

# Spindrift Two

50¢

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Whidbey Island's Own Magazine



Summer 1987

## 'Earth is Sacred'



"Every part of this Earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing and humming insect is holy in the memory and experiences of my people. So, when the Great Chief in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land, he asks much of us."

So spoke Chief Sealath, Seattle's namesake, as he stood on a Puget Sound beach in 1855, and mournfully acquiesced to the demands of the powerful white man.

Leader of the Suquamish and Duwamish tribes, and perhaps the most famous of all Northwest Indians, Chief Sealath was a member of the Suquamish Tribe, one of two tribes who were the first inhabitants of South Whidbey

Island.

The Suquamish lived on the western shores of South Whidbey, and the Snohomish lived farther to the east, according to Dee Hudson in "Principal Tribes and Villages on Whidbey Island, Washington."

The principal South Whidbey settlement was near Possession Point, called "Negwa'sx," settled by the Snohomish who spoke a language similar to the Skagit Indians of the Coupeville, or Central Whidbey area.

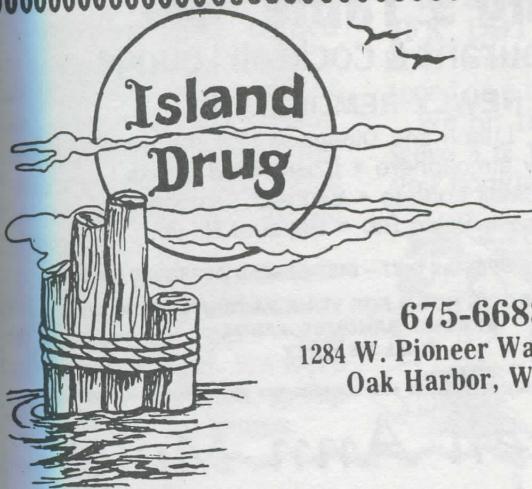
Besides the South Whidbey tribes, the Skagits lived in Central Whidbey and at Oak Harbor, and the Swinomish to the north. The Swinomish were known as the "Canoe People." They had villages in the San Juans as well as on North Whidbey, and visited them regularly to trade.

## Sealth's People Camped Near Possession Point

Oak Harbor was called "Klatoletsche" by the Skagits, and the Coupeville settlement was "Kalakut." The Island itself was known as "Tschakolecy."

The Skagit villages were well-advanced at the time of the arrival of the white men. The 1841 Wilkes Expedition noted that the Skagits had well-built lodges of timber planks at Penn's Cove.

When Hudson wrote his book in 1962 he was 21 and the director-curator of the Pacific Museum of American Anthropology and Archaeology. He was stationed with the Navy at NAS Whidbey when he researched and wrote "Principal Indian Tribes and Villages on Whidbey Island." His work on Whidbey Indians is available through Sno-Isle Regional Library and the Langley Library. S



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## Early 4th Nearly Ended in Hanging

In the 1850s, the Fourth of July was a time for a picnic and celebration, and the Crescent Harbor pioneers put out the word all over North Whidbey. The Kellogg family hired a large canoe and Indian paddlers for the trip across Penn's Cove and around the point into Crescent Harbor.

There were as many Indians present at the party as whites, including the Chief of the Skagits, Billie Barlow, and the Chief of the Oak Harbor Indians, Tom Squisqui (later called Tom Martin). The two were far from being friends.

Tom was said to have killed a number of Indians, and had a nasty temper.

Major Haller had a supply of liquor hidden in a thick clump of brush and the Indians watched as the Major took his friends, Captain Swift, Captain Loveland, and others to the cache from time to time.

So between Major Haller's trips for liquid refreshment, the Indians made visits to the cache and helped themselves to the white man's "firewater." They became quarrelsome, and suddenly Billie Barlow and Tom Squisqui faced off in an argument.

Tom pulled a pistol and snapped it several times in Billie's face without results, then Dr. Kellogg caught Tom's aim to deflect the shots. Mrs. Tom walked up and said calmly, "Wake mesachie, halo polalie, halo polalie," or "Not dangerous, no powder." She had unloaded her husband's gun on the journey to Crescent Harbor, knowing his violent ways.

