

TAPE 95.1.17

MICKEY CLARK INTERVIEW  
NO. 6

DECEMBER 4, 1995

EBEY'S LANDING NATIONAL HISTORIC RESERVE  
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

## INDEX

TAPE 95. 1. 17

**SUBJECT:** Driving Tour through Local History: Coupeville, Snakelum Pt. Smith Prairie, Keystone Spit, Ft. Casey, Prairie Center

**INTERVIEWEE:** Mickey Clark

**INTERVIEW NO. 6**

**NUMBER OF TAPES: 3**

**DATE OF INTERVIEW:** 12-4-95

**LOCATION:** Clark Home, 105 NE 3rd, Coupeville, WA  
Rob Harbour's Car

**INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY:**

Theresa Trebon, Rob Harbour

**TAPE INDEXED BY:**

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

**Note:** Tape 95. 2. 17 and 18 were recorded on a hand held, battery operated tape recorder. In order to conserve batteries, the tape recorder was turned off when no conversation was occurring. Consequently, there are many starts and stops on these tapes.

Tape 95. 1. 17 begins as we are leaving East Coupeville on the Parker Rd. and heading toward Snakelum Point.

Direct quotes from Mickey Clark are italicized and bold.

### **95. 1. 17: SIDE A**

#### **INDEX# SUMMARY**

000-035 Mickey refers to a building that was once at the sawmill and was hauled up and onto *Jim Howe's* yard at Lindsey and 7<sup>th</sup> St. *Howe* put a great deal of time and

money into the restoration of this building which he uses as an office. Mickey points out *Strong's* place which was an old home. Long ago this area was open and cleared; houses have been built in around *Strong's* home. *Strong* was an undertaker whose hearse Mickey and friends once set on fire. *Strong* used to park his hearse on the lot where *Rob Harbour* lives at 9<sup>th</sup> and Haller.

**[See also: 95. 1. 2B, stop 000.]**

**036-086** We go by *G. W.* and *Annie Hesselgrave's* home, and *W. T. Howard's* place.

**[Note:** *Howard* was the editor of the paper.] **Calender Hill Rd.**, which is now the **Parker Rd.** used to only go to about the point where the road went out to Lovejoy's Pt. We go out this road to Lovejoy's Point only as far as we can, then we turn around and go back out.

**087-123** We go east on the Parker Rd. up Calender Hill. It was named after "*Old Man Calender*" who lived up on the hill. He had two daughters: *Mary Parker* and *Mrs. Lynch*. Through the trees from Parker Rd. we can see **Lovejoy's Point**. The *Lovejoys* lived there and Mickey went to school with some *Lovejoy* children. We go by *Fred Moore's* place who used to run the **Paint Shop** in the bottom of the Glenwood Hotel. We go by Mickey's niece's home. *Calender* lived at the top of the hill by the speed limit sign on the south side of the road. He had a "*little old house that they tore down.*"

**124-192 Long Point.** The road to Long Point didn't exist many years ago when Mickey was young. We go by *Herb Pickard's* home on the west side of Long Point. Mickey delivered mail down to Long Point at the end of his mail day. He would come in from the Game Farm, deliver to Long Point, and then head back into Coupeville. A small swimming pool once existed on Long Point on the east side of the point where the road first enters the Point. It was filled in.

Mickey Clark and *Edwin Sherman* own property on Long Point. *Edwin's* property is next to *Herb Pickard's* home and Mickey's is next to *Edwin Sherman's*. Mickey has wanted to sell it but his children don't want him to.

There is a burial ground back in the woods by Long Point. *Jimmie Jean Cook* wrote Mickey a letter about the graves just before her death and said she didn't want the graves disturbed. Rob and *Jimmie Jean* tried to find the graves once but couldn't. *Jimmie Jean* died in 1991.

**[See also: 95. 3. 1B-stop 461.]**

**193-225** A county engineer by the name of *A. J. Macmillan* moved the Indian cemetery from the beach on Snakelum Point up to where it currently exists just north of the Parker Rd. Mickey says that Indians used to bury their dead in canoes and put them up in the trees.

We go by *Ted Christianson's* home which was severely damaged by a windstorm that hit the island the day before. A tree speared the lower level of the home and also crashed through a corner of the roof.

**226-303** We are the gravesite of *Chief Charlie Snakelum* and three other chiefs in his family. We discuss the variance in the spelling of the last names on the tombstone which marks the grave: *Snakelum* vs. *Sneatlum* vs. *Snethlum* vs. *Snaklin*. Mickey stated that these different spellings of the last name were because white people couldn't understand how the name was pronounced or spelled and consequently, spelled it in many different ways. Mickey refers to an article about *Charlie's* grandson that lived in Marysville.

