

**Tacoma Community History Project**  
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**Narrator:** Grant Larson  
**Date:** July 18, 2011  
**Interviewed by:** Donald R. Tjossem  
**Place:** University of Washington, Tacoma, WA

**Don Tjossem:** “Grant, were your grandparents the first ones to come to the Taylor Bay area?”

**Grant Larson:** “No, there were others who came before us, old Charles Taylor came, hence the name of Taylor Bay.”

**DT:** “No, I guess we are talking about your family, were your grandparents the first to come to Taylor Bay?”

**GL:** “Yeah.”

**DT:** “Do you know approximately when they came?”

**GL:** “1857”

**DT:** “Ok, 1857. Could you tell me a little bit about what you know of them?”

**GL:** “My Grandmother was born in Norway; she came over here when she was 20 years old. And her uncle was the go between the United States and Norway and the immigrations first came into Chicago and then went quickly to North Dakota for a while and then she came out here to the Taylor Bay area. Later she went to Seattle, but she came out to the Taylor Bay area in 1857.”

**DT:** “Could you tell me about your parents, when did they first arrive there in the Taylor Bay area?”

**GL:** “My parents came out here in 1898 when they came out, so it was a long time ago.”

**DT:** “What part of the Taylor Bay area did they originally settle in?”

**GL:** “They came on to the western shore of the Key Peninsula which was on the Taylor Bay side there and ahh, they ahh, my grandfather took up what was a homestead then I guess, 1898 they came there and then ahh, they bought the place from an old guy there by the name of Jim Brown and Jim Brown had bought the place from Charles Taylor the original settler there and then ahh, my grandfather bought the place from Jim Brown but Old Charles Taylor was still alive and still lived on the old place there. And then when my dad was a little boy he still lived on the old place.”

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**DT:** “So can you tell me a little about how old Charlie Taylor came to Taylor Bay?”

**GL:** “Old Charles Taylor was an old English sailor, he jumped the sailing ship in Aberdeen area and he somehow found his way through the trails up there and got to Olympia area there and he somehow begged borrowed or stole a canoe from the Indians and started paddling and it must have been in the morning because he got clear out to, looking across the Bay which is four miles across or a couple of miles across to Taylor Bay and he paddled all the way over to Taylor Bay which is now called Taylor Bay estates, our old home place.”

**DT:** “I understand you were born right there at Taylor Bay?”

**GL:** “Yes, I was born in our old Country home; it was a nice big house. I was born right on the place.”

**DT:** “What date was that?”

**GL:** “I was born in 1933.”

**DT:** “Any particular day?”

**GL:** “August 16<sup>th</sup>.”

**DT:** “What are some of your first earliest memories of Taylor Bay?”

**GL:** “Some of my earliest memories were when I was a little boy, five six years old I’d run away down to the beach.” It would bother my mom and my dad because I could zip right down to the beach. It was about 500 feet down to the bank, a trail went down along the bank down to the beach, it went to the right, it still does today down to the beach. I used to scamper down there and go to the beach and my old dog would be following me and my mom would be hollering for me you know ‘Granty’ you know real loud you know with her strong voice and they could hear her way off in Taylor Bay dock and all that. They could hear her calling me and I remember one time I went down to the beach when I wasn’t supposed, I was just a little guy and about five or six and my dad would be at the Taylor Bay dock and he’d see me on the beach and he’d say, ‘get for home’ he was telling me and he knew I didn’t belong down at that beach and I saw this nice big calico perch down on the back deck of the fish boat. My dad had a big 24 foot fishing boat and it had a big platform in the back to put the big net on and I saw the big perch as we call it and I got on the back of that boat and boy they saw I was there and they would say ‘get back home’. And I got off of there and I ran up the hill with my big prize perch and so...”

**DT:** “Were you born in a hospital or were you born at the family home?”

**GL:** “I was born in the family home.”

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**DT:** “Did they have a midwife there? Or was it kind of like...”

**GL:** “Yeah, they had a midwife and she actually delivered me when I was born and I was a month premature so I was just a little tiny person, the doctor at the time, happened to be in August was down in the orchard eating apples, and thinking I wasn’t going to arrive that quick. He was down eating apples and the midwife delivered me. Then she had to keep me alive by helping me breath, every little bit she would have to wake me up and keep me breathing to keep me alive, and so she did that and she was successful, it took her several hours I guess and she got me going and I’m still going.”

