

# THE MILLER BAY GUARDIAN

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1950 – 1962

## Summers on Miller's Bay

By William R. (Billy) Clarke

During the year of 1928 after 20 years of marriage, Ross and Minnie [Klockstad] Clarke decided it was time for a new way to spend summer vacations with their children. Prior to that year, the Clarke family had spent several weeks during the summer camping somewhere on the beaches of Puget Sound. They loaded their steam launch, *Racine* with kids, supplies, and tools, and set sail for a summer adventure. Once a suitable site was found, the *Racine* was unloaded and drawn up on the beach, where a camp was set up. Minnie would cook meals (definitely supper & sometimes breakfast or lunch) on the cast iron four-burner portable wood range.

With their youngest child Marion (my aunt) turning eight, it was time to try something new. Giving up the summer gypsy life, the six of them sought a permanent location to call their summer home. Miller Bay beckoned!

The five acres they purchased on Miller Bay in 1928 consisted of 100' of waterfront with a small creek running down the south side of the property. The first 10 x 24-foot cabin was built in 1929. Once school was out, family and friends flocked to the cabin by boat to enjoy the primitive country life and relax on the sleeping porch (that ran across the front of the cabin) or sack out in the 12 x 14-foot wooden floored sleeping tent.

Ross and Minnie had grown up on Vashon Island (the Clarks at on Quartermaster Harbor; the Klockstads on the Westside at Cove—a Norwegian-speaking community on Colvos passage). Since most of their family and friends were either from Vashon or had visited the Island frequently – the boat trip to Miller Bay was nothing unusual.

Minnie's Miller Bay guest book from cabin's first year lists both family and friends who came. On Ross's side of the family, the visitors were Wm. H. Clarke (his father), brother Guy Clarke (who later owned his own cabin up the "Gooseneck"), Halsey Taylor (sister Bertha's spouse) and Jack Gaskell (the future husband of Clarks' eldest daughter Rowena). On Minnie's side, visitors included her married Klockstad sisters Emma Harrington and Pauline Hall and niece Josephine Dahl (who was called "Aunt Jay" by her nephew Richard).

Very special guests that initial summer included the

*Summer (Continued on page 3)*



Nooschkum Family Photo

## Miller Bay Holiday Tradition?

In the early 20th century, many people came to live or recreate around Miller Bay. Very unfortunately, the history of this settlement is sparse and scattered. Nancy D'Archangel has recognized the role old-time residents of the area can play in creating a more complete record of activities around the Bay during this period of time. Besides collecting written logs and pictures she has interviewed early residents of the area and encouraged others to write accounts of their experiences.

Nancy believes that an historical perspective informs our view of current events and is a guide for decisions about the future. Of course, she also enjoys talking to people and hearing their stories, and she is worried that as time goes by, this information will be lost.

If you would like to share your knowledge of Miller Bay history, or help to collect oral stories, written accounts, or pictures, you can reach Nancy by phone at (360) 598-6564 or by email at [darchangel@embargmail.com](mailto:darchangel@embargmail.com), or contact Sharon Nichols or Teresa Frizzell - Dwyer. ∞



Buffleheads like Miller Bay - Photo by Don Willlot

**Urgent: Join Friends of Miller Bay for 2013 FOMB. This is your only reminder to join or renew your membership!** FOMB joined the Kitsap Forest and Bay Coalition this year. Read on (Pg. 5) to find out how the KFBP will protect Kitsap forests in a way no one thought possible.

## FRIENDS OF MILLER BAY

### OFFICERS

President, Paul Dorn	598-3438
Vice President, Sharon Nichols	697-3504
Secretary, Nancy D'Archangel	598-6564
Treasurer, Bill Lindsay	598-5752

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mike Kroeger	Lori Weber

### NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Dick & Nancy D'Archangel



Photo by Mary Zabinski

## A Word From The President

By Paul Dorn

Season's Greetings to you and your family from the Friends of Miller Bay. Thank you for your support over the past year. We invite you to continue to support us in 2013 by renewing your FOMB Membership..

