

Interview # 15- Mrs. Evelyn Horne, Koreshan Authority-Feb. 27, 1990

Today is February 27, 1990 and we are here at the Koreshan Library located at the northeast corner at the intersection of Corkscrew Road and US 41 to interview Mrs. Evelyn Luettich Horne for the Fort Myers Beach Oral History Program. Mrs. Horne, now of Estero, Florida was born on Mound Key in 1922, and is a descendent of Koreshan families who settled Mound Key and Estero Island, now known as Fort Myers Beach.

We are going to let, may I call you Evelyn, and you will call me Jack, if you would please. This is Jack Remington, Jack and Martha Remington, conducting this interview. So, we are going to ask Evelyn to give us a history of the Koreshan Unity in its earliest days and bring us up to her coming into the world and being a part of Fort Myers Beach. Now this project that we're working on, is a history of Fort Myers Beach with background music(?) for the Koreshans because they were settlers before Fort Myers Beach was what we know it as today. So, if you would Mrs. Horne, go ahead, if you would please.

I'm Evelyn Luettich Horne. I was born on Mound Key, August 11, 1922. My Doctor Parnell arrived by boat from Fort Myers to deliver. My parents came to Mound Key, June 14, 1913, Charles and Dora Luettich.

Jack Remington: You were born on Mound Key, then.

Evelyn Horne: They came to their new home which was a 40 ft. houseboat. They docked it at the southeast end of Mound Key, the island. It was beached on the south side. My Dad built fishing docks and net spreads, where he spread his nets for the fishing. The Koreshan Unity owned Mound Key, except for 10 to 12 individual neighbors, who also owned their land. My parents and uncles are all on the map of Rolfe Schell's book, on page 18 or 19 and you can see it.

Jack Remington: Mrs. Horne, the title of Rolfe book, Rolfe Schell's book is entitled "One Thousand Years on Mound Key". Excuse me.

Evelyn Horne: And I was there before Rolph was and here's his autograph "To Evelyn, who was there before I was aware of me." Mound Key God Bless you, Rolfe Schell.

Jack Remington: (Laughter) Very good.

Evelyn Horne: So anyway, the Koreshans owned the land and the neighbors who owned the land, the Koreshans later acquired from my own father. The Luettichs, Alvarez, the Sacos, they were all my uncles. The Fernandez were my grandparents. Then the Cuff family, the Lesmonts was another uncle. The Colliers: John Furan, Stanley Hampton, Harry, Bill and Frank Johnson. And John Furan's daughter was Flora Furan Carmichael, a teacher in Fort Myers, Florida and then she owned her father's land.

Jack Remington: They all had title to land.

Evelyn Horne: Yes, we got the deeds.

Jack Remington: I see. You have the deeds right here in this library.

Evelyn Horne: Yes, the Koreshans bought it from them. Okay, well that's the beginning of little ole me. I already have two sisters, Henrietta and Mary Luettich, who were born on the island. Henrietta was born in 1914 and Mary in 1916. So we three daughters were born on that island. And then our parents, they had to move up to Estero in 1925 for the daughters to continue their education. They had already went to school, to Damkohler School on Mound Key. So, the school closed in that year, 1925.

Martha Remington: Was their teacher living on Mound Key or did the teacher come by boat.

Evelyn Horne: The teacher lived there, I guess with some of the families. I know her name, she lives out on East Fort Myers today, she's still out there. And then she came to Estero and taught me in first grade.

Jack Remington: I'll be darned. Now, how many students were there, how many children were there on the island at that time.

Evelyn Horne: Well, my sister has a picture with maybe 16 children in that little one room schoolroom. Yes.

Martha Remington: Was it a part of the Koreshan, the school.

Evelyn Horne: Damkohler was who Koreshans acquired the land from. Oh, 305 acres here. It was a gift to the people. In 1965 the Koreshan Unity gave to the state of Florida. All of us.

Jack Remington: The whole island.

Evelyn Horne: Except these three who were at Mound Fail (?)

Jack Remington: Oh, okay, I'm ahead of the story here.