**[Photos of our visit to this gravesite see Appendix following this section. For newspaper/magazine articles about Charlie Snakelum and the Indian Burial Grounds see EBLA Information Binder No. 1: Native American section.]**

We discuss the political controversy of which Indian tribes have traditional claims to the area. A sign at the gravesite announces a memorial service of the Snoqualamoo Tribe which is not an officially recognized tribe but was once from the area.

There are many pennies around the top of the tombstone marker and shells inside the fence. A circle of stones is also nearby. **[See photo in Appendix.]**

Mickey mentions an attempt the Lions Club from Coupeville made to repair the fence around the gravesite. They came with lumber, cement etc., and *Miriam Haulson*, [SP?] who lives nearby came and did a ritual and created such a disturbance that the Lions Club members, Mickey, *John Hunt* and about 8 others, ended up just loading everything back in the truck and returning to Coupeville. *Miriam* wanted Mickey to ride all around with her and show her where Indians used to be but Mickey refused.

*Boots Noolan* owned the property at the gravesite and deeded it to the Indians. It came off of the western portion of the *Reeder* farm that the *Noolans* owned. After they lived there, they lived down at Double Bluff. *Boots* used to shoot trap at the club with Mickey.

**303-443 Snakelum Pt.** As we drive down the hill to the point Mickey recalls a time when he was delivering mail on this road and a truck came down the hill out of control towards him, "*slipping and sliding.*" Mickey had to back all the way down the hill. Mickey point out the *Reeder* farm from the east side. Mickey knew them.

*Burly Reeder* was an undertaker in Seattle; he had a place up on the prairie and they purchased the land down by Snakelum Pt. We drive down road to the **Reeder Farm**. Mickey recalled their big draft horses. *Boots Noolan* bought the farm from the *Reeders*.

They used to fish for smelt from Snakelum Pt. to Coupeville and down to San de Fuca. *Ed Rainer* lived on Snakelum Pt. and he was a smelt fisherman as were *Harold Smith* and the *Alecks*.

Between the road and the actual Snakelum Pt. were the longhouse and the burial ground on the right or south side of the road. *Herman Wanamaker* used to tell Mickey about it and showed him where these things were when he was alive. *Bob Ray* used to live down here with his wife *Rhea* who was a partner with *John Vanderzicht* selling real estate. He moved to Bellingham a few years ago after his wife died. She's buried in the Coupeville cemetery. [Note: Mickey found out in January 1996 that *Bob* had also died and was at Sunnyside Cemetery.]

The Indians used to have small shacks down on the Point. The last house on the road was a very old house; Mickey didn't know anything about it. Long ago, only Indians lived down here.

- 444-511 We drive by where *Walt Aubert*'s farm was. He was "*kind of a rounder*" according to Mickey. *Aubert* went to Alaska and brought back a great deal of teak furniture which he sold in the area. He also farmed crops in the area but didn't have much luck with crop yields on **Smith Prairie** because of shallow soil.

**Game Farm.** Birds raised here for hunting. The last couple of years they raised a lot of birds but now it's partly shut down. We go by the old skeet range which Mickey and others built in the 1940s. He used to shoot skeet and trap out there a lot. Birds raised were mostly pheasants and they were released on the prairies for locals to hunt.

## **END OF SIDE A, TAPE 95.1.17**

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## SIDE B: TAPE 95.1.17

### Index# Summary

**000-027** We go by the **Kineth Farm** House and the Farmhouse. **Kineth Point** got its name from this farm. When Mickey was a child and his father *Thomas Clark* was county engineer, they were building the road from Coupeville to Lynn's Corner, now Baker's Corner which is where you go to Bush Pt. or to Highway 20 near the garbage dump. One day, Mickey and his family came out to where *Thomas* was working on Highway 20 where it intersects with Patmore Rd. They had a picnic under the tall tree that stands east of this intersection. Mickey recalled picking violets under the tree.

At that time the road zigged and zagged around stumps. Later, the intersection of Highway 20, Patmore Rd. and the Parker Rd. used to be so curvy that people were running through the fences. The Lions Club persuaded the State to round off the corners and make them more gentle.

