

TAPE 96. 1. 22

MICKEY CLARK INTERVIEW  
NO. 8

JANUARY 18, 1996

EBEY'S LANDING NATIONAL HISTORIC RESERVE  
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

## Index

Tape 96. 1. 22

**Interviewee:** Mickey Clark

**Subject:** Clarification of Earlier Oral History Interviews

**Interview No. 8**

**Number of Tapes: 2**

**Date of Interview:** 01-18-96

**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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### **96. 1. 22: Side A**

#### **Index # Summary**

**000-063** Story about *Sam Keith* and Mickey pulling a straw figure of the Kaiser, which they had set on fire, up and down the road during WWI. They had built it out of old sacks. "*He was a tough kid too.*" *Sam* was the youngest of the *Keith* family.

Mickey recalled *Susie Sill*-the mother of *Nel Sills*. *Ida Alexander Sills* was *Nels'* second wife: his first wife had died.

The wife of *Bob Ray* on Snakelulm Pt. was named *Rhea*. Mickey noticed that *Bob* had died and was up in Sunnyside Cemetery. **[See also: 95. 1. 17A, stop 303.]**

*Pop Coats* who ran the power plant at Prairie Center was the father of *Vern Coats*. He apparently died young and another son of *Pop*, *Dick Coats*, named his son *Vernon* also. **[See also: 19B, stop 292.]**

*Herb Pickard* stated in his interview that *Tony Kohn*, who lived across the street from where the school gym is now, ran the Prairie Center power plant. Mickey said he didn't.

**Lovejoys.** Mickey knew *"pert near all of `em."* He knew *Fred*, the youngest, *Ed*, who was the captain of a boat that ran to Seattle, *Owen*, who lived near Puyallup, *Elsworth*, who used to play baseball with *Thomas Clark*.

Mickey recalled playing baseball at Sedro-Woolley at Northern State Hospital. Mickey recalled the inmates at Northern State, how they had a hard time. *Margaret* would tell Mickey, *"Stick around... I don't want to be left here alone."*

**064-099** Mickey continued to play baseball *"for a long time"* after his marriage. He played baseball, then softball, then coached kids in a good league they had. They played the south end and beat them every year. The Lions Club played Mt. Vernon and were badly beaten 10-0. Mt. Vernon put all their all star kids on the team from all the high schools in Skagit County and that's how they did it. The Navy had a couple of teams, and Ft. Casey had one, and Ft. Ebey had one and Coupeville had one and they were all in a league. The Lions Club took the pick of all those teams and challenged Mt. Vernon again to a game at Smelt Beach. They beat Mt. Vernon 30-0. Mickey got up to bat, *"I could always hit the ball and hit it good"* and about 10 runs came in that time. Mt. Vernon talked to them afterwards and told Coupeville that next time they would play them honest, Lions against Lions.

**100-154** Mickey's grandmother, *Bridget Clark*, came from Ballangerry, Ireland. Mickey remembered her well. She came to the United States when she was about 16. *"She was a good gal. You betcha. A good old Irish gal."*  
**[See also: 95. 1. 19B, stop 354.]**

Mickey's grandfather was a... *"Good guy. He was a soldier and he had good kids. One [Jim] was a lawyer at the University of Washington and he played baseball for the University and coached down there and played professional ball. And my other uncle, Ed, he had a chance to play some professional ball but he didn't want to stick to it as much and he didn't stay down there. And George was not an athlete, he was a worker. He and Annie Hesselgrave's dad worked together at the power plant and he went down to the oil fields and he contracted some type of sickness and he died down there. In California."*

*Jim, the one who was a lawyer and a professional ball player. I was pretty young and I can just remember him. He used to come to visit and he'd throw the ball and I'd hit it. I always wish he had made it farther. He played for*

*Vancouver, and he played for Portland, and he played for Salt Lake, he played for a bunch of them. They used to go out and play in the summer time and then they'd work in the wintertime at their jobs. A little different maybe than now but that's how they did it. He coached a year at the University of Washington. He was a pretty sharp guy I think. My dad was too. He was a sharp cookie. He could talk."*

Theresa tells Mickey about *Herb Pickard's* memories of *Thomas Clark* and the bag of candy stories. After *Thomas* died, *Annie Clark* lost a lot of her interest in life. [See also: 95. 4. 1B, stop 690.]