The Friends had an active and successful year. We've joined the Forest and Bay Coalition, helping to sponsor the Great Peninsula Conservancy's effort to acquire critical Grovers Creek habitat. In addition to the substantial salmon spawning in Cowling Creek, we assisted in Cooper Creek's (Bainbridge Island) first naturally spawning chum salmon in many decades. Our Bay bird count documents both our feathered seasonal visitors and some of our year round residents. We helped the Tribe complete a Kitsap

Conservation District backyard salmon habitat project on Cowling Creek, just in time for this year's returning adult salmon. Don Webster, a local contractor placed dozens of logs, glacial erratics (rocks), and 21 cubic yards of premium spawning gravel in a section of stream that had been severely eroded. We maintain the trails traversing the Cowling Creek Forest Preserve. These trails are open to the public



Lilia Manges likes chum fry.

and maps are available at the Cowling Creek Center, or on our website. Many local schools visit the CCC to learn about the importance of the forest to the stream and to the estuary.

The spawned out female salmon pictured on Page 3 was one of 706 chum salmon

Word( Continued on page 3)

## Second year attracts more participants

### Annual birding event

The second annual birding event was held at the Cowling Creek Center early last summer (June 4).

Veteran bird guide, Andrew Westphal again led the forest walks looking and listening for the local winged residents until a rain shower forced the event to pack up slightly early.

Besides creating "bird art", birdfeeders, and learning about the different feeding behaviors of various birds, participants could also take a walk over to Miller Bay to observe the waterfowl there, a new feature this year

Although the festival is especially geared to children ages 2 to 12, all ages participated in this event. The activities and bird watching were enjoyed by all. It was also an excellent opportunity to explore the trails throughout the Cowling Creek Forest Preserve.

Friends of Miller Bay plan to make this an annual event. E-mail us (darchangel @embargmail .com) if you'd like to be notified of next year's birding festival.∞



Photos by Mary Zabinski

*Improve our quality of life by conserving natural habitats in the Miller Bay watershed.*  
Friends of Miller Bay Mission Statement

**Word** (Continued from page 2)

that returned to Cowling Creek this fall. What an incredible journey she completed over the past four years: first hatching in the streamside incubators, then fed by volunteers for two months before heading downstream under the cover of darkness. She spent critical days in the estuary before joining the vast schools of her species heading north along Kitsap's shoreline. After four



years feeding in the North Pacific she retraced her path south and found Cowling Creek using her olfactory memory. Her return home, spawning, and death a few days later gives life to the stream and estuary in astonishing ways. Learn more about our effort with the Suquamish Tribe at the Cowling Creek Center to restore this natural spawning run by contacting Paul Dorn at (360) 981-7658 or emailing [pdorn@suquamish.nsn.us](mailto:pdorn@suquamish.nsn.us). ∞

### Our newest board member

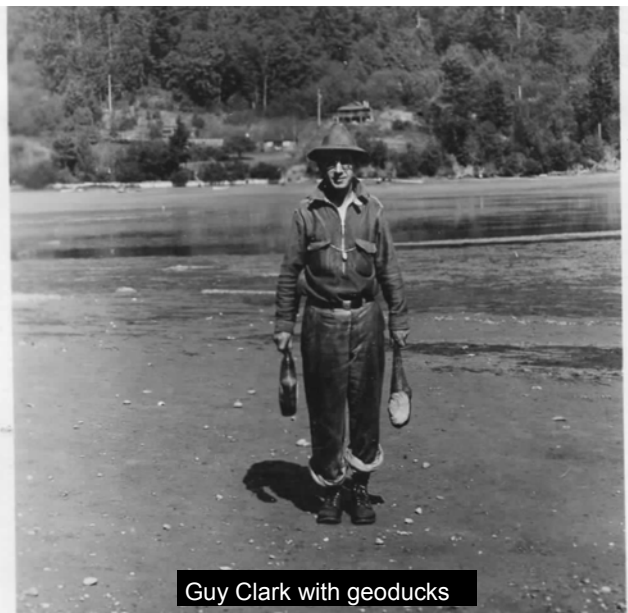
## Carol Haskins

Carol and her family have been enthusiastic supporters for Friend of Miller Bay for many years so we are delighted that she is now a member of our board.