Evelyn Horne: There were three. There's Furan Carmichael, is here name and Calvin Collier and Stanley Hansen, Jr. But now I learned in later years, they acquired the Furan property and the Stanley Hansen and this Collier still owns it. And Calvin Collier died a couple of years ago and now his two sons own it, Mickey Collier and Jay Collier.

Jack Remington: On Mound Key, they have--

Evelyn Horne: Yes, they still own it.

Jack Remington: How many acres--how much property is that? An acre or----

Evelyn Horne: No, probably three to five acres.

Jack Remington: Three to five acres.

Anonymous: Is the Sheraton family sold?

Evelyn Horne: Oh yeah, they sold to Koreshan Unity many years ago.

Jack Remington: Frank Scott.

Evelyn Horne: Frank Scott.

Jack Remington: That's before whom though Johnson Park is named and Blythe Irvin, isn't it?

Evelyn Horne: That park is Carl Johnson, the big engineer.

Jack Remington: That's correct. Carl Johnson.

Evelyn Horne: This Johnson family lived down here at Coconut. Several still there and were good friends and ---

Jack Remington: Well, who was Carl Johnson related to then?

Evelyn Horne: No, no relation whatever and his widow still lives in Fort Myers, she's on our mailing list. So---

Jack Remington: She was not, they were not Koreshans then, Carl Johnson?

Evelyn Horne: No, friends of Koreshans.

Jack Remington: I see, friends of Koreshans. Now how did the people on Mound Key exist? What was their livelihood? How did they--

Evelyn Horne: Fishing industry. And they farmed. Koreshans farmed there, oh big crops of sweet potatoes. And than there was tropical fruits growing there, the key limes, the papayas. Avocados grew so well there, the Koreshans having avocado groves there.

Jack Remington: What is the size of Mound Key now? How many acres do you remember?

Evelyn Horne: About a 100.

Jack Remington: About a 100 acres.

Martha Remington: We didn't realize it was that large, you know. We been over there but--

Jack Remington: Now did they, did they do any farming on Estero Island, then, during that time when they--?

Evelyn Horne: The Koreshans?

Jack Remington: Yeah. Or were they strictly confined to palm ?

Evelyn Horne: Roy ^{Lamoreaux} ~~Lamroy~~ had the papaya groves and he weathered one of the worst hurricanes in the top of the coconut tree, this Roy ~~Lamroy~~ ^{Lamoreaux}. He grew tropical fruits over there on Fort Myers Beach.

Jack Remington: On Estero Island, which is now Fort Myers Beach.

Evelyn Horne: And he and Edith Trebel, who was a former Koreshan, had the Tropical Fruits and Products Company here in Estero, Florida on the Highway 41. And they preserved all these tropical fruits, and she made candies out of each and every fruit. I was telling someone just recently how she stuffed the roseapples with its own fruit and nuts and brown sugar. Oh they were delicious! And she shipped all this to the Waldorf Astoria, in New York who was a former Koreshan, Boomer.

Jack Remington: A man by the name of Boomer?

Evelyn Horne: Louis Boomer. He was over twenty years President of the Waldorf Astoria and drew a larger salary than the President of the United States. Now my Dad told me this, that's how I knew. And Dad and Mr. Boomer were boys together here in the Koreshan Unity. Lifelong friends. So--the parents came here so we could go to school in the beautiful two story house right across the highway, the road here from Corkscrew Road from this beautiful Library. That's where I grew up. We weathered the hurricane, the 1926 Hurricane there and that house blew off the foundation. And we were in a brand new Model T 1926 Touring Ford. We finished that hurricane in that Ford and we went a quarter of a mile, right through the pine woods. (Laughter)

And then we get back to Thomas Edison, I knew him as a child. He would come to my father's house on Sunday afternoons and visit. Because my Dad had a rubber tree as large as the one in the gardens, in the Edison gardens.

Jack Remington: A Banyan

Evelyn Horne: No, the rubber tree.