**155-181** Mickey explains the relationship between the *Pratt's* and the *Kohn* family in Prairie Center. *Mrs. Pratt* was *Lena Kohn Pratt* and she married *Frank Pratt* who had a lot of money. They lived up on the hill. Their son was *Robert* and Mickey went to school with him. *"He was an oddball. She kept him out of school until he was in the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade and he was kind of different. I think they didn't want to let him mix with us hon-yops. I just don't quite understand those people because you know, kids have to rub the rough edges off by going with other kids. You got to go through a certain amount of that stuff, you can't just stay home and be in a shell. You can do it if you want to but I don't believe in it."* No relation between *Frank Pratt* and the *Jim Pratt* who owned the resort near Greenbank.

**182-254** Mickey was a teenager when he did threshing work and he was younger than that when he drove the *Hancock's* team. *"Jut Hancock was a nice guy. Both he and Herman Wanamaker were nice guys but Herman didn't keep his team up and I didn't like that."* [See also: 95. 1. 20A, stop 167.]

I show Mickey the Winter 85 copy of *Spindrift*, page which shows *Jut Hancock* on the right hand side on the white horse. The woods over to the left are towards *Ebey's Landing*. [See appendix] *Jut's* wife was *Ruby*. Their children are *Bob* and *Ethel*. *Bob's* son is *Judge Alan Hancock*. *Ethel* married *Joe Libbey*. *Jut* was a son of *Ernest* and *Julia Hancock*.

**255-374** Relationship between the *Sherman* and *Boyer* families. *Iney Boyer* was a sister of *Lottie Sherman* as was *Mrs. Charles M. Barrett*.<sup>\*</sup> Mickey said their maiden name would have been *Black*. *Charles Barrett* was killed while working in the woods during the Depression. *"He was falling a tree in a windstorm and a widow maker come down and hit him in the head and killed him. I was working in the woods the day that happened. We shouldn't have... it was during the Depression but we were all working there because if we worked all day we got a dollar, dollar and a half a day you know, working in the woods."*

*We shouldn't have been there and we knew it. And he knew it too but they didn't have these hard hats like they have now and a limb came down and went right through him.*

*\* Revision - next page*

**T:** *Did he have kids?*

**M:** *Oh yes, he had a big family. And he was related to the guys he was working for and they didn't have insurance.*

**T:** *Did they help take care of her and her kids?*

**M:** *I don't know. Boyers and Barretts are related and they were working for Freeman Boyer. They had quite a time over it, they were on the outs for while, but I guess they finally made up and decided they couldn't do anything about it and none of them had any insurance, didn't have any hard hats, didn't have any protection, we shouldn't have been in the woods, the wind was blowing like 60. My dad and I were out felling trees. Boy, we all went home right now when that happened. We all got out of the woods. Even if we didn't have anything to eat, why, we went home anyways.*

*We all had pretty good gardens, there was a lot more fruit, we had lots of fruit on the island here, they've taken out all those trees now, they're gone. If you had a big garden and had a bunch of potatoes and couldn't use them you called up the neighbor and they come over and got them. And then when he had maybe, shot a deer out of season and had half a deer or something and could spare it why you'd get a half a deer back.*

**T:** *That's a good way to do it.*

**M:** *That's what we had to do. Several of them broke the law hunting deer out of season and stuff like that in order to exist. I paid 25 cents a cord for wood to the guys that owned the trees. Then I cut, sawed, split, and piled, and loaded them on to a truck and I think I got a dollar and a quarter a cord out of it, that's 4 x 4 x 8.*

**T:** *That's a lot of wood.*

**M:** *That's a lot of wood. And we loaded it on a barge here and they hauled it to Seattle and they got a buzz saw on the barge and they cut it up and hauled it all over Seattle. That's when they used to use wood to heat Seattle with. We put 500 cords or so, at a time, on the dock.*

[Note: "Mrs Charles M. Barrett" was actually *Anna Boyer Barrett*. She was not married to Charles M. Barrett but *Cassius M. Barrett* whose nickname was *Jack*.]

*Barrett was killed while working in the woods during the Depression. "He was falling a tree in a windstorm and a widow maker come down and hit him in the head and killed him. I was working in the woods the day that happened. We shouldn't have... it was during the Depression but we were all working there because if we worked all day we got a dollar, dollar and a half a day you know, working in the woods. We shouldn't have been there and we knew it. And he knew it too but they didn't have these hard hats like they have now and a limb came down and went right through him."*<sup>1</sup>

T: *Did he have kids?*

M: *Oh yes, he had a big family. And he was related to the guys he was working for and they didn't have insurance.*

T: *Did they help take care of her and her kids?*

M: *I don't know. Boyers and Barretts are related and they were working for Freeman Boyer. They had quite a time over it, they were on the outs for while, but I guess they finally made up and decided they couldn't do anything about it and none of them had any insurance, didn't have any hard hats, didn't have any protection, we shouldn't have been in the woods, the wind was blowing like 60. My dad and I were out felling trees. Boy, we all went home right now when that happened. We all got out of the woods. Even if we didn't have anything to eat, why, we went home anyways.*