Growing up in Wichita Kansas, and graduating from Saint Francis Hospital School of Nursing as a Registered Nurse, Carol was commissioned into the Nurse Corps of the United States Navy, obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, and spent 20 years on active duty. In 1983, following her assignment to the Naval Hospital in Bremerton, she moved with her husband Jim and daughter Lora to Poulsbo. By 1989, when she retired from the Navy, her son Patrick had been added to the family and they happily made Poulsbo their permanent home. Carol's family moved to Miller Bay in 2003.

Carol has been an active volunteer in a number of local organizations. She volunteered in the NK School District for many years and was particularly active in a mentoring program at NKHS. She has been a

board member for the Hollyridge Developmental Center, the Poulsbo Yacht Club and the Pioneer Hill West Homeowner's Association. Carol is a Washington State University Extension Master Gardener with special training in Rain Gardens, and she and her family are volunteer puppy raisers for Guide Dogs for the Blind. ∞



Guy Clark with geoducks

**Summer** (Continued from page 1)

Ladies Aid Society from Bryn Mawr, WA, the Clarkes year round residence. (In later years, the "Vashon Island Gals", who had all grown upon on Vashon Island, made their annual summer picnic pilgrimage to Miller Bay.)

In the summer of 1950, when I was five years old, I made my first visit to 'Miller's Bay'. My parents, Bill and Betty Clarke had just ended their marriage, and my father was granted summer custody. But he was working in the office of Carnation Farm and living in their bunkhouse, so I made my summer home with "Gram" and "Gramps".

The original cabin had not changed much since 1929; an oil stove for heat was its only amenity. There was no running water (2 milk buckets filled at the creek), no electricity (kerosene lamps and a wood range), no telephone, and the 'convenience' was "the little house in the woods."

For two summers during the early 1950's the grandkids all loved the woods, the beach, the dirt, and the bay. No baths required until Saturday nights before Sunday church (But Gram strongly suggested a long swim in the bay if you got too dirty or funky. She even threatened to make you strip to the skin and then douse you with buckets of cold water until you had been thoroughly sluiced down!).

As more time was spent at Miller Bay, catching the Edmonds-Kingston ferry and driving down Miller Bay road to Eisenhardt road (unnamed in that era), planned improvements happened. The following additions were completed: kitchen-dormitory, expanded "sleeping" porch, an indoor bathroom, & laundry room. (Most additions went 'on line' immediately except for the bathroom needed a well and septic system to function. Minnie bided her time until Ross came back from the outhouse one day and said, "What's the point of having a privy if the neighbors are so close that you can't even leave the door open and enjoy the scenery?" Within 90 days Gram had a well dug and a working septic system in place.

These are some of the basics, but what did it mean to me the oldest Clarke grandson when spent 12 summers on Miller Bay?

**Summer** (Continued on page 4)



Summer (Continued from page 3)

First of all, it was nice to know that you were needed; you were expected to pull your fair share of the load based on your age. Over the years all grandsons (and some granddaughters!) learned to keep the kindling and wood boxes full next to the kitchen range – and with increasing maturity – how to buck Alder logs into stove wood lengths and stack them to dry and finally how to split Alder and Cedar blocks with a double-bitted axe (Gram always kept her white-handled hatchet behind the cook-stove in case someone forgot to keep the wood split and wood boxes filled). Younger kids learned how weed and water the garden (Yuk!) as well as harvest the crops when they were ripe.

The modern 'creek water system' prior to the well consisted of a coffer dam on the creek, a sluice running to a 50 gal barrel and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile industrial garden hose ending next to the house. Some mornings my cousin Bob Siceloff and I would wake up to hear Gram comment, "Boys, there's no water. No breakfast until we have some." So we would hike back up the road to the coffer dam to check things out. Usually Alder leaves had covered the screen on top of the catch barrel so nothing was getting through or some "itchy" deer had scratched his back on the underside of the sluice and the stream was just dumping water on the ground. By the time we got back from correcting the problem, Gram would have the first round of pancakes on the griddle or a stack waiting on our plates.

At its heart for the Clarke grandkids, "Miller's Bay" was about play. And our grandparents were content with that as long as we were willing to pitch in when help was needed. As the girls got older they sunbathed on the float anchored offshore to check out the guys cruising past and likewise be checked out. They swam out to the sand spit and back. The five-horse outboard on the stern "Big Bertha" allowed them to visit friends on the bay. [Because "Bertha" had 3 foot gunnels, rowing consisted of standing up and pushing forward on 14 foot oars—a sign of growing up was having arms long enough to hold both handles and dip the blades in the water.]