**DT:** “How many brothers and sisters do you have?”

**GL:** “I have a sister that is all.”

**DT:** “Her name was Mavis?”

**GL:** “Her name was Mave and I think she was nine years older than me.”

**DT:** “Was she also born in Taylor Bay?”

**GL:** “I don’t know where she was born. I don’t recall where that was.”

**DT:** “Where did you go to school?”

**GL:** “I went to school first at Longbranch grade school, by the big Longbranch gym there used to be about 100 feet north of that there is a little four room school in the basement, and it would burn a great big long load of cord wood and some of the bigger boys would have to help the lady janitor load that big heavy stove and that was the heat for the school. We would go out into the playfield if it wasn’t raining and we often played right in the basement because it was raining you know. And that was my first four grades I went there.”

**DT:** “How many students were in those classrooms?”

**GL:** “My first grade class had three students. And all together at the school, I can remember about 80 kids in about three room’s altogether.”

**DT:** “So the first four grades were at the Longbranch improvement center then can you tell me where you went after that?”

**GL:** “Then we went to the Lakebay School which is down there where the food center is where everybody goes to that was my next school I went there fifth grade through the seventh, then my eighth grade year, I went up to Vaughn High school, just one year at Vaughn, then when I was a freshman in High school. it was the first year of the new

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Peninsula High school was open, I was one of the first year freshman at the new Peninsula High school, brand new school and during P.E. class that's how all the rocks on the field were taken off our football field, so all the kids would for half of the period, clear a path of rocks, put them in a wheelbarrow, and take them off the field to clear a patch and then the second half of the period we would play on the field."

**DT:** "And so when you were going to the Longbranch improvement center to school, how did you normally get to school on a day to day basis?"

**GL:** "Normally we had a school buses run most every time, I remember one year I think we had school busses in the morning but then we'd have to walk home. That is when I was in Longbranch School."

**DT:** "How about the home school or the Lakebay School?"

**GL:** "We had school busses then."

**DT:** "Was that the same for going to the Peninsula?"

**GL:** "yeah."

**DT:** "How long did it take you to get to high school?"

**GL:** "It would take a good hour, about a good hour, maybe one hour 25 mins, it was quite a quite a lot of stops. It took some time."

**DT:** "Were the roads pretty rough? Were they gravel?"

**GL:** "Well when I was going to school, what I can remember at the time, I think it was gravel, rough gravel clear to Key center and oh man I don't remember when it came to be blacktop. It had to be, I was probably a teenager because I can still remember that rough muddy road going to Key Center."

**DT:** "What type of chores did you have after school typically?"

**GL:** "Chores?"

**DT:** "Yeah, what did you typically do when you got home from school?"

**GL:** "Well I usually had to get the cows in for the evening milking that was a some kind of a process getting those nasty old cows because I had to chase them from the way south field, way up through the brush, clear up to the great big red barn we had and half the time the cows would run right past the barn out to the far gate that meant that they would run the whole width of the forty acre track and I'd have to chase them back again. So I learned early on to dislike cows intensely."

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**DT:** “How many cows did you have?”

**GL:** “We had two cows and a lot of the time we would have two calves for meat because we’d raise our own beef, we’d have ahh, our neighbors had an angus bull we used to get our cow we’d breed her over there and she’d have these nice angus they are half angus calves you know and boy they sure made good meat the cows, one cow was a Guernsey and one was a Jersey, and both cows gave quite a bit of milk and then the calves grew up and boy that was really good meat.”

**DT:** “What other kind of animals did you have on the farm besides cows?”

**GL:** “Well usually we had quite a few chickens. Oh a dozen chickens sometimes, one time my mom raised, maybe a couple years she raised about a thousand fryers she’d raise to sell. And we ate a lot of chicken too, the fryers, yeah, she’d raise a couple thousand for a couple years to sell because we had a big long chicken house. In fact our chicken house was divided into two parts, first part was for laying hens and the back part was where she raised the fryers.”

**DT:** “Were those chicken houses kinda along where the Taylor Bay estates or beach area?”

**GL:** “No, they were right down below the old big house to the north of the big house we used to have there was a garden and then toward the beach 100 feet or so was the chicken house which was in two parts like I said egg laying chickens in the one part and then the back part we raised those fryers. And then we had another little house; a brooder house about 50 feet toward the garden plot which was eastward toward the garden and we used to raise little chicks in there and for a time I would raise some pigeons in there, and I didn’t have very good success with the pigeons because the dog gone little skunk or something would come in there and kill the pigeons or catch them and I had a bad time with trying to raise pigeons so I kinda gave up on that deal.”

