

Excerpted from an interview with John Budke and Alysa Hall conducted by Jacob Wood on November 9, 2019. This interview is part of the Mount St. Helens Oral History Project of Washington State Parks.

Excerpt begins at 36:09

Jacob Wood (JW): Would you like to share your story?

Alysa Hall (AH): Um, sure. I was living in Germany and we...and my father is a army veteran. And, uh, so, he knew about the, uh, ash falling...in Gresham, where his mother was living, and the rest of his family. And so, we were aware about that Mount St. Helens might erupt. We got the phone call from his mother that she had erupted. And, uh, a week later, a German magazine, 'Stern', published the pictures of Mount St. Helens. And, us, having been on Mount Rainier, looking at Mount St. Helens, prior to leaving for the German rotation tour, it looked so much different. It was...it was shocking. And then, by the time we got back here, uh, when I was 15, several years later, later in 1980, and we looked at the mountain and all the ash, how the terrain had changed...

Um, my father took the opportunity to teach me more backcountry survival , at the time. (Laughs). But it, and to this day I hike Mount St. Helens. I do the Loowit Loop. I...go up and everytime I go up, through the years, it's getting greener. It's recovering. It's amazing how well she is doing.

Excerpt ends at 37:50