For me the following memories still remain: helping dad and uncles build the additions; going clamming and blackberry picking, hiking in the forest and the beach looking for blackcaps, huckleberries, and salmon berries or finding good stuff on the beach; cruising the old Poulsbo open-pit dump for books, magazines, BB guns and "cool stuff"; building my own 10'x20' cabin with my dad's help (Built in bunks, picture window, and a Dutch door).

The year Bob and I went "Military" we saluted the flag when Gramps raised it every morning, blew up plastic tanks with 'Ladyfingers' on the Fourth, played with toy soldiers in the sand (my "Lost Patrol" is probably still buried in the septic drain field!), built a Naval fleet out of driftwood, read serials from Saturday Evening Posts, make a cannon for our fort using a peeler log and a set of Gramp's wooden pulleys.

Bob and I also had a contest to see who could row the farthest up the creek at the head of Miller Bay. He was lighter than I so he got about 4 feet farther than I did, but



Billy & Bob Clarke with Gramps

we were both rowing by digging into the dry land with our oar blades!

And of course, "boys will be boys": we collected a 5<sup>th</sup> of hard liquor from bottles floating in the tide (and drank some of it –big mistake as Gram [a teetotaler] sent us to bed with liquor on our breath; or the day when we went skinny-dipping, and a boatload of girls rowed up to say "Hi" (fortunately the water was deep and dark!).

Adults were fun too: Gram fell into the bay when she tried to come aboard "Big Bertha" (somebody forgot to tie it securely to the slip) and on the Forth, Dad got chased up the stairs by a buzz bomb until he jumped clear into the shrubbery (he's set it off on a slanted board).

Some may ask, "How long do these childhood memories last?" Earlier this year I was fortunate enough to take a one hour cruise of Miller Bay thanks to Bob and Sharon Nichols. As we were traveling up the gooseneck, I saw two pilings sticking out of the water and remembered the large boat that was once moored there. Bob confirmed that my memory was correct and went to explain how it was finally moved from the Bay. It was the first time in 47 years I had seen those 2 pilings and yet I remembered exactly they were!

Minnie had planted a large flower bed of "Sweet Williams" along the sunny side of the house. Gram regularly teased me that they were to honor me, her grandson William Ross Clarke. But I think she was also paying tribute to her son William Erland Clarke and her father-in-law William Henry Clarke.

The stated purpose of FOMB is to restore Miller Bay to its original healthy condition. I believe there is also a greater long-range goal as well. Do we not also want to gift our grandchildren and their children with personal, specific memories of the Bay? Do we want to give them the opportunity to fish, clam, and crab as in prior decades? To sail, motor, row the width and length of Miller Bay? To follow the "gooseneck" to the very beginning of the bay, surprised by the discoveries made at each turn in the channel? And to enjoy a "monkey tide" (the bay does not completely fill or empty during this tide cycle) – making for a full day on the water or in it – with no breaks in between?

For the Clarke grandkids, "Miller's Bay" will always be a source of beloved memories buried very deep in our hearts.

- William Clarke, Proud Clarke grandson and FOMB Booster.∞

## Join Friends of Miller Bay

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

### **FOMB Memberships (Make check to FOMB)**

- ☐ I include \$25 for a one-year membership.
- ☐ I include \$100 for a one year Conserving Membership
- ☐ I include a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ gift.

*Please mail this form and your check to Friends of Miller Bay, Box 37, Suquamish, WA 98392*

### **Cowling Creek Forest Preserve Donations (Make check to GPC/CCFP)**

- ☐ I would like to donate \_\_\_\_\_ to the Cowling Creek Forest Preserve.
- ☐ Please contact me about a gift of securities.

*Call the GPC office (360 373-3500) for a credit card donation.*

- ☐ **Put me on your email list (no membership required!).**



enthralled for hours with his Africa stories and will happily talk to anyone who is interested in the Peace Corps or Africa. Returning to the US, Mike worked in the canine lab at Fred Hutch Cancer Research Center where he met his wife, Kate. After three years of lab work he returned to U of W for more studies that led to a Masters in Wildlife Biology. His thesis was on the genetics and identification of two closely related deer mice species in Western Washington. Recently, Mike worked on two lynx tracking studies, some sagebrush steppe ro-

dent studies in central Washington, and at the UW Big Beef Creek Hatchery near Seabeck.

