

## Key Information:

Name: Doug Raynolds

Age: ??

Current Cabin: 97

Date of Interview: October 15, 2014

Interviewer: Ashley Dyas (University of Puget Sound)

## Ethnographic Preface:

I met Doug Raynolds in his cabin (97) on Salmon Beach. After I had made my way down the long trail to his cabin, he let me into his home and offered me a drink. He was very welcoming and very accommodating to my schedule when making our appointment. We sat in his living room seating area, and began the interview. This transcription includes information about cabin 96 as well. This interview discusses from the mid-1990s until the present, and goes over Doug's experiences on Salmon Beach and how he came to live here. After this interview, Doug gave me a tour of cabin 96 which included many interesting features because of the historical designation. However I was not able to record our conversation regarding that cabin.

## Transcription:

AD: When did you move to Salmon Beach?

Doug: I moved to Salmon Beach in the early 2000s. I'm not sure of the exact date. I was going to look up these dates but I got home too late.

AD: Early 2000s? Wonderful! What was the community like and why did you move to Salmon Beach?

Doug: I came to Salmon Beach because my brother lives here. I came to visit him.

AD: Oh ok! What does your brother do around here?

Doug: He's an electrical contractor.

AD: Awesome! How is the community and how do you like living here?

Doug: Oh, this is a really great place to live. It's the reason I moved to Tacoma from where I lived before.

AD: Where did you live before?

Doug: I lived in Fort Collins, Colorado.

AD: Oh, I'm from Colorado!

Doug: Oh really? Where in Colorado?

AD: Boulder

Doug: Oh are you? Ok, well you must know where Fort Collins is.

AD: Yes, I have a lot of friends up there going to school.

Doug: Oh, that's interesting. Yeah, now I have another friend that lived Fort Collins, his son went to UPS, and I didn't know about it until he graduated. They said they were on their way up and I hadn't known it until it happened.

AD: Yeah, there are a lot of kids at UPS that are from the Colorado area. I think its because it's a sorta similar environment. Do you have any stories from when you first moved in?

Doug: Well sure! Haha. I don't think you want me to tell you all my stories.

AD: I'm sure all your stories are interesting.

Doug: What kind of story would you like to hear? I started coming up here to visit my brother. And I had a really good time here. I started staying a little longer and longer in those days, and I would go back home to work. Then I'd come back here to stay. I'd stay a month or two at a time. My daughter was a flight attendant and I could fly for nothing. So I'd come up here and visit and fool around. In about 2006 I moved up here permanently. I didn't really live on Salmon Beach until I stayed here for quite a while. After a couple of years I started staying in the cabin next door, # 97.

AD: Oh, the historical one?

Doug: Yeah, that was available for rent and I stayed there for a couple years as a renter, although I'd be up here for 2 to 6 months and I'd go back to Colorado to work. After a few years of renting it, it came up for sale and I bought it. And then in 2006 I moved up here after selling my place in Colorado. I moved up here full time. Maybe a year after that, the house I'm living in now (#96) became available for rent. So I rented it. And then started working on that cabin. It needed a lot of work so I started fixing it up. I reframed a lot of the roof – a new roof, new siding. It was in pretty bad shape. Then I never finished it off. I was going to rent it out. When I was living here (#96), I'd have friends over to visit and they'd stay there. About three years ago a friend of mine needed a place to stay so I rented it out to her, after I finally finished up the work.

AD: I noticed that the cabin next door was a historical landmark.

Doug: Well it's on the national registry of historical places.

AD: Do you know anything about that? Why did it became a historical place?

Doug: Some guy lived out here and thought it would be cool if a place here had that designation. He's kind of a history buff. I think he's the one that initiated the process. This building is older than that one, but that building is more original. So it became easier for that one to get the designation.

AD: Do you know if there was anything besides a "cool factor" for that to happen?

Doug: Well, I don't know. Some of that is just the history of the beach. I think the residents thought that if it was designated as a historical community [it would be good]. You know there are all kinds of designations in the national registry of historic places. I don't know in particular but that information is available. Things like a building, a house or even whole communities can be designated. I'm not sure what all the significance is. There might be some financial help for restoring it, as long as it's restored in the same way that it was before. No renovating.

AD: Just out of curiosity, I know they use creosote for the beams holding the houses up. Do they have to use creosote to restore historical places?

Doug: No, you would not have to use creosote to be compliant with that. The way they talk about it is that you have to restore it "in kind." I did not seek any financial help for the fixing up of the house. They have more specific rules, like if you had shingles on the roof then you have to use shingles again. I don't know how strict they are about it. You lose the designation if you decide to completely change it.

