

Memories Leon Harman  
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1. I am Leon Harman age 92 This is my abbreviated story of why I ended up in West Seattle and the Morgan St. area.. My mother was a Norwegian immigrant to this country and Washington State in the early 1900's, she worked as a 'Nanny' for the Dietrich Smith family, soon met my father a immigrant from France, who made a living building houses, Our first house was below the Junction at Hudson and 47<sup>th</sup> and that is where I came in the picture. Later a house was built at Willow St. 2 blocks south of Morgan St. My father built our family home in about 1926 at 4324 SW Willow St. 2 blocks south of the current Thriftway market location, the current Thriftway didn't exist until in the 70's or 80's,

2. My earliest memories, started when I moved here about 1926 as a three year old child. Then I believe the local neighborhood store, was called Piggly Wiggle.. Across the Avenue.. On the SE corner where Thriftway is now located, there was Kelly's Texaco service station. This area is now the Thriftway's parking area. The big neighborhood even of the 30's was when Lawrence Colman built a new 'super market', which in due time became the existing Thriftway. The opening was a big gala affair. Search Lights illuminated the new facility. I was with our neighborhood, gang of friends also at this opening, when we spotted the master switch for all the lights on the nearby telephone pole. The switch was too much of an attraction for us pre teenagers so one of us pulled the master switch darkening the festivities. Being chased by a policeman was our first, and last truant episode. This first market at this site, was L shaped with a cleaners at one end, then a few food stores in the middle and anchored at the end was a bakery, which still existed until 1946 when I returned from war service in the navy. At that time a cute girl worked behind the counter selling large loafs of bread for 12 cents, in due time Elaine became my present wife. Of 68 years and still counting. This bakery is shown on the present wall mural behind the present Starbucks coffee shop.

3. During my growing up years when we had snowy winters, California Ave on Gatewood hill, presented the best and most challenging sled rides in the area, a ride to remember took you all the way to the beach if you could get a ride on the 'big kids' toboggan. Traffic on the California Ave hill was closed to cars, I think in those day.

4. A very popular activity in the early 30's, South of Morgan St. was roller skating on Willow St., the only smooth asphalt street in the area, this attracted many kids from surrounding neighborhood.. Many sunny days we had 'hockey games' that went from California Ave to Fauntleroy Ave. The current Willow St. is a very rough ride even for cars! The usual Christmas present was new skates and a hockey stick, available at MacDonald's hardware, on the present Zekes pizza place.

5.. Other memories: 1. California Ave. had street car tracks with one lane for cars on either side. Some teen age drivers,(showing off) were able to drive down the avenue, one wheel on a rail and the other on the paved street. Later on concrete paver block were placed in the middle, creating a 4 lane boulevard. 2.. Fauntleroy Ave from the ferry dock to Alaska St, was a wide avenue, with 2 paved lanes, and dirt in the middle all the way to Alaska St. The dirt center portion was paved in the 50s.