Besides wildlife, his main interests are dogs, bicycling, VW Vanagons and hiking; He and Kate are also starting to take up kayaking. They moved to the Miller Bay area from East Bremerton in 2009, love the area, and want to give something back to the community to help preserve this part of the Kitsap Peninsula, which is why they joined with the Friends of Miller Bay.

As a board member, Mike is leading the development and adoption of a five-year plan for FOMB. We welcome Mike to the board! ∞

### **Volunteering is a way of life**

## **Mike Kroeger joins FOMB Board**

Mike was born on the north side of Spokane. After graduating from UW with a BA in Sociology and Physiology, he studied coyote physiology at Texas A&M, and fish food palatability and UW School of Fisheries. Mike then served three years in the Peace Corp at Botswana's Gemsbok National Park. Following the Peace Corp, he worked as a volunteer at the South African Kalahari Gemsbok National Park. Mike can keep you

recreation businesses, and involve the community in stewardship of a public forest.

In the Miller Bay watershed, Grover's Creek will be protected by the acquisition of the Divide Block.

The key partners in the project are Kitsap County, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, the Suquamish Tribe, Pope Resources, Forterra, Great Peninsula Conservancy, and the Kitsap Forest & Bay Coalition. The Coalition includes 30 local and state agencies, business and community groups.

Information about the KFBP can be obtained at the coalition website, [greatkitsapforestbay.org](http://greatkitsapforestbay.org). ∞

### **What's it all about**

## **Kitsap Forest and Bay Project**

This year FOMB joined the Kitsap Forest and Bay Coalition to become part of a once in a lifetime opportunity to sustain North Kitsap's quality of life, environmental health, and economic vitality.

Through the protection of 6,960 acres in five large tracks, including 1.8 miles of Gamble Bay waterfront, this project will preserve marine, freshwater and upland habitats, protect cultural and natural resources, create a network of land and water trails, grow robust eco-



PO Box 37  
Suquamish, WA 98392

## The Holly and the Ivy

Great for holiday decorations, but invasive species on the Cowling Creek Forest Preserve. Help us keep them under control by volunteering for our work parties. Email [darchangel@embarqmail.com](mailto:darchangel@embarqmail.com) for a schedule.

### 2012 Volunteer Bird Count

## Miller Bay Bird Survey

By Don McPherson

The second year of monthly bird counts was completed in September. Our recorded observations make it clear that Miller Bay is a valued resource for many species, particularly for migratory waterfowl. Flocks of Buffleheads, Barrows and Common Goldeneyes, American Wigeons, and Common and Red Breasted Mergansers spend the winter with us. At vari-

ous times the year we see four gull species, Horned, Western and Red-necked Grebes, Common Loons, Double Crested Cormorants, shorebirds and other duck species. Osprey's are summer residents, while Bald Eagles are ever present, as are American Crows, Belted Kingfishers and Great Blue Heron. Unusual sights this year were Spotted Sandpipers (very cool) , Canada goslings and Killdeer chicks.

I read somewhere that birding is now the second most popular outdoor activity in the U.S., so it remains a mystery to me that we don't have hoards of people joining us each month. Amazing things happen! One time all the Buffleheads in the bay inexplicably flew to one spot right in front of us, about 152 birds. Another time - a particularly miserable day - volunteer Mary Neyhart said she would hit me if I spotted another fascinating specimen that would keep us out there in that cold rain.

I'm more a devoted newcomer than an expert birder. Having never lived on a salt-chuck, I joined the count last year as a way to learn the local birds. Fay Linger lead the group and taught us a lot, both about birds and about being birders. This past year she lead a count at Gamble Bay so we carried on the count on Miller Bay as best we could. Fay is now back to help us with our third year's count. She really knows her stuff, and is also an able and enthusiastic teacher, so join us. Both you & the birds will be better for it.

If you would like birding schedules emailed to you, contact Nancy D'Archangel at [darchangel@embarqmail.com](mailto:darchangel@embarqmail.com)



Don McPherson and Niki Quester—Photo by Nancy D'Archangel