Alicia was born in San Francisco in 1891. In 1894, after her father died, she and her mother moved to Seattle to be near relatives. Her mother remarried; Alicia's stepfather was Sherman Stuart, the superintendent of the Lake Washington Shipyards in Houghton. In 1907, when Alicia was 16, she and her mother moved to Houghton, and Alicia walked the family cow off the ferry to their new home.

Alicia loved to dance and sometimes walked north to Forbes Hall at Juanita to go dancing there. One evening she arrived early and met Les Forbes lighting the fires at the Hall. They were married in 1910 and lived near the Juanita ferry dock where they ran a snack counter.
Shoreline Map: Juanita

### Map Key

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<td>Mean lower low-water line</td>
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<td>Streams</td>
<td>Intermittent Perennial</td>
<td>The historical mapping made no distinction between intermittent and perennial streams. Streams indexed with solid, inverted triangles are historical channels that have been filled, diverted to sewers, or significantly modified. Open triangles indicate historical streams that today enter the lakes or bays in a near-natural state.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Wetland</td>
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<td>The historical wetlands were freshwater marsh except in Salmon Bay, where salt and brackish marsh existed.</td>
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<td>Forested upland</td>
<td>(Not shown)</td>
<td>The historical forest vegetation was predominantly a mixture of Douglas fir, western red cedar, and western hemlock.</td>
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<td>Grassland</td>
<td>(Not shown)</td>
<td>The historical grasslands included land that was logged prior to the surveys but not then developed for agricultural or urban use.</td>
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<td>Agricultural land</td>
<td>(Not shown)</td>
<td>Limits of land cleared for agricultural use. The polygons represent plots of different ownership or fields for different crops.</td>
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<td>Solid-waste disposal sites</td>
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On Nov. 10, 1910 Alicia Hanratty and Lloyd Leslie Forbes (the youngest of four Forbes boys) were married. After a short time, they moved into the living quarters at the end of the Juanita dock. Together they ran a candy, lunch, and snack store in the waiting room of the lake steamer. My first years were spent there.

Later we moved to the living quarters of the Forbes Hall which burned about 1918. Practically everything was lost. At that time I had two younger sisters: Joyce (Damm) and Elizabeth (Betty Webster). We then moved into a one room cabin near where the Juanita Turnkey Apts. now are. Our father worked at the Ship Yard as well as trapped muskrats, etc. in order to get enough money to get another start economically. We raised chickens and rabbits. I remember that during one night all our chickens were stolen including my pet chicken which my grandfather (Dorr Forbes) had given to me. A year or two after the hall burned, a one story building was moved across the lake and placed on the corner across from where the entrance to the future Juanita Beach was to be. Our family lived there until 1937.

In 1920 our father, Leslie, along with Edward Nelson leased property from Mr. Edwards. This property was later known and developed as Sandy Beach. From an outdoor stand they sold ice cream, soft drinks, candy, etc. to people who came to the end of the road and wandered down to the nice sandy beach which had appeared as the result of the locks at Ballard being opened and the subsequent lowering of Lake Washington.

In 1921 our parents, Alicia and Leslie Forbes, began to develop what they named Juanita Beach. Soon they decided that a store with light groceries and a lunch counter with ice cream and soft drinks was needed in the summertime. So one end of our house was converted into an ice cream parlor and store where Mother sold ice cream, rootbeer, home made sandwiches, light groceries, etc. As the beach developed and business at the beach increased, the "store" and lunch counter was leased and Mother was then able to devote her time of rearing of us children and in the summertime to managing the beach. At that time our father was working as chief clerk for Judge Reah Whitehead and could help mother only on weekends and holidays. Mother truly "ran" the beach.

Alicia Forbes was a lady endowed with a wonderful personality, an astute sense of business, great energy, and keen foresight. She truly loved people and was a leader keeping ahead of the times. I remember her being the first woman in our Juanita community to have her hair "bobbed"--cut short with bangs. She, thereby, created quite a stir.

LILLY MAE ANDERSON: When the park started, did you want to get on to that?

