

TAPE 95. 1. 14

MICKEY CLARK INTERVIEW  
NO. 5

NOVEMBER 15, 1995

Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve

## INDEX

TAPE 95.1.14

**SUBJECT:** Coupeville, Prairie Center, Local History

**INTERVIEWEE:** Mickey Clark

**INTERVIEW NO. 5**

**NUMBER OF TAPES: 2**

**DATE OF INTERVIEW:** 11-15-95

**LOCATION:** Clark Home, 105 NE 3rd, Coupeville, WA

**INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY:**

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**Tape indexed on: Marantz Recorder, PMD 220**

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### **95.1.14: SIDE A**

#### **INDEX# SUMMARY**

**000-032** Discussion about **Puget Sound Academy** in Coupeville which has proved to be a perplexing topic.

We look at engraving of the Academy buildings to ascertain if any match the building pictured in photograph \_\_\_\_\_. The Academy was moved up the hill next to the present Catholic Church, where the Fire Station now is.

**[Note: this engraving is found on the front of 1894 Commencement Announcement, see Appendix for tape 95.1.3, stop 479.]**

Pictures of both academies  
are found in Dorothy Neill's  
collection, or Roger  
Sherman GMS

Lower academy  
burned. Not moved GMS

**031-059** Mickey touches on interview with *David Engle* earlier that morning of 11-15-95. He retells story about smuggling bootleg liquor into the barn.  
[See also: 95. 3. 1, stop 310.]

Mickey was told the details of this operation by various people. The “liquor guys” came down from Canada with a boat loaded with whiskey. To get it out of sight, they sunk the boat on purpose by pulling the plug. They had a float attached to it so they could get it at the right tide. They would later hook a team on to it, pull it up to the beach, and unload the liquor onto the cars and then put it in the barn inside a tent. After it was safe, they transported it to the San de Fuca dock, took it down the inside passage to Seattle and sold it. The whiskey sold for a high price as it was “*first class stuff.*” *Harry Smith* knew about this operation.

**060-075** *Harry Smith* above is a different *Smith* from the ones at Good Beach. That is *Harold Smith*, the “Fisherman Smiths.” *Harold* knows about the fisherman *Ed Rainer* who lived on Long Point, and *Harold* also had 3 uncles that were fisherman. They fished the smelt that ran on the inside of the Cove: salmon ran on the outside.

**076-187** **Good Beach** is located on the southwest corner of Penn’s Cove off Madrona Way. The **Puget Sound Academy** building was moved nearby here after *Priest* bought it and placed it on his property at 1849 W. Madrona Way, two houses past *Charlie Eelkema*’s home. Mickey thought it was used as a school there also. After the original Academy building burned, [Note: this was in 1896] they built a new building on the foundation of the burned building at Coveland and Main. When this building proved too small for their needs they sold it to Mr. *Priest* on Madrona Way. [Note: *Judge Still* built his house on the site of the old Academy foundation at Coveland and Main in 1914.]

The Puget Sound Academy was moved up the hill to the site of the present Fire Hall, just south of the Catholic Church on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Main. *Spurgeon Calhoun* and *Carl Engle* graduated from the Academy in 1894. *Jim Zylstra* graduated from it later. The Academy later moved to Snohomish. The photo of the large cross that hangs outside the EBLA office was taken from the Catholic Church on Main in Coupeville.

**188-251** Discussion about burial place of *Charlie Snakelum* near Long Point.. *Charlie Snakelum* died in Tulalip in 1934, had his funeral at the Methodist Church. He worked for many locals in the area and wanted his service from the Methodist Church.

**252-327** Mickey reveals how pleased he was about *David Engle*'s reading of the *Burton Engle* article that morning. Mickey used to do threshing for *David*'s grandfather, *Ralph Engle*, on his farm.

**Appendix      Page 1**

**Photo 1**      Mickey and friends drinking beer on the Deception Pass Dock at Dewey Beach. They were returning home after a baseball game in Anacortes.

**[For additional information on this photo see: 95.1.14B, stop 385]**

Mickey recaps what topics we have discussed: Ft. Casey, Greenbank, the four boats built by *Lovejoy* in Coupeville; the road down the island in 1916; recreation hall; local Indians; *P. G. Schneider*'s electric plant.

**328-373** There was an **Electric Plant** on the beach in downtown Coupeville owned by *W. C. Cheney*. **[See Appendix, p. 2 for photo.]** He sold out to *P. D. Schneider* and moved to Maple Falls near Langley. *P. D. Schneider* moved into the grey house on the lot where the Rec Hall now stands and put up his **Power Plant** right behind that. It ran lights for the whole town and Prairie Center. He sold out to Puget Power in 1928 and then moved to the south end of the island.