**028-091** We drive by the old *Jake Beach* farm. Mickey refers to a photo we had recently spoken of which shows the Beach house and *Annie Hesselgrave's* mother and aunt sitting on the stairs. *Beach* lived on Smith Prairie on the left side of Patmore Rd. as you head southwest on it just after leaving Highway 20.

[See also: 95. 1. 15A, stop 060.]

*"There used to be about ten farms on this place where the airstrip is. Down around here and over to the woods and back around."*

**Smith Prairie School** was on the right side of Patmore Rd. just after you leave Highway 20 heading west. It was to the left of 3 \_\_\_\_ Patmore Rd., just past a mobile home, and just about even with the Navy property line. *Hobe Race* went to this school his first year.

We veer onto Keystone Rd. heading SW. We go by some land on the right side of the road which was recently logged off by the *Eudarians*. Next, we come to a saltbox house that is all boarded up on the right, north, side of the road. It belonged to *Jim Hark* who was a soldier at Fort Casey who moved to this property after he retired. He hauled seaweed from Ebey's Landing to his property because he *"thought it would make stuff grow."* He also hauled kelp down to the Double Bluff area. *Hark* married a woman who had children.

We drive up the driveway that went to the old *Brewster* farm. *Brewster* was a kind of “Watkins Man” who would “...*go around and give you something to rub on your warts and a stick of gum and they were supposed to go away and all that old stuff. One of those guys.*” [A Watkins Man sold Watkins medicine.] A foundation was still visible from an old root cellar or cistern. Mickey surmised, “*That might be where they buried Charlie.*” [Snakelum.]

**092-160** They had farms throughout this area. The Navy did quite a bit of clearing of rocks and stumps when they bought this area for the landing strip but the actual treeline essentially remains the same as it once did.

We go by a downed powerline from the windstorm. Next we pass the land on the right side of the road that is owned by the city of Coupeville for their water supply. Mickey talks about how the road from Coupeville to the area by *Doc Sargent's* farm at the top of Poggensee Rd., now Wanamaker Rd., used to go. Wanamaker Rd. did not exist years ago: it was a farm. The only road down there was Poggensee Rd. named for *Annie Chapman Hesselgrave's* grandfather. The road came out of the woods and headed off east. If the driver had a “*snootfull of hooch*” he didn’t make it one particular ditch. We pass the spot on the right side of the road where the Fort Casey pumphouse used to stand; this building is now the Coupeville City Hall.

**161-194** We turn left from Keystone Rd., on to Wanamaker Rd., which used to be Poggensee Rd. *Judge Still* used to live on this road on the right side of the road as you head east. Just past that spot, was the *Derbisher* house on the left side of the road [325 Wanamaker Rd.] and the very next house on the left was the *Chapman* house where *Annie Chapman Hesselgrave* lived as a child; this house has “*gone to pieces*” and is in rough shape. *Annie's* father, *Jim Chapman*, worked at the Fort Casey powerhouse; Mickey surmised that *Chapman* most likely walked the beach to get to the fort from his home. The only other route was to go back up Keystone Rd. to Patmore Rd. which was originally known as the Kaehler Rd. Then it was down the Kaehler Rd. to Ft. Casey Rd. Mickey has a photo of *Kris Kaehler* and the *Jenne's*. They were related, “*all the Germans.*”

**195-213** We go past Admiral’s Cove, a housing development to the right of Wanamaker Rd. as we head up the hill. *Wally Opal* lives up on this hill. *Doc Sargent's* farm was at the top of the hill on the right. Everyone wanted to log of *Sargent's* land, “*all the old loggers asked him*” but he said no. But then *Thomas Clark* asked him and *Sargent* said yes. *Sargent* and *Clark* worked together at Ft. Casey. [See also: 95. 2. 1A, stop 612.]

**214-243** We leave Keystone Rd. and go onto Highway 20. Mickey said that when cars came off the Pt. Townsend ferry they had to be pulled off the rocky beach by a team of horses and not a steam donkey as *G. W. Hesselgrave* said.  
[See also: 95. 2. 1A, stop 116.]

Mickey points out the house where *Mrs. Lawrence* lived on the right side of the road at the intersection of Keystone and Wanamaker Rd. [Address is 1075 Keystone Road.] *Mrs. Lawrence* kept cows and she was married to *Oliver Lawrence*. Mickey stated that Crockett Lake used to be better drained and there weren't so many reeds. He points out the ditch that drained it.  
[See also: 95. 2. 2A, stop 042, and 95. 2. 2B, stop 072.]

