

University of Washington Tacoma Oral History: Founding Stories

**Narrator:** Anne Haley  
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NOTE: This transcript is a rush copy and may be updated later.

Justin Wadland 0:00

This is Justin Wadland, and I'm at the Brown and Haley corporate office interviewing Anne Haley for the *Founding Stories* oral history project. It's January 7, 2020. And why don't we begin with this first question: can you please introduce yourself and describe what affiliation you might have with UW Tacoma?

Anne Haley 0:25

Well, my name is Anne Haley and I'm going to describe the relationship that I've had to UW Tacoma, but also to other institutions of higher learning in the city of Tacoma. And my grandfather came here in the year 2005 [1905] and met -- his name was Jonathan Clifford Haley, and he became acquainted with Harry Brown at Mason Methodist Church --

Justin Wadland 0:51

And that's in 1905.

Anne Haley 0:51

In about 1905, and together in about 1912 they created what was originally the Oreo candy company, which turned into Brown and Haley, which is the company that we are with today. And the first product was mountain bars, which carried them through World War I. And almond roca was created in 1923. J.C. Haley has always been interested in higher education and created a Margaret's fund at the University of Puget Sound here. My Uncle Frank, trained as a minister and was the librarian at Pacific Lutheran University for most of his career. And the library there, I believe part of it is named for Frank Haley. And others in the family, Fred was involved in the creation of UW downtown Tacoma, which is now a larger institution in the city of Tacoma.

Justin Wadland 1:33

And to what extent have you interacted with the university over the years in your capacity with?

Anne Haley 2:07

## University of Washington Tacoma Oral History: Founding Stories

Well, I'm a graduate of the University of Puget Sound. And I was in and out of PLU, particularly when the Joffrey Ballet was doing their summer workshops there. But most of my interactions with UW Tacoma has been simply walking or driving through the campus and admiring the improvement of the neighborhoods around Union Station or what UW Tacoma has done with those old manufacturing buildings, which, for years stood empty. And that part of town was not a great part of town at one time, as all lower Pacific was closed to Fort Lewis soldiers shortly after World War II, because it was not a really safe place for soldiers to be, so it's been a real boon to the city of Tacoma to have UW Tacoma in that particular location.

Justin Wadland 3:11

And you were saying earlier that you grew up in and around the company. The factory is really close to where UW Tacoma is now. And so I'm just wondering if you could just describe what downtown was like, and when, you know, when you were growing up and as you experienced it? Sort of what are some of the memories that you have of that place?

Anne Haley 3:43

Well, UW took --

Justin Wadland 3:44

That warehouse district and that sort of thing.

Anne Haley 3:47

Yes, the plant is on East 26th Street. And if you move north from the plant up Pacific Avenue, there was the brewery, which was Lucky Lager Brewery, and then up towards the manufacturing areas of mattresses and other other kinds of commodities up towards Union Station. And of course, the Federal Building was not there then, nor was the Tacoma Art Museum and then moving up towards Ninth Street between 15th and 9th was really skid row in Tacoma with a lot of bars, and dives, and cheap restaurants, and single occupant resident hotels. And it was kind of a rough part of town up towards what was the Greyhound bus station, which was up about 12th or 13th and around there. So Brown and Haley was down at the south end of Tacoma Avenue, just before it climbed the hill up towards McKinley Hill. Obviously I-5 wasn't here then. And US 99, at that time, came up from the north on Puyallup Avenue, and then jogged to 26th, right in front of the plant, and the shop that was created in 1962 for the World's Fair, and then out Center Street and South Tacoma Way. So it was a center at one time, but --

Justin Wadland

Then it changed a lot.

Anne Haley 5:37

Oh, yes, it's changed over time.

Justin Wadland 5:40

## University of Washington Tacoma Oral History: Founding Stories

So we're gonna jump around a bit in time here. Thanks for sharing those memories. Where do you live now? And what are you working on?

Anne Haley 5:51

I live in Walla Walla. I moved there in 1977 to take a job as director of the public library of Walla Walla. I was going to be there for three to five years, but love intervened. And my husband taught economics at Whitman college for 35 years. And so we have a home in Walla Walla in a 1907 house, stone house. Currently, after I finished my public library commitment, I went back to school and did a BFA degree at Pacific Northwest College of Art, and I am a printmaker. So I'm working on lithography. I'm doing reduction line of cut prints, I'm doing copper etched prints. So I've been involved in fine arts, particularly in printmaking.