**DT:** “What type of crops did you raise on the farm?”

**GL:** “Sometimes, well we had a grape patch, ahh let’s see there was about four or five rows of grapes and then there was two big grape bushes of grapes you could say about six rows about 60 or 70 feet long. And boy we got a lot of grapes off of that. There were various kinds and mostly we had a lot of Island Bell grapes, they are a good grape around here. They grow good in this type of climate. Then we had some grapes called lucilles, they are a kinda of a little red grape then we had a bush of concords and a bush full of lucille grapes so we had a variety of grapes but mostly Island Bell variety.”

**DT:** “What did you enjoy most about your early days in Taylor Bay?”

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**GL:** “When I was a kid and there was nobody else living on our property, just our old house, I used to set targets over there across toward the back road going down now, I’d set a big target on the fence and that was about 200 yards away and I would just pop at that with the rifle. And we used to have a nice big porch on the on the Bay side, a nice big closed roof up on top and a nice bench about a foot wide and boy you could lay the old rifle across that put a nice rest on that and you could sit on a stool and oh boy you could just squeeze a shot off and make it real accurate you know, so lots of shooting, yeah a lot of target practice.”

**DT:** “What other things did you enjoy about your early days in Taylor Bay?”

**GL:** “I think probably the best thing I could enjoy about the place not only the big wonderful beach you know but the quietness just the solitude out there. And back in those days you would hardly ever hear a plane go over. Last night there were planes all over the house, one right after the other as you know. And then our place has a lot of beautiful big timber on it when I was a young boy, and I remember dad fell one big tree coz it had started having a big long snag top where lightening had struck it, and it took a strip of sap where it had peeled that strip right down to the base of that tree and that strip fell right down over the canyon and hung out of the stump, there was a long strap of slab wood, about 100 feet long, laying right down to the bottom of the canyon, it was so long, that was kinda neat. When I was a kid it was fun and then dad finally fell a big tree up by our house and I was just a little kid and behind our chicken house area, we had a trail that run back beyond the house we would take the wheelbarrow down there. We fell that great big tree one day and then so dad sawed it up, course there was no chain saws back in those days though so dad used the old Swede fiddle he called it and sawed it all up into blocks boy that made some dandy fire wood.”

**DT:** “Did you in anyway feel isolated at the time or was that just kinda the way things were when you were growing up.”

**GL:** “No that was just kinda the way things were we didn’t feel isolated, because you know the ferry was running back and forth and we all saw that and there was a lot of big ship traffic that went up to Olympia great big boats would go up there were tall and something to see, and sometimes we would run out when we saw something special like a big ship you know because you know and we had field binoculars to look at it with and so it was a lot of fun, there would be some trolling boats coming out of Olympia and some boats coming down every spring heading out to the coast or up to Alaska maybe.”

**DT:** “So when you lived there at Taylor Bay where did you do most of your family shopping?”

**GL:** “When I was a young boy we used to get across the Bay and go on the ferry and we’d go across to Olympia and we did our most of our shopping in Olympia, and then in Key Center or up towards Port Orchard that was farm country and was so far and we had, first of all a Model A car and that rattled over the roads you know that was a pretty rough

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old rig we called it the old Rattle A in fact. Because my dad used to have to run it clear up to Dewatto for logging and stuff you know early on when I was a young boy. I was eleven or twelve and he was logging up in Dewatto for a couple of years, that was a lot of, pretty big pieces of timber and he was up there for all summer for a couple of summers as he was always scrounging up timber.”

**DT:** “Now when you go into Olympia, were you catching the ferry from Longbranch or the Taylor Bay?”

**GL:** “The Taylor Bay ferry. We’d go across about a mile left of Johnson point. And that is where the long straight road came down to the ferry and that road would take you over, back into Olympia. And going back, that road was kinda funny because it was a funny area, because that road had hundreds of little lumps and it was up and down hills all the way, little hills, must have been during the ice age; there must have been a great big glacier must have been there to make that scalloped out area to make that; there was miles of that on the way to Olympia. On the old road it’s all covered with timber nowadays and you can’t see that but early on when I was a kid it was all open, you could probably see at least a mile each way.”