Captain Barrington said that if Billie had been killed they would have hung Squisqui on the spot, a poor way to end a Fourth of July party. **S**



Indians in their feathers and finery parade in Coupeville during the town's annual Water Festival of the late '20s and early '30s.



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# Whidbey Island's Stanwood Connection

Some families can't lose for winning, and some spend generations in one little cranny of the universe, content to live out their lives quietly and without incident.

Others grab the first star in the sky and go from there, never quite knowing where it will deposit them and in what circumstances.

Such a family was that of Daniel Pearson, a Lowell, Mass., cotton mill superintendent at the time of the Civil War. That conflict put an end to cotton and cotton mills, for a long time to come.

About the same time, a young carpenter and University president from a far-away town in the Northwest with the strange name of Seattle, sailed into port hoping to gather a bunch of young ladies to take back to the Puget Sound frontier.

Asa Mercer was the young man, and that story is well known: how they came to Seattle, which was little more than an Indian village on Alki Point, to become brides of frontiersmen.

Pearson, out of work and facing a dim future in Lowell, asked Mercer if he and his two beautiful daughters, Georgiana and Josephine, could sail with him. They could. Further conversation with the intrepid voyager revealed a tremendous shortage of shoes in the new land, so Pearson and his daughters loaded their one-trunk-per-person baggage allowance with shoes, which they later sold for "hard money" almost twice the value of paper money.

At any rate, Daniel Carl Pearson made enough to pay for tickets west for Flora, the third Pearson daughter, and the only son, Daniel Orlando. Flora, at age 13, was young to be labeled a "Mercer Girl," but



came to Whidbey with her father and sisters, and assisted him when he became lighthouse keeper at the first Whidbey Island light.

Flora eventually married one of the Island's earliest pioneers, Will Engle, and their fifth generation descendant still live and work in the Ebey Prairie-Coupeville area. The elder Pearson served as lighthouse keeper for the first 13 years without relief except for Flora, and she became lighthouse keeper after him.

Georgiana married another Whidbey Island pioneer, Charles Terry, and Josephine became a teacher, but died while still a young woman.

The Stanwood connection comes through the son, Daniel Orlando Pearson, a Civil War veteran who in 1868 married Clara Jane Stanwood.

She came from Lowell, Whidbey by way of the Isthmus.

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# ... 'Across the Passage'

of Panama, traveling by steamer, by foot, and by Indian canoe, to become Mrs. Pearson.

In 1877, the D.O. Pearsons moved to a spot on the mainland, just east of Camano Island, between the outlets of the Skagit and Stillaguamish Rivers. The small settlement was known as Centerville, which meant nothing to the newcomers. Daniel renamed it "Stanwood," after his wife's family.

So it was that Daniel Carl Pearson II was born, the first white child born in Stanwood, and the namesake of his grandfather. In his teens he was sent to Coupeville to enter the Puget Sound Academy, a boarding school and the only "institution of higher learning" north of Seattle at the time.

When Daniel Carl was 21 he ran for Island County Auditor, a job paying the handsome sum of \$600 per year, and was elected. When one of his friends, as a joke, filed for him

as Justice of the Peace, he was elected to that office too.

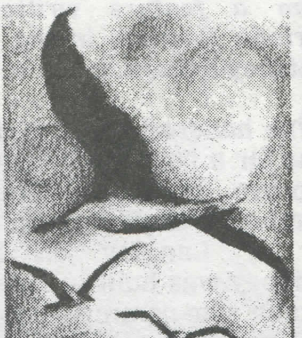
The little town of Coupeville was moving right along, as the County Seat and as an educational center that drew students from all over northern Puget Sound.

It also had its own newspaper, and the owner wanted to sell. He convinced Pearson that because of the "tough times ahead," the newspaper would take in \$25,000 worth of tax foreclosure notices, which was 10 times what he was asking for it.

Pearson was impressed, bought the paper and hired O.S. Van Olinda, who later became famous as a publisher in his own right.

