

Oral History

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Me: I am doing an oral history report on you Nancy Baird.
Now I am going to ask you some questions about your life.
First of all I would like to ask you what year you were born
in.

Nancy: I was born June 1, 1980.

Me: So how old would that make you Nancy?

Nancy: Fifteen years and eleven months old.

Me: So what was your earliest childhood experience?

Nancy: Well, that would be when I got my nickname Pepper.
It has stuck with me since I was three.

Me: And you remember this?

Nancy: Well I got told a lot about it.

Me: So tell me this story.

Nancy: Well one day, I was visiting my grandma and grandpa
Baird and I was intimidated by my grandpa because he always
took my money away from me. So I would go to the corner of
my grandparents house and stick my tongue out at my grandpa.
That is when he threatened to put pepper on my tongue.

I never believed him, so I kept doing it, over and over again. So then he would get the pepper, it was chilli pepper, and he would chase me around the house. This forced me to stick my tongue out at him as I ran away from him. I would run as fast as I could, not looking back. As I was running I was picked up by my enormous grandpa. Well at the time, he seemed big. Then he took me on the couch and held me so I couldn't move, and proceeded to put the finger with the chilli peper on it into my mouth. Then I cried and cried and repeated over and over how much I hated him. But I didn't. Then I ran to my mom, and my grandpa said that's what you get Pepper. Thinking that I wouldn't be called it again, every time I saw him, he would call me Pepper. And even to this day, everyone still calls me Pepper.

Me: So you and your grandpa are pretty close now?

Nancy: Well he passed away a few years ago but we were very close. I would help him in the garden all of the time. I feel that our relationship was very special, because I was the only one that got a nickname from him. I used to cry when they called me Pepper, but now I am very proud to have this nickname.

Me: Well that is a sweet story, do you have any other childhood memories about when you were younger?

Nancy: Yes. When I was seven years old, I got my finger cut off by a slide.

Me: How did that happen?

Nancy: Well it all started when I came home from school, and I wanted to go play with my best friend Mike. My dad said that I spent too much time over there as it was. But I really wanted to go play with Mike's big truck. After my dad said no, I acted like I was going to my room, and I snuck out of the back door and ran across the field to my best friend's house. We played with the trucks for about 10 minutes and decided that we wanted to play super hero firemen on the slide. So we climbed to the top of the hut-like slide, and pretended like we were sleeping. Then we acted like the alarm went off, and Mike shot down the slide and I followed him with my hands on the sides of the slide. After reaching the bottom of the slide, Mike's grandfather picked me up. I didn't know that my finger was gone at this time.

Me: So your finger was gone and you didn't know it. How did you find out that it was missing and did it scare you?

Nancy: How I found out that it had happened, is that I was carried into the house, and got washcloths wrapped around my finger. At first I wasn't scared but when I found out, I was extremely scared.

Me: So what happened next?

Nancy: I was rushed to the clinic when they were all on there runs, and nobody was there. So I was rushed to Castle View Hospital in a police car.

Me: So do you have your finger back? If so, where was it?

Nancy: Yes my finger is partly there. They found it in the weeds.

Me: Who found it?

Nancy: The whole neighborhood looked for it, but the police that escorted me to the hospital found it.

Me: How did your parents react to this?

Nancy: My mother was in total shock, and my dad didn't know until Mike's mother ran over in a panic. She told my dad, but my dad didn't believe her. I still thought that I was in my room. After she told him for awhile, he finally believed her. Then he panicked and was in such a rush that he grabbed two of the wrong paired shoes. They were both left feet.

Me: So did you spend a lot of time in the hospital?

Nancy: When I first got there, I spent fourteen and a half hours in surgery and after that I got many other surgeries. All together, I spent a month and a half in the University of Utah hospital.

Me: That sounds like it would be scary. Have any other family members of yours been in the hospital for that long?

Nancy: Yes, my daddy.

Me: Why was he in the hospital?

Nancy: Well I was only one at the time, but the stories that I have heard make it clear to me what happened. My dad's leg had been smashed and he lost it.

Me: How did that happen?

