

Norman Frederick Kunde papers

Inventory

Accession No: 2507-004

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NORMAN KUNDE RECORDING.

JAN. 25, 1950

Accession No. 2507-004

Recording Summary (Container List)

- Sound Quality** Good to excellent. Slightly grainy on high volume. Always clear and understandable. No fuzziness. Occasionally a slight, varied sort of whine.
- Subject** Speech given at Mount Vernon Jaycees Banquet to honor their man of the year. Kundes' theme is that young men of "vision, courage and fortitude" are the force behind American progress. He illustrates this theme with examples from the history of the Skagit Valley and Mount Vernon in particular.
- Side 1** When the Skagit was first settled in the 1870's, the Skagit River at Mount Vernon was the site of a huge, impenetrable log jam.
- Anecdotes:
- 1) Indians - no taxes, women did all the work, did whites improve things?
 - 2) Basketball games in heaven and hell - hell has all the officials.
- Side 2**
- The log jam was covered with trees (some 3-4 feet in circumference) and underbrush. The coal discovered upstream had to be brought out by canoe and portaged 2 miles around the log jam. Removal of the log jam began 75 years ago [circa 1875], facilitated by the spirit of young men--their "vision, courage and fortitude".
1877. The "young, courageous," etc. founders of Mt. Vernon, Clothier and English, bought the 10-acre townsite for \$100.
- Side 3** They organized the first business and were "connected with all" enterprises. Ruby House, the first hotel, est. in 1880. In 1881, gold was discovered on Ruby Creek. By 1883-84, Mt. Vernon's population had reached 75. In 1884 there was a 3-way contest for the county seat with La Conner, Mt. Vernon and Anacortes competing.
- Side 4** Again, "young, aggressive" men carried the day. Putting up the dykes which made reclamation of the tidelands possible was another achievement of the local young visionaries. Skeptics refused to believe that the mudflats could yield the abundant crops of today. The coming of the railroads began a new period of prosperity for the Skagit Valley. Prof. Kunde recalls his father-in-law relating how wearying was the day-long trip from Edison to La Conner.

Side 5

The energetic men who were responsible for the settling and development of the Skagit exemplify the type of men who today become members of the Mount Vernon Junior Chamber of Commerce. The optimism of young men has always been necessary to sustain a community during times of inevitable "ups and downs". Thus it was in the 1890's "boom and bust" years. In addition, Mount Vernon was guided by the wisdom of its founders to seek a "steadier" growth and so was less susceptible to the vicissitudes of the time.

Side 6

Men today should remember this and plan for succeeding generations. Kunde reminds them that "by their deeds ye shall know them" still applies. Kunde congratulates again the man honored as man of the year. His achievements have been truly remarkable. The "vision, faith and courage" of this man and the other members are the richest asset of the community. He closes by asserting that "We build our cities with men" who "control community wits" thus no "log jams" are unchallenged.