In spite of the glowing future forecast for the newspaper, the auditor-JP-newspaperman combo didn't work and Pearson sold out.

But Daniel Carl Pearson had made his mark in the pioneer world as the first white child born in Stanwood, and as the first descendant of the founder of Stanwood. Thus being Whidbey Island's "Stanwood Connection."



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## Old House Begins Second Century

The following is condensed from a feature written by Lorinda Eastlick in the South Whidbey Record.

One hundred years is a long time for a house to live, and to improve in looks. The old farmhouse on Wilkerson Road out of Langley on South Whidbey was built in 1887 by a woman who commissioned two men to do the building from wood cut at a small Brown's Pt. mill and brought to the site by horse-drawn scow.

Much of the history of the house was provided by Flora Berkert McDonald who lived south of the farm, bordering the property.

One owner of the house through the years was a woman who, with her son, cleared the field in front of the house, opening up a magnificent view of Hat Island and Puget Sound.

Another owner was a Belgian bachelor who grew strawberries which he rowed across to Everett to sell. He later inherited a title and gave up the South Whidbey home to return to Belgium to claim a castle.

For many years Peter Anderson lived on the farm and turned the farmhouse into a



showplace. Anderson raised as many as 8,000 chickens at one time, but the chicken industry declined and with it Anderson's farm business.


Joellen and Towers Corbley bought the place in 1958. The old house was in disarray, its windows were out, and it needed a new roof and foundation as well as plumbing. The Corbleys decided to restore it to its original Victorian grandeur, and today much of the interior has been refinished with some of the best Victorian design in

### Yesterday . .

the area.

Stained glass windows were obtained from homes in the Broadway district of Seattle when the freeway cut across the city, and now grace the house. Ornate plaster medallions for light fixtures came from a mansion in Kirkland and all the hardware in the house is matching heavy brass from the Austin Bell building.

Marble mantels for the fireplaces came from another



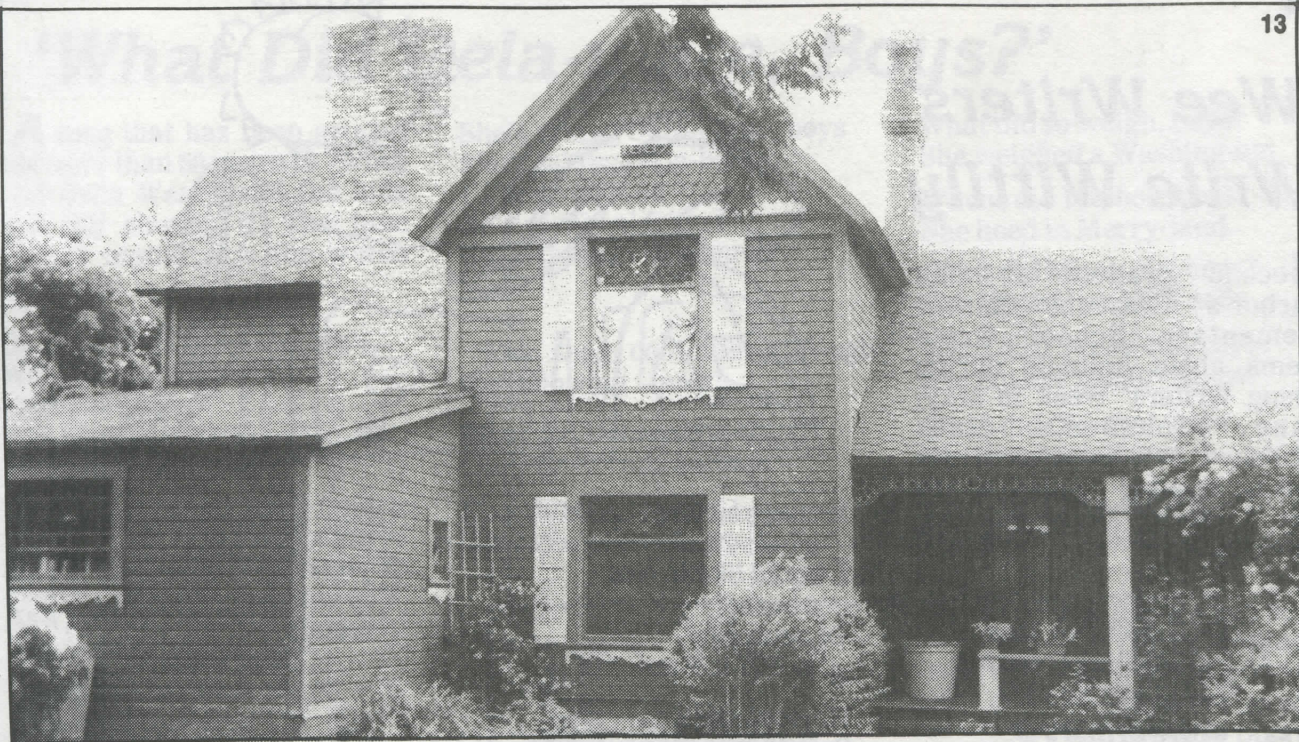
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## And Today

