

TAPE 96. 1. 21

MICKEY CLARK INTERVIEW
NO. 8

JANUARY 18, 1996

EBEY'S LANDING NATIONAL HISTORIC RESERVE
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Index

Tape 96. 1. 21

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:

Theresa Trebon

Tape Indexed by:

Theresa Trebon

1062 Sterling Rd.

Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

Tape indexed on: Marantz Recorder, PMD 220

96. 1. 21: Side A

Index# Summary

000-049 Small talk.

050-139 We discuss *Edwin Sherman* who is currently in the hospital with terminal cancer. Mickey hunted with him for 25 years and their two families were friends. *Margaret Clark* was basketball coach for *Jean Sherman*, *Edwin*'s wife, as well as *Isabel Berry* and they won the county championship.

Clarification: It was *Jeanette Henry* that Mickey spoke to regarding the threshing machine. [See also: 95. 1. 20A, stop 248.]

Clarification: *Edwin* and *Wilbur Sherman* were brothers, the sons of *Billy* and *Lottie Black Sherman*. *Billy* and *Lottie* had ten children. Mickey remembered the following names: *Clark*, *Iva*, *Wilbur*, *Edwin*, *Rollie* [lives in Tacoma], *Nina*, _____ *Mulvahill*.

[Mickey later clarified that this was *Arlene Sherman Mulvahill*.]

Mickey worked with *Arlene Sherman Mulvahill* in the Post Office, she now lives in Snoqualamie. *"She was the kind of gal that when she got through and retired or quit or whatever she did, everything was up to date. I did the same thing when I quit because when I went to work in there a guy tried to sell me his old car and it was a junker and I didn't buy it. He told me if I bought it he'd bring everything up to date; Well, all the Postmaster had to do was tell him to get busy and bring it up to date or he didn't get his paycheck. Anyway, he didn't bring it up and so I went out to the Dutchmen over here and that was a difficult deal."*


"When I first started hauling mail in about 1942, 3, 4, along in there, I was in the Post Office as Assistant Postmaster and I transferred and I started hauling mail and he didn't have any names on the list, you're supposed to have kids and all on the family so you can look it up. He didn't have it and I started in out at Scenic Heights and I went down ten families and went in and got the people, the man, wife, and the kids and all and then went down to the next place and got ten places today, and tomorrow I went ten more, and ten more, until I got them all and the day I retired I had my list up to date and handed it over to him and there it was and that was it. And I retired and they didn't have any trouble and they didn't have any trouble getting them either."

"But anyway, he didn't give me anything to work with. And they were Dutchmen and they come across from England to Canada and they come down here because they heard Oak Harbor, Whidbey Island, had good soil, and La Conner, and that sort of stuff for growing stuff and they wanted to get where they could grow good crops and what not. Anyway they came down here so I got them all and I got a lot of good friends over there in Oak Harbor even yet."

140-191 Mickey forwards on a question to Theresa from *Dorothy Neil* who wanted to know why the EBLA Oral History project is not focusing on Oak Harbor. He touches on his unhappiness over being cited by papers in connection with *Terry Buchanan* again.

[See also: 95. 1. 19A, stop 085.]

Mickey recalls watching them build the bridge out to the Quartermaster's Dock when he was little and that *Terry Buchanan* wasn't even born. Mickey tells how the area from the Ft. Casey Powerhouse out to the ferry dock all used to be Crockett Lk. and that area was filled in and a drain put in. When Mickey was little he and his friends used to throw rocks at the birds under the Ft. Casey bridge. There used to be ten houses in that area on the spit as well as a big hotel. Ten or so of Mickey's friends lived in that area.

192-287 **Clarification.** The Lions Club had volunteers for the swimming program to help with swim lessons and life guarding when their swim program was at the gravel bunker holes. There was a “privy” at the bunker holes for the kids and the Lions Club brought up the Youth Hostel buildings from Greenbank, which they were doing away with, to the swimming holes for use as dressing rooms. The State Patrol, along with *Tommy Clark* who was the Sheriff, shut down the highway when they brought up the buildings. *“He was a great guy at doing things for kids and he was in the right place to do it.”* 

The Lions Club moved the swim lessons from the gravel bunkers to Ft. Casey because the water was heated at the Casey pool. When the manager at the Casey pool put a padlock on the fence at the Casey pool, the Lions Club moved the lessons to Admiral’s Cove where they still are now. Admiral’s Cove was initially hesitant to allow the public to use the facilities but the Lion’s Club ran it in such a way that there was no complaint. The Lion’s Club still manages the Swim Program and they hire teenagers mostly to give lessons and lifeguard. Mickey said there is a waiting list for people wanting to work at it.