Jack Remington: Didn't you also have a banyan tree? I think I read--

Evelyn Horne: Yes. So anyway, but my Dad was a friend of Thomas Edisons'. And than one Christmas the Koreshans had such an orchestra and Dad loved the music. My Dad played five or six musical instruments. And his children were taught, I don't if they-- My Dad never read a note of music. He played by ear. The accordion, the piano, stringed music. So anyway, one Christmas he said " We're going to Fort Myers to hear the orchestra". The Koreshan Orchestra would go up there, they came from all over. And it was where City Hall was in the '40s, the city park. And--we drove in there and parked, in this Ford Touring Car. (Laughter) And, there was a lighted Christmas Tree. We had never saw electric lights in our lives. And I think I was about ten years old. This beautiful, you know what, they live out the Norfolk Island pine and they're just ---

Jack Remington: That was their Christmas Tree.

Evelyn Horne: That was their Christmas Tree, hugh and tall, maybe 50 foot high. And so all to see a lighted Christmas Tree. So we all, they had folding chairs. We sit and listen to beautiful music. And then it was Santa Claus time and sitting at the base of this big, beautiful lighted Christmas Tree was Thomas Edison giving each child a little gift.

Jack Remington: That was great.

Evelyn Horne: And Henry Ford, a shiny new dime to each child. (Laughter) Wasn't that the thrill of your life. It must have been. And then coming home on this darkened Highway 41, back home to Estero. But, that was a dream of a lifetime for a child.

Martha Remington: Oh, sure.

Evelyn Horne: To see its first Christmas Tree, Hallelujah! Now take ten(?) And then I saw my first movie when I was about twelve. And it was a Shirley Temple movie, ohhh, so beautiful --to see a movie. (Laughter) Probably black and white.

Jack Remington: Undoubtedly, there weren't any color. Now you said Highway 41, that was called South Trail, yes?

Evelyn Horne: Well it was the Tamiami Trail.

Jack Remington: Well, the Tamiami Trail, correct.

Evelyn Horne: And than, I knew several of those who blazed that trail. There was three, four Koreshans, Koreshan men who were in that party who blazed the trail.

So, my life was wound around the Koreshan Unity. My Dad being a boy here, and how he loved this place and the close touch. The children grew up, they left this Koreshan Unity to find their way of life. The boys went out and married girls also in the community. My Dad married Dora Fernandez, who was a--they came from Portugal to that island, Mound Key. That's where they settled when they came. And my Dad came from

California, from San Diego, California to Chicago, where they joined the Koreshan Unity. He had heard Doctor Teed lecture in California.

Martha Remington: But that was your grandfather, Mel.

Evelyn Horne: Yes, and my father, an eight year old boy. And than they followed Doctor Teed. And than they left December, 1894. They came to Estero, Florida. My Dad was with the second group, like 22 came and so many kept coming until they were about 250 people. And they settled in Estero, Florida.

Jack Remington: Could you give us a brief history of the Koreshan Church as a group as it was formed or what their faith---

Martha Remington: Or what their tenets were.

Jack Remington: Yes.

Evelyn Horne: Was it 250 people that settled here, in Estero, Florida. Acquired the land from Mr. Danforth. The religion---

Jack Remington: I asking now, Dr. Teed, yes he organized this in Chicago.

Evelyn Horne: Yes, Dr. Teed had a vision believing he lived inside the world. The earth was a hollow sphere and we were on the inside. That was his illumination. And he was a medical doctor. He was a Baptist Minister. He had learned it from an uncle and he--the group, the big home in Chicago that they had started on Third and Fourth Place in Chicago. It was named and the group--

Jack Remington: Now, this was what year?

Evelyn Horne:---- the group got larger and larger. 1893. Dr. Teed came with the three ladies he called the triangle. Was Mary Neals, the Secretary and we're going to celebrate her birthday, Victoria Grava now in April 7th right over here at the State Park. We have this festival each and every year and Georgine Boomer not Georgine Boomer --- Berthaldine Boqmer.

Jack Remington: Berthaldine.