*We all had pretty good gardens, there was a lot more fruit, we had lots of fruit on the island here, they've taken out all those trees now, they're gone. If you had a big garden and had a bunch of potatoes and couldn't use them you called up the neighbor and they come over and got them. And then when he had maybe, shot a deer out of season and had half a deer or something and could spare it why you'd get a half a deer back.*

T: *That's a good way to do it.*

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<sup>1</sup> In a later untaped conversation with Mickey Clark, he stated that this accident took place east of Eggerman Road, and south of Patmore Road in the woods there. Just north of the present home of Freeman Boyer Jr. who lives at 695 S. Eggerman Road.

The *Boyers* had purchased a farm and they were cutting the wood off a part of it that they wanted to clear for farming. The *Sullivans*, *Barretts*, and *Boyers* were all working on it. *Sullivan* had the machinery and the *Barretts* and *Boyers* were related. *Opal* was married to *Freeman Boyer Jr.* *Freeman* was the son of *Freeman Boyer Sr.* *Freeman Sr.* was the son of *Will Boyer* who lived at *Ebey's Landing* on *Harry Smith's* place. *Harry Smith's* farm went from the bluff overlooking *Ebey's Landing*, where the trail currently is, and swept back up to Cemetery Rd.

*"They [the Boyer's] had to move off of there because Harry Smith bought them out and pulled some skullduggery and he got the money and bought the farm from the Gould place, Old Man Gould, and he bought it and they had to move. And so Boyer's moved off of there... I think they went over where the highway went through by Shermans. Then they moved out to the prairie where they are now."*

**375-494** *Orlan Dean* lives out by Kennedy's Lagoon very near his sister, *Lillian Huffstettler*. *Carl* and *Vera Dean* lived by *Wilbur Sherman's* first, on the W. B. Engle donation claim in a big house. Then they moved out by Kennedy's Lagoon and built a house and raised their children there. *Orlan* lives in a house he built and *Lillian* lives near the Cpt. Whidbey Inn. They also had a sister named *Drucie*.

**Wanamakers.** *Herman Wanamaker* was brother to *Clarence Wanamaker*. *Clarence* was the father of *Pat Wanamaker*. *Clarence* owned the Pt. Townsend Dry Goods Store for many years. *Herman*, *Clarence*, *Lem* [who married *Pearl*], *Reginald*, *Elizabeth*, and *Allison* were the children of *James* and *Cecilia*. Mickey thought *Reggie Wanamaker* died when he was in high school.

**Rosenfield.** The *Rosenfield* family lived near Hancock Lake. *Ed*, *Jack*, *Emma*, *Morris*, and *Margaret* were the children.

*York Dyer* from the San de Fuca area was somehow related to the *Fisher* family. This is a different *Fisher* family than the *Vene Fisher* family. *Vene* was brother to *Isabel Berry*. Mickey was *Vene's* roommate at Western Washington. Mickey had returned to Coupeville and got the Post Office job. *Vene* went up to Mt. Baker on a trip and was killed in an avalanche. Mickey knew a lot of the people killed in that avalanche such as *Julius Dornblut*. *Vene* worked for *Thomas Clark* in the County Engineer's Office,

[See also: 95. 1. 11B, stop 015. This accident on Mt. Baker occurred on July 22, 1939. See appendix for copy of memorial which is on the north end of Old Main on Western Washington University's campus.]]

**495-596** Spelling of *Jim Harp's* last name. [Not Hark, H-A-R-P.]



**[See also: 95. 1. 17B, stop 028.]**

First name of *Brewster* on Keystone Rd. was *Orle* or *Arle*.

*Boots Noolan* donated the land for the Snakelum burial site. *Boots* lived mostly in Alaska where he had a drug store, then came down and bought the *Burley Reeder* farm. *Boots* bought land near Double Bluff and when *Boots* died he left to his wife. His son-in-law is a lawyer with the last name of *Reed* who is currently involved in some legal actions over the *Noolan* property at Double Bluff. *Burly Reeder* was an undertaker in Seattle. When he retired he bought the farm that *Boots* eventually bought.

**597-767**      *McClellan* had pure bred stock in his barn which was originally the Crockett barn. **[See also: 95. 1. 18A, stop 388.]** *Fred* and *Nina Armstrong* owned the barn prior to this and their son *Fred* was a bit older than Mickey.  
**[See also: 95. 1. 19B, stop 364.]**

## **END OF SIDE A, TAPE 96.1. 22**

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## **SIDE B: TAPE 96.1. 22**

### **Index # Summary**

**000-048**      “Sandy’s” that Mickey refers to so often is a real estate office on Engle Rd. between Highway 20 and Prairie Center.

