

## STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL &amp; GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

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794 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, BASEMENT  
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August 21, 1985

Dr. William Schneider  
Oral History Program, Rasmuson Library  
Alaska & Polar Regions Dept.  
University of Alaska  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Will,

Early in the summer you sent me five blank cassettes for copying my oral history tapes on the Squillantnu/Sterling Highway project. Unfortunately the field season took off before I could get the tapes and indexes copied, but you will now find them enclosed.

I am conveying to you 5 cassette tapes as follows:

Carl Clark  
Beryl Lean (now deceased)  
Beverly Christensen  
Peter Kalifornsky (2 tapes)


For supporting material, you should also find tape indexes to all five tapes plus verbatim and edited transcriptions of the Kalifornsky tapes. Since we have essentially finished our work at Squillantnu (Cooper Landing) and have issued a report, I have decided to send you the higher quality original recordings and hold on to the copies.

You will also find enclosed a release form signed by Kalifornsky. I have just written to Clark, Christensen, and Lean's son to advise them that the tapes are being deposited in the archives and to notify me if they have any objection to their being made available to the public for research.

The interview with Kalifornsky was focused on Tanaina/Kenaitze folklife. Clark talks a little about Tanainas but speaks mostly about life in the Hope area along Turnagain Arm. Lean and Christensen speak more about the life of white settlers in the vicinity of Cooper Landing.

Have you got around to joining the American Society for Ethnohistory? I'm supposed to try to recruit one new member, and I figure you're a pretty good candidate. Krech puts out a fine little journal which I know you'd enjoy, especially for the reviews. I'm planning to attend the meetings in Chicago in November (my first ever) and will let you know what transpires.

Best wishes,

  
Craig Mishler  
Historian

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September 18, 1985

Bill Schneider  
Alaska & Polar Regions Dept.  
Rasmuson Library  
University of Alaska  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Bill,

Thanks for your letter of September 4. I'm writing to notify you that to date I have not received any objections to your making public the cassette recordings I sent you of Carl Clark, Beryl Lean, and Beverly Christensen. I sent letters to all of them last month notifying them that I was planning to donate the tapes to your archive. Since Beryl Lean has passed away since the interview was made, I wrote to her son Clements Lean, in Douglas, who wrote and said that he had no objections to public use of the tape.

I can't very well sign you up for Ethnohistory--but I can send you the address and subscription price (see enclosure) so that you can join on your own. The annual meeting this year is in Chicago, November 7-10. If you want particulars about hotel reservations, etc., ask for that when you send in your check. Jim Kari is going to give a paper, and I'm doing one on the recently translated writings of Vladimir Stafeev, a Russian trader who arrived in Kenai in 1864 and then moved around to Nuchek, Tyonek, Douglas, and Kodiak over the next forty years.

Best wishes,



Craig Mishler  
Historian

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August 21, 1985

Clements Lean  
1214 5th Street  
Douglas, Alaska 99824

Dear Mr. Lean,

On July 24, 1984 I had the privilege of interviewing your mother Beryl while she was visiting at Cooper Landing. I was seeking information regarding the history of Indians living in that area when she first arrived in 1919, in connection with an archaeological excavation we did there last summer. I was very sorry to learn from Mona Painter that your mother passed away shortly after I talked to her.

I made a cassette tape of that interview, which I am now sending to the oral history archives at the Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, where it can be used for future researchers to write and interpret Alaskan history. I'm enclosing a typed index of the topics discussed, and I can supply you with a copy of the tape itself if desired.

I'm assuming that it's all right with you if the tape is made public but please advise me immediately if you have any concerns in this regard.

Sincerely,

Craig Mishler  
Historian

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RELEASE FORM

I, Peter Kalifornsky, give permission to the State of Alaska to publish an interview with me tape recorded by Craig Mishler on August 17, 1984. I have read a typed transcription based on these tapes and have proofread them for corrections. I understand that the tape and transcription will be used only for education and research and not for profit.

I also give permission to have the tapes and transcription donated to the Oral History Archives at the Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, for the purpose of future research on Tanaina culture.

Peter Kalifornsky  
(signature)

8-24-85  
(date)