

I was born in Klickitat, Washington, on November 16, 1925. I was eleven years old when my mother, Ruth E. Toomey, died December 23, 1936. The loss was keenly felt by all - the county, the community, the town of Klickitat - but the loss to our family - myself, my brother David, and my father, Virgil F. Toomey - was devastating. Her passing left a hole in our world that we found impossible to fill. We were torn asunder as individuals and as a family.

Now, 55 years later, I am still trying to put back together some of those pieces of that fragmented life. In this book are some of the pieces.

Mother, as everyone who knew her was aware, was intensely interested in history in general and the history of the Pacific Northwest and Klickitat County in particular. She talked to the early pioneers and settlers and to the Indians, she wrote about her findings, and she gave talks to different community groups. She was an intelligent, educated, dynamic woman. I wish fervently that I could have known her better --- as an adult and not just as a little girl so many years ago. But this was not to be, so now, at the age of 65 and retired, I continue seeking to know her as best I can.

I have had with me all these years, down in my Cedar Chest, some newspaper articles that she saved. After all this time they are very yellowed, brittle and fragile with age. I decided it was very important to save what they said, so I started typing them. They are history articles primarily, including book reviews. It has taken me approximately a year to accomplish this task and what a momentous year it has been! In typing all these articles I have been reading them for the first time. I have found them fascinating beyond words, and what memories they evoke! But, best of all, they have been particularly precious to me by helping me to know this person, my mother, a little bit better.

In going through these articles it wasn't hard to tell which ones she had saved specifically. However, I couldn't resist reading everything else from that long ago time too. Fascinating! Novelettes, news of the day, editorials, advertisements, classified, etc. It occurred to me that it would be just as interesting and as

much fun to type these and save them also. So that is what I have done.

In the first section are the history articles where the date and the source were available. These are arranged chronologically from 1914 to 1936.

In the second section are the history articles and book reviews where there were no dates and no source available.

In the third section are the miscellaneous items also arranged chronologically.

The last item in the book is something I wrote regarding myself and some of my memories from that long-ago time. I have many more memories but they are so elusive and have faded so with time, it remains to be seen as to whether I will seek to record them or not.

My search for myself goes on - never-ending, painful, fumbling attempts to gather up those bits and pieces of the life of a little girl and put them into some semblance of order as I live out my life to its eventual end - and at the center, the very core, is this beautiful, amazing, incredible woman with whom I never really became acquainted - my mother.

I want to share these newspaper articles with as many others as might be interested in them. They are for me not only a glimpse back into my past, but they are also a window back on time. I am sure that some who read them will recognize many names, places and incidents. I want you to enjoy, as I have, this wonderful look backward to a time long gone but alive still in many memories. It is interesting, it is enlightening, it is poignant, it is both funny and fun, and it is, at times, positively mesmerizing. I shall just sum it up by saying: ENJOY!

Dorothy E. Toomey-Sainz
Tucson, Arizona
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Ruth E. Toomey
1897-1936



Klickitat, Washington
About 1939-1940