**374-391** Mickey moved into Coupeville as a child and lived where the Rec Hall now stands. Mickey had pneumonia and whopping cough at the same time as a youngster. Mickey lived next door to *Charley Aleck*'s family at the Rec Hall site before *P. D. Schneider* moved in.

**392-421** **Sewer**. Story about putting in sewer to Prairie Center during the 1940s when he served on the City Council for three terms. The sewer line ran from the Catholic Church down to Prairie Center: they would pump the sewage back up from there and discharged it into the bay in front of the present museum. They then purchased land from *Alvin Adams* to put a road through to the area where the sawmill used to be. The sawmill was long gone but rotting piles of sawdust remained. They cleaned up that site and established the Sewage Treatment Plant.

**422-499** **Sawmill**. The sawmill used to sell wooden boxes to many folks on the island for fruit etc. When *Lovejoy* operated the sawmill he supplied the whole island for wood needs. Oak Harbor didn't have a sawmill. Later the *Nienhuis*'s operated a sawmill in San de Fuca on the waterfront where Zylstra Rd. meets the water by the lagoon. Pilings are still in place there from that mill. There was also a cannery there and the *Darsts* built their home on top of the slab that used to be the cannery.

Mickey thought the development of the cardboard box that helped to do in the mill as did the two mills that were started in Oak Harbor. Mickey recalled when cardboard boxes came in, during 1920-1930 when his father, *Thomas Clark*, ran the store at the site of Toby's Tavern. Wooden boxes were just tossed out into the bay at that time. Cardboard boxes finished up the wooden boxes. The mill closed down sometime before WWII.

**500-529 Lovejoys.** The two *Lovejoy* brothers that ran the sawmill were brothers to the *Lovejoys* who built the houses and boats in Coupeville. Rob mentions that *Jane Jones* is a *Lovejoy* and Mickey remembers *Fred Lovejoy* whom he went to school with. Fred lives in Kirkland. He came to a Open House that Mickey hosted out at the school about 1989 where he displayed old photos from the area. Many of Mickey's old schoolmates came to this.

**530-585** Discussion of *Lovejoy's* mark in Coupeville such as the **Courthouse**. The **Oddfellows Hall** was also torn down and it had a roller skating rink inside.

Mickey discusses the movement of the **Gillespie House**. Mickey knew the *Gillespies* and recalls *Carl Gillespie*. *Carl* had a contract to get the mail from Port Townsend to Coupeville. He would pick it up at Fort Casey and bring it in to town. *Jim Gillespie* had the Meat Market on Main Street and the Livery Barn.

**586-649** We begin viewing videotape of waterfront. [Video begins with a viewpoint from the end of the wharf looking south toward waterfront buildings.] Mickey points out old **Post Office** where he used to work. Also the **Livery Barn** where they had horses, mangers, and upstairs storage for a lot of hay. Mickey recalls Aunt Jemima which used to be painted on the west side of the building. There was a "trolley" at the peak of the barn with a fork in it to pick up hay and run it back to fill the top of the barn.

In front of the Livery Barn they had a **Jitney Barn** from which you could rent a car or a horse and buggy. There used to be another building between the Livery Barn and *Sam Benson's* Confectionary Building which stored cars for rent. That building was removed.

**650-725 Benson's Confectionary** had candy, ice cream and other things. That is the only building on Front St. that never had water or sewage hooked up to it. Mickey thinks they used to have water in there. He had a friend named *Max Pillar* who was a nephew of the *Bensons* and Mickey used to go in there. The outhouse was on the back porch. There was a door on the backside [water] of the building where you could store a boat or for workshop. *Sam Benson* was a carpenter who built the **Benson's Hotel** in **San de Fuca**. They lived over in San de Fuca before

they came to Coupeville. Then they went to the Captain Whidbey, when it was known as **Stills Park**, where they sold meals. They were good cooks.

**726-761** Concrete pad on the level of the coffee shop in old Robertson Building was where they would run the *Fairhaven* up to and unload or load goods on a high tide. They would put goods on a handcart and wheel it through big doors into the bottom of the store. Depending on the high tide, they might be doing this in the dark with lights illuminating the process.

## END OF SIDE A, TAPE 95. 1. 14

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## SIDE B: TAPE 95.1. 14

### Index# Summary

**000-055** The *Fairhaven's* arrival was based on the tides.

There is an odd little building on the backside of the **Kineth and Wiggins** store. Mickey thought this was a cooler shed where they put things to keep them cool such as butter. Rob talks about a house he lived in behind the Masonic Lodge built by *Hawkenberry* that had a cooler cupboard with screen it.