Nancy: Well, I don't remember what it was called, but it was some type of mine equipment.

Me: Is he all right now?

Nancy: Well, he had a lot of problems in the past. I was only thirteen. He had an abcess on the bottom of his amputated leg. The doctor at the hospital said that he would be okay. My dad came home expecting to be alright, but later in the day he became very ill and was going through massive amounts of pain. He decided to go to another doctor fo a second opinion.

Me: So what did the doctor say?

Nancy: He said that my dad needed an emergency surgery. My dad was so ill that the doctor decided to take out the cist right away. After the surgery, my dad would not wake up and he was under oxygen. My mom didn't tell us but the doctor said that he didn't think that he was going to make it.

through the night. But thank God he was a strong enough man to pull himself through it all.

Me: That is a very upsetting story. Your dad is a great man.

Nancy: My mom almost died too.

Me: How did that happen?

Nancy: My mother became sick and the doctors thought that she was having an apendicitis. But after they checked her, they discovered that she had cancer in her ovaries. Luckily they caught it just in time so that it didn't go through the rest of her body. They cured her by giving her a hysterectomy.

Me: Isn't cancer hereditary?

Nancy: Yes. My mother's mother died because of the same type of cancer. They didn't catch it in time, so it spread throughout her body.

Me: Are you afraid of getting it?

Nancy: Yes in a way I am, but I guess that I will just take it one day at a time.

Me: So who is your best friend now?

Nancy: You. I've known you since I was about four.

Me: I know this Nancy. Do you think I wasn't paying attention over these last eleven or so years?

Nancy: Sometimes I wonder.

Me: So what do you remember most about me and you as friends when we were younger?

Nancy: I remember getting up and playing with Cabbage Patch Dolls before we went to church.

Me: What about when we got older?

Nancy: When we were trying to go hill climbing on your moped. We ate the dirt man. Don't you remember the handle bars jabbin' into your guts and me actually eating the dirt?

Me: How could I forget? That was one of the most funniest experiences of my life. Tell me about the family.

Nancy: Well there is seven members in my family but one passed on before I was even born.

Me: Tell me their names and how old each of them are.

Nancy: My dad's name is Allen Baird Sr. He is thirty eight years old. My mom's name is Elizabeth Baird and she is thirty six. My oldest sister's name is Michele. She is nineteen and she is happily married. My second oldest sister is Shannon Baird, and she would have been eighteen. My third oldest sister's name is Angie and she is seventeen.

Then there is me and I have a younger brother named Allen Jr. He is fourteen.

Me: Do you get along good with your family?

Nancy: Yeah. They're great.

Me: What does your mom do?

Nancy: She is an LPN at Castle View Hospital.

Me: What does and LPN do? How long has she been working there?

Nancy: An LPN gives shots, takes stats, and just basically helps the RN's. She has been working there successfully for three years.

Me: Do you wish to follow her footsteps? If not, what do you plan to do with your life?

Nancy: No I do not want to become an LPN because I want to become an underwater welder.

Me: Really?

Nancy: For serious.

Me: Why are you interested in this field of work?

Nancy: Because my neighbor always welds and I like to watch him.

Me: Why do you want to weld underwater?

Nancy: I love to swim.

Me: Is there anything else that you would like to add about your life?

Nancy: Yeah, I would like to tell you about my ancestors.

Me: What about them?

Nancy: My great grandma and grandpa Baird came from Scotland and Ireland. Over there, the Bairds are very popular. They have their own kilts of their own color and they have a Baird's castle that still stands. My great grandma didn't like girls very much. She thought that they were a pain and later my grandma and grandpa came to America where my grandfather was born.

Me: Why didn't your great grandma like girls?

Nancy: She figured that girls were too much of a bother. They needed too many things, and they were all together a pain.

Me: What about your mom's ancestors?

Nancy: They were from Spain and Mexico. Their names were Navarro. They lived in Mexico their whole lives. That is about all I know about them.

Me: Is that all that you want to talk about?

Nancy: Yeah, that pretty much sums it up.

Me: Thank you Nancy for taking the time to let me learn more about your life. It was very interesting.

Nancy: No problem.