Evelyn Horne: Ahah. And that was the three ladies, the triangle. And they came to Florida to acquire the land. And they met Mr. Damkohler over---in Punta Rassa. There was a hotel over there and that's where they met Damkohler. And so they talked it over and went back to Chicago. And so than, in the next fall of that year they came to Estero and started bringing the people. They had a move you can not believe. All this beautiful furniture you see around here. All these antiques, they brought each and every thing they owned to Estero (?) by train to Punta Gorda and than from Punta Gorda by boat up the Caloosahatchee, San Carlos up the Estero River where they arrived here at the Bamboo

Landing over here at the Koreshan Garden. So my father was only eight years old and a boy. He grew up in this Koreshan Unity all these years without a mother but the teachers were just beautiful. The teachers that he had in this school, they were going to get the founders home restored now. We're working on it, our Koreshan Alliance, our friends of Koreshans. And so, it will be beautiful, that founders home. I sit in the class here where they were planning and everything and I said "Oh, the house of many porches". They would build a porch and tear it off next year and build some more. (Laughter) So when the gal wrote about it in the News Press not too long ago, I was I was the one that said that, "the house of many porches". So when it is restored, it will have two porches. I think the East Porch will be like a front door and the porch to the river, where they came from the Bamboo Landing.

And so then the teachings, they had the school. The little girls went to school each and every morning. No, I got it wrong, the boys went to school every morning. So the afternoons they could spend working the truck garden that they had here, working on the tropical trees and all their chores, the boating and they learned other skills, boat building, cabinet making and all these things. So than the little girls went to school in the afternoons where they had their sewing classes and their fun--

Jack Remington: All practical stuff, they did.

Evelyn Horne: Yes, practical. When these boys left this community they all had a trade and the printing trade was the biggest thing, the money that came into the community.

Jack Remington: I see.

Evelyn Horne: We were the largest printers in this end of Florida, to---from Tampa north to Miami south.

Jack Remington: Is that right.

Evelyn Horne: Of the printing trade. They even printed the school year books for Fort Myers, Florida. Yes, and I researched all that. And--- then when the boys grew up, I want to tell you how they left here to find their way of life. Many went to Miami for music and the printing, and they went to New York and Chicago, the daughters especially.

Jack Remington: Now did they go as missionaries for the Koreshan Community or did they separate themselves.

Evelyn Horne: Well, they believed it and taught it all their lives.

Jack Remington: But I mean did they--

Evelyn Horne: They went on their on.

Jack Remington: They went on their on.

Evelyn Horne: The family members. Yes. But what a tight family group the Koreshans were. They came back. Each year we had celebrations. The lunar festival, now in April, because that's Victoria's birthday, April the 12th. (Laughter) And then the solar festival in October which was Dr. Teed's birthday, October the 18th. So the closest Saturday, we have that big celebration. And I work in the Koreshan kitchen and dining hall over here in the State Park. I lecture and tell the history and sell the baked goods and recipes I've collected through the years, the Koreshan recipes. The most famous is their ginger cookie. I could never bake enough to sell them (Laughter) It's one big bake sale.

Jack Remington: Now is the Koreshan---Church, is that what you call it, was it--the relation---is it still active. Now did you have services or ---

Evelyn Horne: No, not anymore. Not since about in the forties.

Jack Remington: I see.

Evelyn Horne: When Miss Michel came here, they didn't have it any longer. But as a child I went to ~~Island~~^{ART} Hall each and every Sunday evening of my life. Daddy took us to hear the beautiful music and the poetry. They read poetry and they read Dr. Teed's lectures, his teachings, and that was the religious part of it. He wrote beautiful religious--- writings that any Protestant can read and understand.

So---we looked forward to going to that art hall, really, it was beautiful.

Jack Remington: Yes, now than--- they came to Estero. And then, did they go to Mound Key from Estero, than?

Evelyn Horne: Yeah, they acquired land over there and settled over there. And the fishermen stayed there. See my father and grandfather, they caught the fish to feed the 250 families. And my Dad, he---my grandfather sank the boat, the Ada, because he put 3000---5000 clams on one boat (laughter) and they sunk the boat. They were so hungry for the good food and you know our Florida clams are 10 inches across, not like the little cherry clams in the north.

Martha Remington: Dr. Teed was buried than on the beach?

Evelyn Horne: On the south end of Fort Myers Beach He died December the 22nd, 19--- where did I get that 1908. Yeah.