building on Pioneer Square, one of them from a hotel's presidential suite where three U.S. presidents slept, according to Corbley.

A maple stairway came from the home of one of the first judges in Seattle, a home built in 1872; and the shutters are from the Eureka, California, courthouse.

The kitchen was added in 1960

and features a walk-in fireplace made of 4,200 antique bricks and was copied from a 1912

fireplace in the east.

The farmhouse celebrates its 100th birthday this year. **S**



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## Homesteading at Cornet,

The following is excerpted from an article in the December 12, 1946 issue of the *Island County Times*, headlined "Marriage 'Rules' in Germany told by Weidenbach," with sub-head "Island Pioneer Tells Of Local History, Growth of Island."

The number of marriages in the United States has broken all sorts of existing records during the past few years but it would be interesting to see the nose dive it would take if the U.S. suddenly adopted the stringent marriage rules in effect in Germany at the time Christ Weidenbach was a boy.

One of Oak Harbor's most popular and most respected old timers, Weidenbach thought back nearly 80 years to recall his youthful days in Germany.

"A girl had to be 22 and a boy 25 before they could be married," he said. "No one thought of getting married before that age. A girl had to have 50 pairs of stockings before she could be married, too."

Good natured and talkative, the 83-year old pioneer was born in Weitenberg, Germany,

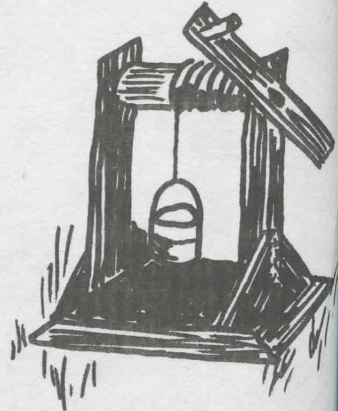
August 7, 1864, and was given the name Christian Freidrich Weidenbach. He shortened that to Christ (rhymes with mist) because his whole name was too long to write on one line for official or legal papers, when he came to America in 1882.

His family moved to Switzerland when he was 7, where he stayed until age 16. He has a working knowledge of seven languages, which got him his first job, that of mortarboy for his brother-in-law. This brother-in-law was going to "Reushland" to build chimneys and as Russians had so many different languages, he took along Christ to interpret for him. They spent two years building brick chimneys in Russia.

### Off for America

Christ was the youngest child in his family and by old German law, when the youngest child becomes 18, the father's estate is divided between the children. With his share, Christ set off for Michigan, where an older brother lived.

He found work in Bay City, Michigan, where on January 9,



1890, he married Margie Lang, sister of John Lang. Maintaining old-country marriage traditions, he was "an old" 26 when he married.

Had it not been for his brashness, Weidenbach might have stayed in Michigan instead of coming west. In a brawl, he knocked down his brother's father-in-law, who also happened to be his boss and was fired. His wife wrote Johnny Lang out here and told him they were coming out. In 1892 they arrived on Fidal Island at Dewey, "they called Deception then."