Justin Wadland 6:53

I've seen some of some of them online and visit your website and --

Anne Haley 6:56

Oh, good, great.

Justin Wadland 6:56

-- they looked really beautiful.

Anne Haley 6:58

Great. Thank you. And you can tell that they really are inspired by the landscape around Walla Walla, if you're familiar with that country at all.

Justin Wadland 7:07

I'm not, but I did see the hills, and you are also working, working on quotes around it, but you're also "serving" as the chairperson of the board seat of Brown and Haley.

Anne Haley 7:26

Right. I'm doing that.

Justin Wadland 7:27

Could you talk a little bit about those responsibilities and what that entails?

Anne Haley 7:32

Well, and in the interim, I was appointed as Commissioner to the Washington State Transportation Commission. So I served three, I was elected by my peers to serve as chair for three terms. And that organization, among its responsibilities is the tolling authority. And so we set the tolls for the Narrows Bridge, among other facilities in the state, such as the 520 Bridge, but it was a touchstone for me to have grown up here and to have not only waited for the ferry after the First Bridge blew down, but also to have paid the tolls on the second bridge because I was in high school at that time. And so sort of full circle that I served as chair of the commission

## University of Washington Tacoma Oral History: Founding Stories

when we set the tolls for the new bridge to pay back the bonds of for the building of that bridge. So I did that, kind of in the interim from 2010 to about 2016. But through all of this time, I've served as Chair of the Board of Directors of Brown and Haley,

Justin Wadland 8:53

And what are the responsibilities that you have in that position?

Anne Haley 9:00

I'm in constant contact with the chief executive officer. So we talk sometimes multiple times a day, or on a weekly basis, depending upon what's going on. I am in communication with shareholders. And I prepare and chair board meetings, and audit committee meetings, and executive committee meetings.

Justin Wadland 9:30

So flipping back to the past and talking about your family's background: could you talk a bit, and you've shared a little bit of the history around Brown and Haley, I'm wondering what else you might want to share about that?

Anne Haley 9:52

Well, let's see. My dad was in the South Pacific during World War II, and when he came back from the war he served as vice president and ran the plant. And Fred, his older brother, also joined the company and served as president and worked on the sales side.

Justin Wadland 10:21

And you were saying that your father, so Fred, was your uncle?

Anne Haley 10:25

Correct.

Justin Wadland 10:26

And your father was involved with buying the ingredients. Could you talk a little bit more about that? I really liked hearing about where the different --

Anne Haley 10:38

Almonds come out of California. And so we are attuned to what the weather patterns are in central California. But butter comes from Dairygold from farmers in eastern King County and Yakima County. Sugar comes from amalgamated sugar in Vancouver, Washington. Cashews come from New Mexico. And packaging comes from, we've bought packaging from a container company in Spokane. So we really are working on relationships and dealing and deepening our sense of community, to the producers and suppliers within Washington and the Northwest, as much as anything. The employment base at the plant, I think we have about 230 employees across the company. And these are family wage jobs, which in this date of part-time fast-food

## University of Washington Tacoma Oral History: Founding Stories

jobs are an important segment of the community. These are family wage jobs, that we can make sure that people can support their families well on the employment that we provide.

Justin Wadland 12:14

And Fred Haley, of course, was very visible and present in the community. I, before coming here, read an obituary for him.

Anne Haley 12:25

Yes.

Justin Wadland 12:26

And his involvement in the civil rights movement and school boards, and so he he had a very public political role. And I'm just, he had certain values and the values of the company, it sounds like, are very, very care about the the employees and on the relationships. To what extent was, you know, Fred's values sort of overlapping with the company values? It sounds like there's, I mean, a long history of interest in education and the community. Could you talk a little bit about those aspects of it in terms of the sort of outward facing nature, perhaps Fred's role in the community or other members of the family?