Jack Remington: Ah huh. Now why was he---your establishment was mostly here on Estero---

Evelyn Horne: Because they had a big recreational home over there, a beautiful two story home on the end of that beach where the Koreshans' went for their recreation. They

would go spend several days at a time to get away from the traffic and the work here at the 'unity'.

Jack Remington: Yes, was that where the Holiday Inn is now or can you relate it to anything?

Evelyn Horne: Sure I can. On the other side.

Jack Remington: On the Bay side.

Evelyn Horne: Yeah

Jack Remington: On the Bay side and up north in the Matanzas Pass area. Ah huh

Evelyn Horne: And then after Dr. Teed died, they built a little cottage, and my father stayed there, one of the head ones that watched the tomb. And different men would come and stay.

Jack Remington: That cottage--is that cottage still there, but it was there 'til almost--just recently?

Evelyn Horne: Yeah, got pictures of it.

Martha Remington: No, not the same one.

Jack Remington: Oh, not the same one.

Martha Remington: There was another one that's up across from the Gulf View Shops.

Jack Remington: Yeah, yeah.

Evelyn Horne: Oh, it's still there.

Jack Remington: It's still there.

Evelyn Horne: The Rising Tide, yeah. That was our recreation in later years, where the Koreshans went and stayed. And when we got house guests-----Ernie Kramer, famous architect from Germany. When we would get house guests, come over here to visit Miss Hedrich Michel, we would take them to the island, Fort Myers Beach for their vacation.
Hedwig

Jack Remington: I see.

Evelyn Horne: People from New York came, our doctors, our family, our friends. We would take them to Fort Myers Beach.

Jack Remington: That was their recreational house--

Evelyn Horne: We had big parties down there of the Fort Myers News Press. our best Correspondent. I was a correspondent for the News Press for 15 years. (?) of Estero, by Evelyn Horne.

Jack Remington: Oh yeah.

Martha Remington: But than was there a constant watch at the tomb?

Evelyn Horne: For a long time. Until the hurricane of 1921, it washed away.

Jack Remington: What was the tomb physically--

Evelyn Horne: Cyrus Shepard, Stone of Israel. That was the stone down there and it was a little concrete tomb, they built.

Martha Remington: Was it above ground?

Evelyn Horne: Yes about a six by ten. Yeah, we have pictures of it. And he was buried there and this horrible hurricane came in 1921 and washed it all out.

Martha Remington: But you were able to retain the---

Evelyn Horne: To save the marker. Yes that's the only thing.

Jack Remington: Now, do we have that in our library?

Evelyn Horne: They landscaped around it and have coconut palms all around it and it was quite picturesque.

Jack Remington: Do we have pictures in our library or a book on this in our library at the beach?

Evelyn Horne: You've got the ^{Cellalar} Saylor Cosmogony and that was the Koreshan textbook, it's over there.

Jack Remington: Does that have the pictures of the tomb or anything on it?

Evelyn Horne: Yes

Jack Remington: Okay, so if anyone wants to refer to that, they can get more information.

Martha Remington: I don't know if it (?) did you? The pictures for her of the tomb and the house, do you remember?

Evelyn Horne: I don't know, it was when some celebration of Fort Myers Beach.

Evelyn Horne: Yes.

Jack Remington: And from what parts of the country-- they didn't all come from Chicago? But your family came from California--

Evelyn Horne: My grandfather heard Dr. Teed lecture in California. And the Koreshan's started a movement there also. So than those people came to Chicago and joined the group. But the people came from all over. One man, a machinist, who took care of our power plant and all, he came from Copenhagen, Denmark, Alfred Christiansen. Beautiful person, he was. But the Koreshan members were well educated people. They really were, and that was their love of music. They played every musical instrument there was. Have you ever been over in our art hall? We have quite a few of the instruments there, Steinway piano. And they all learned the music and the arts. This Burton Boomer was a beautiful was a beautiful artist. And she---me growing up a granddaughter of Koreshans, and watching her, the paintings. Oh she inspired me to paint. And than I studied painting---and for about ten years, private lessons, studied the old Dutch Masters. And I learned all I wanted to, to amuse my own self. And than I started teaching classes at the Estero United Methodist Church, summer, children about 30 of them. And they learned painting and just allowed to--

Jack Remington: Now a good part of the income for the Koreshans was from the---

Evelyn Horne: --the print shop.