**Kineth and Wiggins** was a grocery store that was in existence long before Mickey was around. The doors at the bottom, waterside of the building was where all the garbage, boxes were thrown and then it was taken out by tides. Between Toby's Tavern and the Sedge Building was where the old Library was.

**055-109** We discuss the slip that ran alongside of Toby's Tavern's west side. The slip came down off of the road to the dock. **Cheney's Electric Plant** was on the west side of Toby's Tavern.

**Kineth and Wiggins Store, Robertson's Dock [Gone], John Robertson's store, Toby's Tavern, Old Town Hall and Library [Gone], Sedge Building, Puget Race's Drug Store, Telephone Office, and Home.**

The **Telephone Office** was a "*dinky place*" located between the Sedge Building and *Puget Race's* drugstore. They built a new building for the Telephone Office behind the **Glenwood Hotel**.

Don't This - it was ↑  
well before Mickey  
was born. RMS

**110-147** *Hobe Race* is a grandson of *Puget Race*. *Jim Zylstra's Law Office* is the small blue building across the street from *Wiley Rason* who lives in the Old Bank. Mickey played on this beach as a child as did "*all the kids*."

*Jake Straub's Blacksmith Shop* was at the intersection of Haller and Front St. It was at street level and as you face the water at that intersection, it was to the right of the corner. Both *Jake* and his son were blacksmiths.

**148-223** **Town Garbage Dump**. The town garbage dump was located on the water side of the road, about 20-30' or so past the intersection of Madrona and Vine St. Mickey tells story of a soldier from Ft. Worden who murdered a fellow soldier in order to obtain his money. He brought the body over to Coupeville in the trunk of his car and threw it in the town dump where it was eventually discovered. This was when Mickey was in high school so it was the late 1920s, early 1930s.

People would drive up to the dump and throw their garbage over the edge. It was a steep bank and high tide took out the garbage. Property belonged to *Milo Sherwood*. They moved the dump to the other side of town and all the rats from the dump followed.

**224-269** *Jim Gillespie's Meat Market*. This small building was located to the right of the wharf. Kids would go there to get meat and they would be given a "*weenie*." This building also had waters on it's lower level on the water side. Mickey talks about the Fruit Drying Building being behind the canoes on the hill by "*Dutchers*" place. There were 4 or 5 buildings there.

Mickey points out where Aunt Jemima was painted on the west side of the **Livery Barn**. Fisher's Flour was painted to the left and Aunt Jemima and her pile of pancakes was to the right.

**270-315** Mickey points out where a **road** used to exist to the left of the Town Wharf as you are facing the water. It cut down to the beach from Front Street, paralleling the water, and went down to the water's edge. Indians used to launch their boats from there.

*Nel Sill's* House used to be to the right of the museum where the apartments are now. It used to be built out over the water on Front St. and *Sam Benson* moved it, or someone else did, when he built his Confectionery Store in 1916. The house was moved again and now sits just north of Coveland and west of Alexander, behind United Parcel and the bus stop. *Nel Sill* was the son of *Susie Sill* who was the midwife at the Fort. *Ida Sill* was *Nel's* wife.

**316-384** We look at the **Race House** which was moved to its site from Monroe's Landing area to the hill above Front St., behind the museum and apartments. The road which passes to the north of this house used to be the **main road** out of town to San de Fuca. It passed up through the Town Park and connected with Madrona Way. This road continued over to San de Fuca and passed around top of Penn's Cove, along beach, to Monroe's Landing. The route which followed Penn's Cove, has been detoured so that motorists must now access Monroe's Landing via Arnold Road north of the Fire Station.

The Race House belonged to *Puget* and *Hattie Race*. The moved to a "white house" at this this location from where their residence at their Drug Store on Front St. When that house burned down about 1920, *Hattie* went across the bay to the Monroe's Landing area and numbered every piece of a house there. This house, which had belonged to a man named *Rankin*, had passed to the *Riikma's* [SP?] who used it as a wagon shed. After *Hattie* was done numbering the pieces, *Fred Kreuger* brought the parts over in a wagon and the house was reassembled and added on to. When *Hattie* died the house passed to her son, *Will Race*. After his death, the house passed to his two daughters. The daughters sold the house to some people from Seattle who wanted the road closed. An agreement was reached that the road would be closed only on the days when town events were scheduled that attracted more than 5000 people. The *Race* family owned much of that hillside.

