

(Int. 6/12/03)  
9:00

Oral Interview Outline For  
Mitch Starkovich

P1

\*\* Feel free to write any notes you have on the outline

I. Introduction- Birth, Location, Brothers, Sisters, Names of parents.

II. What do you know about your father's (Frank) old country background?

A. Where did he live? (Bring out location of Mercopi, Croatia)

1. Discuss what we know about Franks parents and what brothers and/or sisters he grew up with in old country.

2. Discuss origin of the Starkovich name. Who is Ceda?

3. Discuss what Frank did for a living in the old country. (Worked in the woods)

4. Discuss why and when Frank immigrated to America.

a. Frank arrives before 1911. ( Bring out what happens to Frank's parents in old country)

b. Bring out Frank's education; Bilingual ability; getting his citizenship papers in Cle Elum.

B. What did Frank do for a living once he got to America?

1. Discuss how Frank got into mining and his migrations about the country before he settled in Cle Elum. ( Montana- Red Lodge, Butte, Anaconda, Wyoming)

Chet Taylor - Ellensburg. Mitch says to see him on logging history

2. Discuss Frank's mining activities in the local area. ( Peanut Mine ) ( *No. 3 mine* )

- a. Hauls mine timbers for No. 7 mine.
- b. Cuts RR. ties for railroads in Teanaway & Tanuum

III. What do you know about your mother's ( Palona ) old country background?

A. Discuss what we know about Palona's old country origins.

1. Was a widow with family; may be a Roseman from Verbasko near Merkopai, Croatia.

a. Note Marie Bozeman in Montana

2. Bring out Palona's education- read & write; school may be 4th grade

3. Bring out Palona's cooking skills- cooked for royalty in old country. ( *Brings lunch to kids at Hazelwood.* )

B. Discuss Palona's marriage to Frank in 1911. How Frank met Palona? Where married? Where they live?

IV. Discuss what life was like while growing up in a Croation family.

A. Bring out where Frank and Palona lived and settlement on the Cle Elum Ridge. (Show photo)

1. How Frank got the land and construction methods and design of home. (heating and water system; electrical system.)

- a. Transportation to and from home. Road by house connects with Teanaway. Bring out Skoocum Road.

b. Outbuildings(Show photo)

P.3

B. Bring out old country customs in the home.

1. Focus on mushrooming activities. ( Term- Rooters; secret patches- East Kachese; bolets; Japanese mushrooms; )

2. Focus on recipes. (smoked cheese; meshna a sausage; butter; pies, how mushrooms prepared)

3. Focus on holidays (Details in blessing the food for Easter,) (Christmas and New Years) Role of the church in daily life- service in Croatian? Burial customs.

4. Focus on gardening, food preservation, *Root Cellar* livestock activities. 1st Elk on the ridge; John Mashondo and wild turkey.

5. Focus on the Croatian Lodge activities. Where Palona (1946) and Frank (1942) are buried.

6. Focus on songs, dance, BBQ lamb- Mitch plays the guitar and mouth organ. Bring out family visits. First footing custom?

a. Bring out Prohibition era and home brew.

Also Teanaway Mary; Still in Fowler Creek

*Sclerervetza - Mitch makes moonshine + drinks it all out of a rock.*

7. Focus on English vs. Croatian/ Mitch leaves school and age 12 yrs.

C. Who were some of the other settlers on the Cle Elum Ridge?

1. Tollmans coal mine and Lizard Lake

2. Goodrich Mine- Mitch and brother operate it for 2 yrs.



3. Peanut Mine- add core drills on ridge.

4. Curry Mine- Green's Canyon  
*Roster*

5. Galleghers mine- tramway

6. Vic Segles cabin.

7. Paridee homestead/Lymans

8. Add what you know about mining operations in and around the Independent Mine and Cle Elum Mine.

a. Powder explosion.

D. Describe how the family was organized to deal with difficult times. *(Bring out Mitch mikes, skis/shoeshoes/trap line)*

1. Lack of work/ shortage of money/ role of credit.

a. Bring out Great Depression here./ sell whiskey flasks/ sell pitch on R.R. Street pick coal along tracks

b. Bring out CCC camp operations in the area-Spring Creek Road camp; Kachese camp; Cle Elum camp; Tanum camp. *Setman 14 see*

2. Accidents/Illness- Bring out Miner's Beneficial Association. Mother's home remedies.

3. Weather events- Add comments on Big Snow and 1918 Cle Elum fire/ fires on Cle Elum Ridge.

4. World War II

E. Describe community life on the East end of Cle Elum.

1. Focus on Cobo's (Gunther) brickyard-Frank cuts wood for the brickyard.

2. Focus on business activities

a. Country Store;

b. Vanera's and Chadoo's dairy operations. Chadoo make cheese; Dom hides wine in milk bottle.

c. Spansky's Hall and Cle Elum Cremery

d. Balmer's greenhouse.

e. M.C. Miller mill operations/ holding pond.

f. Eatery on corner-

g.

3 Hazlewood school and recreation activities.  
(Teresa Muss)

a. Cle Elum Football Field and circus activities.

b. Ice skating rink.

c. Bocce Ball courts and Little Italy. *Has a set of originals*

d. Cle Elum Ski Tournament

e. Cle Elum Golf Course

V. What did you do for a living when you left school?

A. Discuss your coal mining activities beyond the Cle Elum Ridge.

1. Work activities in No. 5 mine-

a. Add miners nick names: Who is Speed

b. Add how to get and keep your job in the mines.

c. Tipple operations

2. Work activities at No. 9 mine

a. Tipple operations.

3. Work activities in the Patrick mine.

4. Work activities in No. 8 mine?

B. Why did you leave the mines for the woods?

1. Discuss logging activities in the Teanaway drainage.

a. Bring out Casland

b. Bring out logging methods- river drives; railroad operations; log trucks(Bull Dog/Macks/White); gas jammers

c. Bring out wildlife and ecology before and after logging.

2. Discuss logging activities in the Tanum

a. Frosty Creek- cabin; coal mine w/tipple

b. South Fork- coal mine

c. Buck Meadows/Quartz Mt.

d. Bring out wildlife and ecology before and after logging- fish at Frosty Creek; rattlesnakes; elk

e. Tony Plout's cabins here?

3. Discuss logging activities in the Cle Elum drainage. ( Horse logging)

a. Bring out wildlife and ecology changes before and after logging.

4. Discuss logging activities in the Lake Kachese drainage.

a. Bring out wildlife and ecology changes before and after logging.

b. Settlements and Lodges- Blaz Jaravonik

5. Discuss logging activities in the Cabin Creek drainage.

a. Last steam high lead operation.

b. Bring out wildlife and ecology changes before and after logging.

6. Discuss logging activities in the Kechelus drainage.

a. Bring out wildlife and ecology changes before and after logging.

b. Settlements and Inns

7. Why live at Whittier? Describe the place.

VI. Closing -- Advice to young people in order to cope with the future. What should new residents moving or visiting the area value or know about our local history?

C. What do you remember about your backing experiences?

1. Discuss sheep camps- Alec Dunup/Smith and Lane Weyman

a. Jimmy St. Clair and how miners try to steal sheep.

b. Comment on Cle Elum Stock Yards. Old Man Whiskers-Contratto

2. Discuss camp experiences.