Jack Remington: The print shop plus you said the farming that was going on on Mound Key?

Evelyn Horne: The truck farming, yes, but that was mostly their food

Jack Remington:--the fishing. Oh, just for themselves.

Evelyn Horne: Yes, that was for themselves.

Jack Remington: Oh, they didn't sell that.

Evelyn Horne: But honey, they raised a lot of honey and we sold the honey. And the tropical gardens, what a nursery they had.

Jack Remington: I see.

Evelyn Horne: Now the plants went all over the state of Florida, beautiful plants and the horticulture. They always had a head man, head of the horticulture. And than the boys all learned that also. And the tropical fruits, they'd bring the trees in from the experimental stations in Homestead and north of here, Gainesville. And plants came from all over the world, because they ordered seeds, the melaleuca that everyone is swearing about

(Laughter), the cajeput trees, they brought here from Australia in 1912. Allen Andrew took the credit, and he wrote his book over there "Yankee Pioneer in Florida". The Yank Pioneer in Florida, Allen Andrew.

Jack Remington: Now, you mentioned changing the schools and so on. Were they, were they necessarily a part of Lee County's educational system?

Evelyn Horne: No, it was not. It was a private consort.

Jack Remington: You had your own schools.

Evelyn Horne: Yes----

Jack Remington: which---other faiths have their own schools today, same sort of arrangement.

Evelyn Horne: Yes. Other religions have private schools.

Martha Remington: Did that go through the eighth grade or just----

Evelyn Horne: I think so.

Jack Remington: This interview with Mrs. Evelyn Horne, an authority on the Koreshan Unity is continued on the other side this tape.

This is the continuation of Side B of the February 27, 1990 taped interview with Koreshan Unity authority Mrs. Evelyn Horne. This tape is one of many made by "The Friends of the Beach Library" to document some of the history of Fort Myers Beach. Now we continue this interview with Mrs. Horne.

Evelyn Horne: My Dad had a good education. He was well voiced and read, they loved to read, and the music.

Jack Remington: Now how about your-----doctors and so on, what was their philosophy on medicine. You see, Dr. Teed was he a medical doctor?

Evelyn Horne: He was a medical doctor.

Jack Remington: He was a medical doctor.

Evelyn Horne: And Baptist Minister. Dr. Teed had a little sister in the north, that's another whole chapter I could tell about. She was the dearest, cutest little thing. And she was one of the teachers in the school. But she grew her herbal garden all outside her front door and there will be a wall around that Founders Home like it was back in those years. And Emma Norton grew the herbs in there. And she mixed home remedies, medicines, oh boy she was quite a doctor. (Laughter). But---yes they believed in medicine. And, but we had

the chiropractor doctors too, we had a sanitarium down the Estero River, west. And oh that was really something else. They had their nurses. They had their own cook and they did the foods. They had a separate building out back for kitchen and dining room.

Martha Remington: When you said the sanitarium, was that for tuberculosis or---

Evelyn Horne: Any sickness. Arthritic, mostly the elderly people. They had to go by boat to that sanitarium, imagine.

Jack Remington: To get there.

Evelyn Horne: Yeah.

Jack Remington: There were no roads or anything.

Martha Remington: To be admitted, must you be a Koreshan? ----to the sanitarium.

Evelyn Horne: --Sanitarium, friends came from Fort Myers, yeah and we had a Doctor David Richards. They had their own dentist, Frank Wilson. Oh, he was a dear man. Filled every tooth in my head. (Laughter)

And--but the Koreshans were really educated people. I mean from all walks of life, the ones I knew. I knew about 50 original Koreshans, because I went to work there in 1940. Its going to be 50 years, (laughter) -----this year.

Jack Remington: Don't give away your age.

Evelyn Horne: Oh I've got to make 50 years.

Martha Remington: I like to see any reason why you want.

Jack Remington: Well now, your family, what happened---did you have children?

