish, anyway, so it wouldn't have done me any good.

**Affa:** [29:16] About their life in Russia?

**Sandra:** [29:17] About their life. Yes.

**Affa:** [29:19] Was that common in Finland, that they would go into Russia, that they believed...

**Sandra:** [29:28] You know, I don't know. I've heard others say that they encouraged defection from Finland to Russia. But it's like a lot of areas. Things were tough, and they thought they would do better. I just don't know.

**Gordon:** [29:50] And I think, from what I've read, even in my family, a lot of that generation were attracted to Communism, and those ideas.

**Sandra:** [30:00] True.

**Gordon:** [30:02] Whether Finn, Norwegian... I don't know about the Swedes. But I know there was amongst some people in my family, the earlier generations.

**Sandra:** [30:11] Yes. Well, even on Vancouver Island, that Finnish community was a commune. That was very enticing to a lot of people, even from around here.

**Gordon:** [30:22] Sointula?

**Sandra:** [30:23] Sointula. Yeah.

**Gordon:** [30:25] I've always wanted to go there.

**Sandra:** [30:28] I think Leo Utter knew quite a bit about that.

**Gordon:** [30:32] That's right. His family had problems because of his parents' political... If I recall.

**Sandra:** [30:42] I wouldn't be a bit surprised. There was a group... Their political leanings were different.

**Affa:** [30:53] They settled there and started a commune?

**Sandra:** [30:56] Yes. I think some of the buildings are still there. It didn't quite work out like they had anticipated or hoped.

**Affa:** [31:07] Where on Vancouver Island?

**Gordon:** [31:10] Way up north. There is a young woman from my class of '62 in Ballard who moved up there as a schoolteacher.

**Sandra:** [31:21] Oh, really?

**Gordon:** [31:25] Of course, her name escapes me. I'll think of it.

**Sandra:** [31:31] A number of people were quite enamored, that it would be wonderful. There are a couple of books about Sointula, too.

**Gordon:** [31:41] Yes. Where did you go to school?

**Sandra:** [31:47] I went to Juanita Elementary. When my parents went to school, the Finnish students kind of stuck together because they spoke limited English to begin with. When they started school, they learned English. They all went to Juanita Elementary School, the old school. Those that went on to high school went to Kirkland High School. I went to Juanita Elementary, and then I went to Kirkland Junior High, and then Lake Washington High School. At that time, it was the only high school in the Lake Washington District. Now there are more.

[32:30] My mother graduated from Kirkland High School, and I graduated 30 years after she did from Lake Washington. There were still some of the same teachers around, if you can imagine. I stayed close, and we would take the school bus to school, be it elementary, junior high, and high school. In those days, not everyone could have a car.

**Affa:** [33:05] Do you have siblings?

**Sandra:** [33:07] No, I'm an only child. But I have a lot of cousins, which is good.

**Gordon:** [33:14] What are the traditions that you can identify as Finnish, growing up? Food, or ceremony? Special days?

**Sandra:** [33:25] That's a good question. Food— the Finnish pancake. I remember that. I remember

sitting on my grandmother Saari's covered porch. They had gardens, so we did all kinds of vegetables. I remember shelling peas into the big galvanized washtubs. The dogs were sitting there with us, and peas would end up on the floor, and the dogs would chase the peas. Then they would can them. In those days, they canned rather than froze. There was corn, and all kinds of fruit that they would put away for the winter. This was my mother's family. I'm sure the Lindquist grandparents did the same. My mother helped her mother and sister. They did that together.

[34:31] Christmas, we did Christmas Eve with my dad's side of the family, and Christmas Day with my mother's side of the family. Special foods... I remember my mother did a beet herring salad. That's very typical of the Nordics. I don't know why that sticks in my mind so much.

**Affa:** [34:57] What about Christmas Eve dinner? Do you remember anything special?

**Sandra:** [35:03] We'd have lutefisk at my grandma Lindquist's. That was in the country. You'd pull up in the car, and you'd get out of the car, and you could smell the fish outside, because it was so strong. It took until almost spring to get that odor out of the house, because the doors and windows were closed. She would have lutefisk, and I imagine it was ham, because it usually was a big group, and everybody would bring things to add.

**Gordon:** [35:41] How big a crowd, do you think?

**Sandra:** [35:43] Not everyone was there. One aunt and uncle lived away, and they didn't come, but pretty much everyone else came. It could have been like 25, with the kids. Of course, we little guys were wound up tighter than tight. My grandmother had a second floor with wood steps, and we would go up to the top and slide down on our bottoms. It makes that wonderful noise— thump, thump, thump. Our parents and aunts and uncles would be sipping the sauce a little, and I'm sure my grandma was just going bonkers. Everybody was doing everything else. It was a fun time. It was a time for family.