288-315 **Clarification.** The roof on the Rec Hall was a community effort spearheaded by the Lion’s Club. **[See also: 95. 1. 19A, stop 558.]**

The **Telephone Office** down on Front St. was inside the small door that faces Front St. and is between the Sedge Building and *Puget Race’s* old drugstore. *Hattie Race* worked in the phone building as did two or three of the *Penningtons*, the *Shermans*, and *Grace* and *Della Evans*.

316-383 **Clarification.** Mickey’s aunt, *Edith Craddock Clark*, wife of *George Clark* who worked in the Ft. Casey powerhouse, worked in the **Post Office** when it was in the Elkhorn Saloon Building. **[See also: 95. 1. 20A, stop 017.]** *Cpt. Clapp* worked in that building as did *Nel Sill*. *Edith Clark* did all sorts of duties in the Post Office; write money orders, sell stamps and bonds, register births and deaths. Mickey used to do that too when he worked there. *“Everybody always died from hardening of the arteries pert near... that’s what the doctor always put down there.”* Births and deaths were registered at the Post Office and then sent to Seattle. *Nel Sill* was the postmaster and then later on, ran a store on Front St. Mickey reiterates story about Prairie Center sewer.

384-459 **Clarification.** Coupeville water comes from the old Ft. Casey water system which comes from a system of 22 shallow wells. Coupeville put \$127, 000.00 into a filtering system for this water. Mickey talks about the water problems in Coupeville area. Historically, the town of Coupeville has dug five wells for water. A continual problem.

192-287 **Clarification.** The Lions Club had volunteers for the swimming program to help with swim lessons and life guarding when their swim program was at the gravel bunker holes. There was a "privy" at the bunker holes for the kids and the Lions Club brought up the Youth Hostel buildings from Greenbank, which they were doing away with, to the swimming holes for use as dressing rooms. The State Patrol, along with *Tommy Clark* who was the Sheriff, shut down the highway when they brought up the buildings. ***"He was a great guy at doing things for kids and he was in the right place to do it."***

[**Note:** See article about Sheriff *Tom Clark* in **Appendix** following this tape.] 

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460-556 **Clarification.** The name of *Fred Moore* 's business in the bottom of the Glenwood Hotel was **Fred Moore's Paint Shop.**
[See also, 95. 1. 17A, stop 087.]

Pearl Harrington, who built the car dealership building for *Charlie Cushing* on Front St. [Mariner's Court] was a man. The building that was on that corner prior to the Mariner's Court building was a small shed which was the Feed Room. Harrington was in construction and built many buildings in Seattle and in the Coupeville area. He was semi-retired when he built the Mariner's Court building about 1928.

Bob Cushing was a builder and the son of *Charlie Cushing*. He built the concrete block building on the SW corner of Front and Grace for the new post office. *A. N. Corbin* 's building, the **Island County Abstract Building** used to be located on this site but was moved to its present location next to the Mariner's Court building. . The Post Office moved into Bob Cushing's building from the Elkhorn Saloon building which was called the Elkhorn **before** and **after** the Post Office was there.

Mickey knew *A. N. Corbin* who was a lawyer. *"He was an old man, you know kids they like younger guys and all that, he was a nice old guy and he lived out here on the prairie. The highway that goes through here now has been cut through since that.... and goes right by A. N. Corbin's place out there. The place is still out there, a guy lives in it, and it's out there by Sherman's squash fields."*

557-615 The *Fairhaven* was built by *Joshua Green* in Tacoma. The *Calista* had the boiler and the engine from the *Whidbey* which sunk near Oak Harbor. They pulled the *Whidbey* up and took those things out. Mickey recalled,

"The captain on the Whidbey was Henry Arnold and he lived in San de Fuca, and he left the boat there [Oak Harbor] at night and he walked in and stayed the night and he'd go and get on the boat the next morning and go to Seattle. They tied up to Oak Harbor dock which was the end of the line. It was there and I think it also went into La Conner in earlier days but I don't know about that."