"All land was so new here the time," he said. "I worked all over, and for the railroad several months. There was a little town at La Conner. Seafood wasn't much at that time. They were just starting to build in Oak Harbor. In 1892 the

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## Pioneer Cleared 5 Acres For 1 Cow

started to build the Byrne store and Maylor's."

He got 40 acres of land and homesteaded in Cornet. "I used to work over in Oak Harbor," he said, "and walked home the 11 miles every night. And when I got home, I'd have to do all the work on the ranch." He remembered working 14 hours for 75 cents. He bought his present 237 acres in 1914.

Christ and Margaret had seven children, four of whom are still living (in 1946). "We lost our first boy when he was about 12 years old," he said. "There wasn't any doctor on the Island at that time. Our boy fell in a creek on the way to school. He didn't tell the teacher, and she didn't notice anything. Later he got pneumonia and died."

Anna Ducken is the oldest child; then comes Henry. Dora Van Dyk is the youngest daughter, and Ed is the baby of the family. Margaret Lang Weidenbach died in 1938.



### Donated labor

In Oak Harbor's early struggles, Weidenbach didn't just sit back and watch, he helped it grow. "I did lots of donation work," he said. "I helped make many roads. I donated work on the I.O.O.F. Hall and cleared the road from Oak Harbor to here." (The Weidenbach farm north of Clover Valley.)

He worked on each of Oak Harbor's early schools. The first school house on North Whidbey was built on the Big Rock on Jens Ottesen's place. In 1896, when the Hollanders moved in, he helped get two more schools; one at Lam's

place in Cornet and the other in Clover Valley. It was too far for the students to attend the Crescent Harbor school.

"Then they built the one at Oak Harbor," he said. "Oak Harbor took all the lumber from the little schools to build theirs. All the children had to go to Oak Harbor. They hired trucks to haul the students to and from school."

The name Weidenbach became synonymous with that of Guernsey breeding. The Weidenbach Guernseys have brought fame and credit to the Island.

Old Dr. Kellogg's son in Coupeville was the first one to start the Guernsey on the Island, Weidenbach said. "A fellow named Cellaphone, the old blacksmith, got a heifer from Kellogg, and I slashed five acres of land to get that heifer," Weidenbach remembered. That was in 1894. Today the Weidenbachs specialize in Guernseys.

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## Weidenbach

### Good judge of cattle

Old Christ really knew his cattle. There's a story that during the famous Holland Days, they used to have cattle judging as part of the program. It was a familiar sight to see old Christ with his gray bushy mustache, carefully following the judges around from one animal to another. After much deliberation, the judges would finally announce their decision and Christ would slap his knee and say, "By golly, that fellow's right." He knew from the beginning which one would win.

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## Dry Law Was Hard To Enforce Locally

It was hard for the sheriff of Island County to apprehend moonshiners during Prohibition days, since everyone knew everyone else, were good neighbors, usually related in one way or another, and good customers besides.

Prohibition days were the beginning of the Great Depression days, when money was scarce as well as jobs, and moonshine brought in good money.

Bill Gildow, married to Charlotte Glasgow, daughter of the first settler on Whidbey Island in 1848 and granddaughter of Pat-ka-nim, Indian Chief famous during the Indian Wars of the 1850s, was a one-legged man who made moonshine to support his large family. He knew everyone on

the Island and everyone knew him.

Especially Sheriff Bill Gookins. The sheriff was informed that on a certain day in a certain place, Gildow was going to move his still from one hiding place to another. The sheriff had to act.

But Gildow spotted Gookins hiding behind a tree in wait for him as he came along a wooded path with his still strapped to his back. When he approached the place where Gookins was hiding, Gildow loosened the straps and threw the small still on the ground.

"Hey Bill," he called. "Good thing I ran into you. Here's a still I found up the road. You might be interested in it."

Gookins was probably as relieved as was Gildow.

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## Pioneer Woman Liked Look of Whidbey

One can hardly comprehend the difficulties encountered by the pioneer women of Whidbey Island in leaving their homes in the east to travel by prairie schooner across the plains, never knowing when they would be attacked by Indians, heading into the unknown, to an Island, of all places.