**DT:** “How often did the ferry’s run from Taylor Bay?”

**GL:** “They would run about every two hours there would be a ferry and there was two ferries’, the Deception Pass was the name of one of them and The Pioneer was the name of the other ferry. They were six to eight car ferries. They weren’t very big, they were small ferries.”

**DT:** “Had your father worked on one of those ferries, or?”

**GL:** “**No my father had just helped build the dock.**”

**DT:** “Oh the dock it was the dock he helped build.”

**DT:** “How do you describe the home there at Taylor Bay?”

**GL:** “Well our old family home was a big family home it had three rooms downstairs and a kitchen and then it had an upstairs in it, that had three rooms and then one side had an attic area where the chimney came up through and there was kinda a room and that is where my mother stored all our fruit. She would put up a lot of fruit every year, and she would can a lot of beef too. We had a lot of canned beef. We didn’t freeze stuff in those days we canned stuff way back later on of course we had those lockers at key center when I was older.”

**DT:** “What type of meals did you normally have at home that you can describe?”

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**GL:** “What type of meals? Well my mom was a super good cook, and my dad was a hot cake man, he liked hot cakes, and a lot of times we would have these beautiful silver smelts for breakfast because dad was catching thousands of pounds of smelt with nets you know and sometimes he would get a couple thousand pounds of smelt at a time. And the biggest haul I can remember him saying, I wasn’t there but the biggest haul that he ever had there was a seven thousand pounds of fish in one haul in a 350 foot net and there was three thousand pounds of herring and the rest were smelt. And where he caught the fish were at the sound cove of Longbranch Bay and my grandfather was on the boat and my dad was on the beach and grandfather told my dad and then he went out around that school of fish and he said that the whole huge school of fish just would swim inside and into the net and just barely got to the end and there was smelt up on the cork lines and everywhere. And then they were hitting the beach’s shore and running up on the beach and it was just crazy.”

**DT:** “When you say Longbranch Bay, was that Filucy Bay?”

**GL:** “Yeah, that’s Filucy Bay yeah. Yeah, that is where dad made his biggest haul that is called Filucy Bay.

**DT:** “Was it called Longbranch Bay earlier?”

**GL:** “Yeah, that is all I ever knew it by, a lot of guys called it Filucy Bay and that is the real name of it

**DT:** “When you needed any medical needs as a child, how were those handled? Did you go to Olympia or Port Orchard or..?”

**GL:** “No we’d I remember one time I split my lip right here pretty bad, I fell on a little table they had, in our house we still got it and I hit the corner of that with my lip because someone said ‘oh that is a great big boat’ and I jumped up and fell and hit my lip and cut my lip real bad there. And then I was trying to go see the big boat on the porch and so, my gosh, we had to get me and get that taped up and get me to the doctor in Olympia. I think he had to put three stiches in there because it was a pretty good cut.”

**DT:** “So how long do you think it took from when you actually cut the lip to when you saw the doctor?”

**GL:** “I suppose before we got to the doctors it was probably an hour and a half before we got in there and then of course back home again across on the ferry and the doctor told me well don’t go fighting wild cats again and get a scratch on your lip again when I left.”

**DT:** “How long did it typically take the ferry to get from the Taylor Bay dock to the Olympia dock?”

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**GL:** “It’s a two and a half mile trip. It went along at about six and a half knots, it was not very fast.”

**DT:** “Can you tell about how your family attended any church services?”

**GL:** “Yeah we had church services in a lot of different places, because we were Jehovah Witnesses and we had meetings, we had series and for our public talks and then we have study and Watch Tower meetings after that. After the talk was over so we’d rent a hall, sometime we would rent the Vaughn library hall and we’d rent halls out by Gig Harbor or even by Fox Island, we used to go over there and clear out by Olalla. We had a whole huge territory that we covered and did our preaching work. Up in Purdy there are some people by the name of Baltuf, two people, they went to a Port Orchard meeting but they were in our territory so they would go with us out to do our preaching work sometimes which was a lot of fun, they were nice people and we would have a good time and we’d take our lunch along with us and park somewhere and have a nice lunch someplace in midday and then go out and preach to more people in the afternoon. It would make a pretty long day of it; it wasn’t a short day usually.”

**DT:** “How would you typically spend the rest of the weekend during the school year?”

**GL:** “A lot of times I would get up when I was a young guy and way early in the morning and I’d go out fishing for rock cod it would just be dawn and I’d go out deep out there out off Taylor Bay and just about south of your property now I’d go out there and in about 90 to 150 feet of water there would be a lot of nice big rock cod out there. I’d catch up to about eight pounders. Most of them were about five or six pounders or like that but I got some really large ones. And then off the Taylor Bay dock sometimes, oh gosh, he bit me, broke my leader and he went away and I never saw him again.”