His home's right over here, it's still there. I went to school with one of his kids, he only had one kid, they're both dead now and they left the place to Valerie Arnold. His son's name was Warner Arnold. The Whidbey burned at Oak Harbor dock and they cut it loose and it was over at Mailer's Pt. They got rid of it someway."

617-753 **Clarification.** The grade school was in the bottom of the first school and the high school was upstairs. They built a new high school in 1913 and this was the one Mickey graduated from. **[See also: 95. 1. 19B-stop 081.]**

Nel Sill had his store in the Kineth and Wiggins Building. ***“Then it got to be a drug store and what not-it got to be a lot of things.”***

We look at p. 37 in the Winter 1987 **Spindrift**. **[See Appendix]**. On the lower right corner there is a photo of downtown and the building on the right hand side of the photo is noted as the Sea Gull Restaurant. According to Mickey, it is labeled incorrectly. It was the meat market and this building was moved just south of the museum in the parking lot by the UPS. It's been moved 2 or 3 times and once belonged to *Ida Alexander Sill*. The building pictured just west of this meat market in the Spindrift photo belonged to *Carl Otto* and was torn down. West of that is the building which housed jitneys etc., for the Livery Barn which can be seen in the far left corner. **[See also: 95.1. 9B, stop 635.]**

The **Capaan Meat Market** was up the street in the building which now houses the Captains Galley Restaurant. We look at p. 37 of the same **Spindrift** issue mentioned above at another photo which shows the Robertson Dock. As this dock entered the street between what is now Toby's Tavern and the Captain's Galley Restaurant, there was a **scale** in the road where wagons could weigh their loads. **[Note: these are buildings 14 and 13 in the Walk Through History Brochure.]**

Mickey recalled the Robertson Dock which was in poor shape when he first recalled it. ***“I remember all the piling out there and the boards nailed on and stuff like that but I never used the dock.”*** He thought it was probably torn down when he was a child. Mickey recalled the small building on the left side of the dock behind the white building which is now Toby's Tavern. This is which is visible in the photo.

754-766 Location of *Wilbur Sherman's* farm. Wilbur rented land from his dad and *Le Sourd* for some time prior to getting his own place. He then purchased *Joe Arnold's* place.

END OF SIDE A, TAPE 96.1. 21

SIDE B: TAPE 96.1. 21

Index# Summary

000-059 Mickey locates the gate that was right up against *Wilbur Sherman's* property on the Engle Rd. This gate was moved right near the Ft. Casey Gymnasium as the road goes up the hill. *Wilbur's* property abutted Ft. Casey's and Mickey recalled that when he was a child, there were about 10 houses on that end of the Ft. Casey property. Mickey used to go there to play with kids such as Gussie Reubel who lived up there. "*They had a telescope [in the fort] that you could look from there to Port Townsend and you could read the clock.*" This is also where *George Hammond* lived; his daughter now lives in Port Townsend.

Wilbur Sherman farmed for 25 or 30 years and then sold his property. "*He started selling it and cleaned up on it.*" *Wilbur* was married to *Grace Sherman*. "*She was a good teacher and a good friend of my wife.*"

The first name of Mickey's teacher that talked him into completing high school was *Margaret Smith*. "*She was a good gal.*"

[See also: 95.1. 11B, stop 015. 12B, stop 000, 16A, stop 060.]

060-199 **Clarification.** The undertaker's first name was *Mark L. Strong*. Mickey couldn't recall *Ives* first name. They did not have a funeral parlor; they had a hearse or a Ford and parked it on the corner of Haller and 9th. Mickey thought they were the only undertakers in town; possibly also Oak Harbor.

[See also: 95. 1. 2B, stop 000, 17A, stop 000.]

Mickey received photos from *Roscoe* and *Isabel Berry*. *Roscoe* and *Lou Berry* were brothers. *Lou* is dead and was married to *Delia Peterson*, the sister of Mickey's wife *Margaret Peterson Clark*. *Isabel's* maiden name was *Fisher*.

[See also: 95. 1. 19B, stop 112.]

Mickey recalled the first name of one of the Casey soldiers which helped with thrashing. *George Rohr*. He couldn't recall *Jones* and *Peters* first names.

[See also: 95.1. 20A, stop 248.]

Mickey clarifies the maiden name of sisters *Arle* and *Inger Wangness*. *Inger's* married name is *Matthews* and *Arle's* last name is *Osling*.

