

TAPE 96.01.23

MICKEY CLARK
Interview No. 9

FEBRUARY 28, 1996

Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve
Oral History Project

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Tape 96. 1. 23

Interviewee: Mickey Clark

Subject: Clarification of Earlier Oral History Interviews

Interview No. 9

Number of Tapes: 1

Date of Interview: 02-28-96

Location: Clark Home, 105 NE 3rd, Coupeville, WA

Interview Conducted and Tape Indexed by:

Theresa Trebon
1062 Sterling Rd.
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Tape indexed on: Marantz Recorder, PMD 220

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Transcript

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96. 1. 23: Side A

Index # Summary

000-120

We look at photos from the Fort Worden Cemetery. Mickey talks about his old friend, *Felix McClarney* who now lives in Portland.

120-190

We examine the 1920 US Census.

Mickey says that *Henry Youderian* lived on Keystone Road. *Wallace Ferris* lived next to [east of] the balloon hanger. He and a man named *James Pagauni* were bachelors and they lived together. They later moved to the house at 304 Main St. just south of Highway 20. As an elderly man, *Ferris* lived in the nursing home by the Rock of Ages and lost his drivers license after he got in a minor accident. He went home and shot himself. Mickey said he was a "nice old guy."¹

¹ 1920 US Census, Sheet 11A-Line 48, 49.

We discuss Chinese living in the area during the 1920 census. In talking about the Chinese, Mickey said,

"A guy used to work my dad's field hoeing potatoes and stuff. Wouldn't be a weed in it. They were good farmers but the people made it so hot for them.....

Lee Hop was one of them. They'd give us candy and figs and they'd go to Seattle and bring candy back and give it to the kids. We always liked it when they went to town because they brought a lot of stuff back."

* Revision - next page

191-260

We continue to look at census. *Charles Patmore* was called "Old Man Patmore" by Mickey. [Note: *Charles* wife was *Elisabeth*.] We look at photo of the *Kaehler* and *Jenne* Family. *Wally Jenne*, *Maude Jenne*, *Bill Kaehler*, *Calvin Jenne*, *Howard Jenne*, *Walter Jenne*, *Rolin Jenne*. [Rolin, Howard, Walter and Calvin were brothers-children of *Wally* and "Ma."] Grandpa *Chris Kaehler*, *Chris Kaehler* his son, [he had a club foot and a special shoe made for it.] The two women are *Delia* and *Louise Kaehler*. *Frank Rankin*, a nephew of *Chris Kaehler Sr.*, is also in the picture.

We talk about *Vene Fisher*. *Theresa* gives Mickey a picture of the memorial to him at Western Washington University. *Vene* was Mickey's roommate at Western and worked for Mickey's father *Thomas* in the County Engineer's office. He was killed in an avalanche on Mt. Baker in 1939.

261-314

We look at map locations. Mickey shows me where the *Kaehlers* lived south of Patmore Road [which used to be called *Kaehler Rd.*] *Thomas* and *Annie Clark* had 40 acres of land on Ft. Casey Rd.

We talk about the tavern that used to be right on the Ft. Casey Rd. when it veered up on the hill a bit. *"The Fort Casey Road went just about where it is right now except they took the kinks out of it."*

315-419

Mickey talks about the houses that used to be up on the east side of Engle Rd. as it curves around to Ft. Casey, about ½ mile south of Hill Rd. *"Reubels lived out there.... there used to be a row of houses and they took them all down."* They used to have a telescope right in that area, on the south side of Engle Rd. as it curves around, and you could look out and read the clock in Port Townsend. The Fort Casey Gate used to be right in there too, on both sides of the road. Demolition of Ft. Casey buildings, drains down by Crockett Lake. Coffee break time!

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² In a later untaped conversation with Mickey Clark on 12-3-96, Mickey stated that Lee Hop rented a field from Thomas Clark and grew potatoes there.