**Gordon:** [36:34] Did you open your presents on Christmas Eve?

**Sandra:** [36:36] We got presents there on Christmas Eve. Then at home, we opened them Christmas morning, but it was a lot quieter.

**Gordon:** [36:45] Did you learn your baking skills from your grandmothers, or your mother?

**Sandra:** [36:49] My mother. I wish I had learned to make the cardamom braid, or *pulla*, from my grandma, but I didn't. And why make it if grandma is making it, you know? We walked. We walked all over up there. Today, people have cars. They drive. But in those days, even the kids would walk to grandma's house. It might be a little ways, but you'd walk.

**Gordon:** [37:20] What's left on Big Finn Hill that would be Finnish, or would mark the history of it?

**Sandra:** [37:29] There's a park that they built on part of our grandparents' property. We wanted to have some sort of a plaque designating the fact that our grandparents had lived there. We haven't pursued it because the one assigned to doing the writing kind of let it slide, and the rest of us haven't pushed. The park said they would put something up for us, so we really should finalize it. For us, it's

a big memory. We had a lot of fun up there with our grandparents.

**Gordon:** [38:08] Are any of the houses that you remember still standing?

**Sandra:** [38:13] Not on our grandparents' property. That was all demolished. I think there's a baseball field there now, and they put some park kitchen areas in, and that sort of thing. Closer to my mother's house, where she lived, I think there are still one or two old houses. But I imagine those will be short-lived, because of the builders, and the property itself.

**Affa:** [38:45] Do you know the name of the park?

**Sandra:** [38:47] I don't remember. It could be Finn Hill Park. We had come up with kind of a game plan. Our writer person hasn't... We haven't pushed. It takes all of us to make it happen, I think.

**Gordon:** [39:06] Did your grandparents ever make a trip back home?

**Sandra:** [39:10] No.

**Gordon:** [39:11] Did they stay in touch with their families in Finland?

**Sandra:** [39:14] They must have stayed in touch a little, on my mother's side, the Saari side. The Lindquist side is a big blank. But on the Saari side, they did, because my mother went to Finland once to see her cousins. I've been there a couple times. I was baptized as an adult in my mother's dad's church. Three of my mother's cousins were my godparents. It was kind of exciting. A lady from here taught a Finnish class. She was from that area. I got to talking with her, and she made the arrangements that I would be baptized in my grandfather's church.

**Affa:** [40:00] Wonderful. What part of Finland were your grandparents from?

**Sandra:** [40:07] My mother's family was from Kauhava, and Van Kyro.

**Affa:** [40:13] Where is that?

**Sandra:** [40:14] Closer to Vasa. And the Lindquist side, I am not really sure.

**Gordon:** [40:23] Did the Lindquists just not maintain contact?

**Sandra:** [40:27] We think our grandfather might have changed his name. Our mother thought that he might have changed his name. One of my cousins doesn't think that's the case, I don't think. Maybe I shouldn't have said that. [Laughter] The trail is sort of bleak. One of my cousins has done the DNA from ancestry.com. I have done it, too. I started doing the family tree, and I messed up, and I haven't gone back to straighten it out. That might be one way for us to find out if we can connect. I am in touch with my mother's Saari side of the family. The young people are very into what's going on, so that's nice. And they speak English.

**Affa:** [41:24] What about the DNA? Did that come up with just Finnish and Swedish?

**Sandra:** [41:30] Finnish— 93%, which is kind of cool.

**Gordon:** [41:36] Yeah. That's pure.

**Sandra:** [41:44] Which is exciting. When I saw that, I thought, wow, because I'm Finnish on both sides. I need to pursue this and see if we can pull up some other people. On the Saari side, they have done a lot of genealogy. Maybe five or six years ago, some Norwegians came to visit, and they discovered some of these people had moved to Norway. So, we've got quite a large Norwegian group of the family, too, which was a real surprise. I think they were surprised.

**Gordon:** [42:33] How have you maintained your traditions? You were married?

**Sandra:** [42:37] Yes, I married a Norwegian.

**Gordon:** [42:40] That's what I thought. That's what I was going to say. [Laughter]

**Sandra:** [42:43] And they have different ideas. [Laughter]

**Gordon:** [42:45] And you have one child?

**Sandra:** [42:48] One son. Yes.

**Gordon:** [42:50] Have you maintained the traditions you grew up with?

**Sandra:** [42:53] I've tried to do some things, but boys aren't always as interested. I shouldn't say it that way. Had my husband lived longer, I think we would have had more of a chance of making something stick. That's not really fair, either. You know, kids today are different. They're not so inclined. I've been working on my granddaughter, for her background, so she knows what's going on. She's been active here. She's been here since she was an infant.