**DT:** “What type of work did you initially do when you first started in the work world?”

**GL:** “I picked a lot of brush and then I’d then of course there was a time of year when you couldn’t pick brush, when the new growth was coming on and I’d log then. It was either logging or brush picking those two items and of course there was smelt fishing when the seasons run but otherwise it was brush picking or logging is what I was doing. I used to carry real heavy loads of brush. That is why my back is the way it is now, I can’t hardly walk carry too heavy of weights and I lifted big sticks of brush and carry them a long ways and then one time some punks stole all the brush out of the shed and the local sheriff down in Tacoma there tried to pick up my two big sticks and they couldn’t even lift them or pick them up and just wiped the whole shed out and those punks stole all that brush and only the sticks were left.

**DT:** “So you were pretty flexible, you could pick brush, you could fish or you could log or depending upon what the seasons was.”

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**GL:** “That is right, it was real good and real flexible and we took advantage of that you know and so that worked well for our family that fishing that my dad did, you know and he was generous and during those years when I was a young kid my dad gave a lot of people fish to eat you know and that was right at the end of the depression area you know and boy people were glad to get fish you know and when we had fish and people would come running down the beach with a bucket in their hand you know and my dad would load them up and never charge them a penny. So he probably gave hundreds of pounds of fish away in his career and a lot of people were happy to see him coming, and of course the fish tasted really good and there was a lot of big perch too. And they are a pretty good size fish some of them. They would run up to about four pounds the big ones and they made two nice fillets so they were real good too. So with the fish we did pretty good.”

**DT:** “Were there a lot of salmon in the bay area at that time?”

**GL:** Yep there were a lot of salmon, we used to go out trolling for salmon just sport fishing, we’d catch salmon quite a lot up to about, and I think the biggest salmon I caught was a thirty pounder at the Longbranch dock one morning. A guy by the name of Carl Smith had a bunch of herring pens full of herring and those salmon would come along and pick up those herring and they’d be eating the herring and I went down there one morning at four in the morning and I caught a thirty pounder, and eleven pounder and a nine pounder that one morning. It was the biggest catch I ever made here in the Longbranch area and then I brought him into the dock and the guy who owned the pens said “oh my gosh, you caught my big one”. His mouth was worn where he’d been rubbing his mouth on the herring net wire, his nose was all funny. That is how I caught my big one.”

**DT:** “That’s great, that’s great. How did the Taylor Bay area change after the road came all the way down to end of Devilshead?”

**GL:** “Well people just started learning about the peninsula area and how pretty it was and everything and I think when that roads were better I think people just started moving in and more properties were being put up for sale and some more people buying property and so instead of big pieces like forty acres and sixty big acres now it’s gone way down to little lots and stuff in a lot of places and so it’s really changed radically since I was a kid. And it’s still a beautiful area of course, and my wife says, it’s too pretty down here, everybody wants a piece of it. And you can’t blame them you know.”

**DT:** “What would you say the trees were like from your earliest recollections in the Taylor Bay area?”

**GL:** “Well we had a lot on our big place, our big beautiful place, before we ever sold it, it looked like a state park most of it, it had great big fir trees on it and on the right hand side there was a great big one that grew on the edge of the field it had a big flat top on it, oh boy it was pretty., Down on the beach a great big one grew up there and it was a, a raccoon liked to climb that and then there was a big beautiful fir another great big one

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beside it and just jumbo sized great big trees it was absolutely a marvelous old place and boy when the guys, the real estate men bought it, they proceeded to whack down all those big nice trees and man they denuded the place for timber and they just really chopped it down.”

**DT:** “Where did you move after your parents sold the Taylor Bay area, the family home there?”

**GL:** “Let’s see, where did we go? I think where we are now.”

**DT:** “Yes, right where we are at. We lived in Vaughn for a while, right when we were first married yeah. Yeah, that was a nice place in Vaughn, a nice little house and then lived up there for about a year and then we moved down to Taylor Bay and old place across the Bay and it was a place they called the old Ernie Shellgren place an old fellow that my dad knew and grew up with called Ernie Shellgren and when he died we moved there. And how long did we rent that? A couple years, yeah.”