Anne Haley 13:13

Well, both my dad and Fred had very public visible roles in the community. And my dad served on the Planning Commission in Tacoma. He was involved in the Municipal League of Tacoma. He was involved in, when he was in, served on City Council. He was involved in conversations up on K Street, dealing with minority issues there and diffusing and working through and mediating and working to deal with the issues that people in the in the K Street neighborhoods were fought, were failing. So Dick had a public role primarily in regards to the city itself of Tacoma. Fred was involved on the school board, you probably dug those dates out of that obit, and he and several others supported a school counselor who had been targeted by the McCarthy's Un-American committee, and supported her. So Fred was involved in that aspect of the community. Frank, as a minister in the Methodist church, was also a person involved in the faith based aspects of the community. J.C. Haley, was involved with a Mason church, and it was the United Board of Churches that he was was involved with nationally, and took a year off the company to serve as president of that organization nationally. So the whole family had a public face, in different sections and in different parts of the community.

Justin Wadland 15:24

And so, I kind of jumped down and around in the questions a little bit, just as you consider the different aspects that the family has been involved in, where where would you place UW Tacoma and perhaps like, I know Fred Haley was involved in something called the South Puget Sound Higher Education Council, which was a group that was meeting in the '80s to advocate on a local level for a university to be placed in downtown Tacoma, a public university. And the meetings were held, sometimes I guess regularly, at the Brown and Haley Candy Company. So

## University of Washington Tacoma Oral History: Founding Stories

I'm wondering to what extent you were aware of these activities or things that were happening and how it might fit into this larger interest in education?

Anne Haley 16:34

I was aware of it certainly. But the family's interest, were not just UW. There were the Brown and Haley lectures up at the University of Puget Sound. So the interest in higher education, I think, was spread through the entire community.

Justin Wadland 16:56

And what is your sense of the motivation for that, why is the family interested in higher education?

Anne Haley 17:05

The family's always been interested in higher education. And my dad, and mother, and an uncle were graduates of the University of Puget Sound. And other members of -- higher education has always been important.

And your perspective as the executive that you are here for Brown and Haley now, as chair of the board, it's always interesting to me being in, working in a university, knowing that we -- our primary responsibility is to create wonderful citizens and productive people coming out of that university to contribute in whatever way motivates them to contribute in this world. And in many cases, they end up being employees, obviously, in this community and in this region. What is Brown and Haley's perspective on, you know, from all the universities, all the students coming out of these universities and the role that they potentially play in your company, and other companies like you? And what is your current -- how do you interact in that way, if at all, with the universities in the recruiting, sort of pipeline, talent pipeline arena?

Well, we're always looking for good employees. Always. And employees who are interested in and committed to working, and working for Brown and Haley, or any other company. So we're interested in skill based, but also in the desire and ability to work and work well. So we are recruiting not only college graduates, but we're recruiting veterans. And we are recruiting from the broader community as well as we can because we know that the labor market is tight. We also work on deepening relationships with our employees to minimize turnover. And so there are many employees here who've been here for 20 years, 25 years, who came to work in the mid '80s. And, you know, 44 years and so, we really work on -- it's a relationship building, not only with employees, but relationships with our community, in relationship with the institutions that are already here, whether they be higher ed or public school, or other charitable organizations. You know, we have worked with Goodwill, we've worked with the Heart Association, we are working in sourcing sustainable chocolate for our new almond roca bites, so that the chocolate is produced without child labor and it's sustainably grown in Ghana and Ivory Coast and you know, other places. So, we are interested in, not only just employees, but also suppliers and general relationships within the community.

## University of Washington Tacoma Oral History: Founding Stories

Justin Wadland 20:48

So as the -- as we've been piecing together the story of UW Tacoma, especially in the 1980s, when there were lots of different efforts that were happening at multiple levels: locally, at the state level. And at the state level it seems that one key player in sort of pulling people together was the Economic Development Board of Tacoma. And so, I'm curious to what extent the the Haley family was involved in those efforts in the 1980s to especially help redevelop downtown Tacoma, and perhaps overlapping with efforts of the Economic Development Board. I'm not, you know, so I'm wondering how where, like to what extent you know about those. And what extent the family might have been involved in those.