**Affa:** [43:27] How old is she?

**Sandra:** [43:28] Eleven. She likes to come. She's a good volunteer. She's aware of her Finnish background. But it's not all Finnish. She's got Norwegian, and on her mother's side, all these other things. [Laughter] Which is good. I try to do some of the foods, but again, they don't really care for them. But cookies, I can do.

**Gordon:** [43:59] I know. [Laughter] When did you get involved with the museum?

**Sandra:** [44:09] When the *Dream [of America]* exhibit came.

**Gordon:** [44:11] Okay. 1980-something.

**Sandra:** [44:14] Somewhere in there. I had been taking Hardanger lessons from a lady up on Queen Anne. They needed some demonstrators, so a few of us came to demonstrate at the museum. Then I sort of just followed along. I got involved with collections first. Now I am doing admissions, and other things, as well.

**Gordon:** [44:46] Were you involved in setting up the Finnish room at all?

**Sandra:** [44:49] No, I wasn't.

**Gordon:** [44:51] Okay. Do you know who that was, the principal...

**Sandra:** [44:56] I think Hera was one. And Leo Utter. Then Leo Nalli did a lot of the work in that room. Elizabeth Anderson was involved with her daughter Karla. Sirkka Wilson. Aili Casey. I'm guessing some of them. Martha Strand. Some of those people. Most of those people are gone.

**Affa:** [45:31] Did your husband come from Norway?

**Sandra:** [45:37] No, his parents did. He was a fisherman here in this area, and in Alaska.

**Affa:** [45:43] What part of Norway did they come from?

**Sandra:** [45:48] Ottum.

**Affa:** [45:57] Have you been back there?

**Sandra:** [46:00] Not to where his family was. When I went to Scandinavia after he was gone, I didn't even think about looking up his family.

**Affa:** [46:16] What about your son? Has he been to Finland?

**Sandra:** [46:20] I don't think he wants to go.

**Affa:** [46:23] Your granddaughter probably will.

**Gordon:** [46:24] I thought you had better control. [Laughter]

**Sandra:** [46:28] I don't. [Laughter] Even my cousin on my mother's side— my uncle Ole's son— I don't know that he wants to go. But he's interested in his family history, I know. But you know, traveling... Some people don't want to do it. Or by the time they do, some of those connections are gone.

**Gordon:** [47:00] When was the last time you were in Finland?

**Sandra:** [47:03] Gosh... Marianne was still at the museum when I did a trip. So, it's been a while.

**Judy:** [47:16] The relatives that are in Finland— do they come here to visit?

**Sandra:** [47:20] No, they don't. One of my mother's cousins was part of a Finnish choral group. My folks were alive. And he came with this Finnish choral group, and he stayed with my folks, which was exciting, because they were entertaining around.

**Affa:** [47:39] What about you? Did you work outside the home?

**Sandra:** [47:43] Yes, I did.

**Affa:** [47:44] Where did you go to school?

**Sandra:** [47:47] I went to Washington State for two years. Then I got a job. I worked in a dental office. Then I worked at the University of Washington in the Dental School. And I lived in Australia for a while. I thought it would be great to immigrate to Australia.

**Affa:** [48:03] How many years were you there?

**Sandra:** [48:06] I was only there about six months.

**Affa:** [48:09] Before you got married?

**Sandra:** [48:10] Before I got married. Yes. I didn't care what I did, just to have a job. My friend and I went. I applied to the Flying Dental Service. I probably could have gotten a job, but I would have had to give up my U.S. citizenship, and I wasn't prepared to do that. We had a wonderful time. The experience was one of the best. When I came back here, I got a job. I had gone to Finland. After that, I met my husband and got married.

**Affa:** [48:52] Did you spend much time in Finland?

**Sandra:** [48:55] Not that much. As a tourist. It was called money. [Laughter]

**Affa:** [49:07] And your husband was a fisherman in Alaska?

**Sandra:** [49:10] Yes. We did have a couple of boats at different times.

**Affa:** [49:17] Did you ever go up there, working?

**Sandra:** [49:20] No. I went up one spring when they took the boat up. You know, it was great to go up on the boat, but I wouldn't have wanted to work up there. That was no place for a woman to be on a boat, in my mind.