Evelyn Horne: I had two beautiful children, I'm so proud now. My son Billy is an executive for Winn Dixie. Over 20 year man; went to high school with a white shirt each day to go to work at that store. He was a bag boy to an executive today. And our daughter, Darlene, she's a beautiful daughter. She has two children; my son had three. And Darlene's working for a new company, a manufacturing company down in Bonita Springs that's going to manufacture a little part like this that cuts off the electrical gas pumps. Turns them on and cuts them off. Darlene going to be making these things. A new---brand new outfit. She just started to work, but she worked all her life down at Estero Woods retirement village. She was their head housekeeper with many girls under her. So we have friends all over. My two children.

Do you want to hear about my brothers and sisters----my brother Charlie Luetlich, Jr. He learned the printing trade from the Koreshan Guiding Star Publishing House. When he

came home from the war, it was training on the job for Charlie and he went to work over at the Koreshan printing house. Now wasn't that something.

Jack Remington: Hum!

Evelyn Horne: And he learned the trade. And today he owns the biggest printing in South Florida, ~~Preff's~~ ^{Press} Printing Company. You've heard of it?

Jack Remington: I believe I have.

Evelyn Horne: The whole beach (?). And he employs 52 people. It's a biggie. But just think he got his start here at the Koreshan Unity.

Jack Remington: Right, a good foundation.

Evelyn Horne: And he has three sons and they're running the business. So-----

Jack Remington: Well, the Koreshans have been very good to you then.

Evelyn Horne: They sure have. (Laughter)

Jack Remington: Your background has been----ah very good.

Evelyn Horne: And then George and I would build our own home. We own two and a half acres on Corkscrew Road. Been offered big money for it, but we're not going to sell it. Now I live on the 18th hole of Country Creek. (Laughter) The golf course.

Jack Remington: Never dreamed that would ever happen, did you?

Evelyn Horne: And my taxes doubled.

Jack Remington: I'm sure. Now, was your husband a Koreshan?

Evelyn Horne: My George, he's worked here on the same things as the war, all his life.

Jack Remington: World War II?

Evelyn Horne: Maintenance man for the Koreshan Unity.

Jack Remington: Oh, I see. Ah huh.

Evelyn Horne: He's still here today.

Jack Remington: Well, his family, were they Koreshans? His parents---

Evelyn Horne: No, but the Koreshans met his family from Scotland in New York City. So that's how the Koreshans touched both our lives. The Koreshans met my grandparents on Mound Key. The Ferandez family, when they came here from Portugal. The Koreshans brought Charlie Luettich from Chicago, from California to Estero, Florida. And than the Horne family that I married into to, the Koreshans met them at New York, the boat that brought them from Scotland.

Jack Remington: I see. Now Luettich, that's a German name, isn't it?

Evelyn Horne: Luettich.

Jack Remington: Luettich. Isn't that a German---derivation?

Evelyn Horne: Yeah. So, I had two brothers. Arthur was in the construction business. He lives on---, I want to say Calvin(?) Boulevard but that's a brother. On ah-----down from Ford ~~Galaway~~. *Galloway*.

Jack Remington: Colonial?

Evelyn Horne: Colonial. Off Colonial Boulevard. Right down the road there. And--- than there's three sisters and two brothers.

Martha Remington: And a lot of changes---

Evelyn Horne: Yes, a few. (Laughter)

Martha Remington: Not only here but, not only at the beach but--

Jack Remington: Well now, could we get your impression of the beach as it has changed?

Evelyn Horne: Today.

Jack Remington: Today, well that's progress, things move on and things grow and--

Martha Remington: I'm not sure it's progress, but it is change.

Evelyn Horne: Well it certainly is beautiful but a lot of things have changed. The old places and old friends.

Jack Remington: Do you get back there or do you go over there often?

Evelyn Horne: Yes and I can go stay at Rising Tide Cottage for vacations with Koreshan Unity. We all can go. And right next door to Red Coconut.

Jack Remington: Yeah. Right!

Evelyn Horne: And the Gulf View Shop, we've all been friends.

Jack Remington: Yes. Ah huh.

Martha Remington: Mrs. ~~Brame~~^{Brame} is still alive.

