

Excerpted from an interview with Lynn Kelly conducted by Alysa Adams on January 18, 2020. This interview is part of the Mount St. Helens Oral History Project of Washington State Parks.

Excerpt begins at 46:36

Alysa Adams (AA): Um, how has the eruption changed the area for you or your family?

Lynn Kelly (LK): For me, it was losing the trees. Really. It was the scenery, cause I grew up at Spirit Lake.

AA: Can you tell me about that a little bit?

LK: Um, when I was a child, even a small child, my parents would go there. And um, we'd go fishing in the lake, and um. Or, we'd go up there and play in the snow, and you know it was just, that's where you went. In the winter time. Or in the spring, and it was beautiful. And we'd always go, and I just, that's why I remember my trees, and going through, going through and just. And the trees being right there, and going through a tunnel of trees. And it's gone. And it's not the same. I mean the whole thing is just, is just not the same. And I'm a real family person, and I had to grieve for my grandchildren, and my great grandchildren that they'll never see what I saw.

(Interruption— unintelligible 48:40) (to pet) get out there, get over here.

Yes. And that, that was beautiful. And I loved God's creation. And I, even as a child I loved it. We used to go to Harry Truman Lodge when I was little. And have hot chocolate. And we would rent his boats, and go fishing.

AA: What's your favorite memory about that area, as a kid? Do you have a absolute favorite memory?

LK: It would be going down the highway between the trees. That's my favorite memory. That's what I had to grieve. My trees were gone. You don't get that much anymore.

AA: Um, how about this question. Forty years later, when you think about the mountain what comes to mind?

LK: The wreckage. The devastation.

Excerpt ends at 50:49