Anne Haley 21:46

And I did not live here at that time. I was in Walla Walla. So I was not as aware, but obviously the company has always been committed to the growth of Tacoma. Whether it was my dad, or whether it were other people involved in the company, so there's always been an effort. And at one time, I think beginning in the early '60s, downtown Tacoma went through an urban renewal, which ultimately resulted in a bunch of garages, which took out a lot of substandard buildings. And my dad was involved in that. I think one of the issues early on if you looked at the ownership of buildings in downtown Tacoma, particularly along Broadway, and this probably has changed, but at one time, many of those properties were owned by trusts. And so there was less interest in redeveloping, because trusts typically take income out, but don't necessarily redevelop. And so that has been an impetus. And that may have been part of the Pantages [Theater] renewal, which my dad was deeply involved in, and I think he served as treasurer of the Pantages renovation and redevelopment, and it was one of those stories where it was sort of an impossible task. And so they'd get through the first step and say, "Oh, well, well, let's just continue I guess." It's an amazing story about the grants and the relationships that created Pantages. But that was Dick Haely involved with that.

Leslie Kinkade

Justin, do you mind me? I'll ask. So with that in mind, these really important social and cultural efforts that your family, your dad in particular, was involved with, what other families were the Haley's interacting with?

Anne Haley 23:58

Oh, golly.

Leslie Kinkade 23:59

You know, obviously it took a community of people to come together and probably in the case of that Pantages board, I mean, the chemistry had to be just right to get these people inspired and really excited about doing what they were doing. So would you talk a little bit about --

Anne Haley 24:18

About other families?

## University of Washington Tacoma Oral History: Founding Stories

Leslie Kinkade 24:19

Yeah, just about what relationship the Haley family had.

Anne Haley 24:24

Well, there was Rino Wadland [phonetic], who was president of the bank. There was George Weyerhaeuser. There were the Petricks [phonetic]. There was Ed Allen [phonetic], the Allens. The Gees. The G-E-E-s. Golly, you know, I'm trying to think through some of those early, you probably --

Leslie Kinkade 24:54

We were just talking about, you know, relationships and how important --

Anne Haley

And they all were. And they all were. And at that time, Tacoma was kind of a small community. And everybody knew each other. And you'll find that still in smaller communities around I think, I think it's changed because of the growth of JBLM. And simply the growth of the urban area, but at that time, it was a much smaller community.

Justin Wadland 25:28

And so as a result of that smaller community, it sounds like it's much easier to marshal support around various different causes because you'd just call up somebody and say, "We need to be working on this."

Anne Haley 25:42

Or you'd see them at church, or you'd see them at the symphony, or you'd see them at the country club, or you'd see them at the tennis club. And these were all gathering places. And so, or you'd see them at rotary or...so people simply knew each other. People weren't dealing with their phones. They were doing individual, one-on-one, or calling on the phone. So I think that's really changed the nature of relationships, that there's when you dealt with somebody, you basically had to communicate directly with them. There was no other way. And, you know, I think that's really changed the nature of communities, and relationships within communities.

Justin Wadland 26:41

And as a librarian, I'm sure you witnessed a lot of that happening for you.

Anne Haley 26:47

Oh, yes. And have you? Have you?

Justin Wadland 26:52

Yes.

Anne Haley 26:52

## University of Washington Tacoma Oral History: Founding Stories

Because, so I started in the 1970s, and by the early '80s, you know, we had a little computer that did computer cards in 1981. And so I had a little fund on the side with a donor. And so we were all into early computers. At a time when the city manager said, you know, "By God, there's not going to be a computer on every desk in my city!" And boy, has that changed. So you've been a recipient of all of those changes that we all went in, starting about 1980. And, you know, as a librarian, we saw the millennial issues coming. And the whole increase of banned books issues in the early '90s. As part of -- we thought it was a part of millennial change. Because with every millennial change, there's been an upset. And I only know this because I have a predecessor, who was hung in 1694 in Salem, Massachusetts. We all thought that we would get through the banned books era, you know, within five or 10 years after the millennial. Well, you know, it's 20 years later, and we're still dealing with it! So, you know, that's an aside on running libraries.

Justin Wadland 28:17

So an ancestor of yours was --

Anne Haley 28:20

Yes.

Justin Wadland 28:21

-- was hung?

Anne Haley 28:22

Yes.

Justin Wadland 28:23

Oh, wow. Is this in the Haley family or?