We look at the Fall 87 issue of Spindrift which showed a picture of **Winona Beach** near Monroe’s Landing. Mickey recalled a fishing resort there run by *Al Olson*. We look at Fall 81 issue of Spindrift which featured the **Neil Pole Camp**. Mickey was able to identify some of them. *Jack Sullivan* was in front row at far right, seated with his arms folded across his knees. *John Mulder* is in the back row with the big hat standing in the center without a mustache. *Jim Stoddard* is seated in the front row, third from the left. *Harry Smith* is in the back row in the white shirt without a hat, standing next to *John Mulder*. *John* was the brother of *Neil Mulder* who Mickey used to work for.

**[See Appendix for 1910 Census Record which lists names of men at this camp.]**



**049-091 Photo of Race Family, Ft. Casey soldiers, and hunting party.**

We look at a photo from the Souvenir Edition Commemorating Whidbey Island Centennial. Mickey identifies *Walt Stoddard* who had the Prairie Center Barber Shop, and *Charlie Alex* on the Langley baseball team.

**[Note: This is found in the EBLA Information Binder No. 2. Consult section on "General Background Information on EBLA."]**

Mickey knew *Dave Stoddard* who was an old man. He knew *Neil*, *Walt*, and *Jim*, and a sister named *Belle Jackson*. The *Stoddards* lived in the Prairie Center area above Parker's Auto Shop. *Walt Stoddard* lived near Bob Engle's Dairy. *Jim Stoddard* lived up near hospital.

*Don Mueller* was the man who had the horse "park" near Cpt. Whidbey Inn.

**[See also: 95. 1. 19B-000.]**

*Frank* and *Fred Patmore*. *Frank Patmore* was a sailor and *Fred* worked at Prairie Center Store. Mickey thought *Frank* and *Fred* were brothers.

**092-325** Mickey recalled the *Poggensees*. *Ella Poggensee* was *Annie Chapman Hesselgrave's* aunt.

**We look at some of Mickey's photos and I arrange to borrow them for copying purposes.**

**The following photos are all filed in the EBLA Information Binder No. 1.**

*Lawrence* and *Pard Reubel* in horse drawn wagon that they used to take around Coupeville, [1986]. *Lawrence* was *Gus's* son and *Pard* was *Lawrence's* son. Lawrence has since died.

**[See EBLA Information Binder No. 1: People.]**

*Tommy Clark* and *Dan* \_\_\_\_\_. *Dan* was a good center fielder and appears to have been a Native American.

**[See EBLA Information Binder No. 1: People.]**

**Photo of women in old dresses.** *Marcella Morris*, ["*Daughter of Cpt. Morris who had the idea for Deception Pass Bridge before Pearl Wanamaker did.*"] *Harriet Race* [*Wife of Will Race*], *Margaret Rosenfield*, *Myrtle Rosenfield* [*Margaret's mother, wife of Jack Rosenfield*], *Eileen Benson*. *Eileen* was the

daughter of *Wally Benson* who used to play the saxophone in the band. *Wally* also ran the store where *Toby's Tavern* now is.

[See EBLA Information Binder No. 1: Women's History.]

Photo of four men. Mickey's friends: *Andrew Joe* who built the *Suzy Q* and the totem pole. *Tommy Bob*, *Peter Charles*, *Charles Edward* who built the *Telegraph* canoe. Dorcas Society of San de Fuca. School photos. Etc.

[See EBLA Information Binder No. 1: Native Americans.]

326-417      Threshing Photo. *Ed Bruce*, *Billy Sherman*, *Bill Edmundson*, *Ben Roenhar*, *Walt Stoddard*, *Jim Stoddard*. *Jess Boyer* is standing on the wagon and throwing grain into the separator.

[See EBLA Information Binder No. 1: Farming.]

*Tommy Clark* and air raid sirens he donated to Island County. He raised the money by playing drums for a dance. "*He was a pretty good guy.*"

[See EBLA Information Binder No. 1: People.]

Fruit Drying Sheds. Mickey recalled prunes being dried here. These fruit drying sheds were on Coveland St. directly SW of where the museum now is. *Charlie Cushing's* water tank and windmill for his hotel are also visible in this photo as is *McPherson's* [Glenwood] Hotel, and the Central Hotel.

[See EBLA Information Binder No. 1: Coupeville Buildings.]

**END OF SIDE B, TAPE 96.1. 22**

**END OF INTERVIEW NO. 8**

@ THERESA L. TREBON, 2-96

# Appendix

EBEY'S LANDING NATIONAL HISTORIC RESERVE  
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