The strength of these women is a story unto itself. When Dr. John Coe Kellogg, who became known as the "Canoe Doctor" of Puget Sound, married Caroline Terry in 1847, she knew that she was setting out on a voyage that would take her a continent away from her home, through a vast wilderness of the unknown. Her only reality was the man she married and the prairie schooner the couple called home for weeks and weeks.

The trip across the continent found their arrival at Fort Vancouver just a beginning of another saga of the "Pioneer Woman." Dr. Kellogg had a small practice, with little money coming in, so Caroline took in boarders for \$7 a week, although flour cost \$40 a barrel! Chloe Terry, her sister, took in

sewing. In 1853, the doctor left his family in Vancouver and went to Olympia where he located a claim in the woods several miles from the town, on South Bay, and began clearing a spot for a house.

### First Wedding

In the spring, Caroline Kellogg, along with Florence and Alma, and Chloe Terry, took passage from Portland on the brig *Cabot*, bound for Olympia via Penn's Cove and Deception Pass. Another passenger on the brig was a widower with two little girls, R. L. Doyle, who had taken a claim on Whidbey Island adjoining the claim of Walter Crockett, Sr.

The shipboard friendship of Doyle and Chloe Terry culminated in their marriage at the home of Colonel Ebey, and became the first wedding on Whidbey Island. The two little Doyle girls, Helen and Emma, had a new mother to begin life with in a new land.

The *Cabot* then sailed on to Olympia with Mrs. Kellogg and the children and their few possessions.

Later that same summer, Caroline took the girls and went again to Whidbey Island to visit Chloe Doyle and the neighbors, for in those days everyone kept an "open house," happy to see travelers and visitors from anywhere.

Colonel Ebey had taken up a homestead on Ebey's Prairie, and his father Jacob had taken a claim adjoining him on the west; Will B. Engle, R.C. Hill and N.D. Hill took claims on the east, reaching to the Crockett settlement, all claims were fine prairie land. The Davises and Alexanders and John Crockett claims were on the north.

Today, as one travels the highway leading to the Coupeville and Prairie Center intersection, the prairie stretches to the west, green and lush in its crops of alfalfa, squash and other farm products that grow so plentifully on its level bosom. One thinks briefly of the work that went into clearing the prairie and making it into farmland by those settlers who came by boat some 140 years ago. It was a new land, with new opportunities, and new dangers, and it was a new challenge.



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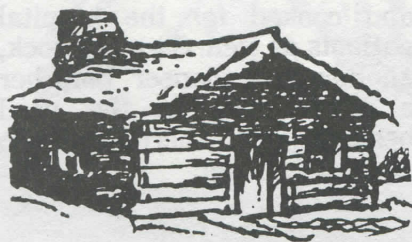
# Island, Brought Doctor Husband Here

When Mrs. Kellogg returned to her home in the woods near Olympia, she told her doctor husband, "Pa, these trees look very tall to me," and she told him of the open country, the gardens, cattle and horses grazing on fine grass on Whidbey Island, and the trees surrounding the cabin began to look tall to him, too.

She also told him of the 30 acres of land near Admiralty Head (Fort Casey) not preempted. In reality there was only 20 acres, but Doctor Kellogg bought a canoe and with another man paddled from Olympia to Whidbey, about 100 miles, to check it out.

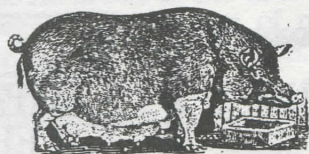
He found a deserted log cabin without a roof, and hired a man to put a roof on it. He built a lean-to for a kitchen and made other improvements in order to hold the land. Because he had taken a 320 acre homestead near Olympia, he could not take 640 acres on Whidbey as others did at this time, but he disposed of his Olympia land for the cost of the improvements, about \$400, and moved his family in the spring of 1854 to Whidbey Island.