Anne Haley 28:25

No, it's in my mother's family. My mother's family. Her name was Ann Pudeator-Greenslade. She was the 13th woman hung. She was a wealthy widow, and had no man to defend her or her property. So that was part of, probably part of that whole scene, which was, there was jealousy of property. And about the time that I went through the issues in Yakima with early internet, I read a book about the Salem witch trials written by a British woman who said, "There are five factors of every witch trial, of witches. There are older women with impeccable credentials. Younger women who accuse. Aid and abettors who deliver the warrants, of either gender. Male figures of authority who suspend their disbelief. And when it's all over, no one is ever held accountable." And we're still going through it.

Leslie Kinkade 29:38

What's the name of that author?

Anne Haley 29:40

## University of Washington Tacoma Oral History: Founding Stories

I don't know. The color is green, haha, you know? I'm sure we could find it. I'm sure you can find it. I don't remember the book of it. But it has to deal with witch trials and kind of putting the Salem witch trials in the context of all others.

Justin Wadland 30:02

Sounds like fascinating text. That was -- I couldn't ignore that that little --

Anne Haley 30:07

That's a digress -- sorry, sorry. Sorry about that. That's my mother's family.

Justin Wadland 30:12

Too interesting to let that one just sit by the side. Getting back to UW Tacoma, can you remember the first time you heard that there would be a university and what you might have thought about it? Or is that just happening? Because you were in Walla Walla.

Anne Haley 30:30

That was just happening. And there probably was some controversy about it because there was Evergreen [State College]. And there was the UW in Seattle. So there probably was some question about why. Why spend the money to create a campus in Tacoma when there were these other state institutions that were close? And also Tacoma Community College. So there probably was some question about, "Why here? Why now?"

Justin Wadland 30:59

There was a lot of resistance, and we're kind of trying to talk to a number of the people who -- and you're right that there was resistance from University of Washington, community colleges, even potentially from the other universities in Tacoma. So, a big part of the work that was done was making sure that there was a coalition that supported it, and then could make it through the legislature.

Leslie Kinkade 31:27

And then part of the vision, I think, was, you know, as an economic development driver, you know, to have a university in the downtown core, you know, people, business leaders had observed that this could be, you know, a, such a powerful factor in the future of a community. Do you feel like UW Tacoma has helped to realize that?

Anne Haley

Well, there was a law school in downtown Tacoma. And it was in the old Rhodes department store. And it was UPS's law school. And I don't know what the negotiations were, but UPS sold it to Seattle University and it was moved. So how that relates to UW Tacoma is, you know, if the law school had remained, and UW Tacoma was also in Tacoma, I think that would have -- together they would have bolstered the economic development of downtown Tacoma.

Justin Wadland 32:36

## University of Washington Tacoma Oral History: Founding Stories

What interactions have you had with -- it sounds like you've had some students perhaps who have worked here, but what interactions have you had with like faculty or administrators of the campus over the years?

Anne Haley 32:46

I personally, I live in Walla Walla, so I personally --

Justin Wadland 32:50

Not a lot.

Anne Haley 32:51

Not a lot, you know. To be honest, not a lot. And I have had more interaction with UPS because I'm an alum, and my mother, you know, my parents are alums. So my interactions have really been with UPS, and when my mother died, you know, UPS was the place for charitable donations in her memory because there was already a fund there.

Justin Wadland 33:22

And so the university does have the Fred T. and Dorothy G. Haley professor of the humanities position, which is an endowed position. And just wondering to what extent you might have been involved in that and helping set that up?

Anne Haley 33:39

I wasn't.

Justin Wadland 33:40

Okay.

Anne Haley 33:42

Nope, that was while I was not living here. That was before my time.

Justin Wadland 34:02

So I think the last question that I would ask is, do you have any Joan, would you? Would you feel that there's any other question? I was going to ask this last one here.

Joan Hua 34:22

I'll ask one more. I can ask after.

Leslie Kinkade 34:28

Well, I'm curious. And you mentioned a connection with the Joffrey Ballet. And you also have, obviously have, quite a cultural and arts background unto yourself. And I have to believe that some of that has spilled over into having an impact on the cultural renaissance that we've seen in Tacoma and the South Sound over time. So just wondering if you could comment on that, or

## University of Washington Tacoma Oral History: Founding Stories

talk a little bit about what you were up to with the Joffrey Ballet at PLU, and and those kinds of connections that you've had?