**385-463** Photo of Mickey and his friends drinking beer on the **Deception Pass Dock** at **Dewey Landing** after returning from a ball game in Anacortes. [We confirm who is in photo and where the location was of the picture.] The people in the photo are from left: *Bill Van Dyke*, Unknown, *Pete Estabrook*, *Mickey*, *Vernon Ely*, Newspaper Reporter, *Howard Mailer*, *Claude Boyer*, who was team manager and a second cousin of *Freeman Boyer*. *Vernon Ely* recently died and he donated his home for the Help House in Oak Harbor.

There is another photo on this page with the following from left to right:

**Back Row:** *Vick Nichols*, *Ray Scougale*, *Mickey Clark*, *Jack Engstrom*, *Bill Engstrom*

**Front Row:** *Winabell Jackson*, *Betty Engstrom*, *Miss Dock*, *Kay Clark*

*Lou Berry's* relationship as brother-in-law to *Mickey Clark* clarified. *Lou Berry* married *Delia Peterson*, the sister of *Mickey's* wife, *Margaret Peterson Clark*.



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[**Note:** Consult interview **96. 6. 4B**, stop 260 for a exact reference as to where this cabin was situated near Penn Cove Road.]

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464  
537  
Mickey  
Interview

**464-537** The **Coupeville Wharf** stored grain in sacks “stacked to the ceiling” *Elmer Calhoun* purchased it from another *Calhoun* in Ballard. Mickey recalled playing tag out on it. The nails in their shoes would catch on the bags and tear them open. While one kid would put his hand over the bag to hold in the grain, another would go get *Calhoun* who would come out with a “sack needle” and sew up the bag. He would not kick them off the dock afterwards but let them stay and play.

Between the livery and wharf are some pilings. These had ropes on them and served as a place for people to tie up their boats. There was a **grain elevator** in the wharf to process grain: a machine cleaned the chaff out of the grain. *Wilbur* and *Edwin Sherman*, *Curt Singer*, and *Harold Smith* were some of the people who worked on it.

**538-615** The video now pans **Blowers Bluff** and the north side of Penn’s Cove. Mickey points out *Muzzall’s* Farm started by *Lyle Muzzall*, the father of *Bob* and *Evie Muzzall*. *Lyle’s* brother *Courtland Muzzall* also lived there above *Lyle*. *Courtland* moved to Clinton and started a grocery store there. Mickey delivered mail to both of them. Mickey recalls story about the *Muzzall’s* losing a team of two horses over the bluff. They fell to the bottom and were killed.

Mickey’s father was County Engineer when this road on the north side of Penn’s Cove was put in. **Penn’s Cove Park** had no houses there then. There was a long low “longhouse” type of building that served as a small grocery store with only a few items.

**616-712** **Monroe’s Landing**. Mickey discusses his early mail route in this area and what roads were in place. Penn’s Cove Rd. was not in at that point. Mickey came down Monroe’s Landing Rd., and turned around and headed back out. He recalled when he first started hauling mail down that road. *Tony Monroe* was so glad he met Mickey at the mail stop with a bottle of whiskey. *Monroe’s* granddaughter was there too, teaching *Mrs. Monroe* how to drive so she could drive to the corner and pick up the mail. She ran in the ditch and that was the end of her driving career.

*Tony Monroe* raised apples. He came to the Coupeville sawmill and got wooden boxes to put his apples in. *Monroe’s* house was the nice old white one just west of Monroe’s Landing on the north side of the road. *Monroe’s* orchard was around his home. There was nothing at Monroe’s Landing like a store or anything. It was just named for the *Monroe’s*.

**713-760** Mickey used to swim at the beach by Monroe's Landing. *Ed Kennedy* owned this after *Tony Monroe* died. His wife, *Lillian Kennedy*, was a *Monroe* before marriage. Mickey did not go swimming there as a child because his parents did not have a car and there was no way to get there. After Mickey married, he and Margaret would go there with the *Shermans*, *Pikards*, and *Daryl DeVries*. They would play volleyball and have a great time. *Ed Kennedy* was very nice about letting them use the place even though he didn't let others use it. Mickey grew up next to *Ed Kennedy* and used to walk to school with him.

**END OF SIDE B, TAPE 95.1.14**

**@ THERESA L. TREBON, 11-95**

Bill Van Dyke  
↓

?

Pete Estabrook

Mickey

Vernon Ely

Newspaper Reporter  
Howard Mailer  
↓

Claude Boyer

(Team Manager)

18



↑  
Mickey Clark

Heading Home After Playing  
Baseball in Anacortes.  
Deception Pass Ferry Dock

cut

Mickey



Vick Nichols Ray Winbell Betty Jack-Bill Kay  
Sengue Jackson Engstrom Engstrom  
Miss Duck

②

For information on  
Photo #2 see  
95.1.14B  
Stop 385-463

Photo #1

95.1.14A  
252-327

→ Also see: 95.1.14B