Mickey didn't recall first name of *Mrs. Bruzas*.

Mickey tells story about slide presentation he did on Ft. Casey and how *Gussie Reubel* wanted to see it. Whenever Mickey would ask him questions about Ft. Casey, *Gussie* couldn't recall anything even though he grew up there. However,

when he saw Mickey's slide show he remembered everything. Mickey tells about falling off the ladder when he was putting up gutters in summer of 95.

- 200-241** **Clarification.** Mickey's niece that lived on Calender Hill is *Dorothy Keefe*. Dorothy was *Tommy Clark's* daughter. His other children were *Pat, Jim,* and *Kathleen*. *Tommy's* wife was named *Blanche*.
[See also: 95. 1. 17A, stop 087.]

Calender of Calender's Hill had a daughter named *Mrs. _____ Lynch* and a daughter named *Mary*. *Mary Calender* married *Shirley Parker*, the son of *Joe Parker*. When the new road was put in all the way up Calender's Hill it was named *Parker Rd.* as *Shirley Parker* was on the Town Council.
[See also: 95. 1. 17A, stop 087.]

- 242-295** **Clarification.** The first name of "*Grandma*" *Sherman* was *Lottie*. Mother of *Wilbur*, wife of *Billy*.

The first name of *Grandma Hancock* was *Julia*, the first elected woman official in Island County. Mickey recalled her, "*A nice old lady. Her kids and my uncles were buddies. They walked on the same road to Ft. Casey. My uncle's lived at Casey and they [Hancocks] lived out on Hill Rd. They'd ride in the same boat and come across the water and tie it up and then they'd row back out to Al Sherman's and walk the rest of the way home.*"

Julia's daughter *Vera* married *Carl Dean*. Mickey recalled *Judge Still's* old car, the first in Island County, being on display in *Carl Dean's* garage in Prairie Center. It is now in the basement of the museum. **[Mention of this is on page 22 of Washington: A Guide to the Evergreen State, 1941. This is found in the EBLA Information Binder No. 1. Consult section on "General Background Information on EBLA."]**

- 296-423** **Judge Still.** He was an important judge and he is buried at Sunnyside right next to Mickey's parents. Mickey said his two [*Clark*] sisters are buried there and are in line with the plot he will have. His brother's plot is there too.

Willard and Race. *Willard's* first name was *Dick* and *Race's* first name was *Ronald*. *Ron* was brother to *Puget Race* and father of *Hobe Race*. *Carl Dean* bought **Willard and Race's Meat Market** and moved the entire building to a lot north of it. *Pat* [*Robert Partridge*] built on to it, adding rooms upstairs, a kitchen, candy shop, and barber shop. **Walt Stoddard's Barber Shop**, which was also at the corner of *Terry* and *Engle*, was also moved one lot north and *Pat* bought him out.

Frank Pratt's building up near Sunnyside Cemetery used to be the old **Bozarth** Home. *Pratt* removed the four dormers or cupolas from the top of the house. *Ken Pickard* lived there for quite a while. [See appendix.]

After Mickey's home burned down when he was a child, they lived in town about a year, then moved back to their property on the Ft. Casey Rd. where they lived in tents. They moved a house that was across the street on the *Reubel's* property to the Clark property and lived in that. The Clarks added on to this house, as did subsequent owners. The house still stands. First name of the *Moons* are *John* and *Virginia*. They still own the property which they purchased from *Thomas Clark* for \$1200.

424-487 Clarification. *Fred Kreuger* moved houses including the *Hattie Race* House and *Maude Fullington* House near the Coupeville Park. [See also: 95. 1. 14B, stop 316.]

Cees Sturman's property [this used to be the Fred Krueger farm just south of Madrona Way as it comes into Coupeville from just east of Broadway. The property has a small little cement house on it which was *Krueger's* dynamite house from which he would sell dynamite to people.¹

Maude and *Hattie* were sisters and they went over to Monroe's Landing and numbered the pieces of the houses, then *Fred* moved them. *Maude's* husband _____ *Fullington* was a veterinarian at Ft. Casey and *Thomas Clark* knew him well. Their daughter *Mary* was a school teacher in Seattle. She moved back to the area and lived in the Fullington House until her death a few years ago. The house is currently for sale.

Mickey talks about all his friends that have passed away.