Anne Haley 34:59

Well, I was at the Joffrey Ballet as a member of the audience. But weren't we lucky? Weren't we lucky to have Joffrey Ballet? And at that point, we didn't know what the Joffrey Ballet was. But the ballet was wonderful! You know, those pas de deux that were done? Oh, they were fabulous! We all went to the symphony. We grew up on the symphony. You know, we all grew up with piano lessons. We all grew up with Allied Arts of Tacoma that had art classes for youth when I was in high school, and the music program at UPS, which is fabulous. And what else about arts? And obviously, we have an artist on staff who is wonderful because he designs all our packaging, you know and people ask, "What people do with art degrees?" Well if you are an illustrator, you know like at PNCA art school, every box that you know, somebody has to design this. And so we have an artist on staff. So where did you want to go with that?

Leslie Kinkade 35:17

I only went because UW Tacoma is part of that cultural renaissance in Tacoma --

Anne Haley 36:42

Oh, I know where I was gonna go, I think --

Leslie Kinkade 36:44

-- there and really prides itself really on being a partner of those cultural organizations to include the Pantages. So I just wanted your perspective on enrolling in --

Anne Haley 36:55

The Tacoma Art Museum originally was upstairs from Allied Arts in a building, now gone, next to the North Pacific headquarters building at the north end of Tacoma Avenue. And Allied Arts was on the first floor and Tacoma Art Museum was on the second floor. And the director of the Tacoma Art Museum had created an effort to relocate to what was an old bank building on 12th. That's right. And then, and you remember that guy who was the director who's kind of a long tall, arrogant

Leslie Kinkade 37:46

Yes, and I'm gonna forget his name. I know who you --

Anne Haley 37:50

You remember who? Kind of an arrogant um him huh[imitating snooty noises]. And, but he was the heart and soul of Tacoma Art Museum. Yeah, he's probably retired by now. Long retired. And then from there to building a building, north of Union Station, but I really think that the Pantages was an anchor. Yeah, I think the whole Pantages was an anchor to the redevelopment of Broadway. Because when Pantages got started, Broadway was a ghost town because Rhodes had left, the Bon had left, People's had left. Woolworths had closed. And all of

## University of Washington Tacoma Oral History: Founding Stories

those stores -- the Roxy burned down -- and all of those stores were kind of gone. And the Roxy burned and what was, what's the theater, the Rialto? Not the Rialto?

Leslie Kinkade 38:52

It is the Rialto.

Anne Haley 38:54

Also went through its renaissance after the Pantages So, but both of them are kind of anchor either end. Of kind of Broadway and Tacoma, and then the convention center with what was the Sheraton. And it was the old convention center that was just attached, just right up the hill, from the old Sheraton was also kind of an important to bring with people. That's right. Well, right. Well, it was the Sheraton before the Murano, and it was that old convention center before that new one was built. So but it's, I think there are a number of pieces that have changed and improved and renovated downtown Tacoma because it was kind of a ghost town for a long time.

Leslie Kinkade 39:57

It was really interesting to hear how you described Pacific Avenue being closed off to veterans. I have not heard that.

Anne Haley 40:05

Yeah, it was closed, because soldiers were getting rolled. And so it was closed off. So that would have been 1948. And about 1950, 51, the city went through a freeholder election and changed the form of government from a commissioner strong mayor form to a city manager form of government. And even when I was in high school, there were still some of the old mob bosses there who tried to run the city because one of them lived across from my mother. At the end of Adams Street, the end of Adams street, about 38th Street. If you think about the end of Adams Street, it ends in a gulch. And right at the end on the right hand side is a red brick house. And that's where the mob boss lived. And he could take anybody into his house because it was walled off on the alley, and walled off on the front, and the view was out to the bay. And that's where the mob boss lived. So, you know, you go back into Tacoma, and after my dad was on council and Rosalie -- no, who was on? There was an issue on council after my dad left. And the police chief was fired, and another police chief was brought in who wasn't honest. And there were some other issues on council after my dad retired. Majority of council was recalled. You probably remember. This is in late '60s, early '70s.