The house had no floor but



dirt, and a fireplace to cook by. One wonders today how a woman with small children dared to begin life on an Island in Puget Sound where her nearest neighbors, the Walter Crocketts, lived a mile or more north. Mrs. Crockett helped Caroline get settled, and when the Kelloggs went for milk at the Crockett farm, Mrs. Crockett would put a pat of butter in the bottom of the milk pail. Butter was a real luxury in 1854.

Admiralty Head, where Fort Casey's "big guns" are located today, in 1854 had no docking facilities of any kind. When the Doctor ordered lumber from



the brig carrying the lumber approached Admiralty Head,

Olympia to build a house, and the lumber, 18-inch-wide boards, was thrown overboard on the incoming tide, where Kellogg was waiting to pull them out of the water and carry them up the hill on his back to the homesite.

## A Shawl for a Sow

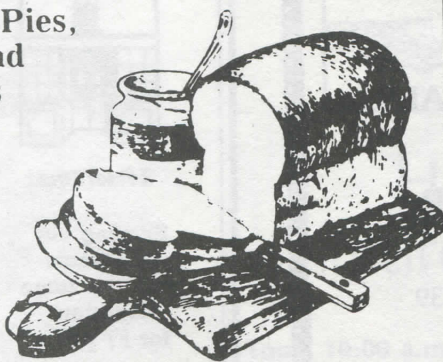
One of the few fine things Caroline Terry Kellogg possessed was a beautiful paisley shawl, worth about \$40. The wife of an Olympia lawyer offered a fine large sow in exchange for the shawl, and Caroline accepted the trade. The sow was sent to Whidbey on the sloop that carried the mail to Whatcom. When the sloop approached Admiralty Head, the captain ran the boat in close to shore and pushed the sow overboard. Farther on down toward Ebey's Landing, the captain left the message for the doctor, but it was several weeks before he received it. Out there somewhere near Admiralty Head was the sow, and Doctor Kellogg set out to find her.

When he finally ran her down, he found she had made herself a neat nest under an old log and had 10 little piglets, nearly two-weeks old. The pigs were about six miles from the Kellogg home, and the doctor had to carry and drive them through the trail-less woods and brush to his homestead.

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# Northwest's First Hospital

## Island's first hospital

It soon became known throughout the Puget Sound and San Juan Islands that there was a doctor at Admiralty Head, the only doctor between Seattle and Whatcom (Bellingham). Sick and injured came from logging camps all over the area, as well as sailors and settlers. There was no place to treat them, so Doctor Kellogg built a large building of logs to accommodate them. It was Whidbey Island's first hospital.

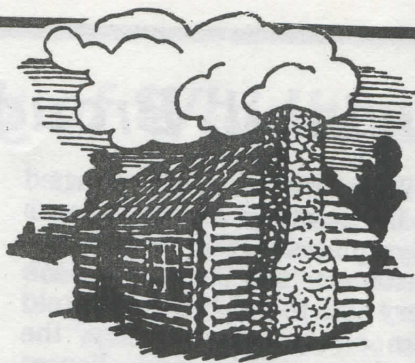
The hospital was a communal affair. Those who were convalescing were required to help take care of the more seriously ill. Many were without money, and worked after their recovery to pay for their treatment, board and room. Here Caroline Kellogg found she had a lot of extra work. She made her own soap and candles, cared for her own family,

and cooked for the hospital patients as well. Sam Hancock, another area pioneer, built her a brick oven in the yard because soon there were so many to cook for.

## Indian Trouble

The Haidah Indians from Vancouver Island north, were very troublesome. They often came in large canoes, some large enough to carry 40 men. One fall, Dr. Kellogg's smokehouse was raided and all the winter's meat stolen. In 1857, the Indians became so fearsome that Dr. Kellogg accepted an offer from the Puget Mill Company to move to Port Gamble as company doctor. About this time he was elected to the Territorial Legislature.

He later moved his family back to the Admiralty Head location, but found the Nootka Indians had also become



troublesome. For fear of their safety, the family moved into the large two-story blockhouse or log fort on the Crockett farm near what is today Crockett's Lake. This blockhouse is now in Point Defiance Park near Tacoma.