488-602 Clarification. *Bill Byrd*, Mickey's childhood friend, lived down on Keystone Spit. His father was a soldier at Ft. Casey and the pitcher for the ball team. [See also: 95. 1. 17B, stop 328.]

¹ Note: In a subsequent interview with Mickey Clark which was not recorded on 10-26-96, Mickey mentioned that *Cees Sturman* was currently developing this property which had *Krueger's* dynamite house on it. This property is situated in Coupeville in the big field directly south of the Post Office on Coveland Street. Mickey said, "*Sturman* is putting in twelve houses in *Krueger's* place where the barn burned down." Mickey said that people used to go out there to *Fred Krueger's* powder house which was three or four hundred yards from his house, to purchase dynamite and caps from him. Mickey said that he spoke to *Cees Sturman* and asked him if he was going to leave it, and *Cees* told him he was going to move it. They moved it the next day and Mickey doesn't know where it was taken. See article about *Fred Krueger* in Appendix following this tape; his obituary and that of his wife *Anna* are also included.

Mickey said that many Casey soldiers did not live at the Fort while they were enlisted. Some lived in town, some lived elsewhere.

The father of *Bob Black*, another childhood friend of Mickey's, also worked at Ft. Casey as a civilian where he was a teamster. The *Blacks* also lived on Keystone Spit. *Bill Byrd* and family were somehow related to the *Blacks*. Mickey also mentioned *Irene Shampoo* [SP?] who was a cousin of theirs.

"Bill Byrd was crippled. He was lame in both feet from the knees down. And he played football with us and he was the toughest kid I ever knew. He had club feet and little legs-he wore heavy socks so it looked like he had thicker legs than he had. And he had club feet but if you give him a bloody nose you better look out. When you come around with the football he was waiting for you. I told Bob Black that once at a reunion a couple of years ago. [Bill] was the toughest kid I ever knew. You give him a bloody nose, he'd just about kill you.

His mother used to take him from here to Coupeville when I was way down in the grades and he was a grade or so behind me I think. She'd take him in a coaster wagon from here out to there. You know the old kind of wagons that had the iron wheels? She'd pull him out there and take him to school and go back out and get him after school. And then a couple of years later they got a car.

T: *'She'd pull him all the way out from Keystone?*

M: *Yes.*

T: *Into town?*

M: *She'd pull him out to Prairie Center.*

T: *In a wagon, every day?*

M: *Every day. And go back and get him after school. And he would drag himself around there and I can remember he was strong in the arms and shoulders. He was a real man from the knees up and down there he was club-footed and everything and his feet were kind of square. He was a tough kid and she took him to school everyday for a year or two and then they got some kind of a car.*

603-712 *Howard Davies*, another childhood friend of Mickey, lived in Coupeville. *"He was the best football player I ever saw."* *Howard's* dad ran the beer parlor and card room in Coupeville. The family came from Canada. Both *Howard* and

Tom Whalen could run the 100 in about 10.2; they beat all the others from Oak Harbor and Langley in track.

Tom Whalen was the son of *Skiddley Whalen* who was a soldier at the Fort, and *Marie Whalen*. After *Skiddley* died, *Marie* was the Postmaster at the Fort.

Bob Black was *Joe Black*'s uncle.

Ruth Hull was the daughter of *Sgt. Ira Hull*. *Ray Hull* was her brother who eventually became a druggist in Seattle. Mickey recalled the *Hull* family had a rough time as they got divorced or something and *Ira* raised the children.

713-772 The *Merryman*'s were from Ft. Casey. *Mr. Merryman* was a soldier at the Fort and *Bud Merryman* lives in the area yet.

Howard English was another childhood acquaintance of Mickey's and *Howard*'s father was a captain at the Fort. During WWI, he was the captain of a tank battalion and he was killed in France. His tank had gotten stuck and he got out to fix it, he was shot. The *English* family lived on the Fort. Casey Rd. Mickey went to school with *Howard* who moved to Canada in later years. He recently died.

[See also: 95. 1. 18A, stop 349.]

Freeman and *Clarence Keith* lived near Mickey when he was young. They served in France during WWI. *Freeman* later worked in a grocery store in West Seattle and *Clarence* was a railroad man in Concrete-he retired on Guemes Island. They are both dead. *Sam Keith*, another brother is in Seattle.

[See also: 95. 1. 4B, stop 253.]

END OF SIDE B, TAPE 96. 1. 21

@ THERESA L. TREBON, 2-96

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