**DT:** “Did you find that the property owners became more possessive of their property as far as the brush picking went as time went along?”

**GL:** “Yeah, you had to lease the land in other words you had to go and pay for the brush you picked on their property. And I leased lots of land for a few years there and ah, I had to pay out quite a lot of money every year it worked out to about 10 percent value of the brush and the brush would run about a dollar and a half to two dollars a hand I guess for the better prices so it was quite a bit of money.”

**DT:** “How long would it typically take you to pick about a hand of brush?”

**GL:** “Oh not long, only a few minutes to pick a hand of brush because I’d pick about 80 to 100 hands a day, probably about a seven hour day probably I would pick. 80 to 100 hands was a lot of work.”

**DT:** “What eventually happened to the family home there? “

**GL:** “It finally burnt down after we sold it and moved out of there, I think the family that lived there it finally somehow caught fire and burned down which was awful sad to us you know because that was our old home and boy it was so nice there, but that is what happened to that old house.”

**DT:** “Does it seem odd nowadays to see so many people in the area where you grew up, where it was so quiet?”

**GL:** “Well yes, I guess maybe I shouldn’t say it seems odd, and we’d expect it because it’s too pretty an area for people not to own there so people just love it down here in the

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lower peninsula because it is a more quiet and peaceful area so it's a nice place for people to live and that is why more people have come out here."

**DT:** "What would you say are the biggest differences that you noticed in the Taylor Bay area now or that you were noticing when you were a child?"

**GL:** "I guess the biggest difference is that a lot of people live on the property now. And there is just a lot of people there now and the stuff has changed and a lot of stuff that was there and our old fruit trees and stuff are gone and that whole site changed and it's a whole lot different looking because people move in and they gotta clear a lot of it out and you know, build their homes so yeah it has changed radically from when I was a kid."

**DT:** "Do people seem like they are in a bigger hurry?"

**GL:** "Yeah, nowadays they are in a terrible rush. Yeah, way too big a hurry. Just running out to Key Center and you'll see how many cars try to pass you or do pass you."

**DT:** "Can you share some of your logging experiences?"

**GL:** "Well we started out using hand saws. Course I was out in Alaska too which is another story but the logging experience around here were we'd cut down those big trees by hand the old growth, and a lot of the old old growth, they would develop these what they call conks on them and they would rot, they would make the tree rot inside and sometimes you'd have to leave a whole log in the woods because it was no good so we used to have to buck out what was good and just leave the log in the woods that was conky what we called it, wasn't real over logged the whole area, the general area probably this side of Purdy up there all those big trees, a lot of them were conky, especially down towards salt water and a lot of logs were left in the woods way back there and so there was a lot of waste that way."

**DT:** "Who would typically buy the logs?"

**GL:** "We sold poles for piling, some in Tacoma, some in Olympia and logs we would sell mostly in Tacoma. Some went to Olympia, alder; a lot of it went to Olympia, big alder logs. The pole logs go to Tacoma. West coast bought a lot and northwest poles was another that bought alder and places like that and then ahh, what was the name of the other company that used to buy alder? Or pole timber. Anyway there is someone else who used to buy them, several. Some people would buy hemlock and alder and a couple different things so and some of the mills were fairly flexible with what they bought."

**DT:** "So there was a good market for what you had to sell, there was usually somebody will to buy

**GL:** "The Japanese market was really strong for a lot of years and they would pay about \$20 more a thousand best logs so a lot of that was export that went down to Tacoma for

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export. And we sold, over a lot of years several thousand board feet that went export to Japan and then China started buying timber and nowadays China buys more timber than Japan so they have become a tremendous big importer of logs. Over in Japan they used to take the logs over there, they didn't cut them up right away, they would bury them in four feet of mud and then they would grow rice on the top and then later years, seven, eight, ten years they would bring the logs back up and they would be in perfect shape. They just turned a little bit pink from the sap I guess the logs were just perfect, just dig them up and then just saw them up."

**DT:** "Were they just waiting for the price to increase?"

**GL:** "Yeah, whatever they were waiting for yeah."

**DT:** "Kinda like when a dog would bury a bone."

**GL:** "Yeah isn't that crazy? But that is the way they were, that is what they did."

**DT:** "That is interesting."

**GL:** "Yeah, we used to wonder about that you know, they used to plant some of them down deep and then they would be perfectly preserved."