DORRIS FORBES BEECHER: Okay, first someone might be interested, or not, to know that the Hiram Chitten-den Locks, which opened in 1916 and were dedicated after the Montlake Cut was completed on July 4th, 1917, were the cause of the nice, sandy, shallow beach in Juanita. They caused all that to be uncovered. And when the locks were opened, the lake was lowered about 9 feet and did truly unveil that nice, sandy, long, shallow beach on the north shore on Juanita Bay. In 1920 – it was summertime – there seemed to be enough numbers of people swimming and picnicking there in Juanita Bay that Leslie Forbes [Dorris’s father] and Edward Nelson leased the Edwards property.

LMA: I didn’t get the year.

DFB: 1920. Leslie Forbes and Edward Nelson leased the Edwards property which was later known as Sandy Beach. It was sandwiched in between Juanita Beach/Sandy Beach and then Delia’s Beach [Shady Beach]. They built an open air stand selling candies and so forth. And there was no road past that point in 1920. Also in 1920, Leslie Forbes purchased two lots on the waterfront and bought the 30-foot waterfront strip from his mother Eliza Forbes. Now this 30-foot strip of land was the one which Dorr Forbes [Leslie’s father, Dorris’s grandfather] had originally bought for the purpose of getting his logs and material to and from the lake to his sawmill, and Leslie paid $10 a front foot for the beach property. Then in 1921…

LMA: ‘21?

DFB: …between 1920 and 1921 the beach was all sand and logs and tules – those are cattails. And there were few if any trees. There were no fences, so as fast as the folks would plant the trees the cows would break them down, because there were no herd laws in those days.
And one little sidelight: I was really young then, and our grandparents lived in back of us and farmed back where the big house is now. And I thought that I’d help my grandfather, and I was going to take his cow in. I was afraid of cows, but I went down about where Art’s is now. The cows were all grazing down there. I picked out what I thought was Midge and brought her up to my grandfather and it was the wrong cow! A lot of the Finnish people had cows up along there.

Then in 1921 was the actual start of the beaches at Juanita – at Juanita Beach. Our father Leslie hired horses to haul away the logs as there were no tractors readily available. In fact I don’t know if there were any tractors at all in 1921. The very first buildings built on Juanita Beach were two “chic salles” [outhouses]. Then in 1922 the first bathhouse was built.
LMA: That was when I was in high school.

DFB: And the bathhouse in 1923 was enlarged to increase the number of dressing rooms. A two-plank walk to the beach was installed because customers complained about the sand clinging to their legs and feet. And one winter our folks planted 150 cottonwood trees. Our father and helpers trucked in the trees from an area near Houghton – I think around near where the Houghton parks are now. I’m not sure.

LMA: You mean to say there weren’t cottonwood trees around there?

DFB: No. None at Juanita. None at the beach. Well, they weren’t there. I’ll show you pictures. There were very few trees at all.

LMA: They were not native trees? I thought they were.

DFB: Not down there. But they chose the cottonwood tree because it grew rapidly. And shade was desperately needed on the beach. And one New Year’s Day our father and mother planted nearly all of those trees; some of those seem to still be standing down there. Some of those are the original trees.

Now in 1925 an open-air kitchen picnic space, all undercover, with room for 30 picnic tables, was built. This is a picture there. The facility offered protection from the sun and the rain. In 1927, Mother and we three girls drove to California to gather ideas concerning the bathhouses, checking methods and so forth. And I remember visiting the big Fleishacker Pool in San Francisco and buying bathing suits for rental purposes and [a clothing store], also in San Francisco. I remember that we went in there to buy these bathing suits, three little girls and my mom, about Christmas time.
“Change Over Time: The Lowering of Lake Washington” was developed by Eastside Heritage Center in collaboration with the Bellevue School District.

Photograph of Juanita Beach, circa 1914. Source: Eastside Heritage Center. L 88.043.015.
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Photograph of Juanita Beach Resort, circa 1925. Source: Eastside Heritage Center. OR/L 79.79.052.