AD: What's your favorite part about living on Salmon Beach?

Doug: I don't know. That's pretty broad for me. I'd say that the climate is more mild, temperature-wise. It's a pretty cool community. When I'd come to stay with my brother any length of time, I thought the neighbors were too close. I was use to having more space.

AD: Well you are from Colorado.

Doug: I lived differently in terms of community. Here the interactions with your neighbors are nice. I like the things we do as a community – things that I had not had before. Neighbors knowing each other is more the norm. You either have good neighbors or you have good friends. It's a really charming place to live with the water. When the tide's high it hits the joists of my house. It's the best of both worlds. We are in a neat marine environment, but heck, I can be at a grocery store in five minutes. I have real friends here. Most of my neighbors are easy to be with. Now there's whole lots of young children. It's easy to be alone but you're never alone. My brother and I are extremely good pals besides just being brothers. I got it made.

AD: Have the children around changed since you first moved here?

Doug: Oh yeah, there are lots of families with young kids. It wasn't like that when I first moved here. From here to the stairway, there were maybe two or three young children and a few teenagers. Now there are fifteen young kids from here to the stairway. They walk by and we talk, we kinda know each other and I know their parents. It's fun.

AD: Have you noticed a change in the community since you first moved here?

Doug: Oh sure. It's a different place having young children around.

AD: What sort of events do you guys have during the year?

Doug: We have a really cool New Year's Eve party. It happens on the full length of the beach. We start at about six o'clock, we go to the first house. Everybody comes, and we all eat and drink. Everybody has a good time. We talk and socialize. And we stay at one house for 50 minutes and then we're off the next house for 50 minutes. All of it heading north. We go to four different houses. At the last house we all ring in the New Year. It's a fun event cause we get to go in a lot of houses that we may not have been in before.

It would seem like this is all one community. But it turns out that the north and the south are far enough apart and have different organizations running them. I don't know everybody down there. And that's a really good time to see their houses. Every year there will be new houses hosting the new years so it changes up every year. It use to all end at cabin 1 but now its all different places. We have a potluck around May 18<sup>th</sup> that has been going on for about 6 or 7 years. My brother and I build a volcano and we set it off at the potluck.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July we have a race that goes from the north end to the south end. It started out as a rowboat race. But now there are row boats and kayaks. Everybody dresses up for the 4<sup>th</sup>. We start up north then we head down south and there is a keg at the end. We hang out by the sandy beach at the end and have party. Those three [events] are really well attended. Those are ones that happen all the time. People usually host a Happy Hour and sometimes there's dances up in the parking lot. Some people built a garage up there and there's a dance up in there.

When the sun starts shining everyone start showing up on each others decks.

AD: Are there any smaller events that you attend?

Doug: Oh, there's different things that happen at each others' houses if they want. There's generally a membership meeting. There are two organizations, there's Salmon Beach Improvement Committee which is the south end of the beach. And Salmon Beach North up there. We have a membership meeting around December at a restaurant. Every couple of years we have a garbage barge. The city picks up trash for free for the people that live up on the hill there. There's a guy that has a barge that comes out on the water and he takes out all of the junk that is troublesome to get rid of normally – old dishwashers, refrigerators, stuff like that.

AD: You mentioned a division between north and south. Besides the different organizations running it, is there any other difference that make up north and south?

Doug: Historically they had disagreements on what was worth doing and who would run anything. That would create a divide. The very apparent differences are that we have city water and they don't. We have different parking lots. We have different stairways to maintain. If there were any crisis, we'd all help

out. Just different decisions over time have made the way we live different than the way they live down there.

AD: You mentioned slides? Are those a big threat down here? Does that happen a lot?

Doug: Well a lot? I mean there are always some that happen every year at different magnitudes. Some not too serious, and some extremely serious. Sometimes entire cabins get knocked out and sometimes buildings get destroyed. But nobody has gotten hurt which is incredible really. But when those things happen for the most part people pitch in and help one another out.

AD: Are there any other dangers in living at Salmon Beach.

Doug: Oh I don't know, you could get really high tides with storms that wash out the paths and we have to find a way around that. Sometimes somebody lets their bulkhead get real bad and the path will wash out. You have to build the path back up. Some of the storms are pretty scary for people. Sometimes people's decks will get washed out. But the slides are the most hazardous and the worst.

AD: You mentioned that you play music with people. Do you do that in the community?

Doug: Some. There use to be a guy that I played with a decent amount. But now there's a woman moved in down here who plays. We haven't gotten together yet. Sometimes those things don't happen right away. I don't have that many people to play with here, but some.

AD: What other things do you do on Salmon Beach?