**DT:** "In the early days of logging, were the logs put in log boom and then towed to either Olympia or Tacoma or were they hauled in on a truck."

**GL:** "Yeah, earlier on we put our logs all in the water and in the Longbranch cove and in the north cove of the Longbranch near the rollaway of end of the bay where we put, I don't know how many hundreds of those logs went in there from not just us, lot of other people. There was probably four or five loggers putting in logs in that one cove and being on a raft we'd all have our different number for our logs so that all had to be marked and so there might be four different guys who had their logs on the same raft. And then a little tug would come and take them out of there. A little tug called Little David would come and take them out of there. It was a little tug and the deck was all awash of water and they had their ballast down so heavy because it would have to pull so hard with all the logs and you'd have to wear boots to get aboard that thing because it would be awash all the time. That old tug boat had to pull all that and it pulled the big rafts out and it was kinda interesting. And it also, the Little David hauled a couple of booms of logs for us out of Whitman Cove. We had quite a lot of logs up there cut into timber oh golly, yeah, lots of timber we put in the water there. Then we had to tow a string of booms up through the channel they got it blocked off nowadays early on there was a channel and you had to pick the tide just right you know and with an outboard motor you couldn't pull many boom sticks."

**DT:** "What is a boom stick?"

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**GL:** “Well they are about a sixty or seventy foot long log about ‘that‘ big around and they had a big boom at either end chained up the raft.”

**DT:** “Oh that is called the boom stick, the ones that hold the logs.”

**GL:** “Yeah they corral the logs, those are called boom sticks. Well they can be mighty heavy to pull through the water with an outboard motor. I had a thirty horse outboard that one time I was pulling and the tide started out and I got it in there but just barely. I had to set up our boom for a raft of logs down this little rollway we made, and on the other side of the same cove we made another road to go in and use the same roll away to tow them across with a row boat and then so we are yarding them around about a quarter of a mile around to get them across the cove a few feet and put them on the other side and then and that was quite an operation but the Little David came up to Whitman Cove and we’d have to tow the logs out with the kicker boat. I’ve towed the raft out on an outgoing tide so the far that it pretty near pushed us and we would get it out far enough for Little David to take it from there and which she went probably to Olympia from there or to Tacoma.”

**DT:** “Back to fishing, I know I keep jumping around with all your logging and fishing and brush picking because they are all such interesting areas you know you’ve had a lot of experiences. Was there a lot more active salmon run in the Taylor Bay area then there is now?”

**GL:** “There probably was, but there has always been a few salmon going up those creeks, I think they planted those creeks now the game department in fact my daughter in law is in on some of that fish planting because she took the class on fisheries and so they planted on a couple creeks and that was years ago when she was a girl going to school so it may have been some of the fish coming back yet. Coz one was a creek in Whitman Cove and another was Longbranch creek that one coming up right just where you come down to where the ferry landing is where the dock is not the ferry, the cove off to immediately to the right off immediately, around past the old post office, in there that creek has a salmon run in it and they planted salmon in there but there is still salmon going in there because I not long ago saw an old bear crossing the road and heading down over the hill, heading down over the creek so you know. So there is still salmon going in there.”

**DT:** “Can you think of anything else that you can expand on in your vast history of the Key Peninsula I know we haven’t touched on a lot of it but...”

**GL:** “No I don’t think there is a lot of much more that I can say, I think we’ve covered a lot of it most everything. Can you think of anything? (To wife).”

**CL:** “Not right off the top, uhm, some of the things that was interesting was the fact that the shipping used to come into Filucy Bay. The big ships, the boats that used to come in

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there. They used to bring a lot of freight in there. The store was down on the dock at that time.”

**GL:** “Yeah the main concrete that you see out there? There used to be a lot of freight come in there and then the ferry used to come in there, well I was just a tiny little boy I hardly remember any of that but the ferry used to come in there, it came in across from over by Steilacoom and came into Longbranch Bay for I don’t know how many years it came in there, but that is why all those big piers are in there that whole structure was all a big old ferry dock.”

**DT:** “Did the Virginia V come in there to Longbranch or Taylor Bay? Is that...”

**GL:** “The Virginia V?”

**DT:** “The Virginia five, the V?”

**GL:** “I don’t remember that name but there was one Foss tug our neighbors owned, they bought a Foss tug but that was not the name of it.”

**DT:** “OK, Well thank you very much for sharing some of your memories and experiences of down there at Taylor Bay with us we really appreciate it.”