420-456

Picture identification. *Ruth [Terry] Harrison*, *Fred Armstrong* [used to be sheriff] *Howard Libbey* [father-in-law of *Ethel Libbey*] standing by moonshine still apparatus by the courthouse. *Fred Armstrong* used to run the pumps out at Ft. Casey to drain Crockett Lake. Story of Fred and Mickey going to a hockey game in Seattle.

457-553

We continue to look at the 1920 census. Theresa reads off names of the enlisted personnel at Casey. Mickey recalled the following people: *Charlie Dixon* who was a soldier that ran the pump station. [Sheet 3A-line 10.]

Harry and Dela Kistermacher who ran the lighthouse. They adopted a girl name *Helen* who went to school in Coupeville, [Sheet 1B-line 93.] *Jim Hayden* who was the Colonel at the Fort, [Sheet 1B-line 90.] *Les Patmore*, [Sheet 2A, line 4.] *Ed Kotke* [Sheet 2A, line 8.], *Thad Eastwood* who Mickey said was in charge of the fort at Goat Island. He had a son named *Harlan* who had only one arm and liked to do a lot of climbing. *Harlan* recently died. [Sheet 2A, line 19.]

[Note: Mickey discussed the *Eastwoods* in tape 95. 1. 19A, stop 683.]

554-634

George Hammond, [Sheet 2A, line 30.] He had a daughter who married a man named Henry Houghtling and they still live in Oak Harbor. Alva Gaddis [Sheet 1A-line 31] who "married a Comstock girl." Gaddis was a teamster at Ft. Casey and drove the school bus. "*That's the one we used to climb on and they'd kick us of and we'd climb on again and they never did kick us off a second time.*" Lewis Hicks, who was also a teamster at Ft. Casey. Mickey went to school with his two kids Hartwell and Lewis Jr. [Sheet 2A, line 34.] Thomas Harrison, [Sheet 2A-line 39] who retired and moved to Richmond Beach. Mickey said he was still alive and his sister sees him occasionally.

Werton "Skiddley" Whalen. [Sheet 2-A, line 42.] *John Phillips* [Sheet 2-A, line 45] and his wife *Nellie*. Her maiden name was *Eaton* and she lived out on Smith Prairie at Eaton's Corner. [Note: this was the SE corner of Welcher Rd. where it intersects Highway 20.]

"They had guys from North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and all over. They came here and all they wanted to do, they had razors and they had brass knucks, and they wanted to fight and get drunk and stuff like that. They had quite a time with some of those guys."

635-692

Ira and Muriel Hull [Sheet 2B, line 64.] who Mickey knew well. Mickey went to school with their kids *Ruth* and *Raymond*. *Ray* played football. *Henry Wigginton*, [Sheet 2B-line 68] who was married to a woman back east and then he enlisted and moved to Casey and left his first wife. He then married a local woman and when he died, his second wife couldn't obtain his pension. *Henry* married *Hedwig* who had come over from Germany and Mickey remembered the day she landed and that she had been at her brother's in Portland and then came to Casey unable to speak any English. *Hedwig* was related to the *Reubels*. Mickey's mother *Annie* took care of three of their children including their oldest *Clarissa* who as a cousin of *Annie Hesselgrave*.

Mickey also recalled the following: *Crawford Windham*. [Sheet 2B-line 71.] *William Lancaster* who ran the post office. [Sheet 2-B, line 73.] His wife *Sophie* was his assistant and was a *Kaehler*. Mickey mentioned a picture he had of *William Lancaster* with the *Races* and a deer hunting trip.

693-768

We discuss Mickey's photo collection and what he would like to do with them. He tells about the museum loosing some photos that he had lent them. Mickey talks about *Will Race* and his desire to keep the road open next to his house by the park. His daughters went against his wishes after his death in Olympia.

End of Side A, tape 96. 1. 23

Side B: tape 96. 1. 23

000-070

We continue to look at 1920 Census: enumeration of soldiers at Ft. Casey.