Doug: I live just about the way everybody else lives. I have boat out here that I put in the water if I want. Sometimes I let the current drift me out for a while. I use to fish a lot but I don't fish a lot anymore. Whenever friends come out, we always go out on the boat, go out to eat, or go visit an island. We'd go out to the San Juans, even though that's not here. Sometimes we all go out on our boats and drift around and fish.

AD: Do you catch big fish out here?

Doug: Well I don't fish much anymore, but I used to. You don't catch lots and lots of fish, but you'll get some big fish to keep you interested. Some houses are better for this, but you can fish right out off the deck.

AD: What do you do for a living?

Doug: Me? Nothing

AD: Oh you're retired?

Doug I was a pipe fitter. I did industrial and commercial piping, heating and conditioning – steam fitters, if you know what that means. Lots of things like breweries and big companies.

AD: Did you move out here after you were retired?

Doug: Actually I was living here more than in Colorado, even before I was retired. I didn't work much. I positioned myself well enough so I didn't have to work much.

AD: Do you know what Salmon Beach was like before you moved here?

Doug: Well, some, because I use to come visit my brother. I really started coming here a lot in about 1999. But I had been here to visit a little bit before then. But I've heard some things from talking to people.

AD: How was it in comparison to when you first moved here.

Doug: At one time people didn't really live here full time. That was further back. I'm not sure when. These houses didn't fill a footprint as much as they do now. The houses are different than they use to. Some of the history is documented. There was a boathouse down here at one time that would rent boats out, and a grocery store too. There were lots of hippies here at one time. It's got history just like anywhere else.

AD: Did you notice a different vibe in the community from after you moved?

Doug: When I was just visiting my experience was pretty limited. I guess I don't know the difference. It's changed some now because a lot of these places change hands, in terms of who lives there. So I guess that's different. The community changes with the residents.

AD: Are there a lot of rentals on the beach?

Doug: There aren't that many. There might be a few

AD: So most of the people here live then?

Doug: Yeah, most people are owners but some people are renters. I like the variety the renters bring, personally. On the other hand, you don't want too many people here because you can have parking lot difficulties and stuff.

AD: Are the renters mostly families or couples?

Doug: Some of each. Just like anywhere else. A lot of people are really charmed when they first get here. Then they end up not liking the stairs. Once you get use to that, you're really here because of what the community has to offer. I never lived anywhere where people really like where they live as much as here.

AD: What other things are problematic?

Doug: Those things I stated. The path and the house maintenance.

AD: Do you mostly personally do work on your house or do you hire anyone?

Doug: I've become really lazy lately. If I can hire anyone I usually will. I have friend who needed the work, and I don't want to do the work, so I'll hire them to do stuff.

AD You mentioned that back in the day there were hippies. Are there still hippies around now?

Doug: Is that what they're still called? I didn't know what that means. If you don't have a job or if you smoke a lot of pot. Or if you're just a free spirit.

AD: Are you guys very liberal?

Doug: Probably so. Not necessarily, I know lots of narrow minded liberals. I guess if you went and took a count you'd probably end up with mostly with liberals.

AD: That's a beautiful owl.

Doug: Oh thank you. A friend of mine made it. Actually he use to live here. He and I us to be very good friends. He lived in this this house at one time. One day he decided that he wanted to be an artist so he started making art of all kinds, at one time. Now one of the thing he does is chainsaw art. That owl was done with a chain saw. Its unbelievable isn't it? I had a friend who lives over here. We would take out a boat and he taught me most of what I know of the water and this part of the world. We went one time and found that piece by him. I liked it so I bought it.

AD: Are there a lot of artist on the beach?

Doug: At one time there were. I think this is an art-friendly community. I think there are some really good artists out here.

AD: Do you know the story of the mermaid on the beach.

Doug: I think Marilyn Mahoney did that awhile back. I feel like I should know that so that credit goes to the right place. Do you like it?

AD: Yes I do.

Doug: It's a beautiful piece.

AD: Do you guys share artwork at all? Do the artist give out art to there fellow neighbors?

Doug: I think there's quite a bit. If they like each other's art, they'll trade it. There's a guy that makes posters every year. He sells them and that's what pays for the beer for parties.

AD: Did you have a boat in Colorado?

Doug: No, but I fished while I was out there. Here I fished with other people so I wanted a boat for sure. A great place to be and to have a boat is on your deck. My nephew lived here and I live next door. I found that boat and there was no place to put it on that deck. I built a deck for it.

AD: Do you know why your nephew moved away?

Doug: He had family so it made sense to move. He did grow up here so I know he misses it some. He still feels like he's part of the community because he still know everyone. He just needs more space for his family than this place will provide.