Others living at the fort about this time were Florence Kellogg, the older Crockett children, George Coupe, Joe Alexander, Phenny Power, Mamie Lysle and the Ebey boys. The children attended the first school on Whidbey, taught by John Wilson Lysle in a log cabin half a mile north of the county road in the Coupe field.

Dr. Kellogg attended the schoolteacher's wife during the

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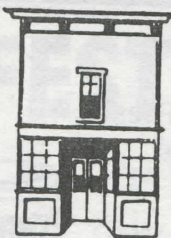


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## Other 'Firsts' on Ebey's Prairie

birth of one of her children, and after the Lysle family moved to Whatcom she returned to Whidbey by canoe three times to be confined under his care.

Dr. Kellogg was much sought after by the sick and traveled many miles in all kinds of weather by day and night, either on horseback or by canoe. He was both farmer and doctor, and a man ahead of his time. His farming work led him to buy a McCormick reaper and mower in 1860 for \$400. The machine came around the Horn to San Francisco, and was the first of its kind on Puget Sound.

### More Firsts

In the Admiralty Head area Samuel, John, Charles and Walter Jr., sons of Walter Crockett, were the first to start orchards. Apples were a luxury to settlers who did not have fruit trees.

The first church in Island County was built on the nor-

thwest corner of Grove Terry's farm, paid for by public subscription. Lumber was purchased by Grennan and Cranney on Camano Island at Utsaladdy, the Indian name for "Land of Berries."

The first pastor was the Rev. George Whitworth and his family, who lived on what is known as the Ralph Engle farm. He organized a Presbyterian Society.

The next pastor was an Englishman, the Rev. Alderson. He drove to the area from Oregon with a span of mares hitched to a spring-wagon. eighth of a mile north of the Kellogg house in Mr. Kineth's field, built by public subscription, and contained a fireplace.

Albert Kellogg was about eight years old when the Kellogg family got their first coal-oil lamp. Before that Mrs. Kellogg made her own candles, and it took about three hours to dip 120 tallow candles.

About this time (1860s) the first white sugar became available, in a cone shape, five or six inches in diameter. It had to be scraped off the cone for use, and came from the Sandwich Islands.

Another memorable event in the Kellogg story was the smallpox scare one summer in the early 1860s. Mrs. Kellogg made some vaccine from a scab on the Rev. Whitworth's daughter Etta, who had survived the malady, and vaccinated her own three children.

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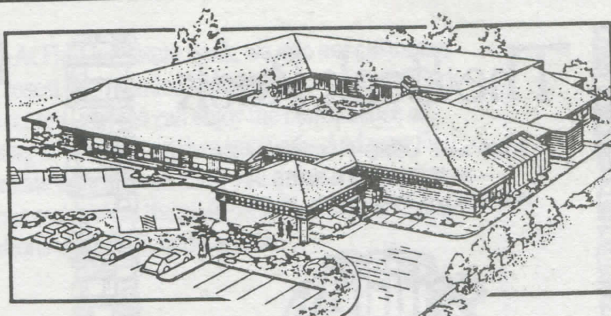
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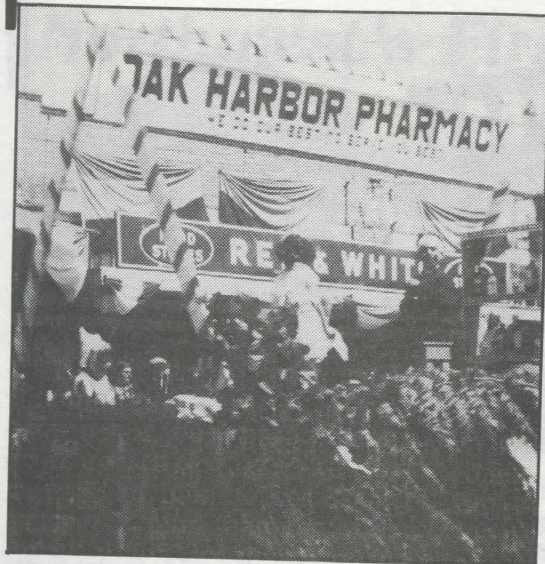


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