**244-274** We follow Highway 20 west now as it heads across Keystone Spit. We pass the **gravel bunkers** on the south side of the road. As to the pile of gravel which still sits there Mickey stated, "*It looks like a little mountain. We put most of that there.*" The structure of the gravel sorter and processor was on both sides of this pile. The westernmost hole was where swimming lessons used to be held. There is a sort of level driveway like spot where the roped off swimming area was, alongside the highway and almost at the far west end of the hole. There was a 10' high springboard for diving or jumping off into deep water which was 39' deep. The shallow end was 2'-4' deep and there was a wire fence between the two levels so the little kids could swim and couldn't fall in the deep end. This was a project of the Lions Club and *Tommy Clark* dug it out with a cat and graded it from 2' to 4'. When Mickey asked him why he didn't quit earlier that day, *Tommy* replied that he knew Mickey wanted it done and he was going to get it in there.

**275-327** **Crockett Lake.** Rob asks Mickey about the remnants of fenceposts in Crockett Lk. Mickey said people used the land for several things. *G. W. Hesselgrave* owned part of that land to the right or north side of the road. *Pat Wanamaker* planted some potatoes on *Hesselgrave's* land. *G. W.* saw them and put some in his car. *Pat* came down and asked him "*What are you doing taking my potatoes.*" *Pat* told *G. W.* he thought it was state land but *G. W.* told him he'd been paying taxes on it for 30 years. *G. W.* took the potatoes home.

Mickey recalled when an airplane landed in Crockett Lk. In the summertime the lake dries up a lot and turns whitish. The pilot apparently thought he was landing on concrete and tipped the plane right onto its nose.  
[See also: 95. 2. 2A, stop 042.]

Mickey points out old bridge across Crockett Lk. Mickey used to ride his bike out on it and fall in the water. Mickey said that prior to there being a road down Keystone Spit there used to be a **drain** from Crockett Lake over to the beach on the west side of the Crockett Lake bridge. *Tommy Clark* put waste ditching



material from various places down and built the road. Then it was blacktopped on it. Then the state took it over and once when a request was made for some state maintenance, the state said they couldn't do it as they'd put too much money into it already when *Tommy* primarily built the road on county time.

**328-399 Keystone Spit.** Mickey points out where houses used to be and a big hotel. Mickey points out the *Shulkey's* house at 927 Highway 20, and the *Bruzas* house at 943 Highway 20. *Mr. Shulkey* was a soldier at Fort Casey. *Joe Bruzas* was the tailor at the fort. Mickey used to envy the *Bruzas* kids because they came to school so nicely dressed in very fine, well pressed material. Mickey had overalls which "*were nothing.*"

[See also: 95. 1. 16A, stop 078. Also, *Bruzas* under name index.]

There were two or three rows of houses between the road and the water on Keystone Spit. Many were removed. 10 or 15 kids came out of that area that Mickey went to school with. Mickey played football with 7 different kids that lived there: *Joe and Stan Bruzas, Emmett and Butch Schulke, Bill Byrd, Bob Black, Tom Whalen.* Both *Tom Whalen* and *Howard Davies* could run. *Tom* was the son of *Skiddley and Marie Whalen*; *Skiddley* was stationed at the fort. *George Estell* lived in this area too, the publisher of the Oak Harbor paper.

[See also: 95. 1. 5A, stop 449.]

Mickey points out a spot on the north side of the road that is owned by some folks from Concrete who come down every summer and camp and have picnics there. Just east of the Casey Cove Restaurant.

**400-438 Quartermaster Dock.** The windstorm of the previous day knocked over a building that remained on the dock. [See Appendix, photo 2.] Mickey mentions the deepwater off this dock and that only one other port in Astoria, Oregon, is as deep. Mickey repeats story about the collision of President Harding's ship with the *S. S. Zeilen* which had to put into the Quartermaster Dock for repairs.

[See also; 95. 1. 1A, stop 176.]

We park near Quartermaster or Passenger's Dock. Mickey recalled a big house on there which "*has been gone a long time.*" Mickey pointed out bridge that came off of the dock that curved a bit and passed right near the Casey Cove Restaurant.

# Appendix

EBEY'S LANDING NATIONAL HISTORIC RESERVE  
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

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**Visit to Gravesite of Indian Chiefs-December 4, 1995**

**Mickey Clark, Rob Harbour, Theresa Trebon, Sarah Fox**





**EBEY'S LANDING NATIONAL HISTORICAL RESERVE**

**QUARTERMASTER'S DOCK**

**FORT CASEY**

**DECEMBER 4, 1996**