Jack Remington: Yes, was she---

Evelyn Horne: Mrs. ~~Brame~~^{Brame} has remembered the day, August 11th and was always down there celebrating my birthday.

Jack Remington: Is that right. Well she, we have her on tape too. Yes we do.

Evelyn Horne: Oh wonderful.

Martha Remington: And----But it's changed.

Evelyn Horne: Oh it's changed, but I guess for the better when you see the big Pizza Hut and all. (Laughter) Fast Food.

Jack Remington: Well it's a different way of life than it was---

Evelyn Horne: The old ~~Homes house~~^{Holmes House} (?), they were friends of the Koreshans and---

Jack Remington: At the Beach Hotel there.

Evelyn Horne: Yeah. The Beach Hotel.

Jack Remington: It was right next door to your cottage. That's all different.

Evelyn Horne: Yeah. We'd have, would have, the Koreshans would have, I say we, cause the Samples(?) come to me from Germany, come over you know and all go down and stay at Rising Tide and eat at the ~~Home's house~~^{Holmes House}. We had it made there. It was so kind of them.

Jack Remington: Yeah.

Martha Remington: When you say from Germany, that comes up a lot and---

Evelyn Horne: Well ~~Hedrich~~^{Hedwig} Michel came for Frankfort, Germany.

Martha Remington: Okay.

Evelyn Horne: So her family and friends, teachers would come over from Germany.

Martha Remington: Yes, she was the last Koreshan.

Evelyn Horne: She was the last Koreshan member and she died August 5th '82. We celebrated her birthday in this beautiful library, her 90th birthday, March 29th.

Jack Remington: I'd like to complement you on this library. I never realized this was back in the woods here.

Evelyn Horne: Oh its beautiful. We're so proud of it. They built a vault that we house all the archives in, where I work down there and I than I have a beautiful office upstairs. Just look at the squirrels in all these beautiful trees.

Jack Remington: I think somebody--

Martha Remington: When was this built?

Evelyn Horne: It's around, it's about ten years old.

Jack Remington: I don't think there are a lot of people that live here that know this even exists.

Evelyn Horne: It's hidden.

Jack Remington: Yeah, it's hidden.

Evelyn Horne: Oh, we had a class yesterday morning. Each and every Monday we have a class. It's real educational. Yesterday we had our own group met, the florist from ^{Ruth} Fort Myers, and she did arrangements and than she gave them to the library and we auctioned them off. But people come from all over. We had a paper making class. We have wonderful things here. ^{lessmer}

Jack Remington: Where are the announcements made for these programs that you have?

Evelyn Horne: Well, Sue ^{Roper} ~~Croper~~ is our----

Jack Remington: The an person.

Evelyn Horne: Yes. And she sends all the newspaper and all over and-- We're well voiced.

Jack Remington: I see. Yeah.

Evelyn Horne: We get crowds in here. Why we had Rolfe Schell in here, we had this place sitting on the floor.

Jack Remington: Ah, as a follow-up to this interview and the one we had---Our last one was with Rolfe Schell and---

Evelyn Horne: It was.

Jack Remington: And we would like to have you and Rolfe interviewed together. One, you bring the history up to the--old history, up to the Koreshan involvement with Mound Key and the beach.

Evelyn Horne: Yes, wonderful.

Jack Remington: Okay Mrs. Horne, Evelyn Horne, we would like to wind this down now and we thank you very very much. I'm speaking now for the Friends of the Library of Fort Myers Beach. And we'd like to thank you for your wonderful input here. And we would look forward than to get together with Rolfe Schell. Do you have any final words to say?

Evelyn Horne: Thank you. Well I told you the Koreshan really touched my life and I have had a real good life Many hobbies, I paint, garden, two greenhouses. I just grow beautiful plants and give them away. But I learned all this horticulture at the Koreshan Unity, the Koreshan Mound Faith Historic site. Thanks for coming.

Jack Remington: Okay. Thank you ma'am. Bye , bye.

This ends our interview with Mrs. Horne and we hope you enjoyed it and that it is informative and that it might create some interest with you to listen to some of the other tapes of other individual and their history in this area and particularly as it relates to Fort Myers Beach.