**Affa:** [49:41] Right. What about your son?

**Sandra:** [49:46] He worked [in Alaska]. His first year in Alaska was the year of the Exxon spill. His dad had picked who he could work for. There were some people he wouldn't even think of letting him go on their boats. He did quite well, because they were paid off by Exxon. One season, he packed for another man. I don't think he really wanted to be a fisherman. It was hard work. He could see that there were other things you could do in the industry and make good money, but not work quite as hard. And it was dangerous.

**Affa:** [50:30] Did he go into the fishing industry?



**Sandra:** [50:33] My son? No. He works for a company that does hot water boilers for commercial places, like the museum. I don't know that they applied... When they were putting out bids, I don't know that they put out a bid.

**Gordon:** [50:57] Is there anything that we haven't covered that you would like to talk about?

**Sandra:** [51:00] I don't know.

**Affa:** [51:13] Anything you thought of before you came...

**Sandra:** [51:20] I was pondering. I don't know. Growing up on Big Finn Hill was nice. It was country. Kids were safe.

**Affa:** [51:34] Pretty free.

**Sandra:** [51:35] Yes.

**Gordon:** [51:38] Did you ever feel looked down upon as immigrants? There were Norwegians in Ballard, and they congregated together in groups, it seems like. You wonder if it was because they felt discriminated against.

**Sandra:** [52:03] It could have been.

**Affa:** [52:05] Maybe it's just that it was familiar— the language.

**Sandra:** [52:09] I think so.

**Affa:** [52:11] You don't have to explain yourself.

**Sandra:** [52:12] No. You know where you are. What you're thinking. Maybe not always agreeing, but they knew.

**Affa:** [52:19] Right. Do you keep in touch with any of your childhood friends?

**Sandra:** [52:25] When I grew up? The ones who lived on the hill are not all around. Some have passed away.

**Gordon:** [52:40] Karla— where does she fit in?

**Sandra:** [52:42] Karla— they lived in a boarding house on Madison.

**Gordon:** [52:50] Yes. That's right.

**Sandra:** [52:53] You interviewed them?

**Gordon:** [52:54] Yes.

**Sandra:** [52:56] When I was talking with her one day about my grandma taking the ferry into town, she said, “Oh, I’m sure she stopped to visit with my grandma.” That was a given.

**Gordon:** [53:09] Where did she go to sell? Did she go to Pike Place Market?

**Sandra:** [53:13] I don’t know. That’s what I’m guessing. Somewhere in the market.

**Affa:** [53:17] How did she survive with the children after her husband died?

**Sandra:** [53:22] Good question. I don’t know that they belonged to the Finnish Brotherhood. I haven’t got a clue. They would give you a little bit, but it would be a pittance. And she was able to own her property, I’m assuming, and pay her bills.

**Gordon:** [53:40] It says on the 1920 census, “Home owned or rented? Owned.” In those days, it was probably easier. You didn’t have to have much of a mortgage like we do now.

**Sandra:** [53:58] Probably not. My Lindquist grandparents, the land they lived on once they moved from close to my Saari grandparents wasn’t too far away, but it was leased land. They could have purchased it, I guess, for a minimal amount of money per acre, but they didn’t. And my aunts and uncles said, “They should have done that.” But maybe they just couldn’t do it. I don’t know.

**Affa:** [54:29] Do you think there was any insurance, or anything like that, from the mines?

**Sandra:** [54:35] I wouldn’t have a clue.

**Affa:** [54:38] It’s amazing sometimes how people survived. They just did.

**Gordon:** [54:44] Did she ever talk about it to you? Did you ever ask about your grandfather?

**Sandra:** [54:48] I was quite young. Let’s see, when did she die? She ended up in a nursing home, because my mother and aunt couldn’t take care of her. I don’t remember hearing anything. It might have been in Finnish. And it was probably behind closed doors. “She doesn’t need to know this stuff.” But it had to have been tough.

**Gordon:** [55:27] She would have been an interesting woman, her story.

**Sandra:** [55:30] And looking at the pictures, she was very slight and slender. Hardworking-looking.

**Affa:** [55:44] Do you know what happened in the mine? Was it an explosion?

**Sandra:** [55:48] It must have been an explosion, or something.

**Affa:** [55:54] They didn’t close the mine after that?

**Sandra:** [55:56] I don’t know.

**Gordon:** [55:58] No, the next year six men died.

**Affa:** [56:00] Oh, that's right.

**Sandra:** [56:03] It was money. Let's face it.

**Gordon:** [56:08] There's an I-don't-know-how-many-page list of deaths that occurred.

**Judy:** [56:15] There was no safety board back then. [Crosstalk] This was so interesting.

**Gordon:** [56:32] Yeah. We're at an hour now.

**Sandra:** [56:37] There might be something else, but I don't know what to tell you. Some of the memories come back quickly, and some don't. I can remember my mother had three aunts and uncles on Finn Hill. One couple was married, and they had two daughters. The daughters were good friends with my mother and aunt. Then I think another was a widow, and the brother. I guess it would have been three siblings. The brother had a girlfriend. I remember this, in high school. He had never been married. He had a girlfriend, a Finnish lady, really nice. They'd come visit, and they'd sit on the couch. They must have been in their seventies, holding hands. We would think, "ugh." But it was so cute. Wow. They supported one another. Maybe not financially, but in other ways.