Leslie Kinkade 42:13

So I grew up in Seattle, and I came to Tacoma in early 2000.

Anne Haley 42:18

Ah, so you were, okay.

Leslie Kinkade 42:19

And I knew a little bit about the history, anyway.

## University of Washington Tacoma Oral History: Founding Stories

Anne Haley 42:23

Anyway. That's way beyond what you're referring to.

Justin Wadland 42:26

We have one more question and then why don't we -- unless there's another question you wanted to interject, and then we can wrap up, and have to continue this conversation.

Joan Hua 42:37

So I liked how you talked about in your family, there's a strong interest in higher education. And kind of talked about it as if--"of course you value it." And so I'm kind of wondering how that influenced and infused in your own identity the value of education, and also because of your training in your career in librarianship, which emphasizes lifelong learning and literacy. And just kind of want to get your view on that, and how your family background has influenced that.

Anne Haley 43:16

Well, it was always assumed that we would go on to higher education. And maybe it was because all of my grandmother's family went through Nebraska Wesleyan University in Nebraska. And this would have been in the late 19th century. So this was just part of the family. This is just -- and this was out of my mother's family. This was just part of what you did. And my great aunt, on my mother's side, did a PhD thesis at the University of Washington in the '30s on -- because she moved from Nebraska to Wenatchee as a school teacher to help her sister who had lost two children to diphtheria in about 1910. And she was the principal and the superintendent of the Waterville School District outside of Wenatchee, and was keenly aware of the disparities of support for public education in the state of Washington. And so she did her PhD thesis at the University of Washington in the mid '30s on a way in which the state of Washington could equalize and support public education. And as soon as her PhD thesis was finished, it was transformed into legislation. And that was the statute under which the state of Washington supported public education until recently. So education has always been kind of part of my DNA. And working with a library as a librarian, and I work the floor, among other things, I worked the floor and someone would ask a question, and at least I could figure out if it was animal, mineral or vegetable by my liberal arts degree on the way to the card catalog to figure out what this person was looking for. So it's always been part of what we all did.

Joan Hua 45:23

Great. And I like that you talked about that thesis that had such an impact on public education in the state. And so some of the people we interviewed in these conversations, one thing that really came up is how an institution serves as an anchor in a community, and how having access to public education kind of brings up the community economically and also in terms of educational level. And so since you live in Walla Walla, how are you seeing some of those patterns? Or even as you're chairing the board of directors here, how are you seeing the pattern and the relationship between college opportunities and the community?

## University of Washington Tacoma Oral History: Founding Stories

Anne Haley 46:18

Well, I live in Walla Walla and there are three institutions of higher education there. There's Walla Walla Community College, there's Whitman College, and there's Walla Walla University, which is a Seventh Day Adventist University in college place, which is right next door. And I always took it for granted until I moved to Yakima to become the director of the Yakima Valley Regional Library there. And in Yakima, there was only a community college, which was sort of invisible. And I saw a real difference between the two communities. One with that the communities and also because there was an airbase at Walla Walla during the war. There was an influx of new people all the time, who were coming into the community to take new positions at the university, whereas in Yakima it was a community that had been full of orchardists and continued to be full of orchardists for generations, and I and I found that to be much more, or less vibrant and less nimble and less innovative environment, and I think that the difference was the presence, or the non-presence, the lack of institutions of higher education. So I think Tacoma is really lucky that there are four with Evergreen close and the UW, but I see it as as a big difference in a community that there is the presence of an institution of higher learning.

Justin Wadland 48:07

So, to sort of end on a note that we often end these interviews with, based on your understanding of the history of Tacoma and University of Washington Tacoma, being aware that it is one university among many within the city, what do you see as UW Tacoma's unique contribution to the city, but also what its future direction in terms of?

Anne Haley 48:40

Well, that's a real tough one, you know. And there are issues of accessibility. There issues of affordability. There are issues of "what are you gonna do with your degree?" So and not being a member of an academic community that's a little more difficult. But certainly, the role of higher education for an individual is learning to think, learning to write, learning to communicate. And these are all real important skills in current day commercial and civil life. And to be able to do so civilly I think is really important.