Mickey: "*A lot of those guys I just knew their first name when I went out there when I was a kid. I didn't pay any attention to their last name. I knew people out there by the name of Mason, her dad was an officer, and his dad, and they were going to school in here. There was another one, what was his name. He was a catcher on the baseball team and I was the pitcher.... Pug Winterburn. He's more like 1930..*"

Mickey knew *Ben Newton* and his wife *Ida*

[**Note:** Her maiden name was *Eaton* and she also lived at *Eaton's Corner on Smith Prairie*.] Mickey went to school with their daughter *Mildred*. [Sheet 2B-line 75.]

Perry Grove and his son *Aaron*. [Sheet 2B, line 80.] *Amos Schulke* [**Note:** Amos' wife name was *Orpha*. See census sheet 2B-line 82.] *Amos*, his son *Homer*, are dead. His daughter *Louise* lives in California. *John* came back to *Coupeville* not too long ago and visited Mickey. The *Bruzas*. [Sheet 2-B, line 94] Mickey recalled *Mrs. Bruzas* who was named *Partronellie*. Mickey recalled a visit to *Mrs. Bruzas* in *Port Townsend*. She told him, "***I want to tell you something. Don't make the same mistake I did when you get married.***" She had come to the US from Russia and they were about to deport her. So she married *Joe Bruzas* and regretted that were so far apart in age. She was about 18 when she married *Joe* who was about 42. They had two children, *Joe* and *Stan*, that Mickey went to school with.

071-178

Mickey talks about *Sunnyside*. He has his own marker in place up at *Sunnyside* already. He tells a story about *Wilbur Sherman*. He and his brother and his dad used to dig all the graves up at *Sunnyside* by hand. Once the court ordered them to dig up someone who had been buried about six months. It was such a disgusting experience for *Wilbur* that he went home and told his wife *Grace*, that he wanted to be cremated. *Grace* did not want any part of that-a regular funeral. She got cancer and was cremated anyway. Then *Wilbur* got cancer and he was cremated as well and both have their ashes in the same spot. Mickey talks about putting a brass plaque on his grandfather's grave.

179-425

Small talk. We talk about the *Hesselgrave* gravel operation a bit. *Dorothy Neil*. The first houses of *Whidbey Island*. *Ft. Worden*. *Don McClarney* who keeps the archives at *Ft. Worden*. *Don* is the nephew of *Felix McClarney* previously mentioned. Mickey runs down a list of things he thinks are important and need to be covered.

426-674

We identify a threshing photo. *Billy Sherman*, *Bill Edmonton*, *Ben Roenhar*, *Walt Stoddard* and *Jim Stoddard*, *Jess Boyer*. Early roads. Road from *Lk. Hancock* to *Smith Prairie*. Road went by *Doc Sargent's* house, by a Spanish looking house, through where *Admiral's Cove* is and up to *Smith Prairie*. [A cable is across the road even yet.] We talk about the number of tapes Mickey has recorded. Mickey's delivery of mail to *Lillian Huffstettler* from her husband *Bill* during WWII. *Vera*

Hancock Dean; “About as fine a lady driver as I ever saw.” Mickey’s uncles went to school with *Vera*.

[**Note**: at the end of the interview, after the tape player had been shut off, Mickey related a story to me about a deaf man named *Louie Wahlberg* who lived on Ft. Casey Rd. Mickey delivered mail to him and said he was a “real nice old guy” who lived alone. He was dyeing of cancer of the stomach and one day when Mickey opened his mailbox to deliver his mail, there was a note inside which read “***Friend Mickey when you read this I will be no more. You will find me in the kitchen. Your friend, Louie Wahlberg.***” Mickey looked through the window and he was lying dead on the floor. He had rigged up a shotgun on the table with a pulley system so he could pull the trigger.

Also: *Ed Jenne*’s wife, *Agnes*, was a sister of *Harry Smith*.]

End of Side B-Tape 96. 1. 23

End of Interview 9

@ Theresa L. Trebon, 7-96