**Gordon:** [57:54] Besides the Finn Hall, was there anything else up there? Stores?

**Sandra:** [57:59] No. Well, there was a store on the other side, on Juanita Drive. It was owned by... was he Finnish? His wife was Finnish. She had written a book. The store was called Hammer's. It was a gas station and a little store with odds and ends. It was the old-fashioned glass pumps. Do you remember those? The cylinders. I remember my dad used to take me on Sundays and we'd go get the Sunday paper there.

**Gordon:** [58:31] That was the closest store?

**Sandra:** [58:34] Maybe the closest. Could be. Juanita would have been fairly close.

**Gordon:** [58:42] You said most everybody grew their own vegetables?

**Sandra:** [58:45] Yes. And even raised their own animals, and had chickens for eggs.

**Affa:** [58:50] When did your father pass away?

**Sandra:** [58:53] My dad died when he was 92. It was after my husband died. My husband died in 1993, and I think my dad died in 1995.

**Gordon:** [59:07] And your mom was in 2000?

**Sandra:** [59:10] Yes.

**Affa:** [59:13] Your mom was how old?

**Sandra:** [59:14] She would have been 90 in May. She died in January.

**Affa:** [59:19] So, they all got to be...

**Sandra:** [59:22] Old. Yes. And very healthy, and very active.

**Affa:** [59:30] Did they stay on Finn Hill?

**Sandra:** [59:31] Yes, they did.

**Affa:** [59:34] What happened to the land there?

**Sandra:** [59:37] I sold their house.

**Gordon:** [59:44] The Saari house?

**Sandra:** [59:45] Well, my mother and aunt sold my grandma's house, because they needed the money to take care of my grandma Saari. When my mother needed to go into a home, I sold her house. I also sold my aunt's house, which wasn't too far away, when she needed to go into a home, under much duress. She said, "You need to have my house." "No, we need the money." They can be very determined, these Nordics.

**Affa:** [1:00:24] Yes. What is there now?

**Sandra:** [1:00:27] There are houses up there. Lots of houses.

**Gordon:** [1:00:33] That's why the sauna got moved.

**Sandra:** [1:00:36] Yes.

**Gordon:** [1:00:36] The developer wanted to...

**Sandra:** [1:00:38] Take the property for houses. And there are houses there.

**Affa:** [1:00:45] And there are no small farms.

**Sandra:** [1:00:46] No.

**Affa:** [1:00:47] It's all developed.

**Sandra:** [1:00:48] It's pretty much all developed.

**Gordon:** [1:00:51] Fascinating.

**Judy:** [1:00:52] Yeah, it is.

**Gordon:** [1:00:57] I would love to get that map again.

**Sandra:** [1:01:02] I've got it at home. I'll bring it to you, and you can do what you want with it, and get it back to me.

**Gordon:** [1:01:09] Are there any other people that we should interview that are descendants like yourself, from Big Finn Hill families?

**Sandra:** [1:01:20] My cousins, but I don't know if they'd be interested. My cousin Morry is here on Thursdays. He's part of the Thursday crew.

**Gordon:** [1:01:28] What's his name?

**Sandra:** [1:01:29] Morry Ingliss. And my cousin Kay lives in Kenmore. She's a fountain of knowledge. I don't know if she'd be interested. But I'll give you her name.

**Gordon:** [1:01:42] Yeah. Who is the other one we were talking about?

**Sandra:** [1:01:45] Ed Wierlo? The sauna?

**Gordon:** [1:01:49] Yeah. I have to write that down.

**Judy:** [1:01:51] Did you say he is Estonian?

**Sandra:** [1:01:52] Yes.

**Judy:** [1:01:54] Did you get to see the movie *The Fencer*? That was interesting, because that gentleman defected from Russia to Estonia, to escape the conscription.

**Gordon:** [1:02:07] Yeah, that was a great movie. We'll write those names down. All right.

**Affa:** [1:02:15] Thank you very much.

**Sandra:** [1:02:16] Yes.

END OF RECORDING.

Transcription by Alison DeRiemer.